EXAMINING COMMUNITY NEEDS AND WANTS FOR AN AGE-FRIENDLY, INTERGENERATIONAL CITY

A REPORT FOR THE CITY OF CLARENCE

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Cover photograph by Julia, age 15

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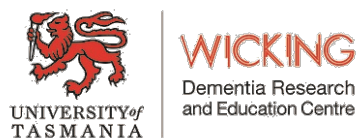
Executive Summary

Key Points

- Younger and older people enjoy and value living in the City of Clarence, often using the words 'lucky', 'fortunate', 'blessed', and 'grateful' to describe the liveability

Services, facilities and development

- Density of services and facilities at Rosny Park is valued, though smaller shopping areas are important for those who have health or mobility restrictions, or prefer less noise and congestion
- Arts are an important and defining feature of the City of Clarence, including public art (sculptures in parks and street art), Rosny Farm, Bellerive Community Arts Centre, and Clarence Jazz Festival. There was a clear desire that support of the arts should continue and increase
- Bellerive, Lindisfarne and Richmond are valued areas. Reasons included heritage, parklands, views, access to water, and historic buildings or sites. Participants wanted these areas to be preserved including the village 'feel'
- Natural values, and place identity, attachment and meaning, need to be accommodated into development planning to increase community satisfaction and 'buy in'
- Rural/ less urban suburbs are expanding, and services and infrastructure in these areas needs to be reviewed in light of these changes
- Consultation processes and community information provision were highly critiqued, particularly in relation to Kangaroo Bay/ Bellerive. How consultation occurs, the timelines for feedback, and how to identify stakeholders (which also includes younger people), needs review
- Affordable housing is a source of worry amongst younger participants
- Older adults wish to age-in-place, which can be made possible through diverse housing options and more timely community services
- Spatial organisation should be based on inclusive design

Relationships and inclusivity

- A Clarence Youth Group with activities, events and programs that specifically arise from the interests and needs of younger people may help to support and address their concerns regarding mental health and loneliness
- There was a desire for opportunities to meet with people in the same age bracket, as well as across age groups (intergenerational relations)
- There was a lack of awareness of Alma's Activity Centre, and how to access information on what happens there. The model used at Mather's House in Hobart was

perceived as valuable and supportive, and the older participants would like to see a similar model in the City of Clarence

- Dog and non-dog owners were concerned about the level of dog restrictions across the City of Clarence, particularly on the eastern track of Bellerive Beach. It was suggested that these restrictions are discriminatory against older adults and people with disabilities or chronic health conditions
- Younger and older people felt they had experienced ageism or identified it as an issue for their age group. Intergenerational programs and events can help address ageism
- Information provision in a variety of formats are appreciated by older adults, including the 'Get Going' Guide

Natural environment and public places

- Liveability was strongly related to greenspaces, nature, blue spaces and the views
- Preservation of greenspaces, blue spaces, nature and the views were considered vital, as these features are associated with place identity and value of the City of Clarence, and give residents a feeling of belonging, a sense of place and place attachment. These factors significantly contribute towards liveability and quality of life
- The Clarence Foreshore Trail was noted for its length, width, and accessibility, and for nearby parking areas that facilitate access
- Some pathways, trails and footpaths are not accessible, and the project participants would like to see these improved. This was particularly the case in less urban/ rural/ outer suburbs of the City of Clarence
- Shared pathways can be exclusionary due to cyclist-pedestrian interactions. This is also highly problematic for people with disabilities
- A lack of seating was identified along pathways and trails, and in playgrounds. This restricts accessibility for older adults and people with disabilities or chronic health conditions
- Skateparks have positive outcomes for youth but tend to be dominated by young men. It is important to create social spaces and opportunities where young women and people who are gender diverse want to be and feel they belong
- Climate change and cleanliness are of concern to younger and older people. They desire for the Clarence City Council to continue their efforts in addressing these issues

Parking and transport

- Bus patronage is impacted by bus stop locations, service frequency, timetabling, and lack of direct routes to Hobart. These services were particularly lacking in rural/ less urban/ outer suburbs of Clarence, and uneven in urban areas (for example, Bellerive)
- The lack of bus services at weekends and outside of peak times disproportionally affect younger people and limits their employment and social opportunities

- Parking transit hubs are needed to support and encourage the use of public transport, which may also reduce traffic problems associated with events held at Blundstone Arena
- More accessible parking spots are needed throughout the City of Clarence, particularly as the population ages

