



ANNUAL REPORT

2001/2002

TASMAN COUNCIL

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REAR: K Noye; D Mansfield; B Wiggins; K Heyward; J Fazackerley; R Self (inset)
FRONT: P Wilson (Deputy Mayor); N Noye (Mayor); S Gray (General Manager); G Dobner

Vision, Mission and Values

Council's Vision For Our Community:

Our Purpose

Why are we here.....

To benefit the people of Tasman by providing quality and valued services to our community.

Our Vision

What we want to be.....

A community which;

- ◆ is strong,
- ◆ is healthy,
- ◆ is positive,
- ◆ working and living together for the benefit of the Forestier and Tasman areas, and
- ◆ constantly identifies and realises opportunities.

Our Mission

What is our role.....

A Council that will listen to its residents and will:

- ◆ work in partnership with and provide leadership within the community,
- ◆ within a balanced framework, identify the broader priorities and services desired by the community,
- ◆ enhance economic development opportunities through sound planning and strategic leadership,
- ◆ respond efficiently to the expectations of our community through quality, value for money service, and
- ◆ be creative and progressive in all that we do.

Our Values

What we value most.....

- ◆ Being ethical and professional at all times.
- ◆ Promoting open and effective community consultation, which facilitates discussion, involvement and partnership.
- ◆ Providing excellence in customer service by ensuring prompt, accurate and effective responses to our customer concerns.
- ◆ Encouraging quality, innovation and continuous improvement in the delivery of services to the community.

Mayor and Councillors

Members of the Council as at 30 June 2002

			Term Expires
Mayor:			
	Neil Noye	C/- Post Office Nubeena	October 2002

Deputy Mayor:			
	Peter Wilson	PO Box 647 Port Arthur	October 2002

Councillors



Guy Dobner

479 Hurdle Road
Saltwater River

October 2002



Joan Fazackerley

P O Box 640
Nubeena

October 2002



Dennis Mansfield

1502 Nubeena Road
Nubeena

October 2004



Kathleen Noye

C/- Post Office
Nubeena

October 2002



Bruce Wiggins

P O Box 30
Nubeena

October 2004



Keith Heyward

RA 391
Nubeena Rd
Koonya

October 2004



Roger Self

RA 30
Waterfall Bay Road
Eaglehawk Neck

October 2004



MAYOR'S **ANNUAL REPORT**

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I am pleased to present my 9th annual report as required in accordance with section 72 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. With the introduction of the Local Government Act and the requirements for Council to present an annual report to the community specifically addressing the Council's achievements during the previous 12 months; this together with the Operational Plan is an integral part of the Calendar of events for Council.

This document summarises Council achievements over the last 12 months and also through the financial report provides an accurate and audited set of accounts thus ensuring ultimate accountability to the ratepayers of the Tasman Municipality.

Over the past few years we have been utilising reserve funds and provisions from other areas to balance our expenditure requirements. I am very pleased to report that this trend has been halted and already we have seen a turn-around in our financial accountability and reporting processes.

Further work will be achieved by Council in this regard as it moves into its 2002/2003 financial year. I would also like to make a comment in relation to depreciation of Council assets. This is a key issue facing us and is indeed a problem for all Councils. Without adequate provision for depreciation we are simply not providing for our future replacement needs and end up eroding our asset base that consists primarily of roads and infrastructure.

It is very important that we maintain and build on our roads system. We have moved away from our reliance on consultants in order to continue to reduce costs and will pursue resource sharing where appropriate with other Councils.

At this stage I am very pleased to be able to report that we have an excellent relationship with our Local Government neighbours, Sorell and

Glamorgan/Spring Bay Councils and I would anticipate that we will be able to explore with these Councils, areas of resource sharing which may include engineering, planning, financial, building and information technology areas.

Whilst it has been a very tough year it is pleasing to see that we have achieved much with our meagre resources particularly in the areas of works and services.

