

17.5.1 December 2020

TROUSERS POINT, FLINDERS ISLAND  
PHOTO: LUKE TSCHARKE

# Quarterly Progress Report

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2020



## A few words from the CEO

The July to September quarter has been a (somewhat) return to normal for NTDC and perhaps a new normal for Northern Tasmania.

We have been back in our new office since the start of July and more meetings are being held face to face.

Our new independent Chair Anthony Mitchell was announced in July and hit the ground running with lots of meets and greets with Members, MPs and key stakeholders.

Our third quarterly Mayors' meeting was held in September and featured our first external briefing from the team behind a UNESCO Creative City's bid focused on gastronomy. While the word city is in the name, the bid seeks to capitalise on the region's competitive advantage in food and beverages.

At the meeting, the idea of marketing Northern Tasmania as a destination for mainlanders concerned about all manner of pain points in their lives such as congestion, climate change, affordability, lifestyle and now COVID-19, was raised as an opportunity. This fits in with NTDC's strategic priority for population growth and generated a good discussion. The idea of a prospectus selling all the great opportunities in Northern Tasmania was suggested and NTDC has been working on the messaging. It's envisaged the digital document will be something that we use as part of a direct social media campaign that includes geo-targeting mainlanders in major cities and getting SEO (Search Engine Optimisation) and Google AdWords for people searching about relocating to regional Australia so Northern Tasmania lands on top of the pops. We have a meeting with the Premier soon to discuss this and other population growth opportunities and want Northern Tasmania to be the pilot location to prove what we all think exists: a desire for people to work from home or operate their businesses remotely in a region that provides better lifestyle and community outcomes.

We launched the circular economy platform ASPIRE in all our Member Council areas. As you'd recall, ASPIRE is "Tinder for Waste", a website that connects business with waste resources with other businesses that can reuse-repurpose or recycle that resource in their own supply chain.

Businesses with fewer than 20 staff can join ASPIRE for free. We have about 30 businesses registered but need to keep spreading the word and encouraging more to join and start selling and trading resources online. I've been briefing councils on the opportunity and have presented to MVC, NMC, GTC, WTAMC and BoDC as well as Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone. With Northern Midland's support, we will be talking to TransLink businesses and I'm addressing a Launceston Chamber of Commerce breakfast at the end of October.

Another circular economy initiative NTDC has supported through local governments Care and Recovery packages has been the Circular Economy Grants through the Northern Tasmania Waste Management Group. Grants of up to \$30,000 are available for businesses with a circular economy idea that adds value to the region. We have had a strong level of expressions of interest and are looking forward to supporting the delivery of these programs.

NTDC facilitated a workshop on the need for mental health and well-being focus in the workplace from a productivity angle. Knowing workplace absenteeism and presenteeism costs the Australian economy about \$18 billion a year pre-COVID, providing businesses with the tools to address mental health and well-being will be very valuable.

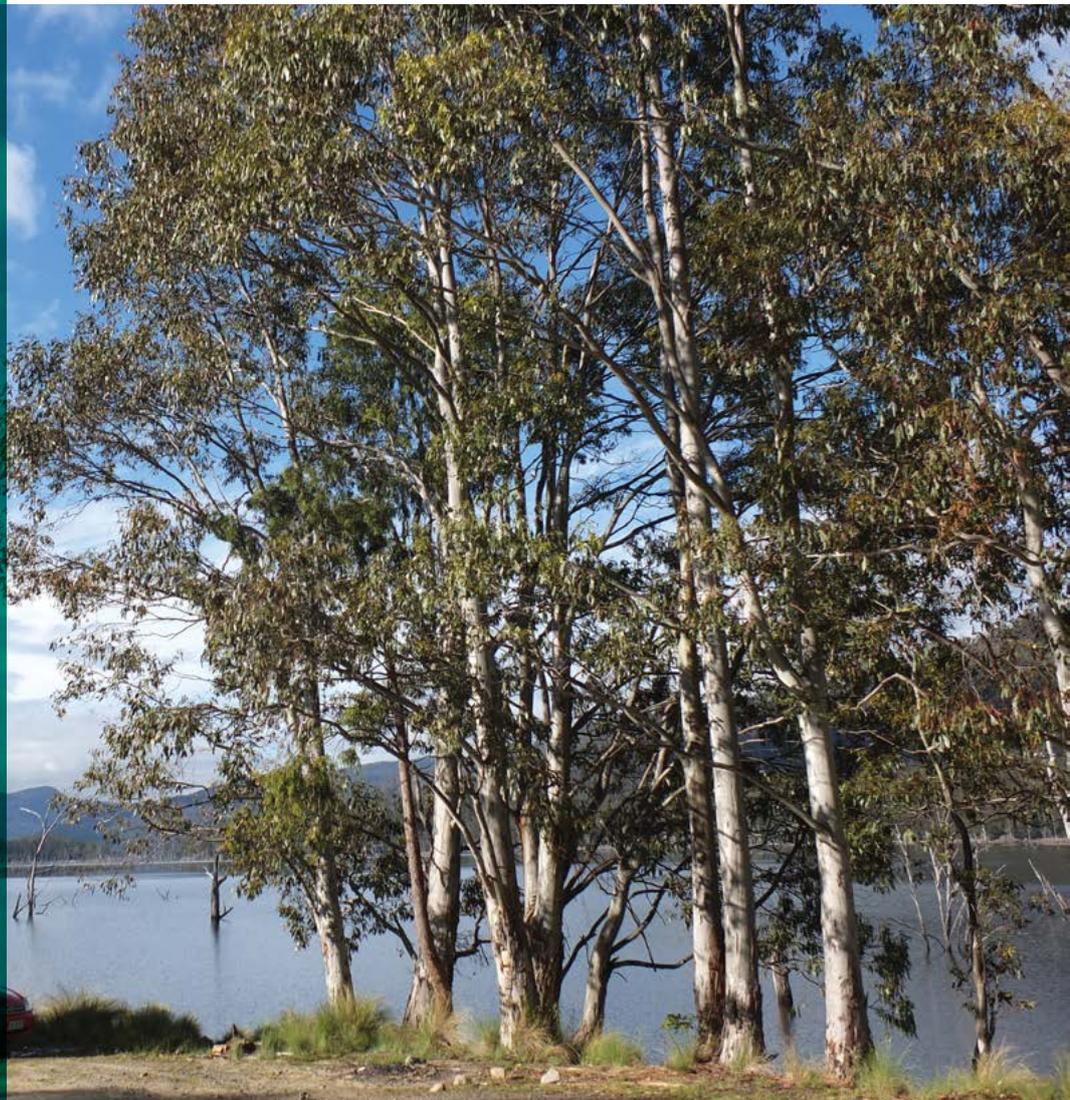
There will likely be a latent demand starting to emerge as staff get back in the office, people come off JobKeeper and businesses deal with the economic fallout. We have submitted funding requests to government and private business in this regard and are hopeful of getting support to do more work in this space.

Edward has put the final details on his Let's Get Working job ready seminar due for later this month. George has been facilitating regional land use planning scheme meetings and providing input into the transport strategy.

NTDC looks forward to delivering more activities in the final quarter of the calendar year and maintaining momentum into 2021 as we continue to focus on economic and social recovery initiatives.



**Mark Baker**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



LAKE PARANGANA  
PHOTO: TOURISM TASMANIA & MASAOKI AIHARA

POPULATION

Population Program Manager Edward Obi has continued to work well in attracting and supporting new people to the region. Edward assists these migrants to revise their CVs and connect them to potential employers. During the COVID-19 pandemic Edward is keeping our [Facebook Jobs](#) page updated with available jobs as there are industries still looking to employ.

The Population Advisory Group met on 10 September to discuss key issues in the execution of the NTDC population growth strategy. Various recovery initiatives were discussed including raising awareness about the agriculture sector jobs in the region. The group discussed the upcoming Let's Get Working event as well as retention strategies in the wake of the pandemic and border closures.

One drawback of the pandemic is the restriction on gatherings and social events. The consequence was a scarcity of avenues for networking for job seekers. Fortunately, there is the internet to help keep people in touch. Northern Tasmania has the advantage of a robust NBN rollout that has made it the region of choice in remote working and internet availability. Below are two tips to help you continue networking throughout the COVID-19 recovery period:

1. Attend virtual events/forums: The explosion of virtual events this year is an advantage you can put to fair use. Search for events in your area of interest and register for them. Some of these events use video conferencing technology so you should be at your best to make a good impression and form new connections.
2. Create a cohesive and exciting online presence: Your social media accounts may need updating and optimisation. Make sure your LinkedIn and other networking profiles are up to date for recruiters, potential employers, colleagues and friends. Endeavour to secure at least four recommendations on LinkedIn. Update your profile photos and make an overall effort to represent yourself professionally online.
3. Step out and stay safe: Northern Tasmania has had many restrictions rolled back, and this has made it possible for some events to take place under strict COVID safe rules. Take advantage of the available events and attend the traditional networking meetups while adhering to hygiene and social distancing rules.

These times call for healthier communities and better networks for businesses and job seekers alike.

# Population Advisory Group

## Networking Tips for Job seekers



POPULATION

# Case Studies

## Renee Saward

Renee Saward, a Launceston resident, exemplifies the importance of networking in landing jobs. She recently landed a job as a barista in a local cafe here in Launceston, and she got the job by the referral of a friend.

Renee said: “I put myself out there in a friendly and approachable way.”

She also has an engaging online presence as she captures her journey in appreciating the variety of food and restaurants in Launceston. You can follow her journey on <https://www.facebook.com/eateverywherelaunceston>

Renee’s advice for job seekers during the pandemic is: “Take the opportunity in front of you even if it’s not perfect.”

Edward Obi, NTDC’s Population Program Manager, agrees with Renee.

“Taking up available jobs is about getting a foot in the door. As the economy continues to recover, the ideal opportunity will turn up.”



POPULATION

# Case Studies

## Anh Woodward

Anh Woodward moved to Northern Tasmania with her partner from the UK a few years ago. After observing the business climate for a while, in 2019 she started her own boutique fashion business in the Launceston CBD.

Anh has a Degree in fashion/textile from Winchester School of Art & Design, England with more than 25 years dedicated to producing innovative bridal couture. Anh has also been involved as judge for Miss England competition and represented England in the Miss World Designer Award competition at the Miss World 60th Anniversary.

Her business was an instant success with clients coming in for bespoke bridal wear, evening wear and alterations. Her friendliness and professionalism endeared her to many.

However, the pandemic struck with devastating effects on the wedding industry. The restrictions that followed with social distancing, ended all formal and social gatherings. According to Anh, “Our business dropped to zero percent profit while still paying rent!”

Anh didn’t rest on her oars during the lockdown. She went back to the drawing board and learned new ways to revive her business and make it resilient.

“During lockdown I have learned new skills to try to rescue my business,” she said. “Using social media I developed my own website ([www.maocouture.com](http://www.maocouture.com)) to showcase my products. MaoCouture will be launching our first ready to wear fashion collection in October2020. Designed and made in Tasmania!”

Anh has also taken advantage of the information and financial support facilities from the government to reopen her business.

Edward Obi, NTDC’s population program manager, praised Anh’s resourcefulness. “Anh has shown how a positive response to change can change a situation for the better,” he said.



# “Let’s Get Working” Event

Edward has organised our Let’s Get Working Event to be held on 23 October.

We are inviting job seekers and employers to attend a free session where they can hear from industry leaders and experienced professionals who will provide advice and guidance on finding meaningful work in Northern Tasmania. This event is a great opportunity to hear about the skills employers are looking for in the region, and also to expand networks.

There are 50 spots available, and we are on track to achieving capacity.

**LET'S GET WORKING!**

AN EVENT WHERE JOBSEEKERS CAN GAIN INSIGHTS AND SKILLS TO HELP SECURE A JOB IN NORTHERN TASMANIA

**NTDC**  
NORTHERN TASMANIA  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD

**WHEN**  
9AM-12PM  
23 OCTOBER 2020

**WHERE**  
CITY OF LAUNCESTON  
TOWN HALL

**WHO IS THIS FOR?**  
JOB SEEKERS & EMPLOYERS

**HIGHLIGHTS**  
Career advice  
Post-COVID Resilience building  
Transferable skills  
Entrepreneurship 101  
Experienced Speakers  
Networking

Break O'Day, City of LAUNCESTON, FLINDERS COUNCIL, Meander Valley Council, NORTHERN HIGHLANDS COUNCIL, West Tamar

## LET'S GET WORKING! Speakers



### ADAM MOSTOGL

**DIRECTOR & ENTREPRENEURSHIP FACILITATOR, THE VAN DIEMEN PROJECT**

Adam is an experienced educator, advisor and mentor in the entrepreneurship space (having inspired +12,500 students since 2011 & helped start numerous businesses) as well as recognised for his community, social enterprise, business development and innovation work across Tasmania and into Victoria. In 2017, Adam was recognised as one of the top 30 Australian entrepreneurs under the age of 30, and in 2015 was a finalist for Young Australian of the Year.



