17. Clarence becomes a city, 1977-2003

From 1977 when the Tasman Bridge was reopened, until 2003 when this book was published, Clarence developed in many areas and in unprecedented ways. Industry is one example. Previously, Council had little success in attracting industry, but now industries did move in. Council promoted three industrial areas, at Mornington, Cambridge and Rokeby, which had the advantages of relatively cheap land, good road transport and proximity to the airport. Mornington developed in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Cambridge (after several attempts from the 1950s) in the later 1980s, and Rokeby at much the same period, though not to the same extent as the others. No enormous industries arrived, but many moderately-sized ones set up with considerable success.[1]

Tourism was another industry which boomed, not so much in old Clarence but in Richmond, one of the prime tourist sites in Tasmania, which became part of Clarence in 1993. Bellerive Fort and Rosny Lookout were also popular, and as its major Bicentennial project, Council developed the Rosny Historic Site around Richard Morgan's barn, built in the very early years of settlement. In the 1980s the state government developed the site of John Bowen's settlement in 1803, but this was controversial since the pyramids they built were widely criticised, and there were few visitors. In the 1990s the site was returned to the Aboriginal people.[2]

Agriculture had been in the doldrums since the 1960s, but it too saw growth, with ventures into new areas. With the establishment of the Craigbourne Irrigation Scheme in 1987, agriculture in the Coal River Valley received an enormous boost. Vineyards were planted around Cambridge and Richmond, and in 2003 there were thirteen in Clarence. Oyster growing, attempted from the early 1970s, flourished in Pipe Clay Lagoon and Barilla Bay; strawberries, cherries and olives were grown; alpacas, emus, ostriches and Welsh ponies were raised.[3] The development of industry and agriculture meant more jobs and more general prosperity.

At the same time, the population continued to increase, until in 2003 it was nearly 50,000. In the 1980s the Housing Department withdrew from its policy of broad acre housing in Clarence, in favour of small subdivisions in existing suburbs, or buying existing houses. This meant it did not have to provide expensive infrastructure and tenants suffered less social stigma,

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[1] Information from Stewart Wardlaw, Ron Marriott, Alan Sproule and Gary Richardson

[2] Mercury 1.10.80, 10.9.81, 30.11.82, 4.5.92

[3] Information from Paul Calvert

since they did not live in easily identifiable and often isolated housing estates. Some houses and many units were built on the Eastern Shore, in Housing Department suburbs and in older-established areas such as Bellerive and Lindisfarne. The Department also encouraged tenants to buy their houses, and many did so.[4] Private housing continued to expand, with new areas developed in urban areas like Tranmere and Geilston Bay, and many five-acre blocks sold in Sandford, Acton and Cambridge.

A result of the bridge disaster was that the use of Rosny Park for shops and offices was accentuated, and by 1977 it was well on its way to becoming the business centre of the city. This development continued as more and more activities moved there: the Rosny Library, police station, health centre, post office, banks, Medicare, cinema, creche and several large government offices. Rosny Park also contained the expanded Eastlands Shopping Centre, among the largest in the state.

A result of the growth of Rosny Park was a decline in the traditional centre of Bellerive. This began in the early 1970s, after Eastlands developed and the Commission moved council headquarters to Rosny Park, and despite attempts to remedy the situation, Bellerive never really recovered. After the old town hall was demolished in 1979, the Quay commercial block was built on the site, and was never really a success – and 'its design limited the building from being used for other purposes', said Alan Sproule. However, Bellerive has a fine boardwalk along the shore and some flourishing businesses, while several community groups have offices there. 'It's kept its identity', as Paul Calvert pointed out.[5]

Transport also improved, with the completion of the Eastern Outlet to the airport and Sorell, and the long-planned Bellerive Bypass to the east, which became the start of the South Arm Highway. In 1984 the Bowen Bridge provided a second river crossing so that Clarence did not depend entirely on the Tasman Bridge; but ferries dwindled, though a small service still ran in 2003. The airport was extended, with an international terminal opened in 1980, and in 2002 Hobart Airport had over a million passenger movements.[6]

Clarence Council played its part in development. Roads were upgraded and most were sealed. Water reticulation was continually upgraded. From the late 1980s Council concentrated on sewage treatment, or waste water treatment as it was renamed, taking it to the tertiary stage with new and improved treatment plants. In 1999 sewerage was finally extended to Tranmere, and in an exciting development, in 2002 the Federal Government agreed to provide $8 million

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[4] Housing Department Annual Reports 1983, 1985-8 passim; information from Colin Sproule

[5] Information from Alan Sproule and Paul Calvert

for the Coal River Effluent Re-use Project, which will divert treated effluent from the Rosny treatment centre to Coal River Valley for irrigation.[7] In other waste treatment, recycling and green waste collections began, wheelie bins were introduced, and the Lauderdale Tip closed in 2001, replaced by the modern Mornington Park Waste Transfer Station. In 2002, kerbside recycling and green waste collection rates were the highest in the state. Overall, Clarence Council is acknowledged as a leading innovator in many areas.[8]

Another area on which Council concentrated was reserves, assisted by state and federal grants, which were used by Council to provide 'luxury' amenities like reserves and sports grounds which could not have been provided through ordinary rate revenue. 'A most exciting time to be involved in the continuing progress of the rapidly-growing Clarence', said Alan Sproule, who stood for Council to improve reserves and was influential in shaping policy. Neighbourhood parks were created or improved, so that every district had its own recreational area. Council recognised the importance of natural areas, assisting many land care, coast care and bush care groups, and creating the Waverley Flora Park to preserve one of the few remaining stands of urban bushland.[9]

Sporting facilities were enormously improved. The Clarence Pool was covered with a bubble, so it could be used all year round, and in 2003 work started on a permanent roof. Wentworth Park was turned from a swamp and former tip to a fine sports area; with help from the local Lions club, the Sunshine Home in Howrah became the Sunshine Recreation Centre; the women's hockey centre was built in Warrane; and the Lauderdale Sports Centre was completed.[10] But the major development, recognised around at least the cricket-playing world, was Bellerive Oval.

Bellerive Oval, a council sports ground for almost a century, was an ordinary oval in a beautiful site. Developing it, said warden Paul Calvert, was the idea of Ron Marriott, the council clerk.

> We had voted $60,000 to promote Council, and he said, "$60,000 would help float a loan of $1 million. What better way of promoting Clarence is there than to develop Bellerive as an international centre of cricket for Tasmania?" I agreed. I could see it on TV as the cameras panned round, showing the river, the mountain, the wonderful position – it would

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[6] Mercury 22.2.84; Hobart Airport Study 1996; information from Hobart International Airport P/L

[7] Annual Reports 1992-2002

[8] Annual Reports 1996-2002

[9] Annual Reports 1992-2002 passim, especially 1992; information from Ron Marriott

[10] Annual Reports 1992-2002; information from Alan Sproule

> be the best advertisement for Clarence. It convinced me, and we started. At that time the [Tasmanian Cricket Association] were wanting to relocate, and they agreed.

It took Paul's skill to ensure that this happened. Council was divided evenly:

> It cost $1 million of our money, and people who came from for example Lindisfarne wanted the money spent there. I got one of the opposing councillors aside who was a keen cricket fan, and I said, 'Here's a chance to make a name for yourself' – I said he could be in the launch and roll the first turf. So he supported us, and we got it through. And now everyone in the cricket world has heard of Bellerive.

The oval hosted Tasmania's first international cricket test in 1988. After further development, the world-class oval was complete in 2003.

Paul Calvert was also proud of Clarence's rural planning scheme, which was based on equity. 'There was a feeling among the rural people that some were getting favoured over others as far as rural subdivisions were concerned. The plan kept subdivision in certain areas. Farmers who wished to continue farming got a rate rebate, with their land valued as agricultural land, not land which could be subdivided.' This helped reduce the high rate demands placed on farmers in previous years.