Employment, learning and training

- Younger people are facing difficulties and barriers to paid employment opportunities. Volunteering can help them to build skills and experience.
- Local paid employment opportunities can help to address some difficulties associated with public transport faced by younger people
- U3A provides significant health and wellbeing outcomes for older adults, but often receives little or no external financial support. By providing some assistance to U3A Clarence (for example, parking of appropriate duration and accessibility, or financial contribution), the educational and social benefits for older adults could be increased

Key Recommendations

As based on the project data, several recommendations have been reached. These are presented in the report in the first or most relevant domain of an age-friendly Clarence, though it should be noted that many of the recommendations overlap into other domains. All the recommendations have relevance for Council's "Age-Friendly Clarence Plan 2018-2022" and "Clarence City Council Strategic Plan 2016-2026", as well as numerous other social plans and policies.

Recommendation	Age-friendly Clarence domain/s
Maintain the centralisation of services at Rosny Park, while retaining smaller service areas	• Services, facilities and development
Engage with housing experts on how to increase affordable and diverse housing options	• Services, facilities and development
Encourage the development of new and diverse housing options, including affordable housing, for younger and older citizens (for example, small/ tiny houses and intergenerational housing)	• Services, facilities and development • Relationships and inclusivity
Investigate services provided through Clarence Community Volunteer Service for catering to older adults in need (for example, emergency situations, those with little/ no finances, or on the waiting list for services approved through an aged care assessment)	• Services, facilities and development • Relationships and inclusivity
Ensure public feedback timelines for developments provide enough calendar time for their meaningful input (for example, a blackout on consultation feedback timelines over Christmas/ New Year, Easter and other major holiday periods)	• Services, facilities and development • Relationships and inclusivity
Review processes for information provision and public communication, and identification strategies of relevant 'stakeholders'	• Services, facilities and development • Relationships and inclusivity

Review consultation strategies to ensure that place identity and attachment are part of the infrastructure planning and design	• Services, facilities and development • Relationships and inclusivity • Natural environment and public places
Investigate models to preserve and enhance the historic qualities of Bellerive and Richmond, including the village atmosphere	• Services, facilities and development
Retain and preserve smaller pockets of community villages in the City of Clarence, such as Lindisfarne, Bellerive, and Richmond	• Services, facilities and development • Relationships and inclusivity
Engage with residents, including youth, in suburbs with expanding populations to review social facility needs and desires with due consideration for gendered preferences	• Services, facilities and development • Relationships and inclusivity
Maintain a tree line/ skyline policy	• Services, facilities and development • Natural environment and public places
Investigate building height limits on developments close to the foreshore	• Services, facilities and development • Natural environment and public places
Continue to support Clarence Arts and Events including Rosny Farm, Bellerive Community Arts Centre, and the Clarence Jazz Festival	• Services, facilities and development • Relationships and inclusivity
Expand the street art program, potentially in partnership with external organisations/ groups	• Services, facilities and development • Relationships and inclusivity
Create a walking/ touring guide for street and public art	• Services, facilities and development • Natural environment and public places
Explore public areas to increase the presence of public art (such as parks and playgrounds), which may include interactional art forms	• Services, facilities and development • Natural environment and public places
Investigate a sculpture-based art event/ competition in a public space (for example, 'sculptures in the park') in collaboration with Clarence Arts and Events, with the winning artwork acquired as part of the Clarence Art Collection and permanently on display in a public space (for example, a 'winners' trail in a parkland/s)	• Services, facilities and development • Natural environment and public places
Creating a scheme that recognises local, small business for contributing towards an inclusive, age-friendly Clarence	• Services, facilities and development • Relationships and inclusivity
Explore the formation of a Clarence Youth Group for social activities and support (not aligned with a religious or formal organisation)	• Relationships and inclusivity
Explore mental health workshops or training for younger people (high school age and above), either as part of the Clarence Youth Group or in partnership with local schools/ colleges	• Relationships and inclusivity