We have seen significant improvement in the facilities for aged care and will continue to see development with the Aged Care Facility into the next financial year. We are working solidly towards a new Multi Purpose Service and I am very pleased we have been able to resolve our financial reporting difficulties to the extent that the Commonwealth and State Governments now have faith in our ability to be able to adequately manage from a corporate perspective the establishment of a Multi Purpose Service.

I look forward to an announcement in the near future with regard to the formalisation of such a service.

Our *Roads to Recovery* infrastructure program is continuing well as a result of the injection of approximately \$100,000 per annum for roads development. This will also continue into next year. An important requirement for this program is that we maintain our 98/99 level of Council contribution to infrastructure development and during these difficult times to this has proven problematic. However, the end result will be worth it.

The Copping Regional Waste Management Site continues development with Tasman Council as one of the three share holders along with Clarence and Sorell. This project has had its fair share of teething problems and I believe it will be a few years before this project is financially returning rewards for the municipality. However, I am very confident that the long term prospects for this project are sound and will place Tasman Council in a position where-by it will be less reliant on grant funding for its operational costs in accordance with our strategic objectives.

The policy initiated last year by Council in relation to engaging financial consultants on an as required basis unfortunately has not worked and I am pleased to report that Council now has engaged a part-time Finance Manager three days per week to ensure appropriate management of our fiscal resources.

Tourism continues to play a major role in the economic growth and well being of our community. With Council contributing \$27,000 towards the Port Arthur Regional Marketing Board to assist in the marketing and promotion of the Region. It is very pleasing to see our region being brought to the attention of the rest of the country and we look forward to the economic benefits that tourism brings and will continue to bring particularly in light of the additional passenger capacity across Bass Strait.

During the past 12 months we bid fair well to Greg Burgess as General Manager and I would like to pay tribute to Greg for his services to the

municipality and particularly to Council and we wish him well in his chosen field of Aged Care Management.

By the same token I would also like to welcome Steve Gray as the new General Manager. Steve has moved to the municipality with his family from Brisbane and taken up residence at White Beach. Steve has a background in Criminal Justice and Human Resource Management as well as infrastructure development, Project Management and Financial Management and we welcome Steve's expertise to the municipality.

I would also like to take this opportunity to advise of my decision to retire from politics at the local community level and I would particularly like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and friendship over the many past years. Councillors take on various roles on Council Committees and community groups and give freely of their time to the benefit of the community. Very often it can appear to be a thankless job, however the rewards of seeing the community grow and develop are well worth those difficult times. I wish you as ratepayers all the best for the future and thank you for your support throughout the year.

Neil Noye AM
MAYOR





GENERAL MANAGER'S **ANNUAL REPORT**

2001/2002

Introduction

This is my first annual report as General Manager and unfortunately it is very difficult to comment in relation to activities prior to my arrival on 26th January 2002. I will not comment on financial matters in detail as the audited annual financial report is attached for any detailed information.

Practices

However, I believe it is important to draw attention to the fact that there are a number of practices that have occurred at Tasman Council that needed to be refined. In particular human resource management practices and financial management reporting and accountability needed significant overhaul. I am pleased to report that both these areas have had significant changes implemented and will continue be to implemented in the 2003 financial year.

Planning

It has become abundantly clear to both ratepayers and staff that our existing planning scheme is significantly out dated and is not at all supportive of many developments which the municipality is seeking. It is therefore anticipated that work will commence on a new planning scheme in the next financial year.

Depreciation

I feel it is also important to draw attention to a statement which was made in last years annual report advising that "Council still found itself in a position of being unable to fund depreciation" and the report goes on to say that "whilst this will continue to look poor on the end of year balance sheet it is after all an accounting book entry".

This is a very important issue and one that I believe has been underestimated. I think it is also important for ratepayers to realise that depreciation is in fact not just an accounting book entry, rather it is a very real accounting means of providing future funding for the replacement of

infrastructure for the municipality. Whilst I appreciate that Council did not provide any funding during the year being reported on for depreciation never-the-less this has left us vulnerable in the future with regard to sustainability of our roads and major infrastructure and their replacement.

