Welcome to our first newsletter for 2005. This year marks an important milestone for Tasmania Together.

The Tasmania Together Progress Board Act 2001 requires the Board to review the Tasmania Together Goals and Benchmarks every five years, and to make recommendations to Parliament on any required changes. The job needs to be done by August 2006 which sounds a long way away but will arrive much too quickly.

The Progress Board firmly believes that every Tasmanian must have the opportunity to participate in the review. It is seeking ways to hear all the voices and to stimulate discussion.

This is not a move to reinvent the wheel and I don’t anticipate wholesale change. However things in Tasmania are different today from five years ago and the review will look to answer the following questions:

1. What’s been achieved in the last five years?
2. What’s changed in Tasmania over the last five years?
3. What could be missing from Tasmania Together?
4. What could be no longer relevant?

The answers will bring some change to the 24 Goals and 212 Benchmarks that make up the Tasmania Together Plan, and will identify what is missing from the plan, or what has changed in Tasmania which now needs to be taken into account.

The Board wants to hear from all Tasmanians of all ages. It will also be working with its many Tasmania Together partners and their associates. It will be consulting peak bodies and community groups, including service clubs, sporting and recreation groups. With its close links to rural and regional communities, Local Government is particularly important to working with more State and Commonwealth governments.

Business and industry and the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry have special interests in the economic and education and training sections of Tasmania Together as does the University of Tasmania.

The Board is also keen to hear from our seniors and the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, people with disabilities, the multicultural community, young people and their families and politicians of all persuasions.

The review will be an important chance to check and update what we want for our future.

From the middle of 2005 the Board will be working to make sure that people across Tasmania know that a review is about to commence and how they can contribute.

From September to December 2005 the Board will be on the road listening to those Tasmanians who want to have a say and documenting their views.

From January to May 2006 the Board will be working to make sure that every Tasmanian must have the opportunity to participate in the review. It is seeking ways to hear all the voices and to stimulate discussion.

The updated Tasmania Together document will then be able to be used to guide community planning in Tasmania by all levels of government, business and the community until the next review in 2010 - 11.

Looking forward to talking with you during the review.

Bob Campbell
Chair
Tasmania Together Progress Board

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**2005 MARKS TASMANIA TOGETHER’S FIRST 5 YEAR REVIEW**

**WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?**

**REAL JOBS CREATED BY PARTNERSHIP TO JOBS PROGRAM**

Aaron Archer who is a participant from the Taste for Dairying project run by DairyTas gets a feel for life on a dairy farm.

Tasmanians are finding real jobs as a result of skills developed during their participation in Partnership to Jobs employment and training programs.

The State Government’s Partnership to Jobs program has funded a range of initiatives run by not-for-profit community organisations to create jobs for long-term and disadvantaged unemployed Tasmanians.

Many initiatives – including the Ravenswood Community Garden’s Turnaround project and the DairyTas ‘Taste for Dairying’ project – are already recording positive results.

The Ravenswood Community Garden received $76,000 in Partnership to Jobs funding to help develop Turnaround, a community enterprise that manufactures, markets and distributes garden products made from willow.

The $190,000 project was launched in October 2004 and seven participants have already moved into other paid employment.

One participant is now working as a mill hand at a timber mill, while another works as an assistant for a small painting business.

Other participants have secured employment after Ravenswood Community Garden staff helped organise interviews and as a result of the Turnaround project’s reputation within the community.

The Turnaround project is not just producing employable staff – it is also becoming a successful enterprise, with participants having already built a willow steamer and starting to stockpile willow. Several products, such as strawberry houses, have been sold and orders have been received for these and other products, including screens.

The Turnaround enterprise will produce quality garden wares such as screens, garden edging, trellis and wigwam cubbies.

Eight participants in the DairyTas project ‘Taste for Dairying’ have found employment since completing the two-week training program. Five are now working in the dairy industry and three in related industries.

Fourteen people took part in the training in Burnie last October, completing a TAFE component and five days on a dairy farm in a working environment.

‘Taste for Dairying’ was a $110,000 project and received $20,500 through Partnership to Jobs.

By giving potential new entrants a taste for dairying, the project improved their knowledge and prospects of getting and retaining a position in the dairy industry.

Partnership to Jobs project outlines can be submitted at any time and are assessed monthly by Economic Development project officers.

Applicants who meet the program guidelines are then encouraged to complete a funding application that is considered by an assessment panel and a funding roundtable comprising various funding bodies.

Project outline forms and details of the program are available via www.tasmania.together.gov.au or by contacting the Department of Economic Development’s Business Point hotline on 1800 440 026.

Goal 16: Increase job and work opportunities in Tasmania.