### ANDREW PITT

**LAUNCESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT**

Andrew is based at Neil Pitt's Menswear, one of Launceston's retail institutions. He is President of the Launceston Chamber of Commerce, Chair of the Greater Launceston Creative Cities Steering Group, and a Director the BOFA Film Festival.



### ARI REICH

**NEW MICROBUSINESS CONSULTANT, APM EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

Ari is a consultant with NEIS and will be speaking on the basics of entrepreneurship and small start-ups. He will also detail the resources available to support that cohort and how best to access and use it.



### JAMES MCCORMACK

**EMPLOYMENT FACILITATOR TASMANIA**

James is the Australian Government Employment Facilitator for Tasmania, working in the Education, Skills and Employment portfolio. James has worked in federal labour market initiatives across north and north west Tasmania since 2010, and is a first point of contact for workers facing redundancy. He also works with employers and industry groups on skills and labour issues around the region, and he is currently implementing the Local Jobs Program, announced by Employment Minister Michaela Cash in early September 2020.



### KARINA DAMBERGS

**FERMENTASMANIA CEO  
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE JOBS**

Karina is the CEO of Ferment Tasmania, a Board Director of NTDC, a member of Seedlab Tasmania, and is the co-owner of Red Brick Road Cider. Karina has always been surrounded by agriculture. From growing up on a vineyard and orchard in South Australia, to taking up the role of Sparkling Winemaker for Clover Hill in Tasmania in 2007 to being appointed CEO Ferment Tasmania in 2019, Karina loves all aspects of the food industry, and will be talking about employment in the agricultural sector.

PROJECTS

# ASPIRE Launch

We held our media launch for ASPIRE and had great support from five of our seven Member Mayors who attended. There was good media coverage of the concept through The Examiner newspaper, ABC radio and Tasmania Talks radio program.

Interest in the platform has been solid with ASPIRE CEO having had about two dozen sign-ups. We have been working with not-for-profits like City Mission and Self Help who have signed up.

ASPIRE and NTDC has been briefing Member Councils as well as organisations like Housing Industry Association and Bell Bay Advanced Manufacturing Zone with briefings being arranged for TransLink businesses in the Northern Midlands and George Town Chamber of Commerce.

We have also had contact with a network in the building industry via the CEO of CBM. All in all, a promising start but more work to do to turn that into actual trading on the platform. If you have a business or group that you think could benefit from the ASPIRE platform, please reach out to NTDC.



NORTHERN MIDLANDS MAYOR MARY KNOWLES, WEST TAMAR MAYOR CHRISTINA HOLMDAHL, LAUNCESTON MAYOR ALBERT VAN ZETTEN, BREAK O'DAY MAYOR MICK TUCKER, MEANDER VALLEY MAYOR WAYNE JOHNSTON AND GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL GENERAL MANAGER AND NORTHERN TASMANIA WASTE MANAGEMENT GROUP CHAIR SHANE POWER: PICTURE COURTESY OF THE EXAMINER.

PROJECTS

# Circular Economy Grants

NTDC has partnered with the Northern Tasmania Waste Management Group to design and deliver grants to businesses in Northern Midlands, Launceston, Meander Valley, West Tamar, George Town, Break O’Day, Flinders Island and Dorset for circular economy initiatives. Up to \$30,000 will be available for individual grants from a pool of \$300,000. The announcement was made at Launceston Transfer Station in Mowbray, where we were shown how the Styrofoam is recycled.



# Northern Regional Land Use Scheme

Over the past few months Georgie has represented NTDC as we facilitate activities of a working group of Northern Tasmanian council planners to progress a proposal to amend the Northern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy (NTRLUS). The NTRLUS is the statutory regional plan for Northern Tasmania. It sets out the strategy and policy basis to facilitate and manage change, growth, and development to 2032. The last full review of the NTRLUS was completed in 2016. The policy, environmental, economic and demographic story of the region is changing and Northern Tasmania is primed for sustained growth over the next two decades and there are a number of proposed residential, industrial and other major projects planned for the region, as well as the need to allow for sustainable agricultural uses and for rural lifestyle aspirations. The NTRLUS must be revised to recognize the changing context and to enable (and not inhibit) the future growth and development of the region. The proposed amendments to the NTRLUS will provide certainty for the development sector and infrastructure providers.

Importantly, this is a unified regional initiative of the member Councils: Break O’Day, Dorset, Flinders Island, George Town, Launceston, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands and West Tamar. We are working collaboratively with the State Planning Minister, Planning Policy Unit and Planning Commission staff to effectively progress regional planning needs in Northern Tasmania.

## Planning Minister meeting with GMs

As part of the Regional Land Use Scheme conversation, NTDC arranged a meeting with Planning Minister Roger Jaensch who attended the regular General Managers’ meeting on September 11. GMs relayed their concerns about the proposed timelines and the Minister suggested some pain points could be solved by policy changes and recommended the Policy Planning Unit (PPU) attend the next planners’ meeting. That has occurred and NTDC will be helping follow up outcomes with GMs, planners and the director of the PPU on October 21.

PROJECTS

# Mental Health and Resilience

We have arranged a first meeting with stakeholders interested in exploring the business benefits from a productivity outcome of a mental health and resilience focus. Healthy Tasmania has supported NTDC to develop a paper regarding mental health and productivity. As you will see from the paper, NTDC is eager to better understand the impacts of mental health on productivity in the region, and explore opportunities for supporting improved mental health outcomes for Northern Tasmania.

The July 22 meeting was an initial conversation to discuss the merits and potential opportunities of the project. We have identified a variety of stakeholders with a specific knowledge base and expertise across a wide range of areas from industry, to service supports, to economic development, regional development and the health and mental health sector. It is hoped organisations like St Luke's can contribute some seed funding to map out a full plan that would include some research for base level data. RSVPs are promising and there is enthusiasm for the concept from stakeholders and Mental Health Minister Jeremy Rockliff.

Our work promoting mental health from a workplace productivity angle continues to show promise with NTDC and Healthy Tas putting a pitch to the Pulse of Tasmania funding round (an initiative by StLukes, MyState and TasPlan) for COVID recovery projects. Healthy Tas director Lucy Byrne and Mark spoke with the person from TasPlan who is shortlisting the applications and got a very positive response to the concept.



PROJECTS

# Launceston Transport Strategy

Over the last few months Project Manager Georgie Brown has represented NTDC as an invited key stakeholder in a series of workshops to develop a Launceston Transport Strategy (LTS), addressing the following themes:

- » Greater Launceston Transport Vision and Key Transport Performance Indicators
- » Walking and cycling in Launceston
- » Public transport in Launceston
- » Driving and parking in Launceston
- » Key initiatives and implementation

The Launceston Transport Strategy will provide an understanding of the city's transport opportunities and challenges, a 20-year transport vision and a list of collaboratively developed initiatives that can be implemented by the City. It aims to ensure that good transport networks support Launceston to achieve economic, tourism and investment growth while retaining and enhancing the existing character and liveability enjoyed by the community. NTDC has encouraged recognition of the strong co-dependent relationship of Launceston with its surrounding region and the importance that the LTS consider the need for effective and consistent transport networks between the region and the City. Shortly the Draft Launceston Transport Strategy will be released to the public for a four week consultation period. The Launceston Transport Strategy is expected to be completed by 26 November 2020.

Seedlab Tasmania hosted a First Harvest Event at New Norfolk Distillery on October 3, which was a great opportunity to meet and hear from 15 fired up Founders of start-up food and drink, and agri-tourism businesses from all around Tasmania, all of whom have taken part in the first Seedlab Tasmania Cultivate Programme – a 6 month Accelerator Programme to help them start, scale and grow to become export-ready.

Read more information in their media release in Appendix C.

# Seedlab Tasmania First Harvest Event



MEMBERS

# Mayors' Quarterly Catch-up

CEO held the third quarterly catch up with the Mayors on September 3. It was the first time we had an external briefing to that meeting with Andrew Pitt joining to brief mayors on the UNESCO Creative Cities bid that is part of our recovery document.

The meeting was attended by Christina Holmdahl, Wayne Johnston, Greg Kieser, Mary Knowles, Mick Tucker, Albert Van Zetten and NTDC Chair Anthony Mitchell (via zoom). Annie Revie was an apology.

The Mayors provided an “around the grounds”:

### **George Town - Greg Kieser**

- » George Town Council has a lot of work going on
- » Expansion plan
- » Hydrogen
  - ARENA Hydrogen Funding – Woodside has been successful
  - State side - 23 separate applications for funding
- » Bought the old RSL building
- » RLUS strategy - GMs looking on a unified response. Roger Jaensch will join the GMs Meeting
- » It was emphasised that the voice is stronger if NTDC communicates for all councils

### **Break O’Day - Mick Tucker**

- » Council had a fantastic win with St Helens awarded top tourism town
- » The community has been supporting council
- » Boardwalk opening
- » Another mountain bike trail opening up – helping tourism in winter
- » Mick emphasised the need to work together and collaborate
- » Seeing some strong positives across the Council and community
- » Job action package - working with government to identify jobs for the future
- » Mary suggested a future collaboration between 3 councils - mountain bike track for Ben Lomond

### **Albert Van Zetten**

- » The August snow received a lot of interest, phone calls from all over Australia asking about it. Good to have Launceston in the news
- » Council going well under Michael Stretton’s leadership
- » UTAS announcement = more jobs. Great development for the city

### **Wayne Johnston**

- » Good that GMs are catching up on a regular basis, with Mark. Starting to work together well
- » Various developments happening. Had a set back with Meander primary school
- » Wayne would like NTDC to represent the councils to get TasWater in front of us
- » Issues with TasWater – Wayne would like NTDC to communicate on behalf of councils to express frustrations
- » Regional prison - state expecting Council to do the heavy lifting

MEMBERS

# Mayors' Quarterly Catch-up

## Mary Knowles

- » Northern Midlands Council doing very well
- » Highway completed, Perth is going gangbusters
- » A lot of projects and developments - Industry and households
- » Fair bit of snow damage
- » Successful appeal to the airport

## Christina Holmdahl

- » West Tamar Council travelling very well
- » Council expected that COVID would bring a lot of financial difficulty, but it has not
- » \$5M from government for two recreational projects – Gravelly Beach and Beauty point
- » Dealing with government timeframes for new school in Legana – educational & sports precinct. Working to acquire as much land as they can. Long term prediction – at least 10,000 people living in Legana
- » State government will spend \$12M tweaking safety issues on the West Tamar highway, make a difference to users/commuters.
- » Mayor reiterated that NTDC have West Tamar's support



