

## **Burnie West Beach**

### **Community Action and Partnerships**

Very strong and active partnership between Local Government and SLSC with agreed joint responsibility for Burnie West Beach. Noticeably effective working relationships across Local Government departments to optimise resources applied to the protection and enhancement of West Beach.

This has resulted in the excellent *Makers of Burnie* Heritage & Culture interactive centre. The centre is complemented by the Little Penguin Observation Centre. This is manned by the *Friends of Burnie Penguins* which includes primary and high school children as well as youth with disability or limited work opportunities. The Friends (including families with children) work evenings to promote and protect the colony while ensuring tourists enjoy a free, live penguin interpretative experience. The centre provides opportunities to make paper, sample local cheeses and learn about Burnie's industrial, shipping and cultural history.

Strong cultural and technical partnerships with local TAFE and University departments. Provides focussed applied research and training initiatives and with private companies and caterers at the Makers' Workshop and SLSC.

Good relationship with media and with cruise operators. The latter ensures West Beach is protected while tourists have an enjoyable experience of the local area.

The good relationship with the organisation responsible for the rail corridor along the beach could be used to ensure this area is upgraded and maintained regularly.

### **'Dame Phyllis Frost' Litter Prevention**

No litter along road or beach front and there are numerous bins well located to help avoid littering. Gross pollutant traps at both ends of the beach minimise the chance of litter from the CBD reaching the beach.

Reassessment of locations for Bin your Butt facilities could reduce the number of butts disposed onto pavers in the CBD. The operators of the rail corridor should be encouraged to maintain it well as the Beach and other foreshore areas.

### **Resource Recovery & Waste Management**

The construction of the Makers Centre specifically avoided use of old growth timber. Recovered timber was used in the compressed OSB board linings for interior walls. The building has been innovatively designed to maximise flexibility and adaption for changing use patterns.

It is planned to utilise existing infrastructure and materials from the board walk for the new board walk which is soon to be constructed.

A large number of bins including some 'paired' for recycling are provided along the forefront park. However, the mixture of bin types and their placement could be reviewed to optimise litter prevention and public place recycling.

Opportunities may exist for Council and SLSC to introduce best practice avoidance and collection of food wastes for composting in their two restaurant areas in the SLSC and Makers Centre.

## **Environmental Innovation & Protection**

Paving of road and mall expected to enhance and protect the beach

Gross Pollutant Traps with latest technology energy reduction design have been installed to reduce litter and more importantly reduce stormwater scouring of the beach. Rocks have also been strategically placed to reduce scouring. Angled outlets for stormwater may also reduce scouring .

Rebuilding of the wall and walkway along beach is to enhance appearance, increase safety and prevent possible collapse of the wall that protects the foreshore. Council has checked potential climate change water levels and identified that the wall height is sufficient except for major storm events.

Very significant efforts to protect and increase numbers in the West Beach penguin colony. Tour guides voluntarily lead visitors for penguin experience.

## **Water Conservation**

Burnie has not experienced water shortages as have other parts of Tasmania and the mainland. However, irrigation systems in landscaped areas of West Beach have been designed to reduce evaporative losses. Plants have been selected to minimise water demand during dry conditions.

Best practice urban design principles have been applied in paved areas to enhance rain water moving to planted areas.

Rain water from the roof of the Makers' Workshop is collected in a large underground tank below the building. This water is used for toilet flushing and gardens.

## **Energy Innovation**

The Makers' Workshop building has been designed to meet 'Green Star' requirements. Comfort-level heating / cooling is achieved using an Hydronic (water filled) system embedded in the concrete floor. This avoids the need to air condition the entire building.

The mechanical ventilation system that provides fresh air internally has a control system to:

- alter air flow and exchange rate to match requirements (ie use and visitor numbers);
- utilises free cooling capacity of external air when possible; and
- monitors energy consumption and reports performance.

High efficiency lighting has been fitted wherever practicable. Highly specific exterior task and security lighting has been installed along with minimal wasteful – and potentially

nuisance - 'light spill'. Automated systems control light and power to reduce energy consumption out of hours.

## **Heritage & Culture**

Penguin Care Centre introduces families and children to volunteering and helps develop a nature preservation culture among children.

Cultural heritage of beach activities actively encouraged through the strong SLSC Nipper programs with excellent facilities. The 'Burnie Shines' program actively encourages parents to take children out in the boats to develop their boating skills and learn fishing as part of the Australian beach culture. The project is driven by a people in boats competition.

The entire focus of the new 'Makers' Workshop' is to help community and visitors learn about and retain the history and industrial heritage and culture of Burnie. Paper making, heavy engineering and port industries are the primary focus of interactive displays and activities running continuously within the Workshop. This same facility promotes other heritage and cultural displays within Burnie and the surrounding areas. Environmental activities are actively promoted through walking tracks and identification of platypus observation areas.

Innovative approach to displaying and attracting attention to paper making – volunteers involved in hand making paper and value adding products. These volunteers assist visitors learn and tryout their skills.

An innovative display uses a large 'shipping container' to create atmosphere - visual and wave like - and tell the story of the development of Burnie Port and its historic importance. The building also highlights the relationship of Burnie's heritage with the sea. The building design maximises views of West Beach and its adjacent Port.

Along the beachfront is an outdoor thematic signage that tells stories of the city and port. This is complemented by public art displays in both the SLSC and on West Beach.

## **Young Legends**

Children and youth took time off school and work to be at the Little Penguin Observation Centre. They were able to display their contagious enthusiasm and knowledge of Fairy Penguins and their behaviour. They were keen to be involved in evenings as guides and

A couple of the older youth intend obtaining formal qualifications to continue actively in this type of fauna work.

Burnie has established a 'Youth Council' that meets 4 to 6 times a year and examines community issues to image the Burnie Council meetings.

There is also a YMCAB (Youth Making Changes Around Burnie) initiative that attracts young volunteers.