	• Employment, learning and training
Investigate ways to improve information and communication on events and activities offered in the City of Clarence, particularly at Alma's Activity Centre	• Relationships and inclusivity • Services, facilities and development
Investigate whether the range of events and activities at Alma's Activity Centre meet community need, as well as affordability (zero and low-cost)	• Relationships and inclusivity
Explore the possibility of Alma's Activity Centre becoming an information and support hub for people in need, including older adults	• Relationships and inclusivity
Investigate zero or low-cost transportation options for social events and activities at Alma's Activity Centre	• Relationships and inclusivity • Parking and transport
Review the 'no dogs' policy during 1 December – 1 March (10am – 6pm) on the eastern side of Bellerive Beach	• Relationships and inclusivity • Natural environment and public places
Continue to produce and update the 'Get Going' Guide	• Relationships and inclusivity
Use the 'Access and Inclusion Assessment Toolkit' to assess the inclusivity and accessibility of urban design, planning, and building	• Relationships and inclusivity • Services, facilities and development
Explore partnerships to develop and evaluate intergenerational opportunities, events and programs, potentially with schools/ colleges/ U3A/ COTA Tasmania/ university partnerships	• Relationships and inclusivity • Employment, learning and training
Ensure that nature preservation, encompassing green and blue spaces, is integrated into Council's Strategic Plan throughout Council policies, and as part of the 'Access and Inclusion Assessment and Toolkit'	• Natural environment and public places • Services, facilities and development
Ensure areas for greenspace and green corridors are retained in increasing urbanisation and development	• Natural environment and public places • Services, facilities and development
Review the surface, width, and availability of footpaths, pathways and trails, including their inclusivity for diversity, including the possibility of creating separate pathways for pedestrians and cyclists	• Natural environment and public places • Relationships and inclusivity
Review the availability and accessibility of footpaths and pathways in suburbs outside of central areas of the City of Clarence, as well as in established suburbs (for example, Rosny and Montagu Bay)	• Natural environment and public places • Relationships and inclusivity
Examine ways to increase the safety and inclusivity for young women and people who are gender diverse at Rosny Skatepark (for example, *She Shreds*)	• Natural environment and public places • Relationships and inclusivity
Partner with external organisations and younger people to investigate youth-based needs for facilities in public places, particularly in suburbs outside of central Clarence and with consideration for gender diversity and gendered preferences	• Natural environment and public places

	• Relationships and inclusivity
Explore playground facilities and infrastructure that support and encourage intergenerational 'play' as an 'Our Shared Space' initiative	• Natural environment and public places • Relationships and inclusivity
Review availability and frequency of bins and seating in playgrounds, parks, pathways and footpaths	• Natural environment and public places • Relationships and inclusivity
Investigate methods to monitor and deter rubbish disposal in Rokeby Hills and Clarendon Vale	• Natural environment and public places
Develop a Council-wide climate change strategy and plan	• Natural environment and public places
Continue to survey, monitor, control, and plan for the impacts of climate change with a focus on coastal erosion	• Natural environment and public places
Discuss with Metro Tasmania public transport options, particularly for rural/ less urban communities (for example, Sandford and Seven Mile Beach), and services on weekends, and prior to/ after peak times	• Parking and transport • Relationships and inclusivity
Examine the potential of a small community bus service or smaller buses with Metro Tasmania, which service areas with steeper sections and rural/ less urban communities	• Parking and transport • Relationships and inclusivity
Review and increase the number of accessible car parking spaces across the City of Clarence including at Rosny Library	• Parking and transport • Relationships and inclusivity
In conjunction with other local councils and the State government, explore the feasibility and accessibility of a ferry service	• Parking and transport
Examine the feasibility of 'park and go' transit hubs for commuter parking, which can also function as parking for Blundstone Arena events	• Parking and transport
Explore opportunities to further develop the 'aWake Before Death' project	• Employment, learning and training
Discuss with local schools/ colleges the potential of volunteer programs for students in partnership with Clarence Community Volunteer Service	• Employment, learning and training • Relationships and inclusivity
Examine the potential to support U3A Clarence, such as extended parking times and rent assistance	• Employment, learning and training • Relationships and inclusivity

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1. Overview

Background

It is well established that the Australian population is ageing. In 2017, approximately 15% of the total Australian population was 65 years of age or over (3.8 million people), or over 1 in 7 people (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2018). This proportion is projected to grow to 22% by 2057, and 25% by 2097 (AIHW 2018). This is a significant social transformation of Australia's demography which, until recently, has had a younger profile. For example, in 1977, only 9% of the Australian population was aged 65 years or over (AIHW 2018). In the City of Clarence, 20.1% of its citizens were aged 65 years or over in 2016; above the Tasmanian average of 19.5% and the Australian average of 15.8% (Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2017). In conjunction with increasing urbanisation, these statistics highlight the need to plan for and accommodate a growing proportion of older adults in our populations.