HUMAN RESOURCES

# Chair Recruitment

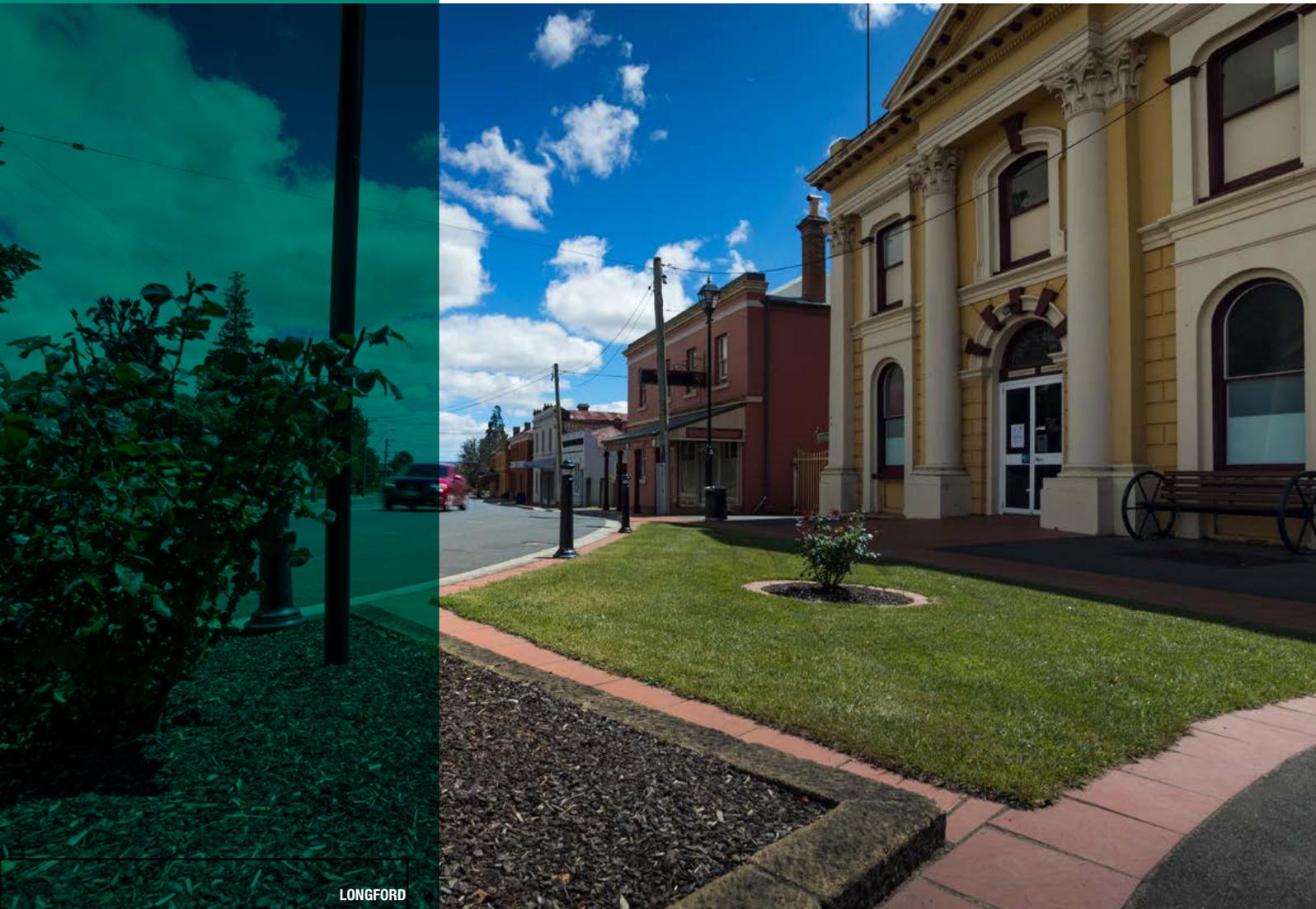
# Director Recruitment

# Executive Assistant Recruitment

Anthony was appointed during the period and has hit the ground running with a lot of meet and greets with mayors, MPs, stakeholders and peak groups in the region.

Applications for Board Directors closed on 28 September. The Board are currently reviewing candidates to shortlist and interview.

We are advertising for an executive assistant to replace Anna who has returned to Western Australia. Anna will continue to work remotely until a replacement is appointed.



## Office Update

We have largely returned to the office but offering some flexibility for working from home. With our fellow tenants, we have purchased desks and partitions leftover from StLuke's Health at a very good price to give NTDC more floor space and a more professional appearance. This installation will be completed over the coming weeks allowing enough space for all staff to work COVID safe in the space allocated.



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ST HELENS MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS  
PHOTO: STU GIBSON



# Appendix A

**MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS &  
MEDIA RELEASES**



## NTDC Media Release

Date 3 July 2020

### **Virgin flights set to resume from Launceston in late July**

Northern Tasmania Development Corporation has welcomed the news that Virgin Australia will resume flights to and from Launceston Airport.

Virgin, which was sold to Bain Capital earlier this week, has revealed plans to resume 17 routes by August, which includes flights from Launceston to Melbourne and Sydney by the end of July.

NTDC interim chair Professor Sue Kilpatrick said regular air services were critical to Northern Tasmania's future.

"Crucially, attracting new residents, tourists and exporting our fresh produce interstate and overseas all rely on connectivity," Professor Kilpatrick said.

"Launceston Airport puts our region just one hour from Melbourne. We must advocate for continued reliable, affordable and regular passenger and freight services."

**ENDS**

*For more comment, please contact Mark Baker on 0409 356 183*



## NTDC Media Release

Date 7 July 2020

### **City of Launceston Development Approvals**

Northern Tasmania Development Corporation has congratulated City of Launceston Council for its record development approvals last financial year.

NTDC chief executive Mark Baker said it was very pleasing to see continued growth in both the number and value of developments being approved in the city.

“Business and development runs on confidence and this shows there remains confidence to continue to invest,” Mr Baker said.

“Whether that is multi-million-dollar hotels, new residential subdivisions, CBD fit-outs or simple mum and dad renovations, it all keeps the local economy ticking over and adds a multiplier effect to money spent locally.

“With more than \$215 million of developments approved, these projects will be a critical antidote for any downturn caused by the COVID pandemic.”

Mr Baker also noted the quick turnaround of assessments, which was another crucial factor in doing business and seeing economic growth.

“The fact that the average assessment time was almost twice as quick as the legislated period also gives people certainty to get on with the job.”

**ENDS**

*For more comment, please contact Mark Baker on 0409 356 183*



## NTDC Media Release

### NTDC New Chair Appointed

Northern Tasmania Development Corporation has appointed Anthony Mitchell as its independent chair to lead the organisation through the COVID recovery period and beyond.

Mr Mitchell is a globally experienced senior executive, chairman and board member, specialising in strategic transformation. He has worked across the world in diverse and complex industries and cultures in North America, Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

He holds an MBA (Exec) with a major in strategy from Sydney University and postgraduate diploma in Organisational Leadership from Oxford University.

Mr Mitchell said it was a privilege to be appointed chair of NTDC and assist the economic development of an area with tremendous potential and maintaining momentum was a key focus of his and the board. "The economic development strategy developed by NTDC provides a clear pathway for the advancement of the region," he said.

"While COVID is an initial setback, it will in no way restrain us from immediately establishing the engagement, execution processes and structural frameworks necessary for its implementation. In fact, COVID only strengthens our resolve to move forward with it at speed. It also underscores the need for us to all 'work together' in overcoming its challenges, and in the development of the region as a whole.

"The region is rich with a wealth of resources and skills and offers an enormous amount not only to the broader Tasmanian and Australian economies, but to the global marketplace."

NTDC is owned by seven local government councils - City of Launceston, West Tamar, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands, George Town, Break O'Day and Flinders Island.

Member spokesman City of Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten said Mr Mitchell's global experience and track record in delivering strategic and cultural change would be a tremendous benefit for NTDC and the region.

"We're very pleased to welcome Anthony to NTDC," Councillor van Zetten said.

"He's a global operator with a proven track record. He's a citizen of the world who has been involved for many years in strategic management and business transformation at a very high level.

"We're looking forward to working together through NTDC and seeing Northern Tasmania become one of the great regional areas of the world."

Members also recognised Professor Sue Kilpatrick who served as interim chair since November. Professor Kilpatrick welcomed Mr Mitchell and said his appointment would bring new skills and strategic direction.

“NTDC’s future will be well-positioned under Anthony who will bring a step-change to the organisation and region,” she said.

Mr Mitchell founded a consulting company focussed on strategy, execution, change management, performance management and capability development and has worked with diverse organisations such as the Prime Minister’s Office of Singapore, Timor Leste Government, Apple Computer, CPA Australia, Emirates Airlines, Westinghouse, Phillips, Halliburton, Unilever and Prudential.

Among his experience in chairing various organisations was developing and leading Oxford University Alumni professionals in an innovative leadership forum attended by CEOs and senior executives from the USA, South America, the United Kingdom, Europe, SE Asia, Australia and New Zealand. The program attracted 20 very high-level key academics and speakers from around the world including Oxford and Yale faculty, dignitaries such as the third highest ranking official at the United Nations and a former Prime Minister, a former direct report to US President Ronald Reagan, as well as a number of senior executives such as the Deputy Chairman of the London Stock Exchange.

**ENDS**

*For more comment, please contact Mark Baker on 0409 356 183*

30/7/2020

## Joint Media Release

### Call for Grants Program

Tasmanian regional economic development bodies have called on the federal government to co-invest in a grants program to increase new jobs.

The proposal would see the federal government match dollar for dollar expansion plans from private enterprises that could show new employment outcomes.

The joint call comes from Regional Development Australia - Tasmania, Cradle Coast Authority, Northern Tasmania Development Corporation and the Southern Tasmanian Council Authority.

RDA Tasmania chief executive Craig Perkins said the rationale of the program was to support the economic rebuild and investment in Tasmania by providing sustainable employment opportunities, particularly for people and sectors who have had employment negatively affected by COVID-19.

“These grants will enable businesses to build scale and capability to be competitive in new or growing markets that create sustainable employment,” Mr Perkins said.

The minimum grant application would be \$50,000 capped at \$1 million.

CCA chief executive Daryl Connelly said enterprises that can show their plans would create new jobs would be eligible to have their contribution met dollar for dollar.

“As well as creating new jobs in regions, the expected outcome of the proposed grant program would be increasing workers’ skills and knowledge, enabling local businesses to reach new customers, locally, nationally and overseas and boosting the competitiveness, productivity and profitability of regional businesses,” Mr Connelly said.

Southern Tasmanian Council Authority Bec Enders said the proposed grants matched many of the recommendations from the Premier’s Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council.

“PESRAC has recommended the state government take an active approach to engaging with the private sector to facilitate major projects and while this proposed grants program would be federally funded, it would assist with such an aim,” Councillor Enders said.

NTDC chief executive Mark Baker said strict criteria would govern access and oversight of the proposed grants.

“Applicants would need to show their capacity to complete the projects and what the return on investment would be, as well as how it would match local strategies and deliver an economic benefit to the region,” Mr Baker said.

### ENDS

For more comment, please contact:

Mark Baker (NTDC): 0409 356 183

Craig Perkins (RDA): 0409 395 195

Daryl Connelly (CCA): 0488 333 893

Bec Enders (STCA): 0498 213 515

# New grant program call

BY MATT MALONEY

STATE regional development organisations have proposed the federal government provide grants to businesses with plans to expand to create jobs during the coronavirus recovery period.

The four bodies want the federal government to match expansion plans from private businesses dollar for dollar

with a minimum grant application of \$50,000 and a cap of \$1 million. The call comes from the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation, Cradle Coast Authority, the Southern Tasmanian Council Authority, and the Regional Development Australia state body.

RDA Tasmania chief executive Craig Perkins said the rationale behind the call

was to help rebuild Tasmania by providing sustainable employment opportunities, particularly within sectors that had been impacted by the pandemic.

He said the grants would allow businesses to compete in new or growing markets.

CCA chief executive Daryl Connelly said the plan would create new jobs in the state's regional areas. "The expect-

ed outcome of the proposed grant program would be increasing workers' skills and knowledge, enabling local businesses to reach new customers locally, national and overseas, and boosting the competitiveness, productivity and profitability of regional businesses," he said.

NTDC chief executive Mark Baker said strict grant criteria would provide nec-

essary oversight.

"Applicants would need to show their capacity to complete the projects and what the return on investment would be," he said.

STCA representative Bec Enders said grants program matched many recommendations from the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council's interim report.



Craig Perkins

## Saddle up for horses' birthday

HORSES wear many hats - they can be working animals, trail horses, polo ponies racehorses or compete in equestrian sport.

But on August 1, all horses will be wearing an imaginary party hat, as they celebrate their birthday.

In Australia, all thoroughbred horses celebrate their birthdays on August 1, to allow for the standardisation in horse events, like racing, to link up with the breeding cycle of the animals.

It makes it easier to keep track of bloodlines and makes it easier in the racing industry to keep track of the horses' ages.

Glengarry horse owner Liana Seadon said she had grown up always wanting to own a horse.

"It took me a while but I saved up all of my pocket money until I had enough money to buy one," she said.

Fast-forward to the present and Ms Seadon has four horses, a warmblood, two thoroughbreds and an Arab cross, and competes in



LET'S PARTY: Tom Larner, 3, of Glengarry, with horses Gwen and Bus, to celebrate the annual horses' birthday on August 1. Picture: Paul Scambler

showjumping events.