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**What's been achieved in the last five years?**

**What's changed in Tasmania over the last five years?**

**What could be missing from Tasmania Together?**

**What could be no longer relevant?**

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**E x t e r i o r s  t e c h n o l o g y  s o l u t i o n s  f r o m  J i p o s i t i o n  a s s o c i a t e s**

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**Everyone has the right to live in safety.**

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**Family violence leaves its mark.**

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**DNA genetic testing can now be used in the dairy industry.**

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**Look out for the next newsletter in April.**
The crew from Live Tasmania is well known for the brilliant performers and artists we have given to the world – such as Graeme Murphy, Artist Director of the Sydney Dance Company; Geoff Dyer, winner of the Archibald Prize in 2003; composer Peter Sculthorpe; and actor and director Robyn Nevin.

In recent years the Ten Days on the Island Festival has showcased the artists making their home here, and brought thousands of visitors to the State – with huge cultural, social and economic benefits.

However, our small population means that many of our artists face a struggle to survive. Besides audiences and government funding, the key to their wellbeing is to find supporters in the business world who will provide financial and other assistance in exchange for business benefits.

That’s where the Australia Business Arts Foundation (AbaF) comes in. AbaF is a national organisation, set up by the Commonwealth Government, that works to connect the private sector and the arts. AbaF works with the arts, business and philanthropic sectors, providing information, training and advice.

AbaF is represented in Tasmania by State Manager Jane MacFarlane. Jane looks after the activities of the Tasmania Chapter, a group of business people committed to supporting the arts. Winemaker Peter Althaus is the Chair of the Chapter.

“The Chapter’s activities include a range of activities bringing business and the arts together,” says Jane. “One of our highlights was a well-attended attended event to business people by John Bell, the founder of Bell Shakespeare Company.

“AbaF’s approach aims to empower arts organisations to find their own business partners - not to find the partners for them. The approach is working: one recent event in Launceston led to a three-way partnership between Burnie Regional Art Gallery, chamber music group Virtuosi Tasmania and the Hotel Grand Chancellor.

Chair Peter Althaus is committed to business support for the arts. “It is important business supports the arts, not only because they need support, but because innovation and new ideas come from them. We have seen a growing maturity in the relationships between the private sector and the arts.”

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YOUTH PARTICIPATION TRAINEESHIP PILOT PROJECT
TRAINEES PROMOTE BEING ACTIVE TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Over the past year, three young Tasmanians have made valuable contributions to the health and wellbeing of our State’s young people through the Youth Participation Traineeship Pilot Project.

Since the project’s launch in December 2003, Kate Mirowski, Natalie Aulich and Josh Bailey have gained essential skills, knowledge and experience in the sport and recreation industry through placements at various schools in the Glenorchy Municipality and across the fitness industry.

The project was developed by the Department of Economic Development’s Sport and Recreation Tasmania in conjunction with the Department of Education, the Premier’s Physical Activity Council, the Tasmanian Sports Federation, and the Glenorchy City Council.

The Youth Participation Traineeship Pilot Project was initiated as a result of growing concern surrounding the continued decrease in physical activity by young people in both Tasmania and nationwide.

Tasmania’s school-aged children, particularly those who have not previously been involved in physical activity or those who face additional challenges through social, cultural, economic or physical circumstances, are specifically targeted by the project.

Sport and Recreation Tasmania Project Manager, Kate Mirowski, is pleased with the progress the trainees have made during their first year and has encouraged them to lead by example.

“As the number of young people participating in sport and recreation continues to decrease, it’s more important than ever to show the students first hand how much fun being involved can be.”

In addition to the significant contribution the project has made towards promoting the benefits and enjoyment gained from being active, the Youth Participation Traineeship Pilot Project also provides Tasmania’s young people with increased career pathway development and employment opportunities.

During the course of the three-year traineeship, participants will gain formal qualifications in Community Recreation, commencing with Certificate II and progressing to Certificate IV in the final year.

The traineeship model is the first of its kind and from the positive outcomes already received it is anticipated to be widely accepted and implemented throughout the State.

PREMIER’S PHYSICAL ACTIVITY COUNCIL
STATE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PLAN TO COMBAT ALARMING TRENDS

The Premier’s Physical Activity Council will facilitate the development of the State Physical Activity Plan with the aim of improving the overall health and wellbeing of Tasmanians.

The plan will incorporate a diverse range of stakeholder and community consultation through regional forums to be held in Launceston, Queenstown, Devonport, St Helens, Kingston and Sorell.

The aim of this initiative is to address alarmingly low rates of participation in physical activity by Tasmanians. Statistics indicate that participation in physical activity is continuing to fall. The need to combat this growing trend could not be greater, as obesity and other associated health problems increasingly affect our lives.

The 2001 National Health Survey highlights the seriousness of this issue. With 32 per cent of Tasmanians aged 15 years and over classified as physically inactive and a further 39 per cent considered to exercise at a low level, the figures speak for themselves.

While Tasmania is not alone in this fight, national figures place Tasmania as having the second lowest participation rate in physical activity for people aged 15 years and over and the second highest obese or overweight population.

In 2001 an estimated 51.1 per cent of Australians aged 20 years and over were overweight a significant increase from the estimated 40 per cent in 1990.