The need for the City of Clarence to cater for an ageing population was first acknowledged in the "Positive Ageing Plan 2007-2011". Since this time, two more plans have followed: "Positive Ageing Plan 2012-2016" and the current "Age Friendly Clarence Plan 2018-2022". In 2014, the City of Clarence became the first Tasmanian local council to be recognized for their commitment to being an age-friendly community by the World Health Organization (WHO). This was the result of over ten years of the Council listening to and working collaboratively with the community, and proactively pursuing inclusivity for an ageing population. The community-based project from which this report emerges forms part of the Clarence City Council's commitment to a cycle of ongoing improvement – a key feature to being recognised as an age-friendly city and community (AFCC) and being part of the WHO's Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities.

Drawing on scholarly and evidence-based literature, in this section I will explore what an AFCC is. This will include consideration of some features and opportunities of being an AFCC, as well as some of the challenges for the City of Clarence for being and sustaining age-friendliness.

Understanding Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (AFCCs)

According to the WHO, an AFCC:

> … encourages **active ageing** by optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age. In practical terms, an age-friendly city adapts its structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of **older people** with varying needs and capacities (World Health Organization 2007b: 1, emphasis added).

This definition indicates that AFCCs seek to support individuals to access the services and support they need as they age. Such support involves respecting their needs and

preferences, and adapting community environments, in respect of the diverse needs, interests and abilities of older adults. Such diversity also needs to "reduce inequities" and "protect those who are most vulnerable" (WHO 2018: 1). Consequently, AFCCs are inclusive environments that promote participation, and are responsive to citizen needs. Crucial to AFCCs are the environments in which individuals reside, which spans beyond their home to include the wider community. Such understandings are vital to ensure that individuals are not made responsible, or made to feel responsible, for factors beyond their control that influence their personal wellbeing and social participation. As a result, AFCC move beyond accounts of ageing as an individual and personal responsibility to acknowledging the vital and influential connection between the individual and the society (and community) in which they reside.

The WHO's (2007b) definition of AFCCs is related to, and largely replicates, their active ageing strategy (WHO 2002). Importantly, the WHO's (2002) approach to active ageing is holistic; spanning beyond physical activities to include social, economic, cultural, spiritual and civic life. This active ageing strategy has since been replaced with a healthy ageing agenda, which refers to "the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables well-being in older age" (WHO 2015b: 28). The change from an active to healthy ageing strategy also precipitated a change to how the WHO define an AFCC, which they now frame as:

> … an inclusive and accessible community environment that optimizes opportunities for health, participation and security for all people, in order that quality of life and dignity are ensured as people age (World Health Organization 2015a: 3).

This recent definition has two important changes for understanding, conceptualising, and implementing AFCCs agendas. First, it removes references to "older people". When ageing is implicitly or explicitly connected to one age cohort, it is overlooked that our communities need to support a diverse range of citizens across multiple age groups in their living and ageing within the community. That is, everyone in the community is ageing. As such, AFCCs need to be intergenerational and inclusive for people across the life course. Focusing only on older people serves to marginalise large sectors of the population. Furthermore, to age-in-place, individuals require environments that will support them as they age from infant to older adult. As such, while it has been claimed that "measures that benefit older people *often* benefit all generations" (Beard and Warth 2016: xvii, emphasis added), it is important to remain mindful of the diverse needs and preferences that may emerge within and across different age groups, and how individual needs and preferences may alter with age and life circumstance. As such, it is imperative that AFCCs are focused on all citizenry needs regardless of age, while being mindful of (potential) age-related differences.

Secondly, active ageing is often politically interpreted within utilitarian and productivity frameworks (van Dyk et al. 2013). As such, active ageing is often reductively framed as related to an individual's physical activity, levels of exercise, economic productivity, and labour market participation (Boudiny 2013; Walker 2015), which undermines the holistic definition of active ageing advocated by the WHO (2002). These interpretations also fail to appreciate the diverse ways active ageing is understood and experienced by older adults (van Dyk et al. 2013). The removal of active ageing from the WHO's (2015a) most recent

AFCC definition has the potential to avoid such reductive understandings, though "healthy ageing" also has drawbacks. For instance, terms such as active, healthy, productive, optimal, successful, or positive ageing are often ill-defined, used interchangeably, and unproblematically viewed as an outcome of 'ageing well' (Boudiny 2013; Walker 2015), as well as an individual's responsibility. Like active ageing, healthy ageing is often reduced to measures, judgements, and interventions related to physical activity, exercise, and mental health, and as an individual choice that is within an individual's control, and thus the individual is morally bound to society to be self-responsible and self-reliant (van Dyk 2014). This serves to marginalise or exclude some individuals while also failing to consider and address the social determinants of health, social inequalities, and the heterogeneity of the population (including older adults) (Boudiny 2013). Such concerns also apply to people living with disabilities, from minority groups, of low socio-economic status, or with low levels of literacy. The outcome is a devaluation of the diversity of life circumstances and ageing that can be judgemental and discriminatory, including potential reinforcement of ageism by focusing on potentially unrealistic expectations of 'youthful ageing' (van Dyk 2014; Walker 2015). Furthermore, this may overlook that an older adult "may regard their ageing as 'successful' despite apparent limitations", which may include physical, economic, or social restrictions (Walker 2015: 2). It is therefore best that terminology such as active or healthy ageing are avoided, and replaced with a focus on wellbeing.