It is also important to point out that this Council is not the only council facing this issue as it is a significant issue across all Council's in Tasmania. It is therefore important we maintain and build upon our asset replacement program.

Consultants

Another point I would like to bring to notice is a statement made last year in relation to an increased reliance on consultants to prepare our financial reporting and to be utilised on an as-required basis. This has proven to be not only less than cost affective but not in the interest of the municipality due to the inability to provide accurate financial data to Council to ensure Council has correct and reliable information upon which to base sound financial decisions. This matter has now been rectified and we now have a finance manager employed three days per week to ensure our finances are managed appropriately with accurate data being provided to council.

I am pleased to say that as a result to this action we were able to meet all of our statutory obligations for financial reporting and indeed receive a quite glowing report from the Tasmanian Audit Office.

Waste Management

Another significant issue facing Council is the matter of waste management. It was proposed to close the Nubeena Tip Face as from the 30th June 2002. Unfortunately or fortunately, depending on which way you look at it, this was not able to be achieved and it is anticipated that the tip face will now close at the end of October and will operate as a waste transfer station from 1st November 2002.

There are a number of on going environmental issues associated with managing the closure of the tip face which includes leachate monitoring, capping the landfill and rehabilitating the existing tip site. Funds will therefore need to be provided for this purpose in the ensuing financial year.

Operational Plan

I am also pleased to be able to report that by the end of the current fiscal year Tasman Council was able to comply for the first time with section 71 of the Local Government Act 1993 and has prepared an operational plan for the municipal area for 2002/2003. This plan was approved on 24th June 2002 and is consistent with the strategic plan and includes a statement of the manner in which Council will meet its goals and objectives of the strategic plan. It also includes a summary of the major strategies to be used in relation to its public health goals and objectives.

Copies of the operational plan are available for public inspection at Council Offices and have also been provided to the Director of Local Government and Director of Public Health.

Appreciation

I would like to pay tribute to Council Staff who have experienced considerable changes during the course of the year. And will continue to experience significant changes as we bring our operational processes and procedures into line with community expectations and best practice principles.

I would finally like to thank the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors for their support this financial year as I believe, from discussions with other councils we have an extremely good relationship between elected members and Council staff. Further, I believe, the systems and procedures we have put in place and continue to develop allow us to give good sound quality advice to Council, which assists Council to make appropriate decisions.

It has been a tough year and I feel that the next year will be even tougher in terms of turning around our financial reserves and increasing our services however I believe we can look to the future as one of prosperity and growth.

I wish Mayor Noye all the best in his pending retirement and would like to record my appreciation for his patience kindness and understanding in “breaking in” the new General Manager.

Steve Gray
GENERAL MANAGER





ENVIRONMENTAL, BUILDING AND PLUMBING **ANNUAL REPORT**

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This department operated to a satisfactory degree of compliance to all the relevant Acts, By-laws and Standards set by the various controlling Government sections.

The following statistical items were recorded for this particular time frame: -

- Over one hundred and thirty inspections were made on food premises within the Municipality, these checks were to ascertain that the proprietors were qualified to run the premises and conversant with the current relevant regulations. These inspections were to also check the cleanliness of the premises and that the food served was of a satisfactory quality.
- Thirty-six food premises were Registered and Licenced for this year and a substantial increase is expected for the coming financial year.
- There were forty inquiries or complaints regarding other health matters, these included unhealthy premises, prevention and control of disease, condition of toilet blocks etc.
- The water-sampling program was mainly confined to the Nursing Home, with the results of the potable supply causing some concern for period of time. Procedures have now commenced to clear up any previous sampling problems and the Recreational water sampling program will commence prior to the coming summer holiday period.
- Sorell Council again carried out immunisations, this agreement benefits both Councils and saves on duplication of services.
- There were ninety-two Special Connection Permits issued along with ninety-eight Plumbing Permits and one hundred and two building Permits.