Council moved into social services, another area where federal grants were vital. With such a large percentage of residents in Housing Department areas, Clarence took a leading role here, developing many programs and employing specialist staff. Family Day Care catered for 528 children by 1994, and there were other child care services, as well as youth services, aged services and community centres. Council encouraged the arts, opening the Bellerive Community Arts Centre, employing an arts officer and supporting the Clarence Band. It supported the Clarence community radio station, engaged widely in community consultation, and supported activities such as Carols by Candlelight, Clarence by the Water Jazz Festival, and the Seafarers' Festival, the successor to the Bellerive Regatta.[11]

Other authorities were responsible for more development. The number of government schools remained roughly stable with one secondary college, three high schools (Warrane High closed in 1988) thirteen primary schools and the Bowen Support School (formerly Wentworth Special School); the two Catholic primary schools of Corpus Christi and St Cuthbert's expanded as did the Bellerive Cottage School; and new were two Christian schools and a Catholic high school, MacKillop College. New churches arrived; in 2003 there were 25 different denominations – 23 Christian, and Baha'i and Buddhist. More child care centres opened, more

[11] Annual Reports 1992-2002; information from Ron Marriott

community groups started and new sports were introduced – in 2003, 38 organised sports were played.

Presiding over much of the development was Clarence Council, under wardens/mayors Peter Brown, Bob Pretyman, Bill Barnard, Paul Calvert, Alan Sproule and Cathy Edwards. They were all good, capable leaders, according to their council clerks/general managers, Ron Marriott, Stewart Wardlaw and Roger Howlett, and Council achieved much, as outlined above. But all wardens/mayors had to cope with faction fighting, which made headlines from 1977 onwards, so much so that at one stage Council staff blackbanned one alderman who publicly criticised them.[12] Both Paul Calvert and Alan Sproule, successive wardens in the 1980s, commented that it was amazing how much was achieved with so much opposition from some councillors. Fortunately for the city, factionalism declined in the 1990s. Bill Ryan, councillor since 1980, has seen five wardens/mayors and three council clerks/general managers, and thinks the combination in the 1990s, Cathy Edwards and Roger Howlett, has done an outstanding job.

A particularly exciting event was the Olympic torch relay, held before the 2000 Olympics. The torch was carried round the country, including Clarence, where Roger Howlett carried it through Bellerive village. 'The whole of Cambridge Road was choc-a-block, just in a roar, the feeling was incredible', he recalled. ' It was pretty special.' Jock Campbell, deputy mayor, carried the torch onwards, from Clarence across the river by ferry to Hobart.

Three major events have occurred since 1977. The first was city status. Hobart and Launceston were the traditional cities in Tasmania, but in 1964 Glenorchy became a city, and in 1970, 1974 and 1978 there were calls for Clarence to become one also.[13] Legally a city had to have 20,000 people and while Clarence easily passed this, there was a perception that it did not really have a city centre. The question lapsed, but by the mid-1980s Rosny had developed as the city centre, and the topic revived. Paul Calvert pointed out the advantages: a city was taken more seriously, was easier to promote, and the status gave 'a feeling of pride in the community and a greater sense of identity'. Since the bridge disaster, Clarence had consolidated, developed and grown its own identity.[14]

'Heavy weather' was made of this issue by some councillors, on grounds ranging from Clarence containing so much rural land to the cost of the mayoral chain, but finally in 1988, the Bicentennial year, Clarence became a city. 'The benefits are now fairly obvious', commented Alan Sproule, the first mayor. Clarence gained in status; and in Council, wards were abolished

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[12] Mercury 11.8.77, 23.6.87; SEM 6.8.77, 20.9.80 for example

[13] Eastside 11.6.70, 16.5.74; Tasmanian Mail 19.11.85

and councillors, now called aldermen, had four-year terms, the mayor was popularly elected, and administration became more professional. In 2003 Clarence has a very good staff, said Cathy Edwards, with a good mix of experience and enthusiasm, and the general manager, Roger Howlett, encouraging staff to 'all pull in the same direction'. A strategic plan and vision statement were put into practice: 'everything we do is benchmarked against the plan, and we really achieve a lot', said Howlett. When the Local Government Board interviewed staff in 2003, they were astonished to find that most quoted Council's vision statement to them and meant it, unlike other places where such statements hang ignored on the wall.[15]

Shortly after city status was granted, the state government decided to decrease the number of municipalities from 46 to 29, to promote efficiency and financial savings. The municipality of Richmond was to be divided, with the southern ward, which contained Richmond town, joining Clarence, and the two northern wards joining the new municipality of Southern Midlands. Richmond was vehemently opposed to being divided and amalgamated, and Clarence sympathised. But Richmond had to amalgamate with someone, and joining Clarence was the lesser of two evils; Clarence did have the ability to improve infrastructure. 'Once the decision was made, people have been pretty positive'; 'there was a lot of good co-operation between Richmond and Clarence', observed Cathy Edwards and Roger Howlett. Two aldermen from Richmond sat on Council for two years, the Richmond Advisory Committee was set up, and 'it all went quite smoothly', though naturally the loss of independence still rankled with some Richmond people, and their population, 1582 in 2003, was too small to allow election of their own representative on Council.[16]

The next amalgamation issue erupted in 1997. It had been suggested on and off since 1913 that Bellerive and Lindisfarne as urban areas should join Hobart, but nothing serious was ever done.[17] In April 1997 the premier dropped a bombshell. While outlining future plans, he announced that by April 1998 Greater Hobart would be formed, to include the urban parts of Hobart, Glenorchy, Clarence, Brighton and Kingborough. A Local Government Board would hear submissions and write a report, but amalgamation was definite.[18]

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[14] Tasmanian Mail 19.11.85; Mercury 21.1.86, 17.3.87

[15] Information from Cathy Edwards, Alan Sproule, Paul Calvert, Ron Marriott, Stewart Wardlaw, Gary Richardson; Mercury 7.10.88

[16] Information from Cathy Edwards, Roger Howlett and Stewart Wardlaw

[17] CC 12.11.13; Mercury 21.7.14, 10.9.26

[18] Mercury 10.4.97, 11.4.97; information from Cathy Edwards

'It was like throwing a match in the petrol tank', said Cathy Edwards; 'the reaction here was dismay', recalled Roger Howlett. Most Clarence people opposed amalgamation. The government had no mandate, gave no evidence to back its decision, there had been no consultation and no parliamentary debate.[19] Studies showed that the optimum size for local government bodies was 40,000 to 90,000 people: Greater Hobart would have 151,698. Cost savings were unlikely – merged councils in Victoria were running up big deficits. The Hobart Metropolitan Councils' Association, in which councils co-operated in areas like waste management, already provided the bulk of possible savings.[20] Clarence people were becoming proud of a Clarence identity, forged during the bridge crisis, and had no wish to be become part of Hobart. And people in Cambridge and the newly-joined area of Richmond had no desire to join Sorell, their fate in the plans.[21]

Council decided to fight, and in May 1997 launched battle, and Glenorchy Council too fought strongly against the amalgamation.[22] A flood of letters to the press showed residents' opinions, the following examples of dozens: Clarence had made gigantic progress since the bridge disaster and was a unique community (F G Woodward, Mornington); amalgamation aimed at providing equal services, economic viability, effective representation and genuine community involvement, and Clarence Council was much better at all these than the state government (Harold Gregg, Bellerive); 'leave our council alone; it's doing a much better job at its own level than is the State Government at the top!' (Beryl Giles, Seven Mile Beach).[23] A group formed the Clarence City Support Committee to voice the groundswell of opposition, and produced posters, advertisements, postcards and letters to the press, under the slogan 'Greater Hobart - No Way'.[24] But the situation was tough. 'This has been one of the most difficult years in Clarence Council's history... [the plan] created enormous uncertainty and had a detrimental impact of progress in our City', commented Cathy Edwards. So much time was taken up with amalgamation that many programs had to be delayed or cancelled.[25] The Local Government Board hearings began, and Clarence and Glenorchy made detailed submissions, while the

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[19] Mercury 31.5.97, 15.7.97, 15.10.97, 17.10.97; Star 1.5.97

[20] Community Express 16.7.97, 28.1.98; Star 21.8.97, 24.2.97; Herald Sun 4.1.98; Mercury 10.4.97, 8.6.97, 6.8.97, 6.12.97, 13.12.97; Age 20.3.97, 4.4.97

[21] Star 3.7.97; information from Cathy Edwards, Roger Howlett; Gary Richardson

[22] Mercury 16.4.97; AR 1997; Star 3.7.97; information from Cathy Edwards; Alexander Glenorchy 1964-1998 pp 410-418