The State Physical Activity Plan is one of many initiatives developed by the Premier’s Physical Activity Council to encourage all Tasmanians to participate in physical activity.

The Premier’s Physical Activity Council was formed in 2001 as part of the State Government’s commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians.

In addition to developing and implementing a physical activity strategy, the Council aims to coordinate and support key physical activity programs, promote the value of physical activity and a healthy lifestyle, research and evaluate current trends and encourage the development of new and innovative physical activity participation opportunities throughout Tasmania.

The Premier’s Physical Activity Council promotes a clear and simple message, ‘Get Moving!’ Physical activity need not involve attending structured sporting activities. A brisk 30-minute walk a day is all the investment that is needed to reap the physical, mental and social rewards of being active.

The draft State Physical Activity Plan is expected to be finalised in June 2005.

For further information on the plan and the activities of the Premier’s Physical Activity Council, please contact Sport and Recreation Tasmania on 6233 5627 or visit www.physicalactivity.tas.gov.au.

WOMEN’S GET ACTIVE PROGRAM

Women of all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds are being encouraged to become more physically active as part of the Women’s Get Active Program.

“I feel so much better for walking brisk 30-minute walk a day is all the

“I love how I have more energy during the day by being active.”

These are just two comments from new participants in the Women’s Get Active Program.

Tasmanian research suggests that the difference in participation rates of males and females in physical activity occurs early in life, with the participation rate of girls aged 5-14 years 15 per cent lower than the participation rate of boys in the same age bracket.

The Women’s Get Active Program was implemented in Tasmania in 2004 by Womensport and Recreation Tasmania, with support from Sport and Recreation Tasmania, the Premier’s Physical Activity Council, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education (Equity and Youth Strategies).

Participants progress through a series of weekly workshops over a 10-week period. Each workshop consists of both an educational or discussion component and a physical activity. In this way, participants have an opportunity to try various physical activities tailored to their needs, while also learning more about the health and social benefits associated with being physically active.

In addition to improving health and wellbeing, physical activity has been shown to increase self-esteem, confidence and assertiveness. This program is also designed to establish a network of women within local communities.

Although still in its early stages, it is hoped the Women’s Get Active Program will produce positive results as participants increase their level of physical activity and encourage others to become physically active. Women play a key role as parents in encouraging children to be physically active. Educating women about the importance and benefits of physical activity and providing opportunities for them to become physically active helps to develop sound role models for children and fosters an environment in which physical activity is considered a key element to a healthy lifestyle.

While all women are eligible to participate in this program, those who are disadvantaged through social, cultural, economic or physical circumstances, and those not currently active, are strongly encouraged to participate.

For more information about the Women’s Get Active Program, contact Kate Mirowski at Sport and Recreation Tasmania on 6233 5615 or Kim Menadue at Womensport and Recreation Tasmania on 6222 7061.

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Telstra has announced that the Elizabeth Mall was one of the first Australian city payphones transformed into a provider of high-speed wireless Internet. Under a new trial, one of the Elizabeth St Mall Telstra payphones has been upgraded to allow customers within up to 100 metres to surf the internet, access emails and download files using a WiFi enabled laptop or handheld device without cumbersome cords and wires.

The WiFi payphone trial is being conducted in 18 high-traffic locations across Australia, including Adelaide, Hobart and Surfers Paradise and suburbs in Melbourne and Sydney. Telstra Country Wide® Area General Manager, Hobart and Southern Tasmania Margaret O’Rourke, said the service, called Telstra Wireless Hotspots, was ideal for people on the move.

“WiFi technology provides fast access to the internet using the Telstra mobile network and this is a terrific example of how we can provide innovative services to customers by combining our payphone resources and mobile network,” Ms O’Rourke said.

“I am delighted that the people of Hobart and southern Tasmania will be among the first to experience this exciting new service,” she said.

“It will be particularly beneficial to students and business people, who will be able to access the internet while sitting in their favourite café. And salespeople will be able to check emails from their car while in between meetings.”

Telstra Wireless Hotspots offer internet access at broadband speeds.

Margaret O’Rourke, AGM Telstra Country Wide Hobart and Southern Tasmania and David Bowesman, Technical Specialist test their internet access using the WiFi technology.

As a minimum, users should experience 256 kilobits per second on download, although users may at times experience up to 1 megabit per second download.

Ms O’Rourke said Telstra Wireless Hotspots are available to anyone, not just Telstra customers.

“Causal users can access the Wireless Hotspots using a credit card, a Telstra Phone/Away pre-paid card, or even opt to be billed on their Telstra post-paid mobile account. Telstra BigPond subscribers, excluding pre-paid dial-up customers, can also use the Hotspots and be billed on their BigPond account.”

The trial of transforming payphones into hubs for wireless internet complements Telstra’s already expansive wireless hotspot network. Other Telstra Wireless Hotspots can be found at selected hotels, Qantas Club lounges, Starbucks coffeehouses and McDonald’s family restaurants across Australia.