- The Southern Waste Strategy Committee meetings were attended by the Mayor and Environmental Health Officer, these meetings have been extremely beneficial due to the planned closure of the Nubeena Land Fill and the transfer of the waste to the Copping Refuse Centre.

Again this year there were many changes in the Health, Building and Wastewater disposal fields, this does get very frustrating but it seems to be the normal state of affairs these days.

There were no reported outbreaks of disease within the Municipality, which is an encouraging result appreciation for the good food premises results must go to the proprietors, owners and operators of the many businesses throughout the area.

Rod Liversidge
Manager Environmental and Building Services



COMMUNITY SERVICES **ANNUAL REPORT**

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The Community and Cultural Development area continued to focus on providing support for the community through grant submissions and feasibility studies for major projects, assisting community groups to stage events, youth programs and assisting individual community members through such programs as Emergency Relief.

Grant Submissions & Feasibility Studies

- Successful funding submission for Sport & Recreation Plan
- Assistance with funding submission for Tasman Entertainment Centre
- Historical Village feasibility study/submissions
- Assistance with funding submission for swimming pool committee
- Project managed black spot mobile phone project
- Funding submission for eradication of feral oysters

Support with Event Management:

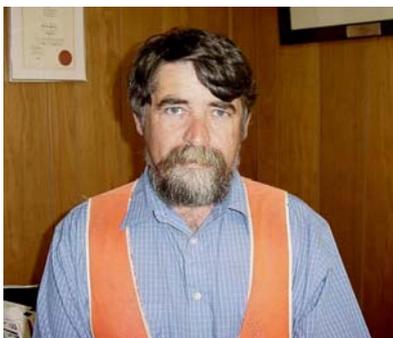
- Christmas Pageant
- Carols by Candlelight
- Tasmania Federation Concert
- Heritage Fair
- National Undergraduate Rural Health Conference

Community support

- Provided Emergency Relief Assistance to individual community members

Youth Activities

- Coordination of participation in Green Corps Program
- Youth Summer Program
- National Youth Week activities



WORKS AND SERVICES **ANNUAL REPORT**

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Role:

To Manage, Maintain and develop Municipal Services and Infrastructure for the benefit of the community.

Details:

Extension to the kerbing and channel in the township of Nubeena was one of the works undertaken by Tasman Council's Outdoor Staff. This has seen the effective management of storm water run off, allowed better parking facilities and generally tidied up the appearance of Nubeena C.B.D.

The correction of deformations on Blowhole Rd was also continued, followed with a 10mm reseal this has seen the full length of Blowhole Rd resealed in the past two years, corners have been widened and Blowhole Rd is now a safer road for all users especially the tourist coaches and vehicles accessing the boat ramps.

Pirates Bay Drive between the Officers Mess and the Lufra Hotel was sealed; improvements to the drainage were also undertaken.

Corner realignment on Dam Rd was completed, residents who live close by were happy to see this potential traffic hazard rectified.

A 7mm reseal was applied to the Saltwater River Rd from the Junction at the Premaydena Store to the Premaydena Cemetery turn off this should see the life span of that section of road extended.

Restrainers on the Nubeena Back Rd and the Saltwater River Rd were also added to.

Council undertook sheeting works on the Nubeena Back Rd, Roaring Beach Rd, Littles Rd and roads in the Stormlea Highcroft area.

Drainage and sheeting were also completed on the top end of Palmers Look Out Rd.

Two Bridges were replaced being those on Sommers Bay Rd across Duck Creek and Anderson Rd Port Arthur.

Numerous under road culverts have also been placed or renewed helping to improving the drainage on our road network.

The Coalmines Rd improvements have also been commenced with a carry-over of funds and final works to be completed with the sealing of the road sometime in December 2002.