[23] Star 26.6.97; 12.6.97, 3.7.97, 31.7.97; Mercury 12.7.97

[24] Star 5.6.97, 3.7.97

[25] CC Annual Report 1998 pp 3, 4

government presented its case in five minutes and its experts could not answer questions put to them. But the Board recommended amalgamation, which appeared inevitable.[26]

Then cracks started to appear in the government case. It was revealed that the amalgamation decision had been made on verbal advice without a written submission. The mayors of Clarence, Glenorchy and Hobart pointed out errors in the Board's report, and the Board accused them of misrepresenting the facts. One Board member resigned, saying he had not been consulted about the accusation made in his name and disagreed with it. The Board's credibility was in tatters. On a visit to conservative Stanley, the premier was booed, shouted down and jostled by protesters. He was visibly shaken.[27]

In February 1998 elector polls showed an overwhelming majority of people opposed to amalgamations – 81% in Clarence. The major newspapers swung round to oppose amalgamation. The government delayed the process, but elections for the new councils were still scheduled for August 1998.[28] Then the councils of Devonport, Central Midlands and Southern Midlands took joint legal action against the government. In July 1998 the Supreme Court decided in their favour, and amalgamation was defeated.[29]

Like the earlier bridge disaster, this threat to the well-being of Clarence had some benefits. 'Amalgamation reinforced an Eastern Shore identity', said Cathy Edwards. 'It was a very genuine feeling, strongly held by the community.'

Clarence in 2003 appears a generally prosperous community, and the overwhelming majority of those interviewed said they enjoy living there, for a variety of reasons. In the south of Clarence, for years South Arm and Opossum Bay languished, with farming declining and little to take its place. Some people continued to farm, and John Calvert is one of the few traditional farmers, growing pink eye potatoes and apricots and a new crop, Geraldton wax flowers.

Commuting made the difference. Residents began commuting to Hobart in the late 1940s when a bus service started; numbers grew as the road was improved; and now it is commonplace to drive to Hobart each day, and blocks at South Arm with their magnificent views became sought-after. The situation turned around and the population grew. In the 1960s the school had low numbers and was in danger of closing, but the community fought to keep it open, and in

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[26] Information from Cathy Edwards and Roger Howlett; Community Express 28.1.97; Mercury 27.9.97; 17.10.97, 2.12.97

[27] Mercury 5.9.97, 3.1.98, 4.1.98, 7.1.98, 30.1.97; Examiner 301.97; Community Express 28.1.98

[28] Mercury 7.2.98, 9.2.98; Examiner 9.2.98

[29] Mercury 30.7.98, 31.7.98, 1.8.98

2003 there are 100 students. The RSL extended, building new clubrooms and the nine-hole Iron Pot golf course, both opened in 1995. By 2003 the RSL had about 350 members, with a good attendance at its annual Anzac Day services.

By about 1990 Calverton Hall, loved by traditionalists, was ageing, and some thought it should be pulled down and a new complex built with more facilities. Out of this debate was born the South Arm Peninsula Residents' Association, SAPRA, which oversaw the building of a community centre, which hosts health and social professionals, playgroups and a monthly market. Largely through volunteer labour, SAPRA built a boat ramp, and a bike path from South Arm to Opossum Bay. 'I love it down here – there's a real sense of community', commented SAPRA's president Anne Sheehan, impressed by the way people turned out when the tide was low to dig out the footings for the new boat ramp.

In 2000 a group of ladies planned to raise funds for new curtains for Calverton Hall, so held a barbecue. They needed $5000 and made $320. Something else was needed. Dot Kelly mentioned that an English friend had sent her a calendar of nude middle-aged women. Perhaps they could do this.

> Well, you can imagine the uproar. 'In the nud? No-one would buy a calendar of us in the nud!' The men roared with laughter – 'You might sell three or four!'
>
> They said, 'Who'd go in it?'
>
> I said, 'I will.' And they started to say, 'If you will I can.' One lady said to her husband, 'Can I go in it?' and he said, 'Indeed not!' so that was the end of her. Another lady, aged 79, said to her husband, 'What about me?' He said, 'You please yourself, dear'. I said to her, 'Why not, Beryl, you've got a lovely face'. She said, 'It's not my face they'll be looking at!'

The English calendar was tasteful and expensive, and as they couldn't afford this, they decided to be funny. Dot's daughter took the photos, and about a dozen women were involved, the oldest 83. 'People might have thought we were having a nude romp when we took the photos, but there was nothing like that. We never walked round in the nuddy. We wouldn't want to be seen walking round, let's face it!' Everyone had a go at choosing twelve photos and writing the entertaining captions, but it was all kept a secret 'in case it wasn't any good'.

> We advertised it in SAPRA's newsletter, come to the hall at 8 pm for drinks and nibbles and the launch of the calendar. I stood up the front and said, 'We needed something drastic to get the funds for the curtains and we had to get the money quickly or we thought we wouldn't be here, and we couldn't be glamorous, so we decided to go the full monty'.

Well, if you've ever heard ninety people go 'Ohhh!' all at the same time! It was so funny. For us old CWA girls.

That night they sold five hundred calendars.

The reaction was immense, with the calendar making headlines in not just the *Mercury*, but national newspapers and overseas. The BBC interviewed Dot, Reuter rang, a German film crew arrived, and orders came from all over the world – the farthest away was Sweden. They sold 23,000 calendars and made $92,000. 'When we had raised as much as we could without incurring GST, we said, enough is enough, and my daughter took it over and is going great guns.' Meanwhile, they made plans for the hall to receive a dressing room, a remodelled kitchen, a new stage and wonderful curtains, 'velvet, we think in a rich burgundy'.[30]

Many descendants of old families remain in South Arm. Ted and Val Bezzant live in Ted's family home. His father gave up his chaff cutting and threshing operation in the 1950s, when balers and headers took over, and fewer horses meant less need for chaff. He and Ted farmed the land until Ted started to work in Hobart in 1969. Into the old Musk family farm next door recently moved newcomers Patrice and Richard Ervin, originally from Ohio. After spending fourteen months looking round Australia for the ideal place –on the water, within half an hour of an airport and city, and room for horses – the Musk farm fitted the bill. 'The community couldn't be better – it's fantastic!' said Richard.[31]

Leaving the peninsula, the road passes through hilly country with wonderful views over Storm Bay, and occasional houses and small businesses, such as an alpaca farm and a cattery. The next town is Clifton, a popular surfing beach, where the surf life saving club is flourishing. It still fulfils its original objective of patrolling the beach and preventing drownings, but there have been changes, with far more female members and a strong junior contingent. A video camera on the beach is connected to an internet site which is updated every fifteen minutes, so as soon as there is reasonable surf, up to eighty surfers arrive.

Three-quarters of the blocks on the Clifton Beach estate, started in 1927, are still in the hands of the original families, according to Kim Newstead, whose parents bought a block in the 1930s. The number of permanent residents is growing, and includes himself, a private consultant. He's wonderfully situated in an architect-designed house on the waterfront, with a satellite-equipped office so he can work here a well as in town. 'It's a lovely place to live, very easy. You leave town, and you're in a different world – the little break between office and home

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[30] Information from Dot Kelly

[31] Information about South Arm from John Calvert, Ted Bezzant, Maurice Potter, Anne Sheehan, Dot Kelly and Richard Ervin

is quite nice.' There are drawbacks – no water, no garbage collection (by choice since residents would have to pay for it), no paper delivery, a distant letter box, and residents of the estate have to maintain the road – but these keep life natural. John White, who has owned a weekender at Clifton since 1972, described why he loves the area: 'Thirty-five km from town, 100 km from responsibility'.

To some of those outside the estate, like John and Louise White, it appears 'exclusive and counterculture' with tumbledown shacks and a surfing lifestyle. There's division in its community, says Kim. Some dyed-in-the-wool residents, many in their original shacks, 'like things rough and decrepit' and don't want change. Others are going through a 'seachange', moving from the city, and would like some progress. It will probably come eventually, since land values are soaring. Fifteen years ago a waterfront block fetched $10-15,000; in 2002 one sold for $210,000.