The payphone trial is expected to continue until the end of June 2005. Following the trial, Telstra will consider a nationwide introduction of the technology.

More on information on Telstra Wireless Hotspots can be found at www.telstra.com.au/wireless-hotspotts.

Telstra Media Contact:
Bruce Free, Corporate Affairs Manager Tasmania
03-6223 9803 or 0418 817 263

TELSTRA ENCOURAGES TASMANIAN SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS

Telstra has now closed nominations for the 2005 Telstra and Tasmanian Government Small Business Awards, encouraging small businesses to enter the awards and share in the opportunities the program affords.

Since Telstra initiated the awards in 1992, the annual program has provided hundreds of small businesses with the opportunity to gain national recognition for their work, develop new business relationships and reward hard working staff.

Winners this year will also share in a national prize pool of $358,000.

The winner of 2004 Telstra Tasmanian Small Business of the Year Award, Beechworth Spraying Pty Ltd, understands the benefits of entering the awards.

“After winning the award we had one huge rollercoaster ride. This included having the toughest winter on record thanks to the seasonal nature of the agricultural and forestry industries and being at the whim of an unpredictable weather. Following winter we had one of the largest profits ever made in the next quarter,” Richard Murrell of Beechworth Spraying said.

“We used the awards process as a terrific chance to stop and look at our business structure and focus on working on the business.

“The awards are truly open to anyone and everyone in business and I’d encourage any small business to have a go.”

“Without a doubt winning the Telstra & Tasmanian Government Small Business Award has been the biggest thrill – it’s given us confidence and credibility in dealing with government bodies, large corporations and definitely the bank.

“Winning this award is something that no one can take away from us and we will use it to aid promotion and demonstrate our company’s credibility for many years to come,” he said.

Telstra Country Wide® Area General Manager – Southern Tasmania, Margaret O’Rourke, said Telstra was committed to investing in innovative programs, such as the awards, that support small businesses.

“The awards have grown to become the leading national small business awards program, focused on promoting and celebrating the achievements of this dynamic business sector,” O’Rourke said.

“With more than 1.2 million small businesses contributing an estimated 30 per cent of Australia’s economic production, the small business sector plays a vital role in our economy.”

“Small businesses operate in an incredibly challenging and competitive environment and the Telstra and Tasmanian Government Small Business Awards acknowledge their achievements and recognise their contribution while adding real value to their bottom line.

“Specifically, through extensive promotion and publicity, the awards help entrants to develop and grow their businesses, by showcasing their businesses successes to new audiences and markets around the country,” she said.

This year’s awards are open to all Tasmanian small businesses that meet the entry criteria in the following categories:

- Australian Government Micro-Business Award (open to businesses with five to 20 employees); and
- AMP Business Award (open to businesses with 20 to 50 employees); and

Premier Paul Lennon has called on Tasmanians 60 and over to take pride in their seniority, and discover the benefits the State Government’s Seniors Card has to offer.

Mr Lennon says there’s been a 73 per cent increase in the number of Tasmanian businesses supporting the State Government’s Seniors Card program this year.

“Tasmanian businesses respect their senior customers. They understand they are a valuable and loyal customer base, and they are recognising that contribution through being part of the Seniors Card Program,” Mr Lennon said.

He congratulated businesses for supporting the program, and urged Tasmania’s 69,000 cardholders to get behind those businesses listed in the new Seniors Card Directory.

The new Directory is now available in Service Tasmania shops throughout the State, and is being mailed out directly to card holders in the next fortnight.

“The State Government’s Seniors Card Program is aimed at making every dollar go further for those Tasmanians who are sixty and older.

“It is the key to great value and special offers from almost 600 Tasmanian businesses state wide.”

Mr Lennon said as well providing everyday discounts, the program encouraged seniors to continue to have new and interesting life experiences.

“The latest directory offers discounts on experiences such as horse riding adventures, wilderness flights, accommodation throughout the State, and coach tours.

“For many people, this can be the best time of their lives. They have confidence in who they are, independence and time to do what they want.

“Of course, sometimes every dollar can count in having a lifestyle that you want, and that’s where the Seniors Card can help.”

To be eligible for the Seniors Card, you must be 60 or over, and not work more than 20 hours a week.

Contact: For information call Seniors Bureau on 6223 4532 or Seniors-Bureau@dpacs.tas.gov.au

HUGE SAVINGS INCREASE FOR SENIORS

The Telstra Small Business of the Year in each State becomes eligible to win the 2005 Telstra Australian Small Business of the Year Award at a national ceremony in Melbourne in August. State category winners also become finalists in their national category.

Telstra Media Contact:
Bruce Free, Corporate Affairs Manager, Telstra
Tel: 03 6223 9803 or Mob: 0418 817 263

* Sourced from ABS Small Business in Australia 2001 – 1321.0, p2 and – 1321.0, p72 & table 6.1, p76. Produced by Office of Small Business, Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources.