Significantly, AFCCs remain an important international agenda. Recently, the WHO (2017: 1) have identified ten priorities requiring "concrete actions" as part of the Decade of Healthy Ageing. This includes AFCCs as *Priority 10*, noting the importance of using "**research, data and low-cost evaluations** that enable cities and communities to steer their efforts to what works" (WHO 2017: 15, original emphasis).

This project builds from the proactive commitment of the Clarence City Council to being and fostering AFCC agendas and priorities, as well as the international need for research on AFCCs. As such, this project supports the Clarence City Council in being a Tasmanian, Australian, and global leader in valuing the importance of continual renewal of AFCC agendas and development. This project also forms part of the cycle of continuous improvement for being an AFCC, as encouraged by the WHO (2018) (see Figure 1). Therefore, this report will empower the Clarence City Council to further deepen its commitment to be an AFCC through community initiatives and developments that respect community needs, as informed its citizens.

Engage and understand
Set up a committee/working group/steering group.
Perform a participatory assessment.
Create a baseline profile.
Disseminate findings.
Gain political commitment.

Plan
Unite stakeholders behind a common vision.
Analyse strengths and weaknesses.
Develop a comprehensive strategy.
Get approved.
Define responsibilities.

Age-friendly environments

Measure
Monitor progress.
Carry out outcome and impact evaluation.
Continue and expand partnerships.
Sustain and continually improve action.
Exchange internationally.

Act
Make an action plan.
Consult on plan.
Secure support and resources.
Implement an action plan.
Scale up successful action.

Figure 1: Cycle of continuous improvement

(from World Health Organization 2018: 6)

(The Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities: looking back over the last decade,looking forward to the next. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; 2018 (WHO/FWC/ALC/18.4). Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO)

Features of an AFCCs

The WHO's (2007b) features of an age-friendly city are:

- transportation;
- housing;
- social participation;
- respect and social inclusion;
- civic participation and employment;
- communication and information;
- community support and health services; and
- outdoor spaces and buildings.

While these eight domains are identified separately, they interact and overlap and should treated holistically. Through their efforts in defining and advocating for AFCCs, the WHO have become influential authority in this area.

These eight domains can be interpreted in a variety of ways. For example, it is highly likely local governments and community organisations will have different perspectives on the necessary community features for social inclusion. These might also differ to the views held

by citizens who reside in the community. Focusing on the view of government bodies, government representatives and community groups, can marginalise citizens and make them feel less valued in their community. This is known as a 'top-down' approach. As a result, it is important that AFCCs involve local governments, community organisations, researchers, and members of the community actively collaborating; working together in becoming, enhancing, and measuring age-friendliness. This active involvement of citizens also assists to explore and scrutinise "cities as sites of interlocking and conflicting commercial, social, and political interests" (Buffel, Phillipson, and Scharf 2012: 601). As such, a holistic approach that actively involves community members making decisions - or a 'bottom up' approach - is key to achieving an AFCC that people wish to stay in and move into. This project responds to such needs.

There is also debate on whether the eight domains identified by the WHO (2007b) are correct and adequate. As Menec and colleagues (2011: 482) ask, "are these seven [sic] domains the 'right' ones? Or should there be fewer domains … [or] more domains […to] emphasise aspects of the community environment that otherwise might not be considered. Are we missing important dimensions?". Furthermore, context can alter the relevance of the domains, which also cannot be treated separately from intrapersonal and social factors including age, gender, socio-economic status, and the political environment (Menec et al. 2011). Certainly, this report identifies that an age-friendly Clarence requires different domains to that identified by the WHO (2007b).

To assist communities plan, identify, and assess their age-friendliness, the WHO have created checklists (2007a, 2007b), and core and supplementary indicators (2015a). The checklists specify several features under each age-friendly domain (WHO 2007a, 2007b), while the indicators are considered "an integral part of an outcomes oriented accountability system for age friendly city initiatives" (WHO 2015a: 5). These indicators include three core and seven supplementary indicators.