More people arriving meant strain on the environment, particularly the large muttonbird rookery at Cape Deslacs, and in the 1980s the state government bought the land as a reserve and made a path and viewing platform. Parks and Wildlife conduct tours in summer, so visitors can come at dusk to watch the dramatic return to their burrows of thousands of muttonbirds.[32]

North-west of Cape Deslacs is Pipe Clay Lagoon, where the main industry of the area is centred – oyster farming. According to James Calvert of the Tasmanian Oyster Company, 'if you had to sit down and design the ideal bay for oysters, you'd come up with Pipe Clay'. It's one of the best in Australia, sheltered, shallow, with a strong tidal flow bringing in a good supply of fresh water and food for the oysters. James' father Harvey was involved in oyster farming in Ralphs Bay, which was closed in 1972. Shortly afterwards, Roger Calvert started farming in Pipe Clay, and others followed, including Harvey. In 1979 oyster farmers banded together to form Shellfish Culture to produce spat, and in 1998 a new hatchery was opened at Pipe Clay. It's state-of-the-art, with a good reputation based on its clean water and advanced technology.

There are now seven oysters companies in Pipe Clay, employing forty people. The bay produces 950,000 dozen oysters a year, a third of Tasmanian production. All Pipe Clay oysters are sold out of the state. There was disagreement with the locals when oysters escaped and bred, meaning sharp shells were found, but the farmers agreed to clean this up.[33]

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[32] Information about Clifton from Kim Newstead and John and Louise White

[33] Information from James Calvert; Department of Primary Industries, W and E *Marine Farming Development Plan Pipe Clay Lagoon October 1998* Hobart 1998 pp 16-25; Caroline Evans *A Tide of Success A History of Shellfish Culture Ltd 1979-2000* Hobart, 2000 pp 3, 8, 10, 17, 32

On the other side of Pipe Clay Lagoon stands Cremorne, a town of 180 or so houses, built on the original 201 blocks. Most houses are owned by permanent residents, who commute to work. 'I love it here', said Maria Fisher, who lives on a wonderful site overlooking both the lagoon and Frederick Henry Bay. 'When you come home from work, you feel like you're on holiday – you leave the city behind you. It's really friendly here. Everyone says hello to each other – not like town.' There's still no water or sewerage, but people have their septic tanks and water tanks and no one complains.

Linda Harriss owns the shop, which is also the newsagency, post office, fuel outlet, real estate advertiser and centre for notices about properties to let, boats for sale and footy tipping competition. She loves living in Cremorne too: 'it's sunny, friendly, just a lovely area and a beautiful beach'. Not far away, the Cremorne Bowls Club, with 180 members, is an active social centre. It fields three pennant teams and is open daily, for social bowls, indoor bowls, darts, eightball, socialising and cheerful talk.

Michael Bell has been fishing out of Cremorne for 23 years, with his boat *Kingfisher*. At first he caught trumpeter and trevally, but in recent years he has been catching shark in Storm Bay, and selling it to a Hobart fish shop. In 2002, 13 tonnes of scale fish and 32 tonnes of abalone were landed at Cremorne. Michael loves living at Cremorne and working there – the mooring is good, it's close to home, the lifestyle suits him. Cremorne hasn't changed much since 1980. He's trying to get a jetty built, to replace the old one washed away years ago. This would help not only fishermen but the many recreational sailors who use its sheltered anchorage.[34]

The rest of the peninsula is occupied by Sandford, which contains farming land, old farms and many new houses on five-acre blocks, scattered through the bush. Terry Morrisby comes from a long line of farmers, and says that in the old days there were 150 farms in Clarence, who made a living by mixed farming and growing fruit, and all employed at least one man. Now there are still some people farming, running cattle or sheep, agisting horses and growing fruit, but few live entirely by farming. There has to be some other source of income, like a job in town or land sales. Terry and his brothers run Black Angus cattle and grow winter fodder and also some fruit, particularly peaches and apricots. A new development is a flourishing cherry orchard, planted by Terry's nephew Chris about ten years ago.

Sandford has an active cricket club and Scouts group, and land is in high demand, and a subdivision opened in 2002 sold out fast. Terry and Maureen say they hardly ever see the

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[34] Information about Cremorne from Maria Fisher, Linda Harriss, Heather Banks and Michael Bell

newcomers. 'At one time we knew all the farmers, all the cars, the day they went to town.' They don't mind the change; there are 'plenty of people around' and newcomers mean that where once fruit had to be sold in town, now there's a ready local market at the farm itself.

Radio personality Ric Paterson, Tasmanian of the Year in 2003, moved to Sandford with his family in 1985, buying a house on a five-acre block. 'We fell in love with it, a big house in the bush with views over the river', said Ric. 'We loved the peace and quiet after the city. The kids rode their bikes and ran around, and we would stand at night and listen to the frogs.' As for the lack of facilities, 'we love the soft water that comes off the roof'.[35]

North of Sandford, at the Neck, is Lauderdale, which developed into not only a major residential area but a service centre. Brian Johnson has lived in Lauderdale since 1964 and has seen many changes. Many more houses were built, roads were sealed, street lighting provided, a small shop nearby has turned into a thriving supermarket, and many family businesses have started up – tradesmen, consultants, mechanics, computer experts, and a dozen abalone divers some of whom go to Marrawah in the winter to dive but otherwise live in Lauderdale. From one intermittent doctor there are now seven or eight. There's a lively tavern and an excellent restaurant, and the primary school with 580 students is the second largest in the state. The beach is popular in summer, especially since it's so safe for children, and many people launch their boats off the ramp, or go jet-skiing. In general, said Brian, Lauderdale has changed 'from nothing to a town'.

By 2003 one of the most successful enterprises was the Foreshore Tavern. For decades it had been a local pub, but in 1998 new owners renovated it. It contains a bar, bottle shop, two beer gardens, gaming room, sports bar – circular, and called by the locals the 'cock fighting pit' – play area for children, dining room and restaurant, Altitude 464 (it's at 464 South Arm Road). Almost the only item left from the old pub, the big furnace heater in the bar. A cricket oval and touch football field is being prepared, and out front is a large, striking aluminium sail, designed by the architect responsible for the renovation, Mark Drury.[36]

North of Lauderdale stretches Acton, an area made of up large subdivisions, from two acres up to five. Here people have built large houses and enjoy a country life-style; choosing large blocks, they mostly want privacy and quiet. Many people commute to work in town, and others run businesses from home. The number is growing; Vaughan Smith, a small business consultant, pointed out that 70% of new businesses in Australia today are home-based. He and his family moved to Acton in 1995, and built a pool where his wife Gayle teaches swimming.

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[35] Information about Sandford from Terry and Maureen Morrisby and Ric Paterson

There is no other such facility nearby and the pool has about 250 students a week, ranging from water orientation for babies to twelve-year-olds learning to swim.

Seven Mile Beach forms a tightly-knit community, who enjoy its small population, relaxed lifestyle and beach. Malcolm Barker and his wife built a home in 1976. More houses have been built since then, but the area has not greatly changed, commented Malcolm. The car park to the east is a big improvement, keeping visitors away from the township. Julie Percival and her young family arrived in 1985, and Julie too likes the peace and quiet, the bird life, and hearing the water – 'it's a beautiful place to bring up kids'.

Seven Mile Beach's scenery and flat, sandy and relatively cheap land attracted several enterprises, like the Pines Resort. Its plans caused controversy as some locals did not want their peace threatened, but compromises were reached and the resort was built in 1984. It contains a tavern, restaurant, units and recreational facilities. Tricia Dillon admitted that when she and her husband arrived as managers in the early 1990s they wondered why people would want to come to Seven Mile Beach, but soon realised that there were many answers: the beautiful beach, peace and quiet, nearness to the airport and short drive to the city.[37]

The sandy soil is excellent for golf courses, and as well as the two highly-rated eighteen-hole courses, Tasmania and Royal Hobart, the Seven Mile Beach/Cambridge district has two smaller ones. In 1967 a golf club was formed beside the airport for employees, on government land, but the committee wanted its own course, and bought land at Seven Mile Beach. The original area became the Hobart Airport Public Golf Course, and the Llanherne course, opened in 1993, contained nine holes with eighteen tees, and a clubhouse. In 2003 it has 330 members and tremendous potential, according to president David Hibberd.