Goal 17: Have an internationally focused business culture that creates business investment and growth and encourages enterprise, innovation and excellence.

Goal 1: Ensure all Tasmanians have a reasonable standard of living with regard to food, transport, justice, education, communications, health and community services.
Many years ago Launceston-based Kim Nielsen-Creely was a happy nurse with an unmet need she couldn’t quite identify.

Today Kim is a well-known and respected professional artist, an artist with an eclectic and substantial body of work, exhibitions, degrees, published writing and teaching credits to her name.

So, what happened in between?

One day Kim decided to enrol in an Adult Education course called ‘Drawing and Painting for Beginners’ with Clytie Mountney. With a smile on her face, Kim describes this decision as one that has led her to a life of ‘rack, ruin and poverty’ but one that nevertheless cured that mysterious ache in her chest.

Obviously recognising Kim’s talent, Clytie encouraged her to enrol in a Launceston College HSC art course after she had finished her course with Adult Education. This in turn led Kim to give up her nursing (although not without many months of angst in between) and return to study full time. She completed an Associate Diploma at TAFE and then went on to do Honours at the School of Art with the University of Tasmania.

Through this journey and beyond, Kim’s creative spirit has spread itself into many varied aspects of her work. She began with a passion for drawing, has painted, done print making, jewellery, textile art, worked extensively in ceramics and more. She has also ventured into music and writing. Many of her works combine these different disciplines as Kim attempts to speak to those who view her work, often with challenging messages.

At present Kim is preparing an installation as part of the 10 Days on the Island Festival. She has returned to Adult Education as a much valued tutor who can turn her hand to any number of courses – mosaics, felting, ceramics, drawing and more. She continues to develop and grow as an artist, always looking for new challenges and directions. Altogether, an inspirational example of life-long learning.

By Lynn Jarvis,
Regional Manager,
Adult Education (North)

**Goal 8:** Provide a valued role for life-long learning for Tasmania’s young people now and in the future.

Guaranteeing Futures

The shortage of skills in our Labour force is a key area of concern to business, the community and government. Tasmania Together outlined these matters in the goals and benchmarks it set.

New Guaranteeing Futures legislation is being introduced to Parliament that will require young Tasmanians who have completed Year 10 or have turned 16 to participate in education and training for a further two years or until they have gained a Certificate III vocational qualification, or until they have turned 17. Students who are currently in Year 8 will be the first to whom this provision will apply.

As part of the implementation of Tasmania: A State of Learning, over $20 million has been earmarked for a number of initiatives, including the employment of Pathway Planning Officers.

This year all Year 8 students in Tasmanian government schools will plan for their future education and training with the assistance of 12 new Pathway Planning Officers.

Three Pathway Planning Officers will begin work in the first half of the year, trialling the process to be used across the State.

A variety of approaches will be trialled, including asking students to list their likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses, their preferred learning style, skills and accomplishments and their personal career goals. The plan will be in both hard copy and electronic format and will be accessible to the students, their teachers and the Pathway Planning Officer.

In the second half of the year, a further nine officers will start work, ensuring that every Year 8 student has a Learning Pathway Plan that outlines their career goals by the end of the year.

The plan aims to equip students to make that critical transition from school to further education and training or employment.

In 2006, Pathway Planning will be expanded to Year 9s and in 2007 to all Year 10s.

Seven Youth Learning Officers have also been employed around Tasmania to develop career paths for young people who are in danger of dropping out of education.

The officers assist students in making post-Year 10 choices based on experience in a range of areas including early introduction to college, TAFE and employment experience.

The officers have already been highly successful in helping students overcome barriers to continuing their education or training and in developing career paths.

**Goal 18:** Ensure education and training provides our workforce with the skills to support our business and industry.

In late 2003, the Department of Health and Human Services’ Our Kids Bureau published the Our Kids Action Plan. The Bureau was established by DHHS in 2002 as a response to widespread evidence from social and health sciences of the importance of very early development in both short and long-term health and wellbeing. In the three years since its commencement the Bureau has achieved significant milestones in service improvements, building collaborations across organisational, professional and sectoral boundaries, and in service reforms and initiatives. All of these endeavours have the common aim of improving early childhood outcomes. Although they have this in common, the policies, programs and initiatives have had various strategic emphases, reflecting the real world settings in which children live. The child, the family, the community and the services with which they come in contact have all been taken into account in an ecological understanding of the creation of the best possible health and well-being for children in their early years.

This very social emphasis reflects the philosophy of Tasmania Together: both are fundamentally inclusive. Both were built on state-wide, widespread and open community consultation, in which the community was actively invited to participate and offer ideas and expertise on strategic directions. Not surprisingly, this input has ensured both Tasmania Together and Our Kids share a strongly social vision of how populations can achieve the best possible outcomes.

