



Sustainable Cities 2012 –Tasmania

Recipient: City of Devonport

Population: approximately 25,000 people

Location: North-west coast of Tasmania, situated at the mouth of the Mersey River

Category: Community Action and Partnerships

Key programs and initiatives include:

- The East Devonport Skate Park and East Devonport Village Streetscapes were delivered by the City of Devonport in partnership with community organisations such as the Devonport Lions Club who donated \$20k. Council co-ordinated over \$60k in grants and donations from over 14 businesses and organisations. The skate park was lobbied for by young residents of the community. Kommunity Kids have also relocated to Pioneer Park.
- The Council have revitalised the eastern shore through the Eastern Shore Project Special Committee. The City invested close to \$5 million in beautifying the public realm.
- The City of Devonport has worked in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services to deliver the East Devonport Child and Family Centre. This solar passive designed facility is shared by range of children and family services aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of 0-5 years, especially low income families.
- Council have delivered the Spreyton Cycle Way which is a 2.2km of shared cycling/walking track between Devonport and Quoiba. It joins onto the original track linking through to the Mersey Bluff and the new Aquatic Centre and provides safe recreational and commuting opportunities
- The Tasmanian Arboretum, which is supported financially by Council, is developed and maintained by 38 volunteers contributing over 5,000 hours each year. The Arboretum contains largest collection of Tasmanian living woody plants, southern hemisphere conifers and plants from northern hemisphere forests.
- Devonport Community Garden is in its 6th year and provides community members with opportunities to acquire healthy living skills, reduce social isolation and to engage in sustainable living practices. The Garden also provides work experience placements, support for job seekers and mentorship opportunities.
- The Devonport Men's Shed provides inclusive programs to deliver opportunities for all men to socially interact and develop skills and be involved in health and wellbeing. This facility has been extended through substantial community in-kind support and participant numbers increased by 200 over last 12 months.
- Devonport Recreation Centre has run a program to encourage youth ownership of city assets and reduce graffiti. Young local artists worked with a mainland graffiti artist to develop murals that beautify the City.
- Devonport City Council offers a range of centres where volunteers can give their time and assistance.

Category: 'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention

Key programs and initiative include:

Schools – Vandalism Education Project

- \$60,000 grant funded initiative, with Council adding an additional \$60,000 in value
- 2200 students improve their understanding of the impact of vandalism on themselves and community through in-school performances
- 3 schools have developed anti-vandalism projects as a consequence

East Devonport Primary School students

- Commitment to the Beachwatch program, regularly monitoring marine debris of East Devonport beaches

Category: Resources Recovery and Waste Management

Key initiatives and programs include:

- The establishment of a partnership between the Devonport Council and Lifeline North West Tasmania to establish and operate a Resource Recovery Facility at the Spreyton Waste Transfer Station. The public can drop off items for re-sale and the shop has been successful in reducing the level of landfill.

Category: Environmental Innovation and Protection

The City of Devonport has a number of strategies and programs to assist in maintaining a strong environmental focus throughout the city. These range from the management of the public realm, volunteer and working bee programs and a Street Tree Planning Strategy, These programs will help to ensure that the pristine environment which surrounds Devonport remains that way.

Key initiatives and programs include:

- In a world first initiative the Devonport Council were successful in moving of close to 200 individual threatened Central North Burrowing Crayfish from a roadside drain to a specialised reserved site.
- Council financially supports the Tasmanian Arboretum which contains the largest collection of Tasmanian living woody plants, southern hemisphere conifers and plants from northern hemisphere forests. The facility is open to the public, hosts regular community events and environmental education programs.
- Phil Murray is a dedicated Council officer, contributing to improving of City's natural assets. He has over 20 years commitment to environmental sustainability in Devonport and helps to build capacity of community groups, volunteers, schools, service clubs etc to actively contribute to environmental conservation.