In the 1980s the pine plantations were turned into a state reserve, and Parks and Wildlife has a centre here. Clarence's 23 reserves are made up of state and nature reserves, conservation areas, nature recreation areas, private sanctuaries and crown land – 4022 hectares in all, which means the staff of five is greatly stretched. In conservation areas, they try to maintain the natural ecosystem and stop interruptions, like weeks, erosion or people illegally using the land. They're grateful to Land Care and Coast Care groups, which do an immense amount of work.[38]

Nearer Cambridge, a major activity is flying. Most takes place at Hobart International Airport, where the major commercial lines and also Tasair operate. Tasair, formed in 1965, moved there from Cambridge in 2002. It operates regular flights to Wynyard, Devonport and

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[36] Information from Greg Brown, licensee of Foreshore Tavern

[37] Information from Tricia Dillon and Julie Percival

King Island, as well as charter flights, scenic flights and flying instruction. A similar venture, Par Avion, owns and operates the older airport at Cambridge. Starting in about 1970, it operates regular services to regional centres, drops food and bushwalkers in the south-west, and takes tourists on scenic rides. Recently, for four years in a row Par Avion won tourism awards, gaining it a place in tourism's Hall of Fame. In 1989 it was taken over by Aero Technology, a charter company which undertook aerial surveys, photography and cloud seeding with the Hydro until a foreign company won the contract. The Aero Club of Southern Tasmania also operates from Cambridge. Run by a committee of enthusiasts, it continues to provide flying training and aircraft hire, partly through Adult Education, with hundreds of students a year.[39]

Like South Arm, Cambridge languished with the decline of agriculture, and in the 1980s Cambridge school was in danger of closing. The community fought and won, and since then the school has grown, with 320 pupils in 2003, and a waiting list of out-of-area students. 'It's delightful school, in idyllic rural surroundings', said the principal, probably predictably, but parents agree: 'It's wonderful, with a country atmosphere and country values'. The school is pleased that it includes students descended from the first headmaster, John Hobden.[40]

The larger population came mainly from the subdivision of farms. In 1978 Ailsa Fergusson was one of the first to buy a five-acre block on the slopes of Mt Canopus, and built a solar house. 'People thought I was mad', she said, but the house worked well. More people arrived, and residents united to provide a water service, putting in tanks and pipes for reticulation, and buying bulk water from Clarence Council. By 2003 there are few vacant blocks in the area. 'It's wonderful', said Ailsa. 'I can pretend I'm in the country, I can't see my neighbours, but I'm twelve minutes from the city.'

The industrial park established by Council in the 1980s has several active industries, notably Tasmanian Timber Engineering, formed in 1984 after a management buy-out of Risby Forestry Industries at Mornington. In 1986 the company moved to the industrial park. They make building materials, furniture and furniture components, their products including footbridges, church roofs, the dome for the Forestry building in Melville Street, and buildings for the Sydney Olympics, the largest dome in the southern hemisphere. The company has doubled in size every four years, and in 2003 employs seventy people. Cambridge is a good site, commented managing director Chris Ward; it has a pleasant rural atmosphere and trouble free

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[38] Information from Paul Helleman, Park s and Wildlife

[39] Information from George Ashwood of Tasair, Greg Wells of Par Avion, and the Aero Club

[40] Information from principal and Ailsa Fergusson

access for trucks, but is only ten to fifteen minutes from central Hobart, less time than from Kingston or Glenorchy.

The country atmosphere is excellent for many enterprises. In 1980 well-known radio personality Edyth Langham and her husband Grant Goodwin set up the Shelomith boarding kennels and cattery. This has flourished, and in 2003 had room for 70 dogs and 48 cats. Edyth is also president of Business East, which is jointly funded by the state government and Clarence Council, with the aims of encouraging new enterprises in Clarence, providing advice and promoting businesses, and running the Business Excellence awards.

The Japanese are particularly fond of their own type of strawberries, especially the Tokonoka variety. It made sense for growers to produce them in the southern hemisphere in Japan's off-season. Ichigo strawberry growers initially set up in Victoria, and in 1999 moved to Cambridge, leasing land on the Lewis property of Milford. They set up four greenhouses covering 26,000 square metres, and their strawberries became popular not only in Japan but locally, where they command a ready market.

Another thriving primary industry is Barilla Bay Seafoods, with 20 hectares of oyster beds in Barilla Bay. In 1999 the firm opened a shop selling oysters, and in 2001 expanded its stock to include other Tasmanian products. The high quality stock and the excellent site just beside the airport led to great success, and in 2003 Barilla Bay Seafoods is building a new oyster-bar-cum-restaurant, with a 'very swish' gourmet shop for Tasmanian products, a restaurant, and a room for corporate functions.[41] All this progress is of course wonderful, but some locals regret so much change, especially as former farms are subdivided. 'There are about 15 blocks over the road, and I only know one or two people there. It's not really country any more.'[42]

Farming in the area received a boost when the Craigbourne Dam provided water for irrigation in the Coal Valley. When it was announced that the dam would go ahead, land prices surged, and since its completion in 1986 new crops have been grown, and farming has benefited. The Craigbourne Dam also helped residents at Dulcot. Historian Peter MacFie and his wife moved there in the 1970s, the first of the 'townies', teachers-cum-hippies in flares and overalls, part of the 'back to the bush brigade'. They grew vegetables, had children, a house cow and a draught horse, and Peter collected historic farm implements and began talking to the locals of earlier farming days and documenting the district's social history. In 1981 a large area above Dulcot was subdivided – land which 'wouldn't run two bandicoots to an acre' as one oldtimer

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[41] Information from David Forrest, Barilla Bay Oysters

said – and new people moved in, taking advantage of spectacular views, so the area became commuter country rather than a rural district. There was no water supply, but thirty of the 75 houses formed the Dulcot Water Trust, and receive water from the Craigbourne scheme. They hold an annual Christmas party, Dulcot's only community activity. Peter likes Dulcot for its solitude, it passing seasons, the wonderful colours and bird life, and the sense of the old community – all within twenty minutes of Hobart.

A new crop around Richmond and Cambridge is grapes, with many vineyards in the Coal Valley between Cambridge and Richmond. The McKays have been farmers in the area for 150 years, and former generations grew grapes in glasshouses. In 1980 Peter McKay and partners the Hawker family planted grapes which developed into the small but successful Pembroke vineyard, specialising in Pinot Noir. Nearby, Cathy and Barry Edwards bought the former Murdoch property, Craigow, in 1981. To find the most suitable crop, Barry did some research and decided that vines were 'the way to go'. They planted a vineyard in 1989, knowing irrigation was coming. 'At first it was a little hobby, a few vines, a bit of fun, we would make some wine for our amusement. Now we have 11 hectares... it's turned out to be a terrific area for vines.' Other vineyards have also seen spectacular success, so much so that in 2002 Julian Alcorso established Winemaking Tasmania. It undertakes contract winemaking, taking in grapes from clients all round the state and making wine in any style – sparkling, red, white, dessert – with its state-of-the-art equipment. In 2003 Winemaking Tasmania will process 250 tonnes of grapes.[43]

Vineyards and also apricot trees, sheep and cattle border the road from Cambridge to Richmond. Nearby is Strathayr, a farm which Greg Casimaty bought for his son Bill in the 1930s (he also bought Acton at Cambridge for a second son). Strathayr was a traditional farm of sheep and cereals, until in 1968, after a study tour in America, Bill started to grow instant lawn. This was extremely successful, and Bill later expanded to Victoria. With new irrigation the Casimatys also grow 'the usual' poppies and peas, and with partners they own Tolpuddle vineyard, but lawn remains the main business.[44]

Richmond itself is prospering, with its Georgian buildings, tourist enterprises and many visitors. One of the oldest enterprises is Saddlers Court, which Marjan Geursen and her husband Jan took over from Alice Krongaard in 1982. They renovated the building, altered the original craft emphasis to include more glass, jewellery and woodwork, opened two more shops in

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[42] Information from Joan McKay

[43] Information from Joan McKay, Cathy Edwards and Winemaking Tasmania

Richmond, and hold exhibitions, but essentially they still provide tourists and locals with high-quality Tasmanian art and crafts.