In late 2003 and 2004, the Our Kids Bureau approached Bright and Burnie councils, as well as other key community stakeholders such as primary schools, child and youth health services and community-based organisations to develop a collaborative strategy for addressing the needs of young children and families. In both communities since that time, service providers have been working together with local and State Government, the Commonwealth and NGOs to act on evidence of best practice in integrated service delivery. This has included stages of identifying needs, priorities and strategies, as well as harnessing expert local knowledge to plan project implementation.

In Burnie, the Early Years Pilot Project has been developed in conjunction with the Commonwealth-funded Communities for Children initiative, coordinated by Centacare.

In Brighton, the Steering Committee initiated both qualitative and quantitative needs assessments and, along with a large community-based forum, considered research findings and possible models for integrating services in that community. An innovative model was developed, using the five primary schools in the Brighton Municipality, each of which will establish a community-driven early years services centre.

These projects will provide great opportunities to test new models of service delivery in the effort to ensure all Tasmanian children the very best start in life.

For more information, please contact Anna Williams, Senior Policy Consultant, Our Kids Bureau on (03) 6233 4952 or by email: anna.williams@dhhs.tas.gov.au

**Goal 5:** Develop and approach to wellbeing that focuses on preventing poor health and encouraging healthy lifestyles.

The officers introduce in making post-Year 10 choices based on experience in a range of areas including early introduction to college, TAFE and employment experience.

The officers have already been highly successful in helping students overcome barriers to continuing their education or training and in developing career paths.

**Goal 18:** Ensure education and training provides our workforce with the skills to support our business and industry.
As a result of the project, here are some ways it has contributed to a process of change.

Sustaining healthy relationships.

FUTI has given the Clarence Plains community (which has a population of nearly 5000) a chance to develop a similar project. Up To It (FUTI) - Challenging Abusive Relationships

The FUTI Project began in the Clarence Plains community (which has a population of nearly 5000) in 2001, as a result of a recognition that abusive relationships were a significant issue in that community, and that existing avenues for tackling the problem were not sufficient.

FUTI has given the Clarence Plains community the opportunity to challenge abusive relationships. It has focused on creating and sustaining healthy relationships throughout the whole community, by encouraging all members to contribute to a process of change. As a result of the project, here are just some of the outcomes that have been achieved:

- 120 people in the community have participated in FUTI training resulting in greater knowledge and an increased skill base within the community;
- There has been an increase in supportive responses to situations involving family violence;
- There has been an increase and strengthening of community networks and an increased access to services;
- A comprehensive resource library has been developed for use by local workers and the community;
- Development of training sessions such as suicide prevention;
- Development of the drama performance FUTI 5;
- Development of the Children’s ‘Facing Up To It’ Project in recognition of the effects of family violence on children.

Craig Kinsella, Coordinator of Rokeby Neighbourhood Centre said “FUTI has been very successful and so far so good. We are going to have more training done and expand it to the schools and other community groups”.

The Clarence Plains Services Network Committee is keen to promote the FUTI framework to other communities, relevant organisations and government departments, including CPSN and other sub-committee members making themselves available to present the framework to other communities.

If you would like to discuss it, contact any of the following people:

- Colleen Fletcher - Community Nurse, Clarence Plains Community Health Centre: 6214 6037
- Angela Goldsmith - Coordinator Youth Services, Clarence City Council: 6247 1230
- Barb Reardon -Youth Project Officer, Clarence City Council: 6247 1230
- Craig Kinsella - Coordinator, Rokeby Neighbourhood Centre: 6247 1176
- Catherine Sykes - Community Support Worker: 6214 6035
- Deb Franklin - Family Support Worker: 6247 1400
- Mary Gambles - Facilitator, Clarence Plains Connect: 6214 6035
- Marilyn Marks - Coordinator, Clarendon Vale Neighbourhood House: 6247 1863

Life is what happens to you while you’re busy making other plans. (John Lennon)
S A F E T Y  S T R A T E G Y

The Hobart Community Safety Strategy was launched on 1 March.

Lord Mayor, Alderman Rob Valentine, said that we are fortunate to live in one of the safest cities in the world but we cannot afford to be complacent.

“Crime rates in Hobart are low, but people’s perceptions of safety in the home and public places also affect quality of life.

This strategy will address community safety issues whilst providing a mechanism to deal with emerging issues as they arise.

“The Hobart City Council is committed to working with government and the community to ensure a city where people are safe and feel safe,” he said.

The strategy was the result of a partnership between State Government agencies, Hobart City Council, Tasmania Police, and the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Council through the Capital City Partnership Agreement.

The strategy will build on existing programs and undertake new initiatives to ensure that residents and visitors alike have a genuine feeling and real experience of safety in Hobart.

A number of innovative community safety projects are already occurring in Hobart.

These include the Police and Metro Program, which involves police travelling on buses to improve safety projects are already occurring and visitors alike have a genuine feeling and real experience of safety in Hobart.

High visibility policing in Hobart CBD also assists in providing a safer environment for people to go about their business and to enjoy being in Hobart.