She said all of her horses had different personalities.

"Some of them are smoochers, but others not so much," she said.

"The thoroughbreds are ex-racehorses and they are just so chill, they are used to so much happening at the

track that when they get to a paddock nothing phases them much.

"But the Arab cross, he's quite cunning, he's more conniving, more likely to give you a nip as you go past with food."

Ms Seadon said being a horse owner came with it a

host of responsibilities but it was very rewarding. She said she wasn't planning a party for her horses but they might get an extra carrot.

"It's definitely not for the faint-hearted, it means lots of early mornings and late nights, with feeding and rugs and things but I just

love the bond you get with these big animals," she said.

An adrenalin rush of being partnered with an animal of this size was something Ms Seadon cherished and she loved sharing her horses with her son, Tom.

"He loves to feed them and brush them, it's one of

his favourite things to do," she said.

While Tom, 3, hasn't yet shown an interest in riding, Ms Seadon said showjumping was a family-friendly sport, and she was happy teaching him the basics of being safe around horses.

- CAITLIN JARVIS

2020 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS FOR HUON AND ROSEVEARS

# VOTE TODAY

See inside for polling places. They're open from 8am to 6pm.

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your  
state



**NEWS**

## Harker of Hagley quash bid fails

A HAGLEY man who told the Launceston Magistrates Court that he wanted to be known as "Rodney Allan of the family Harker" failed in a bid to have Tasmania Police and City of Launceston council convictions and penalties set aside.

In a telephone hearing the man, who Magistrate Simon Brown called Mr Harker, said his "family name is Harker and that his Godly Christian name is Rodney".

Rodney Allan Harker sought the setting aside of three parking infringements and seven Tasmania Police infringements.

Mr Harker told Mr Brown that Tasmania Police had "created controversy" by claiming that his name was Rodney Allan Harker but had not provided any evidentiary proof when he asked them to.

He also claimed the Department of State Growth had told him that the registration plates of his vehicle and that the name on the driving licence were the property of the state.

"How can an artificial entity commit an offence?", he asked.

Mr Brown asked Mr Harker if he was the entity that had filed the requisite statutory declaration and application to set aside penalty at the Launceston Magistrates Court on July 9, 2020.

"Were those sworn by the human being that the state assumed that name to?", Mr Brown asked.

He said that under the Monetary Penalties Enforcement Act he had the discretion to set aside or vary the convictions and penalties but dismissed the application.

- NICK CLARK



**PRODUCTIVE TALKS:** Peaceful Pathways facilitators Sarju Subba, Dolman Rai, Manita Hangkhim, Pabitra Subba from Bhutan. Picture: Neil Richardson

# Peaceful paths forged at Rocherlea forum

**HARRY MURTOUGH**  
[harry.murrough@examiner.com.au](mailto:harry.murrough@examiner.com.au)

RED Cross volunteers with the Peaceful Pathways Project met at Rocherlea on Sunday to host the state-first Nepalese project meeting.

The Peaceful Pathways Project is an initiative aimed at helping newcomers to Australia to build meaningful bonds with their new community.

It uses the Alternatives to Violence methodology: a system that seeks to resolve personal and interpersonal

conflicts through non-violent means.

Red Cross volunteer and Peaceful Pathways facilitator Pabitra Subba said the function went well.

"It was about seven participants that gathered and we followed the same methodology for Alternatives to Violence," Ms Subba said.

"We followed the same methodology but it was being run in our own language which was really cool.

"People could express their feelings and their stories to each other, it was a great opportunity."

Ms Subba also said being

able to hold the forum in Nepalese was advantageous in that participants could freely express themselves in their primary language.

"I felt like when we were doing the feedback session from our people, they said they really got into the depth of activities of the Peaceful Pathways Project," she said.

"We feel like we really achieved what we wanted to... they were able to share their stories openly."

As well as being a nurse, the 23-year-old is also the vice-chairperson of the Bhutanese Society of Australia Tasmania.

"As a member of the Bhutanese community, I think it's my responsibility to help our people who have recently moved to Tasmania because it's a completely new environment than the one in Bhutan," Ms Subba said.

Fellow Red Cross and Peaceful Pathways volunteer Eduard Obi moved to Tasmania with his family from Nigeria and works at the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation.

He said generally he was very happy to volunteer with Red Cross and in particular the Peaceful Pathways Project. "The essence of the

program is to reach out to community members ... and empower them with problem-solving and conflict management skills and help give them the skills to build a more cohesive community," Mr Obi said.

"I've got a lot of interest in community work and helping communities thrive... when I saw the opportunity I took it up.

"The Peaceful Pathways Project is something everyone should be a part of because of the Alternatives to Violence methodologies and tools it equips participants with."

## Buckby Motors buys NW site

BUCKBY Motors has purchased a high-profile development site on Devonport's Victoria Parade overlooking the Mersey River.

The Launceston dealership is opening its first North-West site at 7 Victoria Parade. The property is adjacent to the Living City Waterfront Park precinct that's under construction.

The location is within close walking distance to the central business district.

The new Buckby Motors

is 100 per cent Tasmanian owned and operated," Mr Newman said.

Knight Frank estate agents Nicholas Bond and Rodney Rawlings sold the site to the car dealership.

Mr Bond said the acquisition by Buckby Motors reflects a trend by Tasmanian companies wanting to invest in property to house businesses.

"This activity in the 'owner-occupier' market is very positive as it shows great confidence in our region and

## Cambria major projects call

STAKEHOLDERS opposed to a development on the East Coast have called on the government to rule out using proposed major projects legislation to approve the project.

In 2018, Cambria Green Agriculture and Tourism Management applied for 3000 hectares of land near Swansea to be rezoned in order to facilitate future development.

Council approved the rezoning but their decision was overturned by the plan-

from land owners to apply for rezoning.

That decision is now in the Supreme Court but with only two weeks until Major Projects legislation is due to be tabled in the legislative assembly, the Tasmanian Conservation Trust have called on the government to rule out using the legislation on the Cambria proposal.

TCT director Peter McGlone said it was important the government provide the assurance given the level of opposition.

using the legislation.

Planning Minister Roger Jaensch said the government had made it clear the major projects legislation would not provide fast-tracks.

He said any suggestion the legislation would be used to bypass normal processes to approve controversial proposals was wrong and misleading.

"All the Major Project legislation does is coordinate the assessment of projects that involve multiple approvals and are 'major' in

17.5.1 December 2020



## NTDC Media Release

Date 10 August 2020

### ASPIRE – Circular Economy

Northern Tasmanian businesses are now able to divert tonnes of waste product from landfill via a website described as “Tinder for waste”.

The digital platform ASPIRE works on circular economy principles and connects producers of waste with those who can reuse, repair, remake and recycle the products.

George Town, City of Launceston, Meander Valley, Break O’Day, Flinders Island, West Tamar and Northern Midlands have signed on to the platform and people and businesses in those council areas with fewer than 20 staff can use it for free, while larger businesses are encouraged to also join for a fee.

Northern Tasmania Development Corporation has played matchmaker between [ASPIRE](#) and its Member Councils to bring the platform to Northern Tasmania.

NTDC chief executive Mark Baker said the concept of a circular economy was becoming increasingly mainstream and complemented Tasmania’s competitive advantage in renewable energy and plans to produce green hydrogen.

“Increasingly, the world is moving away from a take it, make it, break and throw it out mentality to a reuse, repurpose, repair, recycle,” Mr Baker said.

“For generations we have been putting hundreds of thousands of tonnes of waste into landfill without fully recognising its potential. Such is the size and missed opportunity of that waste, some countries are actually mining their landfill for chemicals and minerals. Northern Tasmania is not at that stage, but this ASPIRE platform is a first step in proving the benefits of a circular economy approach.”

ASPIRE was started at the CSIRO and has worked with hundreds of councils and businesses across Australia to drive environmental and economic benefits.

One example of a manufacturer of yeast for the baking industry saw it divert more than 160,000 tonnes from landfill to feedstock for supplements for nearby farms and produce electricity via methane power from bio-digestion.

The financial and environmental cost benefits were also substantial with the company saving more than \$40,000 per year in getting the waste to landfill and preventing more than 3000 tonnes of landfill, more than 700 tonnes of carbon dioxide and saving more than 60,000 litres of water.

The construction industry, which accounts for about 80 percent of waste products, is also seen as a potential user.





The 12-month trial of ASPIRE is being overseen by NTDC and the Northern Tasmania Waste Management Group.

Northern Tasmania Waste Management Group chairman and George Town Council general manager Shane Power said consumers were becoming more environmentally aware and socially conscious, which was reflected in their buying decisions.

“Businesses that demonstrate commitment to the circular economy will appeal to this market segment as well as doing their bit to reduce environmental impacts,” Mr Power said.

“We expect existing businesses will benefit through reducing costs associated with landfill but also add new revenue streams through maximising value from their business processes from large manufacturing to small niche industries or even service providers.

“We also expect new businesses will evolve in the remanufacturing and recycling processing space, creating job opportunities, including social enterprise, maximising resource value and enhancing the regional economy.”

Mr Power said Northern Tasmania already had some great examples of local business and industry leading the way in the circular economy and was confident ASPIRE would provide a marketplace that complements established circular economy ventures.

“It will also encourage existing businesses to embrace circular economy principles, knowing it not only contributes to a sustainable environment, but makes great business sense also.”

ASPIRE chief executive Cameron McKenzie was thrilled to launch the platform in Northern Tasmania. “We look forward to working with the councils and business community to introduce ASPIRE as a solution to reduce their landfill levels, build business networks and save real dollars by exchanging waste as a resource,” Mr McKenzie said.

People interested in joining ASPIRE simply need to go to their website [aspimesme.com](http://aspimesme.com) to create an account and start matchmaking.

## ENDS

*For more information, please contact:*

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0400 338 410  
admin@ntdc.org.au

ASPIRE  
susanm@aspimesme.com



# Waste matchmaker project

**ISOBEL COOTES**  
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NORTHERN Tasmanian businesses will be the first in the state to test out what has been described as the "Tinder for waste" in a bid to divert tonnes of waste from landfill in the region.

The digital platform ASPIRE, started by the CSIRO, uses an algorithm to match waste producers with those who can reuse, recycle, repair and remake, to create what is known as a circular economy.

Soon businesses in the region will be able to access the platform to link up people who want materials and people who have it but consider it a waste product.

Under the 12-month trial, businesses in the seven municipalities with less than 20 employees will be able to use the platform for free. Those with more than 20 employees will be required to pay a small fee.

Businesses in seven Northern municipalities will be eligible to sign up to the platform including those in:

- George Town;
- City of Launceston;
- Meander Valley;
- Break O' Day;
- Flinders Island;
- West Tamar; and
- Northern Midlands.

The trial is in partnership with Northern Tasmania Development Corporation and the Northern Tasmania Waste Management Group. NTDC chief executive

Mark Baker said the initiative was the first step in proving the benefits of a circular economy approach.

"Increasingly, the world is moving away from a take it, make it, break it and throw it out mentality to a reuse, repurpose, repair, recycle," he said.

"For generations we have been putting hundreds of thousands of tonnes of waste into landfill without fully recognising its potential."

One example was a yeast manufacturer who, through the platform, diverted more than 160,000 tonnes from landfill to livestock, saving the company more than \$40,000 per year.

NTWMG chairperson Shane Power agreed consumers are becoming more



**REUSE:** Municipality mayors Mary Knowles, Christina Holmdahl, Albert van Zetten, Mick Tucker, Wayne Johnston and George Town general manager Shane Power. **Picture:** Neil Richardson

environmentally aware, which was reflected in their buying decisions.

"We expect existing businesses will benefit through reducing costs associated with landfill but also add new revenue streams ... from

their business processes from large manufacturing to small niche industries," he said.

"It not only contributes to a sustainable environment, but makes great business sense also."

City of Launceston mayor Albert van Zetten said he expected businesses would jump at the opportunity.