Marjan thinks amalgamation with Clarence has gone well. 'It's always very difficult when a community gives up its autonomy, but relations are pretty good. We have to jump up and down occasionally to get Council to understand the significance of what we think is important to the community, but that would always be a problem, whoever took over. Relations are very cordial, and Richmond is looking better than it ever did, with its parks and gardens. Preservation is high on our list of priorities, and Council is working with us to convince the state government of it.' Neil Manning, former Richmond councillor, agrees. 'Amalgamation had to come, and since then it's gone well. Clarence have looked after Richmond very well, and continued in the same way as Richmond Council.' It adds up to a good place to live, commented Dianne Snowden, whose family moved recently to Richmond, drawn by the peace and quiet only twenty minutes from town, the good school and the sense of history – though Dianne's teenage son James did say that Richmond can be boring for young people.

David Eddington is a traditional farmer. On his property, Richmond Park – one of the oldest in Australia, dating from the 1810s – he runs 7000 sheep and 200 cattle, and grows poppies and peas. David was a councillor for both Richmond and Clarence. He agrees that amalgamation has been successful. The Richmond Advisory Committee works well, and Clarence honoured the agreements it made, such as retaining Richmond's rating principle of user pays. But David feels that Richmond has lost its identity to some extent. Richmond town used to be the centre of a rural area, but now it has lost both the area and its importance as an administrative centre.

Jan Ross gives the urban view. She and her husband Bevis moved to Richmond in 1975, wanting a country lifestyle for their children. They love Richmond, with its pleasant village atmosphere, interesting shops, places to dine and proximity to Hobart's amenities – 'it's got everything really'. At the time Jan was disappointed by amalgamation, but in 2003 she thinks it proved a good step. 'Clarence have been very, very good to Richmond, they have a lot of public consultation, and we know what's going on. Everything they're doing is very positive.'

Jan is pleased to see Richmond prospering. A few years ago it was the typical story of rural Australia: farming land being subdivided, little employment, sad decline. With the Craigbourne Dam and irrigation, the valley is growing. Wineries, small fruits and other

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[44] Information from Frank Casimaty

enterprises are flourishing, there's investment in the area, young people can find work, and the future has become much more promising.

To the west lie the urban areas of Clarence, starting with Rokeby. It contains many streets of houses, a small industrial area beside Ralphs Bay, a shopping centre and enough schools to make it a small educational centre. From no schools in the 1960s, in 2003 it has five: two state primary schools, Rokeby and Clarendon Vale; Rokeby High School; and two private schools. In 1979 the Emmanuel Christian School opened in Rokeby, the second Christian school in southern Tasmania. It expanded to include secondary education in 1988. The second private school is John Paul II primary, a Catholic school run in conjunction with the Rokeby parish.

Rokeby High School receives special grants as a disadvantaged school, and has excellent facilities and equipment. It has other advantages, comments the principal, Anne Phillips: a strong tradition of encouraging people to do the best they can; innovative staff; and good support systems including parent tutors who assist individual children. There's still a stigma against the name Rokeby and occasionally someone wants to change the school's name, but there is always strong reaction from parents and students who are proud of their name. The school has been involved in a growing interest in the history of Rokeby, one of Tasmania's earliest settled areas. It hosts the annual Knopwood Lecture on a historical topic, and these grew into the Knopwood Festival, involving many community groups, and including a church service, the lecture, a cricket match on the village green, a fete and night tours of the historic cemetery.

In 1996 Tranmere-Clarence Plains Coast Care was formed. Coast Care or Land Care groups had already been formed from 1990 at Waverley Flora Park and Bellerive-Howrah. Tranmere-Clarence Plains concentrates on the hills around Rokeby and its rivulet, and Wendy Andrew co-ordinates work-for-the-dole groups to clear land and rehabilitate it. The group received a grant to establish the Rokeby Historic Trail, a self-guided tour which displays the history of Rokeby through signs, a brochure and, if desired, a guided tour. Through this activity the Clarence Plains Historical Society was formed, and encourages interest in Rokeby's past – and in using the old name, Clarence Plains, for the whole area.

Genette Parremore was one of the first to live in the Housing Department suburb, and says Rokeby has changed. 'Seeing it grow was really nice – it's a lovely community, all with children much the same age.' At first 'things were going', with action by the community to improve amenities – Genette letterboxed for a postal service, a better bus service – but once building stopped, so did development. There were problems in the Radburn-style section, with fewer fences and more paths, and people had to alter their homes so they were more livable. In the 1990s many houses were bought then rented out and there was a higher turnover in

population, but the former situation is returning, where more people own their homes. In 2003 Rokeby is quieter, said Genette, though there are some problems with car theft, partly, she thinks, because the bus service is so poor.

Rokeby contains many community centres. In the early 1980s a group of parents wanted child care, but it was easier to obtain funding for a neighbourhood centre, so the Rokeby Neighbourhood Centre was built with a large child care component. Genette was involved from the start. At first the Centre mainly run programmes for groups in subjects like sewing and cooking, but it has become more community-oriented, encouraging people to join so that they can have more say in its activities. It is keen to find what people want then obtain funding to do it, and as well as activities like art and fitness classes, it runs the breakfast club at the school, and encourages support for local business to create employment.

A second Neighbourhood Centre in next-door Clarendon Vale also has a wide range of programs: learn to drive classes, sewing and craft sessions, bus trips to the tip shop – 'everyone loves that' – awareness weeks for problems like asthma, and Eating with Friends, in which elderly people are invited to a meal. Child care is provided free. 'We try to bring the community together as a whole', said Deidre Ayers, who has lived in Clarendon Vale for twenty-three years and works at the Centre. Both Neighbourhood Centres work closely with the Clarence Plains Youth Centre, which began in 1992. It runs many recreational, alternative learning and social support activities, ranging from literacy and woodwork to cooking on a shoestring and young mums' groups. It co-ordinates youth activity for all Clarence, organising special events such as fun days and discos, and working with the Youth Network Advisory Group, in which representatives from schools meet to discuss issues and advise Clarence Council. 'It's very busy, absolutely full on', said co-ordinator Angela Goldsmith.

Towards Howrah is the Howrah Garden Centre, which was opened in the 1970s, and included a fruit and vegetable market and a plant nursery. By the 1990s it was run-down, and partners Greg Belbin and Carolyn Thompson bought the nursery in 1999. They renamed it Waverley Nursery and aimed to create 'something unique within the Tasmanian nursery industry'. In 2003 this won them the award of Best Small Nursery in Tasmania.[45]

The dormitory suburb of Howrah–Tranmere was established from the 1950s. Alan Sproule and his family arrived in 1961, buying land because 'it was a new subdivision, a new area, close to the beach, with a wonderful view'. Everyone built homes at the same time, the children all went to school together, and a close neighbourhood developed. At first there were

[45] Information from Greg Belbin

few shops, but the Shoreline Shopping Centre fixed that. Another amenity appeared with the redevelopment of the old Sunshine Home into a community and sporting centre, which has been extremely successful. It contains facilities for sports such as tennis and bowls, and for groups like Guides to meet, and functions to be held.

Many residents described how much they like living in Howrah. David Hibberd and his wife built a house in 1965, and enjoyed bringing up their children close to the beach, the shops and town, with 'not too many hassles traffic-wise'. Sylvia Street and her husband arrived in 1989. 'I love Howrah', said Sylvia. 'It's near the water, the beaches with hills behind and a view of the mountain – it's just wonderful. It's nice and quiet – lovely.' She hardly ever goes to Hobart, except for specialist doctors and some meetings. 'Everything's here.' Wendy and Bruce Andrew arrived from the mainland in 1991. They looked round Victoria for a home without success, then, watching cricket on TV, Bruce was taken with the area around Bellerive Oval. Howrah proved just what they wanted, a home with a view and close to the bush. It was their first opportunity to have a garden, and Wendy likes the climate and the neighbours. She enjoys walks with the Eastern Shore Ramblers, which has existed for years, and organises two walks every Sunday, one easier and one more challenging. The Ramblers have a maximum of a hundred members, and a waiting list. Most members are retired, and they take it in turns to choose and lead walks.

