



**Brighton
Council**

Media Release

19 February 2022

Old Beach Saltmarsh – New 'Tidal Treasure' Signage Officially Unveiled

BRIGHTON Council in partnership with the Derwent Estuary Program and UTAS has officially unveiled a suite of informative signs along the Old Beach Foreshore trail as part of a community event held today.

The saltmarshes, and Derwent River foreshore are an extremely valuable natural asset within the Brighton Municipality and provide a great place for connecting with nature to learn about the many ways they benefit our wellbeing.

Mayor Leigh Gray officially presented the signs titled 'Tidal Treasures of the River Derwent' to the community of Old Beach.

CEO of the Derwent Estuary Program, Ursula Taylor spoke at the event and explained:

"Saltmarsh is not only beautiful, it plays an important role in filtering water to keep it clean, it's a place for fish and birds to breed and we now know it is very efficient at capturing carbon. Recently we surveyed 15 saltmarsh sites across the estuary to assess condition and recommend management options, including at Old Beach.

We are delighted to support Brighton Council in their efforts to look after this excellent area of saltmarsh. Once viewed as muddy wastelands, the new signs highlight how valuable saltmarsh is so we can instead celebrate this unique habitat and landscape."

The official unveiling of the signage was then followed by an informative 'walk and talk' along the saltmarsh foreshore led by Dr Vishnu Prahalad, University of Tasmania geography lecturer and renowned expert in coastal wetlands. Dr Prahalad highlighted some of the characters and stories of the Old Beach Saltmarsh and its inhabitants.

Dr Prahalad said:

"Nature in our backyards is increasingly being embraced by communities around the world as an important part of our lives. It offers endless fascination, enriches our experience, and keeps us healthy in many ways. We are lucky here in the Derwent to still have these remnant patches of nature in the midst of suburbia, such as the Old Beach Saltmarsh. We will do well to look after this special place and let it look after us in turn."



Brighton
going places

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Mayor Gray described the gratitude Brighton Council has for its partnership with the Derwent Estuary Program and UTAS when it comes to caring for and understanding the true value of our saltmarsh areas. He explained the project would not have been possible without the dedication and passion of the people Council works with in these organisations and the willingness of Council staff and Councillors to learn and act on the knowledge that is shared.

Mayor Leigh Gray said:

“The new signs are designed to encourage greater community awareness of the value of our Old Beach Saltmarsh area and encourage the protection of birds, plants and other wildlife from roaming dogs and humans!

Each sign features a different species of bird and plant that you will find here and includes tips on helping to protect and improve the saltmarsh area.

We particularly want to educate everyone to always keep their dogs on lead when walking, stay on the trail and keep clear of the birdlife.”

As part of Brighton Council’s Climate Resilience Strategy and Corporate Adaptation Plan, Council also works in partnership with the State Government and the Derwent Catchment Group to manage the foreshore and consider the impacts of sea level rise on the vulnerability of the saltmarshes themselves.

It’s hoped that the new signage might be a catalyst to get even more members of the Old Beach community involved in caring for the foreshore area and grow a local Landcare group, currently in its infancy.

Ends

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