Under the strategy, existing programs will be complemented and new projects such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Principles will be implemented to reduce the opportunity for crime to occur through effective planning, design and management of both the built and landscaped environment.

Other projects will focus on establishing support panels to ensure a coordinated approach to supporting young people at risk, the extension of Project Currawong, a Youth Personal Development Program for repeat offenders and those at risk of offending, and close liaison and cooperation between government and licenced premises in Hobart.

Further activities under the Council’s drug and alcohol strategy will also be pursued.

Tasmania Police has a public enquiry line 62302111 where the public can inform police of problems in their neighbourhood. Police have a hot-spot identification program, and information from the public is used to inform policing strategies.

Copies of the strategy are available from Hobart City Council, Hobart Police Station, or the Hobart City Council’s website www.hobarticity.com.au.

This is not just about ideas. This is about making things happen.

When: May 28, 29 & 30, 2005 (School Holidays)
Time: arriving 11.30am Saturday finishing 11.30am Monday
Where: Bronte Park Highland Village
Cost: $220 per person
Applications close: 6 May 2005

Festival of Dreams weekend will be alcohol and drug free, in a safe and secure environment.

Enquiries: Celli Bray, 0419 559 709
festivalofdreams@yahoo.com.au
Your dreams are the ideas that will shape Tasmania’s future.

The highly successful Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge is proving to be a popular educational experience with students, as well as raising awareness of Crime Stoppers’ role in reducing crime.

Recently the Youth Challenge program was awarded a national prize of $10,000 in the 2004 Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards for innovation and excellence in designing practical ways to reduce crime.

The challenge is an enquiry-based competition that invites students in all Tasmanian schools from Grades 5 to 10 to examine the effects of crime on their community. The students work in groups to design practical solutions to reduce the level of crime. Each year a different crime is explored, with shoplifting, assault, graffiti and vandalism being covered so far.

Over several months the students research the issue using the resources provided on the Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge website that include relevant crime statistics and some case studies. Student activities have ranged from interviewing retailers about the impact of shoplifting to interviewing police about their procedures when a crime is reported, and the consequences for the victim as well as the offender.

The students are encouraged to go out into the community and talk to businesses. The project is not-for-profit and has liaised with local businesses, where people can buy a $5 or $10 voucher. These are redeemable through all taxi companies. Also, if a taxi ride is less than the voucher cost, the customer receives change. Vouchers are useable at any time, and have no use-by date. The taxi vouchers can be used by anyone, of any age.

“TYCC’s really proud of Taxi Voucher [project]. As a project it affects safety, awareness, transport – it really covers a whole range of areas that benefit the community” says TYCC member Joseph Pickett.

In partnership with the Launceston City Council (LCC) the TYCC Taxi Voucher Project has been rolled out in the Launceston area. LCC has developed all the systems and accountablility processes around the project, and has liaised with local businesses. The project is not-for-profit and profit and printing costs are paid through grants and other funding.

The project has also received a record different experiences and perspectives to contribute to their research. Each group then presents its findings and recommendations to the wider school community before submitting their recommenda- tions for judging.

The number of students participating in the challenge has increased to over 1500 in 2004. Every student receives a certificate of appreciation and the winning teams in each category are presented with framed certificates for their school. An annual award ceremony is held to celebrate the students’ participation, and the winning recommendations are presented to Police and Public Safety and Education.

Crime Stoppers is supported by the Department of Education and Tasmania Police, who between them provide the students with academic and expert advice on legislation and professional assistance with designing appropriate educational outcomes for the students. Police officers also support their local schools in the competition by giving presentations on related topics.

The Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge has been recognised as an exciting activity that assists in educating the local community as well as students about the need to prevent and reduce crime.

Goal 2: To have a community where people feel safe and are safe in all aspects of their lives.

Local Government Association of Tasmania Community Development Small Projects Award.

Over the past 12 months there has been a lot of discussion between TYCC and Launceston City Council in developing the Taxi Voucher system for use in other urban areas across Tasmania. Both organisations are eager to maintain the integrity of the project, while allowing it to expand to benefit other communities.

After much discussion, the partnership has begun taking steps to developing a package that would flow TYCC and LCC to maintain the high standards of the project while still allowing other communities to benefit from such a simple, but effective idea.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Taxi Voucher Project or would like to nominate for TYCC, you can access more information through the TYCC website www.ynot.org.au/tycc, or contact the project officer on 6223 5511 or shona@ynot.org.au.

Goal 2: To have a community where people feel safe and are safe in all aspects of their lives.

Youth Committee Survives, One Ride at a Time

It’s true that sometimes good things can stem from a tragedy. It was hard to imagine a few years ago that the murder of a young Launceston woman killed walking home one night could have any positive impact, and the consequences for the victims as well as the offender.

The students are encouraged to go out into the community and talk to businesses. The project is not-for-profit and has liaised with local businesses, where people can buy a $5 or $10 voucher. These are redeemable through all taxi companies. Also, if a taxi ride is less than the voucher cost, the customer receives change. Vouchers are useable at any time, and have no use-by date. The taxi vouchers can be used by anyone, of any age.