Until the 1970s Bellerive was the administrative and commercial centre of Clarence, but this faded with the development of Rosny Park. Bellerive became, like Howrah, Lindisfarne and other suburbs, a place for people to enjoy a relaxed lifestyle close to amenities, but it has two other major claims to fame. One is the Bellerive Oval, as described above. The other is as a cultural centre. In 1975, after the bridge collapse, Dorothy Sherry formed the Eastern Shore Association for the Development of the Arts, which was given as its headquarters the stone watch house, built in 1842. This became the Bellerive Community Arts Centre, which with support from Clarence Council has stimulated all sort of artistic and community activity. Many exhibitions and classes have been held in subjects ranging from painting and embroidery to pottery and jazz ballet – with child minding facilities so parents could attend. Children were catered for, among them local girl Essie Davis, now a most successful actor in London, and many groups met in the Centre. It is praised for its casual, cosy, friendly atmosphere, 'a happy place' where art is accessible to many. In the 1990s activity spread outside Bellerive, notably with 'Tidal', which explored the distinct identity of the South Arm peninsula through community workshops and performances. It culminated in a celebration on the shore of Pipe Clay Lagoon, where stilt walkers representing local wading birds such as the orange grebe gave the Great Bird

Performance. Marjorie Luck, arts officer from 1986 to 2003, remembers how 'fantastic' this was.[46]

The Centre was central to the developing interest in Bellerive's history. Marjorie was involved in setting up the Rosny Historic Centre for Council, and other historical activities such as heritage walks led to the formation of the Bellerive Historical Society in 1990. It meets at the Centre and holds talks, publishes books and a journal on historical topics, and has a permanent photographic display in the old barber's shop nearby, where Wayne Williams gives a traditional haircut and local gossip, both much enjoyed by many locals. Across the road is the old post office, now the home of the Tasmanian Family History Society's library. This contains all types of records – births, deaths and marriages, newspapers, indexes, census results and so on – and is staffed entirely by volunteers, about eighty all told, who provide help and advice. Hundreds of people come to look up their family history, not only locals but visitors from the mainland and overseas. Another very successful cultural activity nearby is the University of the Third Age, which has large and enthusiastic audiences for its courses.[47]

Everyone interviewed loves living in Bellerive. Betty Marmion was born there. 'It's is such a friendly place – there are so many people I still know, and it's got a nice atmosphere. I can't picture living anywhere else. I've been in the local church and guiding for thirty years.' Pat Job, also born locally, lives opposite the Bellerive Oval, and says, 'I adore living in Bellerive. I can see the mountain, the shopping's very good and people are very friendly – joggers wave as they pass the window. I don't like the cricket ground but it had to come, and I like seeing the people going in. It's definitely the best place to live.' Clarrie Roach, long-time stalwart of the Clarence District Football Club and a supporter of the oval, gives his view. 'We have the best sporting facilities in the state, with bush trails, golf, and one of the nicest ovals in the world. Clarence has as many beaches and waterways as anywhere. We're very lucky people to live here.' Ian Wyver agrees: he's a stalwart of the Clarence District Cricket Club, which like the Football Club has won premierships in recent years. But Basil de la Bere does miss 'the old Bellerive', altered by new houses and other new developments. 'If you started off an old Bellerive person, you remain one.'

Past the large, successful and growing administrative centre of Clarence, Rosny Park, lie Warrane and Mornington, where the industrial area is expanding. The oldest industry is Besser. Besser Tasmanian started making concrete blocks at Derwent Park in 1959, and in 1972 moved to a site in Mornington. Fortunately it kept the Derwent Park factory, and reopened it when the

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[46] Adnum, Cartwright, Luck passim

bridge collapsed in 1975, for western shore building. The Derwent Park manager lived at Midway Point and the Mornington manager at Claremont, so they used to change cars on the Risdon punt each morning. The Derwent Park site finally closed in 1993.

Mechanisation meant a reduction in the labour force from about 26 to 10, producing the same amount of blocks. The range of products made has expanded greatly: not only blocks, but bricks, retaining walls, paving and kerbings – a couple of hundred different items by 2003.[48]

A newer industry is Stormy Australia. Business began due to a demand for comfortable life jackets. Helen Moore began importing them, but as regulations became more strict she decided to make her own Australian Standard life jackets, which proved better suited to local conditions. Comfortable and instantly inflatable, they proved instant best-sellers – Stormy Seas has the slogan 'Worn not Stowed!' Customers include fishermen, yachtsmen, pilots, police, schools and government departments.

Stormy Australia grew so dramatically that a larger factory was established at Mornington, as excellent location with a good working environment. In 2003 the factory had 25 employees. They sell Australia-wide and export to a number of countries. Stormy recently introduced horseriding jackets and wet weather jackets, but lifejackets, PFD Type 1's, are still the core of the business. By 2003 many fishermen setting out from Tasmanian waters wear the distinctive Stormy lifejackets.

Not exactly industry is another recent venture at Mornington, Oceana health and fitness centre, opened in 1996. As the only centre in Clarence with a pool and gymnasium, it quickly grew. It contains a 25x20 metre pool, spa, steam room, main gym with weights area and cardiovascular fitness area, water aerobics and floor aerobics, physiotherapist and masseur, and creche, and it also runs learn-to-swim lessons. By 2003 it has 1500 members, coming from as far away as Triabunna and Taranna – the site, on the main road east from Hobart, is excellent.

Mornington and Warrane are largely residential suburbs. Desley Ruffin and her family came to Mornington in about 1970, when it was just starting. It's been a nice little suburb, comments Desley, and they have no problems. Their Housing Department house is a good quality solid home, with a shop nearby and good neighbours. Similarly, Greg Dickens and his wife moved to Mornington when they were married, buying a house in 1976 when prices were lower after the bridge disaster. 'It was a very good area to live', said Greg. 'The suburb was well-looked after, most people were hard-working and stable, there was no crime or upheaval. Most people were young families.' Robin Barker moved there in 1995. 'Ecologically it's a very

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[47] Information from Barrie Armstrong and Colleen Read

nice place to be', he said. Heating bills are low as his house gets so much sun, and he has a good view of the Meehan Range. Barking dogs are a problem, but his neighbours are friendly.

Julia Brown has lived in Warrane since 1955, and despite a few problems she has found it a good place, especially with the development of Eastlands and other services so close at Rosny Park. More recent arrival, David and Lisa Bellamy, also find Warrane a good place to live. They rented a Housing Department home from 1992 and bought it in about 2001. They've raised their two children there, and find it a 'nice, quiet area' with great neighbours, 'couldn't be better', and few problems. The suburb has matured, commented David, and earlier problems have lessened.

Towards the river lie the educational-sporting complex of Rosny College and the tennis, bowls and golf areas, then come the residential areas of Rosny, Montagu Bay, Rose Bay, Lindisfarne and Geilston Bay, peaceful neighbourhoods where people enjoy a quiet life with good views, good amenities and anything else close by in Hobart. There are no industries here; instead a dominant note is old age homes, with two large, successful and expanding enterprises in Lindisfarne in the Queen Victoria and Freemasons' Homes. It would be pointless to list people who say they like living here; all say much the same. Hilda Murfet points to a new co-operation between the churches. 'Now St Aidan's has a female priest, Sharon Green, who was inducted just recently. There were a lot of Catholics present, which wouldn't have happened earlier!'

The area has many long-established community groups. The Lindisfarne Cricket Club is the oldest, dating from 1892. Its senior team has played in many competitions such as Clarence Districts, but for many years has played with the Tasmanian Cricket Association. Players have included Australian representatives such as Shane Watson and Colin 'Funky' Millar and well-known batsman Jamie Cox. Lindisfarne has won the TCA premiership several times, and also places importance on its many junior teams, and its strong community base.

The Lindisfarne Rowing Club followed shortly afterwards, in 1904. It too has seen many successes, notably two medals at the 200 Sydney Olympics: Stephen Hawkins won a gold medal in the double sculls, and Darren Balmforth won a silver medal in the lightweight four. Then there are the Lindisfarne Sailing Club, Lindisfarne Amateur Football Club, Beltana Bowls Club, Lindisfarne Tennis Club and Motor Yacht Club, which recently moved from Hobart. Just to the north are the Geilston Bay Tennis Club and the Geilston Bay Boat Club. Non-sporting clubs include the Lindisfarne Garden Club which holds two flower shows a year, the Masonic Club,

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[48] Information from Brian Dean and Michael Rundle of Besser

Lindisfarne Rotary, the Lincoln Singers, School for Seniors, the Probus Club, the Lindisfarne RSL and the three long-established churches.