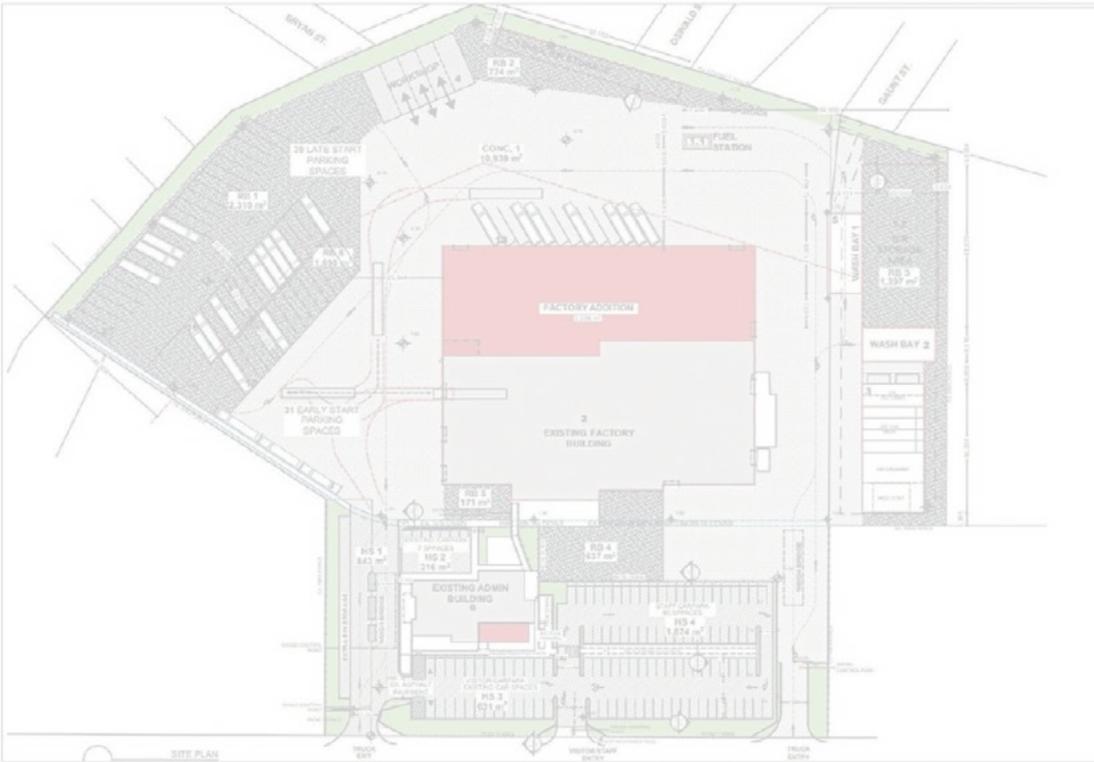
"The more that we can recycle, the better it's going to be for our landfill and for our community," he said.

"There's so much waste that goes on that people don't realise, it just makes sense, it's common sense and it's a great initiative."

West Tamar mayor Christina Holmdahl agreed it would be a successful program.

Northern Midlands Council mayor Mary Knowles said a focus on products commonly used will mean economic benefits will be ongoing.

To sign up visit [aspresme.com](http://aspresme.com) or contact NTDC.



DA: The plans for the redevelopment of the former Hume concrete manufacturing site at Invermay. **Picture:** supplied.

## Former Humes concrete site to be reused

BY ISOBEL COOTES

ONE of Launceston's waste processing centres is looking to relocate to the former Humes concrete manufacturing site at Invermay.

Veolia lodged a development application with the City of Launceston council to build a recycling centre at 19-25 Churchill Park Drive, Invermay.

It proposes extending an existing shed to house a recycling sorting plant, new lighting and the yard will be used as a depot for parking and maintenance of about 50 rubbish collection trucks and other vehicles.

It also proposed demolishing previous infrastructure on the site to make way for the new centre.

A noise assessment of the site looked at the early morning departure of waste collection trucks and the general activity during the daytime activity.

It found the predicted levels during daytime activity were low enough to unlikely cause serious annoyance to neighbouring residents utilising their property's outdoor areas.

The predicted maximum level for trucks departing the site were found to be low enough to avoid waking residents up if they were parked further than 40 metres from the western boundary. The DA noted this was taken into account in the site's layout.

The council's chief executive Michael Strotton said the council had contracted

"As there is a contractual arrangement in place with this private business, and in order to avoid any perceived conflicts of interest, the council has invoked its independent assessment provisions for this development application," he said.

"This means the application will be assessed by qualified planning officers external to the council."

Smell from the site is also promised to not be a problem, with an odour investigation finding no materials with significant potential for the generation of odour would be brought onto site.

If approved, Veolia is likely to occupy the site for 16 years.

The development application is availa-

## Second grant program 'may avoid flaws'

BY EMILY JARVIE

AFTER coming under fire for the failures of its first small business hardship grant program, the government's announcement of additional funding with a different application process has been welcomed.

Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry chief executive Michael Bailey said the new program, a total package of \$20 million announced by Small Business Minister Sarah Courtney on Wednesday, would provide the support needed to keep businesses open.

Grants of \$5000 will be made available to 3000 businesses through a competitive, merit-based program that will be assessed by an independent panel.

Mr Bailey said the new program had a more refined and sharper delivery model.

"The first model was cleverly done and put money out quickly to businesses. This one provides more time for business to get their numbers together to apply for funding," Mr Bailey said.

"Talking to businesses and other industry associations, they are very satisfied by the number of businesses being supported and the amount that is being offered."

"To keep our economy going we are going to need to have these sorts of packages until we can open our borders up."

Labor small business spokeswoman Anita Dow said the new round of support measures was a common-sense move after many businesses missed out on assistance under the previous package.

"It appears the flaws of the original small business program may be avoided in this new round with a commitment that applications will not be assessed before the program closes," Ms Dow said.

"We hope too that oversight by an independent panel will ensure a fairer outcome from the assessment process."

Tasmanian Small Business Council chief executive Robert Mallot welcomed the

# Tips to weather COVID financial storm

Wayne Davy

WHILE there's some light at the end of the tunnel, the situation playing out in Victoria is a pertinent reminder that the impact of COVID-19 on our community is without a doubt going to cause significant disruption and uncertainty for some time.

Once the worst has passed, everyone will be keener than ever to get things rolling along again. But for now, we have to bunker down and do what we can to weather this storm and minimise the risks.

These uncertain times can bring stomach-churning worry about our financial future. However, there are plenty of things we can still control, so let's focus on those.

First of all, know where you stand financially. Review (or create) your budget and see where you can cut costs. Strip everything back to the basics and take stock of what you own and what you owe. It will assist you to make appropriate financial decisions if you know where you currently stand financially.

Contact your credit providers if you foresee financial difficulties ahead. Most financial institutions offer payment options to people in financial hardship.

When it comes to your super, try and not focus on it for now. The most important thing to remember about your super is that it's a long-term investment - don't panic. Historically, after every crash there's an upswing; we've seen that with previous pandemics, such as SARS. If you haven't yet retired, you may be better to leave your super alone, in a low fee fund, with investments that suit your investor profile and investment timeframe. Instead, use the situation as an opportunity to trim your costs.

I would also suggest you check your insurance cover within your super. If you have insurance through your super, check to see if your cover continues outside of paid employment if this becomes necessary.



With the interest rates at historic lows, now may also be an opportune time to get ahead with your home loan repayments if you can. Alternatively, you could consider topping up your offset account to give you the flexibility to re-draw funds in case of emergency. If you had already built a buffer in your offset account, you may be able to withdraw some of this buffer to provide short-term access to low-interest funds if required. Speak to your lender or financial adviser to check if these options may be suitable for you.

We've also reached the end of the financial year and there is the possibility of a small cash injection from your upcoming tax return, the time is right to make sure you're claiming all that you're eligible for to ensure

you get the maximum return for your employment situation.

Now that we've talked through some things you can do; let's look at some things not to do. When it comes to private health insurance, don't buy or change your health insurance because you're worried about COVID-19. It won't affect the quality of your treatment. If you do need hospitalisation, you'll most likely be treated in a public hospital anyway. This is a sentiment backed by the Department of Health. Also on the list of what not to do, is paying high penalty interest on your credit card. Check your balance and pay it off on time. Avoid the temptation of using after-pay or zip money.

No one knows for how long this uncertain-

ty will continue, so it's best to be conservative with your spending. Don't get out of your depth with expenses you may not be able to pay back later.

With many of us continuing to work from home all or part of the time, make sure you avoid bill shock by monitoring the amount of data being consumed in your household. It might be time to review your internet service and shop around for more data at a cheaper price.

In the short-term at least, most of us are going to spend a lot more time at home than we're used to. Stay calm and focus on the things you can do, and we'll make it through these uncharted waters together.

Wayne Davy, Tasplan chief executive

## Circular economy easily explained as Tinder for waste

Mark Baker

TINDER for waste. It is a pretty memorable marketing slogan and one we hope Northern Tasmanians will embrace as they form a relationship with the circular economy.

But Mark, what is the circular economy? I hear you ask. Great question.

It is about moving away from "a take it, make it, break it and throw it out" lifecycle to a "reuse, repurpose, repair, remanufacture and recycle" mentality. It saves waste going into landfill, carbon dioxide going into the atmosphere, water going down the drain and money going out of businesses' pockets.

Northern Tasmania Development Corporation has joined its member councils - George Town, City of Launceston, Meander Valley, Break O'Day, Flinders Island, West Tamar and Northern Midlands - through the Northern Tasmania Waste Management Group to trial a digital platform called ASPIRE that connects producers of waste with those who can reuse, repair, repurpose and recycle the products.

Like a matchmaking website, it uses an algorithm to connect people with similar interests, only in this case it is waste products not love. The great thing about ASPIRE is people and businesses in NTDC's council areas with fewer than 20 staff can use it for

**It is about moving away from "a take it, make it, break it and throw it out" lifecycle to a "reuse, repurpose, repair, remanufacture and recycle" mentality.**

councils and businesses across Australia to drive environmental and economic benefits.

One example of a manufacturer of yeast for the baking industry saw it divert more than 160,000 tonnes from landfill to feedstock for supplements for nearby farms and produce electricity via methane power from bio-digestion. The financial and environmental cost benefits were also substantial with the company saving more than \$40,000 per year in getting the waste to landfill and preventing more than 3000 tonnes of landfill, more than 700 tonnes of carbon dioxide and saving more than 60,000 litres of water.

Another example was a company called Aximill - an Australian manufacturer of com-

broken plasterboard and coffee grounds.

Plasterboard is a fragile product and anything broken during manufacturing would go straight to landfill. Through ASPIRE, the company got access to that waste plasterboard and uses it to make a compostable kitty litter. With McDonalds, Aximill is using 220 kilograms of waste coffee grounds each week to reduce dust from kitty litter.

These simple measures have stopped 11.5 tonnes of used coffee and more than 1000 tonnes of plasterboard and paper going into landfill each year.

The construction industry, which accounts for about 80 percent of waste products, is also seen as a potential user. But there would be immense opportunity in food manufacturing, agriculture and even retail that sees a lot of packaging wasted.

The 12-month trial of ASPIRE is being overseen by NTDC and the Northern Tasmania Waste Management Group.

Northern Tasmania Waste Management Group chairman and George Town Council general manager Shane Power said consumers were becoming more environmentally aware and socially conscious, which was reflected in their buying decisions.

"Businesses that demonstrate commitment to the circular economy will appeal to this market segment as well as doing their

profit through reducing costs associated with landfill but also add new revenue streams through maximising value from their business processes from large manufacturing to small niche industries or even service providers. We also expect new businesses will evolve in the remanufacturing and recycling processing space, creating job opportunities, including social enterprise, maximising resource value and enhancing the regional economy."

Mr Power said Northern Tasmania already had some great examples of local business and industry leading the way in the circular economy and was confident ASPIRE would provide a marketplace that complements established circular economy ventures.

Embracing circular economy principles using the ASPIRE platform makes perfect sense and is a win-win for businesses, whether you are looking for the environmental outcomes and the economic gains are a bonus, or the economic imperative is what's needed and the environmental positives are an added benefit.

If you are interested in the benefits of a circular economy, I encourage you to head to [aspireme.com](http://aspireme.com) to register (for free if your business has fewer than 20 employees).

It will be a match made in heaven and the start of a beautiful relationship with the



17.5.1 December 2020

28 September 2020

## Media Release

### *Circular Economy Northern Tasmania ...it makes sense.*

Northern Tasmanian businesses that want to explore circular economy initiatives are being encouraged to apply to a new grants program.