Chris Mole
Works Supervisor



MULTI-PURPOSE SERVICE **ANNUAL REPORT**

2001/2002

Multi-Purpose Service

The development of the Tasman Multi-Purpose Service (MPS) has come full circle over the past twelve months. December of last year saw the MPS project enter into a period of uncertainty as the Steering Committee comprising the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and the State Department of Health and Human Services DHHS raised a number of concerns regarding the financial information provided by Council and the long term viability and sustainability of the MPS. The new General Manager requested a stay on development until these questions were answered. The DoHA made provision of a grant for Tasman Council to investigate the establishment of a viable integrated health, aged care and community service. Financial modelling undertaken in November 2001 was revised, taking into account questions raised by the DoHA and the DHHS and the improvements instigated by Tasman Council and the Tasman Aged Care Facility.

The Tasman MPS has now received full support from the Commonwealth and State with its development now vigorously proceeding to an establishment date of March 2003. We have recommenced from where we left off prior to ensuring viability and sustainability. Actions required to achieve the final result of the Tasman MPS include finalising the Tri-partite Agreement, resolving human resource issues surrounding staff transfers and changes to service provision, developing Strategic and Operational Plans and finalising the organisational structure including governance.

I would like to acknowledge Neil Noye whose vision and support for the Tasman community to have its own Multi-Purpose Service auspiced by Tasman Council has been unfailing.

Tasman MPS Advisory Group

The Advisory Group held its inaugural meeting in December 2001. The Group has remained dedicated to the MPS throughout this period of uncertainty, meeting monthly to develop its meeting procedures, structure

and processes and attending training to further understand its role to support the best outcomes for the MPS.

Capital redevelopment (stage one) nursing home/medical centre

This stage of the redevelopment is well underway and due for completion in early December. This development will see the transformation of the 80's facility to contemporary style and services. The residents and staff have put up with extreme conditions and I am sure will be looking forward to the benefits. Many lessons have been gained from this experience and will be carried forward to the next stage of the redevelopment.

Capital redevelopment (stage two) community health/services

The State has provided a commitment for 04/05 to fund stage two of the redevelopment. This stage will incorporate the services now being provided from the Community Health Centre thus bringing the services together to form the Tasman Multi-Purpose Service.

Tasman Aged Care Facility

- The occupancy for the facility has been at an optimum capacity. Furthermore, we now have a waiting list of eight.
- The Acute Beds continue to be utilized by the community; however, they have been closed during the building redevelopment due to lack of space. They will be reopened with the completion of stage one.
- Robyn Dell was appointed as temporary Director of Nursing during our state of uncertainty and has dedicated herself to the position of achieving the best outcomes for the residents and staff.
- Staffing shortages in particular registered nurses continue to be a problem. Despite our most creative recruiting efforts we have as yet been unable to attract new permanent staff. We are managing the shortage by engaging agency nurses.
- Whilst we are progressing to an MPS, the existing facility is required to undertake an accreditation process. We will need to review our performance against the standards and outcomes, identifying many areas for improvement. This process will require extending our resources with staff time and the engagement of a consultant.
- There has been much development and change over the past twelve months and it is pleasing to see the staff take up the challenge and involve themselves in this process. Communication between the Tasman Aged Care Facility and Tasman Council has also improved in this process and will I believe continue to improve.

Personal and Community Support Co-ordinator

The funding (Regional Health Service Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing) for this position has enabled the Tasman Council to develop a service which is responsive to community needs providing short term counselling for individuals and families, assistance with referral to services as required, health promotion activities and early intervention, advise and information to individuals, families and community groups. Client ages range from 9 and 85. The establishment of groups such as the wellbeing,

relaxation, parenting, men's club, caring and sharing for women and the gardening for life group has been very positive.

The success of this project reflects the dedication of Sue Taylor who was employed at the commencement of the grant and has initiated these services. I look forward to the project continuing to facilitate positive outcomes for the community.

Marina Campbell
Multi-Purpose Service Manager