While checklists and indicators are potentially useful, it should also be noted that the "WHO does not specify whether or how to use the checklist" (Plouffe, Kalache and Voelcker 2016: 20). As such, these tools may not capture "goodness of fit" (Keating, Eales and Phillips 2013) or a "person-environment fit" (Menec et al. 2011). Consequently, checklists or established criteria (such as indicators) can be idealistic (Buffel, Phillipson, and Scharf 2012), and may not reflect or adequately capture what is relevant to the community. As noted by the WHO (2015a), relying only on indicators is too simplistic when considering context, including the dynamic and evolving nature of our communities. They also undermine the dynamism and interdependency of age-friendly domains (Plouffe, Kalache and Voelcker 2016). These shortcomings are salient when considering the diversity of contemporary community environments, and current issues that may affect liveability and belonging therein. Once again, I found such concerns to be central to understanding what features are important for an age-friendly Clarence.

Opportunities and challenges for AFCCs

There are several enablers and barriers to becoming an AFCC, as noted in Figure 2 (Menec and Brown 2018). Figure 2 reveals that commitment and leadership is needed across multiple layers of governments for AFCCs to be supported, and for associated initiatives to be sustained. While some of these factors are beyond the control of local councils, there are many facilitators that are within its jurisdiction. These include leadership and staffing; coherency of vision; creation of ageing plans and policies; fostering and integrating public initiatives; profile of steering committees; and developing diverse partnerships. This project is an example of the diverse partnerships that can help support AFCCs initiatives and development.

Themes	Subthemes	Facilitators	Barriers
Enablers	Multilevel leadership and common vision	Leadership and commitment at national/ regional and local level Coherence between national/ regional and local vision National/ regional aging strategy Champion	Change in policy direction Turnover in leadership
	Effective governance and management	Diverse steering committee that includes older adults High-level government representation on steering committee Staff Clearly defined roles and responsibilities	Lack of volunteers/ volunteer burnout Lack of skills
	Diverse partnerships	Intergovernmental Intersectoral Public-private sector With researchers	Conflict between groups Competing interests Lack of common objectives
Processes	Identifying priorities based on older adults' involvement Developing an action plan that corresponds to identified needs	Acknowledging/ building on existing resources Entrenching action plan in local services Integrating age-friendliness with other initiatives/ strategies Fostering public support for age-friendly initiatives	Lack of funding Lack of common approach/ criteria

Figure 2: Summary of enablers and barriers for AFCCs

(from Menec and Brown 2018: 12)

As noted by Menec and Brown (2018) and Russell, Skinner and Fowler (2019), the sustainability and long-term viability of age-friendly initiatives can pose challenges. This can be due to limited or one-off funding; conflicting local and federal/state priorities; a lack of or overburdened volunteers and community members; and limited committee capacity. They note that community champions (which might be municipal employees), external

partnerships and collaborations (such as with businesses, schools, and universities, or with other committees and volunteer groups), and active local government involvement from the early initial stages, are critical for sustainability.

In being an AFCC, contextual awareness is vital. There is a need to account for the services and diverse environments within the community of interest, and how this affects different living experiences in that community. Within the City of Clarence, the diversity of the population, geography, and topography are notable. From the steep mountains of the Meehan Ranges (538m above sea level), to the 191 kilometres of coastline with over twenty beaches, vast bushland that covers approximately one-third of the total Council area, and 31 suburbs and localities, the City of Clarence is a mix of lowland, steep hills, and rural and urban environments as well as low and high socio-economic suburbs. For the City of Clarence to be an AFCC, such diversity needs to be accounted for in planning and design. This also means noting that what is suitable in, for example Rosny, may not work in Seven Mile Beach (and vice versa).

There are a range of opportunities and benefits in being an AFCC, including:

- individuals can age-in-place through the creation of accessible and inclusive places and spaces;
- individuals having access to clear information and communication;
- citizens being encouraged to become involved in or continuing with community engagement and participation;
- sustaining or growing population size;
- facilitating new business opportunities for economic sustainability or growth; and
- the potential of reducing healthcare costs (Menec et al. 2011).

As such enabling, developing, and sustaining an AFCC is a community investment that returns benefits alike for citizens, governments, non-government organisations, and businesses.