In 1992, despite vocal protests from residents, the Lindisfarne library was closed, and the building became the Lindisfarne Citizens Activities Centre. It is run by a group of volunteers, and is used every day and evening, commented Graham Burgess, a member of the organising committee. Eighteen groups, including Riverside Arts Club, craft groups, exercise classes and indoor bowls use its facilities. The committee runs a lending library, and the Lindisfarne Garden Club maintains the garden.

Graham, who built a home in Lindisfarne in 1948, is involved with many of these groups. He loves living in the areas. 'It's got a village atmosphere, and a very nice group of people.' Marion Dowsett lived in Lindisfarne from 1954-60, and returned in 1997. 'It's the best place to live. It's not commercial and pushy, it has a village atmosphere, and you can walk to almost anything.' She is president of the Lindisfarne Historical Society, which aims to collect and preserve records of old Lindisfarne. It holds two exhibitions a year, to involve the wider community, as well as regular talks and excursions.

The doyen of the Lindisfarne/Rose Bay area must be architect Arthur Voss, who built a home in Rose Bay in 1940, though his first involvement was making the drawings for the Rowing Club's shed in 1933. He has been involved – usually on the committee and often president – with thirteen groups, and is the Rowing Club's Patron and Esteemed Ornament. 'That came about because I said I felt as if I was only an ornament, so they said I was an Esteemed Ornament.' Arthur enjoys life in the area. 'In 1986 the sporting fraternity, football, cricket, bowls and tennis, built the sports centre on the recreation ground. That's typical, everyone getting together like that. There's a real family atmosphere. When the rowing club was burnt down there were 200 people at a meeting on the site the next day, to decide what to do.'

Admittedly, in both Bellerive and Lindisfarne, few young people were interviewed, and one girl who grew up in Lindisfarne said that apart from sports, there was not a lot for younger people to do, and most have to go to town for entertainment. But this situation is improving, especially with a comfortable cinema opened at Rosny Park.

Over the hill from Geilston Bay lies Risdon Vale. Ann Harrison has lived there since she was a girl, and says that life has changed. Risdon Vale was a lovely place to grow up in, with kids making their own fun, playing in the bush, but children now rely more on computers. Risdon Vale is still 'a good place to be and live', and the community is working together more. There used to be a large turnover in the population, but now it is more stable with a large

component of older people who have lived here since the early days. The children they raised often moved away, but many are returning.

Ann is co-ordinator of the Risdon Vale Neighbourhood Centre, which opened in 1985. It runs a network of all the community groups – seventeen, including Fifty and Over, the volunteer fire brigade, Guides, the Lia Pootah People and the Police and Citizens – and a major role is help them apply for funding. The Centre organises many programmes, including Healthy Homes where 35 volunteers help the old, frail and ill, a tool library 'with every tool you can think of', a breakfast programme at the school, community mural projects, and classes in job skills and arts. The Centre has changed, said Ann. 'It used to be, do a course and put your child in child care', but now it aims to brings the community together. 'It's working, it's going very well.'

Kaye McPherson is a historical geographer, completing a Masters of Science degree, and has lived in Risdon Vale since she was a child in the 1960s. 'It's a nice area, very quiet, like living in a village', she says. 'We have a variety of community groups centred round the Neighbourhood House.' Risdon Vale has been given a bad name because of being a Housing Department suburb, she says, 'but it never warranted it. It's a perception that has never fitted the community'.

Kaye is an Elder/Spokesperson in the Lia Pootah Community. She is the community cultural historian and is responsible for educational and cultural workshops, which are shared within the broader community. As a Lia Pootah Aboriginal educator Kaye says, 'it is important to share our heritage with the wider community as our integrated cultural heritage is the way of our children's future'.

Another long-term Risdon Vale resident is Patricia Moles, who arrived in 1966, when there were only three houses in her street and not even a made road. Today she has daughters and grandchildren living in Risdon Vale, and praises the good shops and the Neighbourhood Centre, which the family recently hired for a birthday party. Life has its ups and downs – the valley is foggy in wintertime – but overall it's pleasant, says Patricia.

In 1991 the Dogs' Home moved from Derwent Park to a bush area bordering Risdon Brook Dam. The new home, which holds 150 dogs, has proved excellent: well-designed, attractive, roomy, easy to clean and with no neighbours to be disturbed. All dogs impounded by Hobart-area councils are brought here, and the Tasmanian Canine Defence League runs the adoption centre, putting suitable dogs up for adoption. A third are adopted, a third are reclaimed by their owners, and a third have to be put to sleep. Volunteers help the staff by exercising the dogs, their work much appreciated since the League has no government support.

Upriver from Risdon lies Otago Bay, one of the most recent areas to see development. In former days this was an outlying district of farms and orchards, with no road access. Its main claim to fame was the barque *Otago,* which traded in the East under the command of writer Joseph Conrad. She sank to being a coal hulk in Hobart in 1900, and when no longer viable was beached in what became known as Otago Bay, along with another coal hulk which had seen better days, *Silver Cloud*.[49]

In 1922 some land was subdivided, with blocks advertised as ideal for building huts for shooting and fishing. To get there, you caught the New Norfolk ferry which would stop at the jetty. This limited access – even more so when a local torched the jetty – meant few sales. In 1967 journalist Andrew Charlton, who had recently moved to Tasmania, drove through the area. Beside the river there were orchards, market gardens and a handful of houses, and it looked so delightful that Andrew decided to build there, despite the access which was now by dirt road. Buying land was difficult as it was hard to find an owner, but finally Andrew succeeded, and was the first to build a modern home in the area.

Meanwhile, in 1964 a group of businessmen including John Bennetto and François Fouché bought the old property of Restdown, built in 1911. Fouché was a colourful character, said to be a French-Canadian wrestler and former bodyguard of Shirley Temple, who came to Hobart in 1938 as part of a wrestling tour and stayed, with his companion Mitzi Arnold. He ran an athletics club and a coffee lounge, was acquitted of murder and involved in several other scandals, and among various enterprises in 1947 bought a property at Old Beach which he started to turn into a country club – until it was mysteriously gutted by fire. Restdown was adjacent, and after Fouché's death in 1968, there was a series of tenants. The most colourful, said John Bennetto, was a Hungarian, Harry Sanna, a marvellous horseman who had trained at the Spanish riding school in Vienna and ran a riding school at Restdown. Later John Bennetto lived there and ran a dairy farm, and in 2003 'breeds slow racehorses – well, we've had a bit of success, but not as much as we'd like'.

The road to Otago Bay was so appalling that once the school bus fell in the river. Andrew took it up with the Clarence Commission, who denied that the area was in Clarence. Dissatisfaction led Andrew to gain election to Clarence Council, but the road was still dreadful when the Tasman Bridge collapsed in 1975. Otago Bay was on the main road route from Clarence to Hobart, and this led to the building of the East Derwent Highway, which opened up

[49] Lawson p 214

the area. Subdivision resulted in more houses being built, and Otago became a commuter area of modern homes.

Karen Smith and her family bought a block in 1993, feeling that they needed more space for children than Lenah Valley provided. They built a timber house then a larger home, and Karen turned the original into self-contained accommodation, now the only business enterprise in the area. People told her that no tourist would come to Otago, but the venture has been successful – Karen puts it down to the beautiful site right on the river. The family loves living in Otago, though there's much coming and going and now they are the 'oldest inhabitants' of their street. Many people are self-employed so 'flat out working', and there is no great sense of community, say Karen and John, though residents unite to clean up the waterfront and there is a fire brigade unit for Old Beach/Otago Bay.[50] People come to Otago Bay for its beauty, peace and quiet, and relaxed lifestyle, all only a short distance from Hobart – much the same reasons that people have come to all parts of Clarence for two hundred years.

The range of activities in Clarence has broadened immensely from the farming, ferries and pubs of the colonial years, the population has increased by twenty-five times, and they have far more amenities than in the past – an inhabitant from the 1830s would be astonished by the running water, sealed streets, shops, comfortable homes, computers and the rest of the advances modern life has brought. But overall Clarence provides its citizens with much the same as it did the past: an opportunity to enjoy a pleasant life in a friendly community, with a genial climate in beautiful surroundings. Research for this chapter show that this is what most people appreciate about Clarence, and what it is well-placed to provide, in the past, the present and the future.

[50] Information about Otago Bay from John Bennetto, Andrew Charlton and Karen Smith, and about Fouché from Geoff Lennox