The circular economy is about moving away from a “take it, make it, break it and bin it” lifecycle to one that reuses, repairs, repurposes and recycles and creates new value and business opportunities from waste and underutilised resources.

Grants of up to \$30,000 will be available for businesses with circular economy initiatives that can show a benefit to the region.

The grants are a COVID19 care and recovery initiative from local government in the North, building off the existing work of the Northern Tasmania Waste Management Group and delivered in partnership with Northern Tasmania Development Corporation.

“It’s very exciting to be working with NTDC and other Councils on an initiative which is aimed at prompting some new ways of thinking about re-use and waste in Northern Tasmania,” Mayor van Zetten said.

“As a direct result of the City of Launceston’s Community Care and Recovery Package we’ve been able to start this important conversation with other Northern Tasmanian Councils, and I’m really looking forward to seeing the grants application process kicking off.”

West Tamar Council Mayor and Local Government Association of Tasmania president Christina Holmdahl said the grants were an example of councils continuing to provide innovative economic recovery pathways.

“Local government has been working extremely hard on recovery opportunities and we see these grants as a way for businesses to innovate, diversify and update their processes with a circular economy viewpoint,” Councillor Holmdahl said.

“I’d encourage any business with an idea to investigate the grants program as the opportunity in this space is tremendous.”

NTWVG chairman and George Town Council general manager Shane Power said the grants were another example of Councils and the NTWVG driving innovation to deliver positive environmental outcomes and facilitate new economic activity.

“We are confident the grants will attract entrepreneurs seeking funds to make value from materials that may have otherwise ended up in landfill or stockpiles, therefore, maximising their lifespan,” Mr Power said.

“We also envisage businesses from various sectors will be able to use the funding to invest in areas such as product design, plant and equipment and process improvements in the manufacturing of products.”

Mr Power added any business could improve its bottom line by avoiding costs associated with waste disposal, improving their production processes, increasing the lifespan of materials, realising value by re-purposing or even monetising materials that may be by-products or surplus to existing product developments.

The grants will be delivered by NTWVG in partnership with Northern Tasmania Development Corporation.

NTDC chief executive Mark Baker said the benefits of a circular economy approach were three-fold.

“Moving from a linear economy to a circular economy is a win-win-win,” Mr Baker said.

“It’s a win for the environment as it reduces the amount of waste going into landfill, carbon going into the atmosphere and water going down the drain.

“It’s a win for business as they either reuse more of their resource or get access to cheaper resource from other businesses’ waste, which saves money.

“And it’s a win for jobs with circular economy innovations offering new opportunities in industry.”

Businesses wishing to apply for a circular economy grant are encouraged to express an interest via City of Launceston council’s website before October 2.

EOIs that show potential will be encouraged to complete a full application.

The grants are open to businesses in George Town, Launceston, West Tamar, Northern Midlands, Flinders Island, Dorset, Break O’Day and Meander Valley council regions.

### **ENDS**

For more comment, please contact Mark Baker on 0409 356 183.



NEWS

# Transform trash into treasure with grants

BY CAITLIN JARVIS

NORTHERN Tasmanian entrepreneurs are encouraged to put their thinking caps on backwards and think about waste in a new way.

The Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation launched its circular economy business grants on Thursday to encourage businesses to come forward with their waste busting ideas.

Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group chairman and George Town general manager Shane Power said the grants aligned with the group's goals.

"We want to help people think about waste differently," he said.

Mr Power said waste could be an economic resource, and the circular economy helped to shift thinking and attitudes.

Grants of up to \$30,000 will be available for businesses with circular economy initiatives that show a benefit to the region.

"We are confident the grants will attract entrepreneurs seeking funds to make value from materials that may have otherwise ended up in landfill, or stockpiles, therefore maximising their



**OUTSIDE THE BOX:** Waste group chair Shane Power with City of Launceston's James McKee, City Mission's Greg Beeston, City of Launceston's Michael Attard and NTDC chief executive Mark Baker. **Picture:** Paul Scambler

life span," he said.

City of Launceston innovation manager James McKee said attitudes towards the circular economy were changing in Tasmania, but the COVID-19 pandemic was the perfect time to reset our thinking.

He said it provided an opportunity to think about waste as of economic value to local government and regions, and provided a new income stream as

the state moved out of the health pandemic.

"Part of the opportunity we have comes from the COVID recovery, to help add economic value for regions, it's not only about minimising waste, and have a real opportunity to think about waste," he said.

The City of Launceston embraces the circular economy with some of the initiatives at the Waste Transfer Station. One of the circular

economy initiatives at the tip is the polystyrene machine, which breaks down polystyrene packaging and melts it into bricks, for use in other products. The city has also piloted a thriving food and organics recycling program, that turns food scraps from households into fertiliser.

NTDC chief executive Mark Baker said at the heart of the circular economy methodology was to encourage reusing and repair over a

culture of throwing away.

"Moving from a linear economy to a circular economy is a win-win-win," Mr Baker said.

It was a win for the environment, for business and the region, he said.

Expressions of interest can be made via the City of Launceston website before October 2. EOLs that show potential will be encouraged to complete a full application.

## Bell Bay hydrogen potential identified

BELL Bay Industrial Precinct could be the site of a nationally significant hydrogen export hub under a \$1.9 billion clean energy investment package from the federal government.

The centerpiece of the package is additional funding of \$1.6 billion for the Australian Renewable Energy Agency to invest in what Prime Minister Scott Morrison calls the next generation of energy technologies.

A \$70.2 million regional hydrogen export hub will be a component of the overall plan and will be designed to take advantage of the expected growth in demand for the energy source.

Bell Bay has been identified as a possible site for the hydrogen hub.

Energy Minister Guy Barnett said yesterday's announcement would complement the state government's own renewable hydrogen action plan, which already includes a vision for hydrogen hubs at Bell Bay and Burnie.

Northern Tasmania Development Corporation chief executive Mark Baker said the production and export of hydrogen energy would be "a game-changer for Northern Tasmania".

### INSIDE TODAY

News	1-16	World	43
National	17,40	Business	44
Opinion	18,39	Comics	45
Race guide	19-22	Weather	46
TV guide	23-34	Classifieds	47
Puzzles	40	Sport	48-56

### WEATHER

#### TODAY



Mostly sunny

Min: 25 Max: 17°C

#### TOMORROW



Possible shower

Min: 8°C Max: 20°C

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Powerball: Draw 1270  
 Winning numbers: 4, 11, 19, 28, 3, 5, 7  
 Powerball: 6  
 Division 1: \$60,000,000.00  
 Division 2: \$35,977.90  
 Division 3: \$4466.00  
 Division 4: \$370.15  
 Division 5: \$145.40  
 Division 6: \$66.05  
 Division 7: \$37.35  
 Division 8: \$17.15  
 Division 9: \$10.80



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WHERE THE locals MATTER

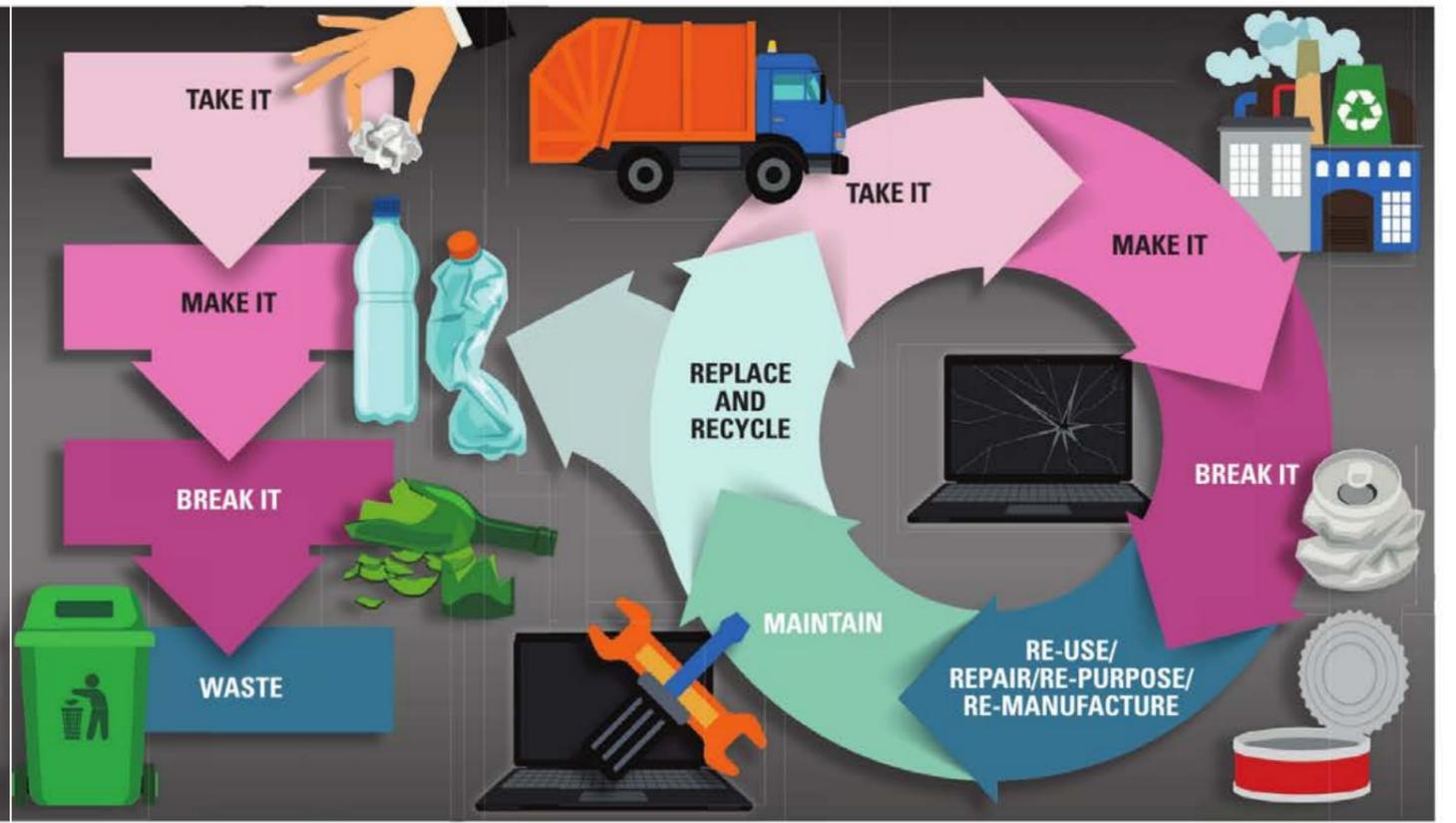
<p>Grown in Australia</p> <p><b>\$2.50</b> /kg</p> <p>Bananas</p>	<p>Grown in Australia</p> <p><b>\$4.95</b> /kg</p> <p>Navel Oranges 3kg \$1.65 per 1kg</p>	<p>Grown in Australia</p> <p><b>\$1.90</b> /kg</p> <p>Packham Pears</p>
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# Circular vs linear economy

“ Linear economic growth models of take, make, break and waste are seen to be unsustainable and at odds with value-adding consumer preferences around custom-designed services and products. Circular economy values promote and support curiosity, design and innovation that can be adopted across all industry and community sectors to create jobs.  
**Dr Tony McCall** ”

“ What COVID's shown us is that international supply chains are being disrupted so it's hard to get resources ... to be able to have a self-sustaining supply chain is a real advantage for business.  
**Mark Baker** ”

“ It's all about leading by example and showing by example ... the only real way is to change behaviour, especially for small businesses. To dip in their wallets - unless they're saving money it's going to be hard to change behaviours and that's what Aspire does.  
**Cameron McKenzie** ”



**HARRY MURTOUGH** harry.murtough@examiner.com.au

WITH the fluid nature of COVID-19 continuing to shape how businesses operate in Tasmania, many are looking at different and new avenues to ensure they stay operational.

While not a new concept, the circular economy is receiving more interest than ever, with businesses and stakeholders alike promoting its environmental and financial benefits.

**What is the circular economy?**

The circular economic model is a system that sees product waste as a resource rather than rubbish.

Launceston-based academic researcher Dr Tony McCall said compared to a linear economic model, a circular economy seeks to reset the final stages of production where a product is thrown out.

"Linear economic growth models of take, make, break and waste are seen to be unsustainable and at odds with value-adding consumer preferences around custom-designed services and products," he said.