The City of Clarence is well positioned for the opportunities and benefits of being an AFCC. As part of the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, the City of Clarence has been identified for its commitment to creating an inclusive, accessible, and welcoming environment for people of all ages. Such recognition is highly valuable as the Australian population ages, and as the City of Clarence explores how best to support its population now and into the future. By taking a participatory-centred approach, this project conceptualises the citizens of the City of Clarence as a vital part of the Council's decision-making and planning.

Format of this report

In this report, the domains of an age-friendly Clarence have emerged from the information provided by the project participants, all of whom are citizens of the City of Clarence. These five domains are:

- Services, facilities and development
- Natural environment and public places
- Relationships and inclusivity
- Parking and transport
- Employment, learning and training

Within each of the five domains are four major features, which help provide structure to the report's findings. These are:

- Information, communication and consultation
- Programs and events
- Quality, experiences and feelings
- Availability and accessibility

Following this Overview, the approach of the project is outlined in "2. Methods and Sampling". This includes specifying how community members were recruited into this project, what they did, and how the data they generated was treated and analysed. Some demographic details for the participants are also provided without violating their confidentiality.

Sections 3 to 7 of the report provide an overview of the project's findings, as related to the five domains and four features of an age-friendly Clarence. These sections include photographs and interview extracts generated by the project participants. Each section opens with a brief overview of the features of the domain and concludes with the key findings and recommendations. The complete list of recommendations compiled from this report can also be found on pages 5 to 8. Subsections of each age-friendly Clarence domain can be quickly identified in the Table of Contents (see pages 9 to 10). The report ends with a brief summary and conclusion. The key findings are also presented in the Executive Summary (see pages 3 to 5).

2. Methods and Sampling

Methods

The intent of this community-based project was to explore younger and older people's needs and preferences as they age, and their likes and dislikes of living in the City of Clarence. The aim of this report is to provide the Clarence City Council with the information required to inform and drive decision-making regarding inclusive age-friendly community infrastructure, design, regulation, engagement, and initiatives. These will overlap with various Council policies, programs and agendas, and therefore can provide an integrated vision. As such, the findings from this project will support the City of Clarence as an AFCC holistically both now and into the future.

To explore citizen viewpoints, a qualitative approach was selected. This allows for comprehensive and *in-depth* understandings to be gathered and analysed. This approach contrasts to *breadth*, which is the intent of survey-based, quantitative approaches. While quantitative methods can gather large amounts of numerical data that may be representative, it cannot provide clear or comprehensive insight into why respondents gave the answers that they provided. Furthermore, quantitative methods do not provide respondents with the opportunity to clarify, rephrase, or create questions of relevance and meaning to them, nor explain their answers. This means that survey methods pacify and disempower citizens, as what interesting and relevant has been predetermined in the survey design and questions (a 'top-down' approach), and therefore only limited understandings can emerge.

In contrast, qualitative approaches allow in-depth engagement with the topic and the participants, and thus provide comprehensive perspectives and rich information. As such, a thorough understanding of the participant's relationships and experiences of social organisation, practices, dynamics, and phenomena is achieved (Babbie 2013). Furthermore, as this is a community-based project, it was important that the methods were participant-centred by allowing them to feel respected, active and empowered (Emmison 2016). These concerns are key for meaningful community consultation and engagement. It was also impossible to use a survey in the City of Clarence, as it had yet to be established what was important and relevant for its citizens regarding AFCCs, and therefore a qualitative approach was vital.

To achieve a participant-centred approach, two methods were selected for this project: participant-generated photography and in-depth interviews. Participant-generated photography empowered the project participants to record, capture, and share their experiences of the community and their ageing by photographing what was of relevance to them. By allowing participants to take photographs of topics they deemed pertinent, experiences that are hard to articulate or taken-for-granted were be captured (Balomenou and Garrod 2016; Rose 2012). The questions the participants explored using their photography were purposively kept broad – what do you like/dislike about living in the City of Clarence, and what do you like/dislike about your age - to allow them the freedom and

autonomy to determine their own interests, the scale of the project, and the content to be subsequently explored in their interview. These two questions also allowed me to explore associations between age and place.

Once participants completed their photography, they were interviewed on the images they generated. The interviews were guided by the content of the photographs, and not pre-determined topics. This allowed the participants to determine the direction and focus of the interview based on their own interests (Cook 2018), and facilitated high quality, in-depth understandings to emerge. As such, their photographs provided a structure to the interviews whereby the photographs represented their experiences, and the interviews elicited and clarified their experiences (Cook 2018). This combination of photography with interviews allowed the participants to guide and shape the project (Balomenou and Garrod 2016). To ensure inclusivity, digital cameras were loaned to participants who did not have access to one, which was returned at the time of the interview.