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EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE BUILDING SKILLS

A group of eight young people aged 15 to 22 are gaining skills and qualifications in stonework as part of an employment program funded through the State Government’s Partnership to Jobs program.

Minister for Economic Development Lara Giddings visited the New Norfolk worksite in February to see where participants in the Beacon Foundation project have been working with the Derwent Valley Council for about three months.

Ms Giddings said that the project met the aim of the Partnership to Jobs program – to help not-for-profit community organisations develop employment-creating projects to benefit long-term and disadvantaged unemployed.

“[The Government] through the Department of Economic Development, is contributing $104,000 to the project, which has a total budget of about $240,000.”

Ms Giddings said that the Beacon Project was an impressive example of how different levels of government could work with the private sector to create worthwhile employment opportunities for young people.

“Our aim is to create employment that is sustainable and that will benefit long-term unemployed,” Ms Giddings said.

In this instance, the Partnership to Jobs funding pays wages for the trainees and meets some material and equipment hire costs.

“The Beacon Foundation is funding the project supervisor and administration, audit, evaluation and project development support.

“The project is being hosted by the Derwent Valley Council, which has made a financial contribution to help set up the project and will direct some of its future works projects to the Beacon team.”

Ms Giddings said that the aim was to make the business self-sustaining after 12 months to create jobs for a group of young people as their first step to a constructive career path.

“The project is all about creating real, commercially sustainable jobs for unemployed youth in this community.

“Participating in this project gives the young people the opportunity to develop a strong work ethic and to prove that they are capable of hard work and reliability.

“They are undertaking traineeships in Certificate II or III in Construction, which provide better opportunities for ongoing employment in the building and construction industry.

“Trainees will also receive training and advice in small business management to provide the best chance of the business continuing.”

Ms Giddings congratulated the Beacon Foundation for its initiative in tackling youth unemployment in the Derwent Valley.

“Credit should also be given to the eight trainees who have taken the first step towards ongoing employment – earning a wage and learning new skills.

“I hope that for many of you, this will be the start of a career in the construction industry.

“The State Government is proud to be supporting this project and its participants – young Tasmanians who are keen to work and deserve the opportunity to set themselves up in life with a career as the starting point.

“I strongly encourage other community-based organisations with appropriate projects to contact the Department of Economic Development for information regarding the Partnership to Jobs program.”

Goal 1: Ensure all Tasmanians have a reasonable standard of living with regard to food, shelter, transport, justice, education, communication, health and community services.

Aurora Energy makes no bones about its commitment to the community. The company sees its purpose quite simply: “To see the Tasmanian community prosper from our efforts.”

From the field crews who donate bonuses paid under the safety incentive scheme to local charities, to technical specialists who volunteer their time and expertise to work with the electricity industry in developing nations like the Cook Islands, the Aurora workforce is united in a desire to help the community.

A major focus of attention for the company continues to be in the employment area. Over the past two years, Aurora has given a significant boost to the employment of young Tasmanians. In 2004 the company had a record intake of 28 apprentices, which was almost matched in 2005 when 25 new powerline and electrical apprentices joined the workforce. This brings the total number of people undertaking apprenticeships and office-based traineeships within the business to 113.

While the focus is often on young Tasmanians, the long-term unemployed have not been forgotten. At the end of 2004, a three-way partnership was formed between Aurora, group training provider TASTEC and employment agency, the Salvation Army Employment Plus. The partnership aims to give a small group of long-term unemployed Tasmanians an opportunity to gain valuable work experience. It is linked to an initiative between the Tasmania Together Progress Board and the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry known as “Working Together”.

Under the three-way partnership, long-term unemployed will be provided with 12-month placements in reception, accounts and customer service positions as part of the Business Administration Certificate Level 3 course.

We are also very aware that many low-income Tasmanian families face difficulty in budgeting for quarterly electricity bills. To assist those customers who are genuinely unable to pay, a hardship policy is being developed in close consultation with community organisations including the Tasmanian Council of Social Service (TasC O S S ), Anglicare and the Salvation Army.

We’re currently awaiting final sign-off from the Tasmanian Energy Regulator before implementing the scheme.

Our partnership with the No Interest Loans Scheme (NILS) continues to be another important link with the community. The NILS scheme aims to help low-income families improve their basic living standards through the provision of no-interest loans for the purchase of major household electrical items. We’re now in the third year of a three-year partnership with NILS and it is our intention to renew our support for another three years from July this year.

Dedicated people across the business also are continuing their support at an individual level for a variety of organisations as diverse as Meals on Wheels, volunteer fire brigades, the State Emergency Service and the RSPCA with Aurora underpinning their efforts by providing special volunteers’ leave and corporate donations reaching a grand total of almost $20,000. And it doesn’t stop there. Individual employees are now working hard to support refugees from the Sudan as well as a variety of Cancer Council activities.