"Circular economy values promote and support curiosity, design and innovation that can be adopted across all industry and community sectors to create jobs.

"From re-manufacturing of heavy engineering tools, development of re-use supply and sell precincts in construction building materials, to community-based social enterprises from swap and loan-shops, re-use and recycle outlets."

Dr McCall said European nations had the most advanced examples of circular economy practices.

"The European Union remains heavily committed to investment in the circular economy - particularly in technology and research - across member states in post-COVID-19 recovery plans," he said.

"The 'new' circular economy is in fact 'old' and being revisited ... we all know family members, companies and social enterprises who are circular economy practitioners. Farmers are circular economy advocates: they re-use, repair, maintain, recycle and re-manufacture on a daily basis.

"Social enterprise charities and community groups often focus on re-use, swap, exchange or repair and recycle service provision."

**A Tinder approach to improving business**

Through using circular economy systems, businesses not only reduce landfill but also have to potential to save money. Aspire is an Australian-based resource trading platform helping businesses implement circular economy practices into the operations.

Aspire chief executive Cameron McKenzie said the initiative has been likened to social media dating app Tinder, in that it matches businesses that have resources that others need.

He said one business that used Aspire spent \$8000 a month on throwing out produce they couldn't use into landfill.

"Through Aspire they managed to get that down to \$1000 ... they listed their produce on Aspire and got other local businesses to take it and use it," Mr McKenzie said.

"Some produce went to a zoo which was literally around the corner from them, and some went to an organisation that helped make meals for disadvantaged Australians, some got made into chips and some was composted.

"At the end of the day through the platform, they managed to save \$7000 a month."

Aspire is continuing to expand into Tasmania with several councils using it as they begin to go green.

Mr McKenzie said on the business side, showing the financial benefits of a circular economy was crucial.

"It's all about leading by example and showing by example ... the only real way is to change behaviour, especially for small businesses," he said.

"To dip in their wallets - unless they're saving money it's going to be hard to change behaviours and that's what Aspire does."

Mr McKenzie said another business had been spending about \$30,000 a month to acquire palettes, only to discover a nearby business had been throwing out palettes.

"There's also a bit of a social aspect to it which is saving businesses money but there's also the economic aspect to it - you're not running around trying to source materials from interstate, you might have someone down the road who can provide it," he said.

**Tasmania adapting to a circular way of life**

Northern Tasmania Development Corporation chief executive Mark Baker said Tasmania was in an advantageous position in that circular economy-friendly infrastructure was already in place.

"It fits Tassie's competitive advantage because we've been doing renewable for a long time," Mr Baker said.

"We know we have freshwater which we capture, run it through a turbine to produce electricity, and now we're looking at pumped hydro to capture that water and do it again.

"Tasmanians get it ... there's a mindset that we understand what renewables and being sustainable are about ... that's why the circular economy is so attractive."

Dr McCall agreed and added that Tasmanian businesses need only see the value in waste to pivot their operation in a circular economic direction.

"The high-end circular opportunities are in understanding what chemicals and energy products can be derived from domestic and agri-food bio-waste, mining tailings and sludge," he said.

"How can construction materials be recycled, re-used and how can innovative construction design utilise these products? What chemicals would we find if we mined our waste landfills? How can we re-use mine tailings and sludge?"

"What are the re-use options for an empty CBD office space? An initiative already taking place in Launceston with the re-use of first-floor space in buildings for apartment and accommodation options."

Both Mr Baker and Dr McCall said the disruption of supply from outside of Tasmania in terms of mass-produced, linear economy goods served as a chance to re-shape Tasmania into a more self-sustaining state.

"What COVID's shown us is that international supply chains are being disrupted so it's hard to get resources ... to be able to have a self-sustaining supply chain is a real advantage for business," Mr Baker said.

Dr McCall even suggested Tasmania could play a nation-leading role in creating a circular economy centre for excellence that would draw on international partners and Australian bodies such as the CSIRO to establish a pilot research facility.

"Tasmania's unique opportunity will be how it utilises its renewable energy advantage to draw investment into circular economy innovation from the international companies that are drawn to Tasmania's Hydrogen potential and the pumped hydro infrastructure," he said.

"Tasmania needs to be ready when the opportunity presents itself."



NTDC chief executive Mark Baker said Tasmania's many renewable resources, such as hydro-electric production gave it a good starting point for adopting the circular economy. **Picture: file**

cover a nearby business had been throwing out palettes.

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# BETTER BUSINESS

Promoting innovation and success in Tasmania's commercial sector | email: mail@examiner.com.au



## Cheers to highest honour for whisky

BY EBONY ABLITT

TASMANIA'S Lark Distilling Co is in the running for one of the industry's highest honours, the International Whiskey and Spirits Competition Worldwide Whiskey Producer of the Year.

After 13 years working for Lark, head distiller Chris Thomson said the nomination was an incredible honour not just for the team, but for the state's industry as a whole.

"It's massive for Lark and for our production team, it's lovely to get the recognition," he said.

"Everyone has been working incredibly hard, especially over the last 12 months, so to receive recognition on such a high scale is incredible.

"It's also big for the entire state - it solidifies how Tasmanian whisky is seen globally these days."

The nomination comes after Lark's products took out multiple gold and silver medals at the International Whiskey and Spirits competition this week.

The Muscat Cask Single Malt received a gold medal with 96 points, and 95 points for the Sherry Matured Single cask.

"Our worst result in the awards was a silver medal with 90 points - and that really is a great result," Mr Thomson said.

"I'm really proud of the product we've been producing, so to receive so much recognition on the global stage is really special.

"Within the whisky world, Tassie is getting a reputation. We might be a relatively new industry, but we're being seen along the same lines as

Scotland and Ireland, who really are well known for the product they produce."

Mr Thomson said to be in the top four for the Worldwide Whiskey Producer of the Year should make the state and country proud.

"The three distillers we are up against are big, international household names, so for a comparatively small company from Tasmania to be up against the best is a real thrill," he said.

"We're up-and-coming and growing, and these guys are more established businesses.

"This is really going to help put Tasmania on the map."

But Mr Thomson said the best was yet to come.

"I probably shouldn't say this, but I think some of what we've been working on is even better than what we've put out before," he said.

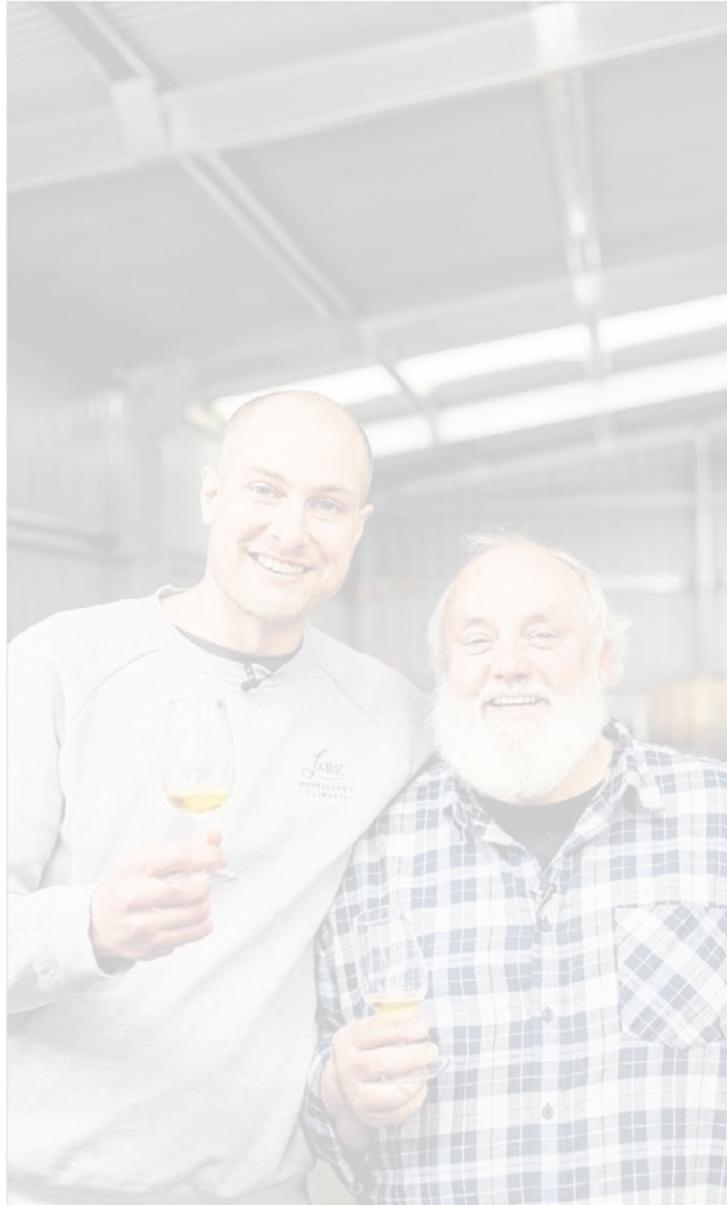
"It's a step forward for us in terms of quality and consistency."

Company founder Bill Lark said the nomination was humbling.

"This means a tremendous amount to me and [wife] Lyn as we started Lark Distillery with only a dream to see if we could make a world class whisky here in Tasmania," he said.

"To win this award would be a salute to the world wide families of distilleries who have inspired us and helped us from day one, and it is also recognition of the passion and dedication to our dream by the wonderful team at Lark Distillery over the last 28 years."

The winner of the award will be announced in London on November 18.



ALL SMILES: Chris Thomson and Bill Lark say a nomination for Worldwide Whiskey Producer of the Year is a testament to their team and the state. Picture: Supplied



The Newstead CBA branch closed on August 28. Picture: supplied

## No job losses after closure

THE Newstead branch of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia has permanently closed because it saw a significant drop in transactions over the past five years, says a representative.

The branch had been closed temporarily since May 7 due to COVID-19, before it was permanently closed on August 28.

Tasmania regional general manager David Castle said the branch had seen a significant drop in transactions in the last five years.

"Following a recent review and in line with our lease expiry, we made the difficult decision to permanently close the Newstead branch," he said.

Mr Castle said despite the closure there would be no job losses.

"Our people from this branch are continuing in their reassigned roles, where they have been since the branch temporarily closed, supporting customers over the phone and online," he said.

"Once their secondments conclude, we will redeploy them into comparable roles where it suits them."

## Skills set to shine at employability event



NORTHERN Tasmanians seeking employment are being encouraged to attend a free event designed to help boost employability skills in Launceston on October 23.

Hosted by the Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation, guest speakers from across the business sector will provide information on key areas of importance

industries and entrepreneurship.

Chief executive Mark Baker said the event was designed to empower people to seek employment locally and to retain skilled workers in the region.

"The session comes at a critical time in the labour market with changes to JobKeeper" he said

are jobs out there.

"This session will provide the tips, connections and contacts to give yourself the skills and confidence to get working in a competing environment."

NTDC population attraction co-ordinator Edward Obi said many employers consider these types of skills more important than hard

ton Chamber of Commerce president Andrew Pitt, Fermentas chief executive Karina Damberg, employment co-ordinator Northern Tasmania James McCormack, Van Diemen Project director Adam Mostogl and Ari Reich NEIS Consultant.

The free event, titled Let's Get Working, will be held at the Launceston Town Hall

THE BIG WICKETS, WESTBURY  
PHOTO: CHRIS CREER



# Appendix C

**SEEDLAB TASMANIA FIRST  
HARVEST MEDIA RELEASE**



**Media Release: Sep 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020**  
**Seedlab Tasmania First Harvest**

**Event: Saturday, October 3, 2020**  
**New Norfolk Distillery; 12noon–5pm**

Spring has sprung and Seedlab Tasmania's First Harvest has burst into flower. Taste Tasmania's first Baijiu; Munch on watermelon seed bars; Hear gluten-free sourdough breadmaking kit magic defined; and much, much more.

The two-year Seedlab Tasmania project commenced in January 2020 with an aim and a plan to help Tasmanian start-up food, drink, agri-food and agri-tourism businesses start, scale and grow to become export-ready.

Despite COVID, we have created a real-world, lively and commercial training program, giving more than 45 Tasmanian start-ups guidance and tools to grow their businesses with support from trustworthy and experienced coaches and mentors from our nearby Local Legends and further afield Global Gurus.