Category: Water Conservation

The Devonport City Council is undertaking the following actions:

- Progressive installation of irrigation systems in all Council sports grounds and some reserves,
- Introduction of drought tolerant grass species in Council open space renovation programs, reducing irrigation needs.
- Conservation of environmental water flows through wetland habitat creation, slowing the flow of water and retaining 'soaks' for biodiversity improvements – examples include Turner Wetlands and Mary St Wetlands.
- Devonport Aquatic Centre – currently under construction will include rainwater harvesting and re-use for flushing toilets and washing down pool decks.

Category: Energy Innovation

Key initiatives and programs include:

- East Devonport Child and Family Centre which a solar passive designed facility shared by range of children and family services.
- Mersey Bluff Surf Club
- Devonport Aquatic Centre – under construction and will incorporate the following:
 - Re-use of timber dismantled from old pool buildings
 - Integration of co-generation system to heat pool
 - Energy efficient lighting fixtures, as well as efficient zoning and lighting controls

Category: Heritage and Culture

Highlights include:

Julie Burgess

- The historic 1936 fishing ketch is being refurbished through a program of 24 volunteers contributing approximately 5990 hours in addition to paid positions. The ketch will be used to provide a range of sailing experiences once complete.

Maritime Museum – Bass Strait Maritime Centre

- The City of Devonport has embarked on an extension of Maritime Museum to incorporate a world-class experience focused on interpretation of Devonport's rich maritime history. This facility is reliant on the daily contribution of over 30 dedicated volunteers.

Home Hill

- A National Trust property built in 1916 and home to Tasmania's only Prime Minister Joseph Lyons and Dame Enid Lyons together with their 12 children. The home contains original furniture and fittings left just as it had been when the Lyons family lived in the house. Tours and maintenance are conducted by volunteers

Don River Railway

- Museum of railway artefacts and working carriages developed and maintained by volunteers.

Devonport Regional Gallery

- Manages City's Permanent Art Collection of close to 2000 artworks plus the highly prized Robinson Collection of glass plate negatives of life in Devonport from 1920-1960s. Over 23,000 visitors annually come to see the 10 major exhibitions a year.

Devonport Food and Wine Festival

- The City of Devonport hosted over 70 events during the month long festivities. The events highlighted the social and cultural diversity of the region, and provided economic development in the retail, tourism, hospitality and business sector.

Devonport Jazz Festival

- A 4 day event now in its 11th year attracts over 15,000 visitors to 40 concerts and workshops celebrating all aspects of jazz, injecting close to \$500,000 into the local economy. Victor Zappner has been the artistic director of the festival over its 10-year growth, now in his 76th year.

Category: Young Legends

The Devonport City Council recognises that young people are integral to its City and its future. The Council is committed to providing opportunities that encourage and support young people actively participating in community life. Initiatives include:

- The Zone, which focuses on young people between the ages of 12 -25 have access to programs and services which specifically cater for their needs and interests. The Council has a full-time Youth Development Officer and part-time Youth Officer based at the Zone.

- Council is committed to working in collaboration with other levels of government and the community to create joint funding opportunities that value add to council initiatives and ensure a collaborative focus on its young people.

Devonport City Council has nominated the following young residents for their initiatives, involvement and achievements.

Kathryn Whitely

- Kathryn is the leading member of the Droogs (the young members of the Devonport Regional Gallery). She plays an important role in organising art and cultural events for the youth of the North West Coast. Kathryn puts in many hours of work into designing events, creating posters, connecting with youth, as well as maintaining her own artistic practice.
- She is a very talented photographer and film maker with drive, commitment and passion for enriching the creative community of Devonport.
- She was awarded a Diamond of Devonport in March 2012 – one of 33 women recognised for their generosity, community spirit, and can do attitude.

Tarnya Evans

- Tarnya has organised several charity events and is currently establishing group to support motor vehicle accident victims.

Brandon Goss

- Chosen as youth representative to the 2011 Sister Cities Australia conference, has committed to being youth ambassador for the 2012 conference to be hosted by Council in November.