Seedlab Tasmania celebrates the completion of our first six-month Accelerator Program: Cultivate, by 15 start-up businesses at First Harvest. Our 15 "Cultivators" will present themselves, their products and businesses, and their Seedlab growth journeys to a select group of stakeholders, sponsors and interested parties.

First Harvest will be held in the burgeoning township of New Norfolk and on-site with one of the businesses we have worked closely with: New Norfolk Distillery. For some of our 15 Cultivators, First Harvest will be the first time they have met face to face, despite meeting at least three if not five times a week for the last six months via Zoom! The Seedlab Team are so proud of the intense and productive journey our Cultivators have been on, and we welcome you to meet them, see, taste, touch and feel their products and developments, and listen to their stories.

**Programme:** You're invited to join us for:

- **12 noon–1.30pm** – Lunch and networking (please RSVP with dietary)
- **1.30–3pm** – Opening Comments and Cultivator Presentations
- **3pm–3.30pm** – Afternoon tea
- **3.30–5pm** – Cultivator Presentations Continued & Close
- **5pm–6.30pm** – Informal networking, nibbles and drinks.

## Meet Our Cultivators:

### Ancestor Yeast

David Thurrowgood has spent more than 20 years working in the museum sector. *Ancestor Yeast* takes this experience in new directions by looking to preserve and reuse living microbes found in museum collections and historic sites. Shipwrecks, museum stores and largely forgotten science collections contain a wealth of material with modern applications. Yeast driven distinctive regional flavour is a growing market in the distilling industry. It prevents everything from tasting the same. David's spirits and fermented products contain flavours not experienced for generations. He partners with existing manufacturers and is developing his own rare and desirable new distilled spirits that have stories spanning hundreds of years.

m 0422 926 397 e [enquiries@ancestoryeast.com](mailto:enquiries@ancestoryeast.com)

### Artisa Plant-Based Cheese.

Owned by Julie and Roger Martyn, Artisa is located in Launceston where they produce handcrafted plant-based cheeses, using traditional fermentation and cheese-making methods. Julie has combined her skills in scientific research with her passion and creativity as a plant loving foodie to produce a range of premium cheeses that showcase some of Tasmania's finest flavours. Artisa makes plant-based cheeses that get people talking and that they are proud to share with family and friends.

m 0403 776 985 e [info@artisa.com.au](mailto:info@artisa.com.au)

### Blue Trail

Mountain bike riding has reinvigorated the small town of Derby and Kate Brown is adding to the reinvigoration and adventure by making gin to help people share the stories of the trails. She's gone back to the area she grew up to make Blue Trail gin in the middle of Derby right amongst the mountain biking action.

m 0408 285 983 e [kate@bluetrail.com.au](mailto:kate@bluetrail.com.au) @Blue Trail @bluetrailderby www.bluetrail.com.au

### Bread Architect

Chris Stafferton (aka Bread Architect) designs and develops dough for real bread without gluten. Products available are:

- The book 'Promise & Fulfillment: formula for real bread without gluten' ISBN 9780648554905 available worldwide through online book sellers, and though some stores in Tasmania.
- Individual proven recipes at [recipesforliving.etsy.com](https://www.recipesforliving.etsy.com)

Bread Architect is developing a range of no-fuss bread kits called 'Bread worth sharing'. These are kits for authentic, artisanal, sourdough bread without gluten.

m 0437 966 987 e [chris@breadarchitect.com](mailto:chris@breadarchitect.com) @Breadarchitect

### Campo de Flori

There's only one place in the world like Campo de Flori, where a whole world of beautiful tastes, views and experiences can be had in one place. Lisa Britzman and David Peck are co-owners of Campo de Flori Farm, located in Glen Huon Tasmania. They offer farm visits where you can sample their beautiful extra virgin olive oil and culinary lavender. Their farm gate shop and gallery offers a bounty of lavender products, extra virgin olive oil, award-

winning saffron and beautiful ceramics all handmade on the farm. Lisa provides a variety of creative workshops throughout the year in ceramics, book binding, and lavender and foraged flower wreath-making.

**p** 03 6266 6370    **e** [lisa@campodeflori.cm.au](mailto:lisa@campodeflori.cm.au)    [www.campodeflori.com](http://www.campodeflori.com)

### **Glen Torrie Pastures**

From good dirt comes good beef.

Pippa Mills and Perina Kentish are part of a family of grass farmers in the North West of Tas, producing premium beef that doesn't cost the earth. With a whole animal approach, they deliver fresh packed boxes that are the perfect size for your fridge. With a great mix of cuts, with no preservatives, no hormones or hidden bits, from respectfully raised and well-nourished cattle that they breed on farm. Using the pastures to maximise soil health, animal well-being and support the ecology, they bring a future-focused approach to beef production. From their family farm to your family plate.

**m** 0407 294 167    **e** [glentorriepastures@gmail.com](mailto:glentorriepastures@gmail.com)    [www.glentorriepastures.com.au](http://www.glentorriepastures.com.au)

### **Guide Falls Farm**

"Centrally located in the North West Coast food bowl just one hour from Cradle Mountain, (Rachel Jacka's) Guide Falls Farm will educate, entertain and give you an immersive farm gate experience. The farm hosts events, weddings, functions and behind the scenes tours and takes you from the paddock all the way to the plate with their on-farm restaurant, market garden and butchery. Let us guide you on a gastronomical adventure and showcase what's possible in gold standard food production – you will leave invigorated with a brighter hope for our collective future".

**m** 0437 296 469    **e** [info@guidedefallsfarm.com](mailto:info@guidedefallsfarm.com)    [www.guidedefallsfarm.com](http://www.guidedefallsfarm.com)

### **Little Isle Mushrooms**

Ian and Aimee are the faces of Little Isle Mushrooms, but behind them are generations of lovingly prepared meals. They are crafting mushroom-based condiments to help the home cook reconnect with loved ones through great food. With flavour inspired by their heritage, they believe in creating products suitable for the whole family to enjoy together.

**m** 0435 387 126    **e** [info@littleislemushrooms.com.au](mailto:info@littleislemushrooms.com.au)

### **New Norfolk Distillery**

New Norfolk Distillery creates modern rums and tantalising spirits for pioneering individuals seeking a twist on the classic tippie. Tarrant Derksen founded this family business that challenges the past and rallies for the future while bringing the spirit of rebellion to everything they do. Welcome pioneers, join our voyage."

**m** 0418 673 690    **e** [tarrant@newnorfolkdistillery.com](mailto:tarrant@newnorfolkdistillery.com)

### **Noya Spirits**

Ian Sypkes is the co-founder of Noya Spirits. Noya makes Tasmanian Baijiu using traditional Chinese methods and Australian grains and water. Noya Spirits is the Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation (NTDC) Seedlab startup.

**m** 0408 353 339    **e** [ian@sypkes.com.au](mailto:ian@sypkes.com.au)

### **Red Cow Organics**

Andy and Matt Jackman are Certified Organic Dairy Farmers who work in a beautiful environment in North-West Tasmania. They work in harmony with nature: feeding soil life, balancing soil minerals and improving the environment. They encourage a natural way of farming, and all their animals are cared for with love and admiration. They create cheeses from the milk from their cows, which have been selectively bred for cheese making. Their artisanal cheeses are all individually hand-made. Each cheese is turned and matured with care and is selected for its ripeness and maturity.

m 0439 366 349    e [info@redcoworganics.com.au](mailto:info@redcoworganics.com.au)

### **Seedsations**

Rachel Tulloch is the founder of a small startup here in Hobart, Tasmania called Seedsations. Seedsations was founded to bring your body and mind to life with our pure, simple and flavoursome Watermelon Seed bars, allowing anyone and everyone to be able to Snack Seedsationally. The Scrumptious Sensation of Seeds.

The World is complicated enough...Snack Seedsationally

@seedsations    [www.seedsations.com.au](http://www.seedsations.com.au)

### **Soyoyoy**

Tofu is delicious!

SOYOYOY, dispeller of myths, maker of premium Tassie tofu. And creator of tofu-rich cheeses, puds, and traditional tempeh. Plant-only fare that tastes and seems familiar with all the versatility and nutritional cred to confidently replace standard choices. Find Soyoyoy, James Phelps and Loz Abberton, at The Kitchen, 51 Ferry Road, Kettering, Tasmania.

m 0429 015 459    @soyoyoy\_foods

### **Tasmanian Kitchen Pantry**

Tasmanian Kitchen Pantry is a family business owned by chef Russell, and Anita Crook. The business produces sweet and savoury preserves and opens its gates to all for a fresh experience in their kitchen vegetable garden or a lively cook in their kitchen.

m 0417 337 274

### **Wild Pepper Isle**

Corinne and Chris are friends with a passion for the Tasmanian wilderness and good food. They harvest the highly sought after native Tasmanian pepper and hand make a range of award-winning bushfood products.

m 0457531559    e [info@wildpepperisle.com.au](mailto:info@wildpepperisle.com.au)

## Notes for the Editor:

The two-year Seedlab Tasmania project commenced in January 2020, with an aim and a plan to help Tasmanian startup food, drink, agri-food and agri-tourism businesses start, scale and grow to become export-ready.

Despite COVID-19, Seedlab Tasmania has created a real-world, alive and honest training programme, to provide startups with a framework of guidance and tools, and support them with trustworthy and experienced coaches and mentors. This will significantly reduce their risk of failure, help them identify their best path forwards, and support them as they grow their Tasmanian food, drink or agri-tourism business.

To date, Seedlab has supported over 45 startup businesses via the pre-incubator Germinate Bootcamp, and will bring 15 of those businesses to First Harvest on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October – the culmination of the 6 month Accelerator: Cultivate Program. Feedback from the startups involved has been truly phenomenally positive to date.

Rachel Jacka, Owner of Guide Falls Farm in the State's North-West said:

“Seedlab has been a gamechanger for our agri-tourism business. As a farming entrepreneur, I used to feel isolated in the decisions I made for the business. I have found Seedlab to be just the support I needed. The mentoring, information, practicality of advice and forward planning (as well as the adaptive nature of the program to suit the participants) makes this an extremely valuable program to be a part of. I have confidence in the decisions I make and the framework to underpin those decisions so I can see the future clearly ahead for a successful business. Thank you Seedlab”.

Dr Hazel MacTavish-West, Founder and Project lead for Seedlab Tasmania said:

“The changes in how society, businesses, and individuals live, work and communicate as a result of COVID-19 have been felt within Seedlab. We have developed an effective and efficient online training platform where we have met almost on a daily basis via Zoom to network, discuss, learn and converse with industry leaders from all around the world. The Cultivate Crew, as we call them, have developed a sense of community and friendship – despite the fact that some of them have never met face to face! Family farming businesses in regional Tasmania have felt supported and not alone, which is, I believe, an amazing achievement considering the wider issues occurring”.

Check out the feedback and videos from the 45 Tasmanian startup businesses who have gone through the Seedlab Programme already, on our website ([www.seedlabtasmania.com.au](http://www.seedlabtasmania.com.au)) Or talk to some of the 15 wonderful startup businesses here today, who have already completed a two-day Bootcamp and the six month Accelerator: Cultivate.

**Pictures can be made available on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> October if desired.**

**Contact Dr Hazel MacTavish-West**

Dr Hazel MacTavish-West is the Founder and Project Manager for Seedlab Tasmania. Hazel (aka The VegDoctor) is an experienced consultant food scientist and entrepreneur with global experience. Hazel is the Director of Hobart-based food agri-food consultancy MacTavish West Pty. Ltd.

m 0459 764 859 e [hello@seedlabtasmania.com.au](mailto:hello@seedlabtasmania.com.au) @seedlabtasmania @seedlabtas  
www.seedlabtasmania.com.au

The Seedlab Tasmania Project is supported by the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources through Incubator Support initiative funding as part of the Entrepreneurs' Programme. In addition to sponsorship from other institutes/companies including Woolworths, the University of Tasmania, MacTavish West Pty. Ltd. as lead partner, and other Tasmanian and Australian companies and institutes.



Australian Government

Department of Industry, Science,  
Energy and Resources

**AusIndustry**

Entrepreneurs' Programme

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Woolworths



UNIVERSITY of  
TASMANIA

mactavish:west



NTDC

NORTHERN TASMANIA  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY



Australian Government



REGIONAL  
INVESTMENT  
CORPORATION



CRADLE COAST  
AUTHORITY

Stronger Councils. Stronger Region



fermentasmania