Sampling

AFCCs should cater for a diversity of age groups and interests. In this project, two age groups were of focus: younger people (14-24 years), and older adults (65 years and above). Participants were also required to be current residents in the City of Clarence and provide written informed consent in English.

These age groups were chosen because they experience discrimination, prejudice and marginalisation based on age, known as ageism (Ayalon and Tesch-Römer 2018; Iversen, Larsen and Solem 2009). Ageism involves an exercise of power that places individuals in an inferior position to whom is practicing and exhibiting ageism. While ageism is mostly experienced by older adults (Ayalon and Tesch-Römer 2018), it can also be experienced by young people, which is also known as reverse ageism or adultism (Raymer et al. 2017).

For younger and older people, ageist attitudes can limit social participation and civic engagement. For example, younger people might be stereotypically viewed as 'in training' as adults and citizens, egoistical, disengaged or uninterested in community affairs, lacking work ethics and commitment, impatient, lacking respect for older generations, dependent, unwise, lazy, irresponsible, overprivileged, ill-behaved, and generally apathetic (Frank 2006; Quintelier 2007; Raymer et al. 2017). This can influence younger people's attitudes, believing that community participation will not make a difference because they will not be heard or respected (Quintelier 2007). For older adults, stereotypes include that they are vulnerable, set in their ways (inflexible), dependent, conservative, religious, physically frail, incompetent (cognitively impaired), inactive, despondent, withdrawn, useless, and to be pitied (Ayalon and Tesch-Römer 2018; Cuddy and Fiske 2002; Fiske et al. 2002). It is notable that some of these stereotypes of older adults are the same or like that which affect younger people. While some stereotypes and myths of younger and older people are positive (for example, that older adults are wise), "negative information is more memorable than

positive information" (Raymer et al. 2017: 154) and can influence an self-perception, esteem and behaviours (Ayalon and Tesch-Römer 2018).

The choice of these two age groups also responds to international movements to make cities more child, youth or 'elder' friendly (van Vliet 2011). These concerns emerge from the dominance of urban spaces catering for adults of a working age (Biggs and Carr 2015), which can be at the expense of younger and older people (van Vliet 2011). Child-friendly cities (CFCs) have a rights-based approach which advances that children (and by extension, adolescence) have rights and needs including the right to information and to have a say in issues that affect them. Consequently, as members of the community, children and youth have the right to be engaged and involved with community design and planning, though they often lack the opportunities to do so (Frank 2006; Riggio 2002). A similar argument could be made for older adults and the need for AFCCs. As noted by Biggs and Carr (2015: 100), CFCs and AFCCs both focus on "the hazards and opportunities of urban living to develop an optimal urban environment … and move beyond the physical to consider social needs". In addition, younger and older people are strongly attached to place, including their neighbourhood and surrounding environments in which they spend a lot of time; more so than adults engaging in paid work (Biggs and Carr 2015; Buffel, Phillipson, and Scharf 2012). By concentrating on intergenerational design, AFCCs have the potential to cater for all age groups including the diversity within them and allow for intergenerational relations to develop. These understandings extend the social inclusion focus of AFCC frameworks. As such, AFCCs should not just focus on 'old age', but be concerned with producing environments that cater for all (Biggs and Carr 2015; Kendig et al. 2014). This also acknowledges that needs may change across the life course, and that younger and older people can and do contribute socially, politically, and economically (though may do so in ways different to adults in paid employment).

In focusing on older and younger people, this project directly engages with, and empowers, two age groups who can experience marginalisation in urban planning and design, while also actively breaking down the age-based segregation that has been socially created between these two groups. As such, this project challenges social barriers to participation by specifically focusing on these age groups and allowing them to define the meaning of the project through inclusive participatory methods. By not asking the project participants to do anything outside of their ordinary routines (though some chose to do so), and conducting interviews at a time and location of convenience to them, the project was of minimal disruption or inconvenience to their lives.

Participants were recruited through multiple methods including the Clarence City Council (website, flyers in the Council chambers, and via its committees and services including the Clarence Positive Ageing Advisory Committee, Youth Services, Youth Network Advisory Group, and Clarence Community Volunteer Service); media relations including television, radio, and newspaper; emails, letters and telephone calls to community groups; community newsletters; high schools and colleges; and word of mouth. Potential participants were provided with an Information Sheet and Consent Form, as approved by the Tasmanian Social Sciences Human Research Ethics Committee (ethics reference number: H0017141).

In total, thirty-six people providing their informed consent and participated in the project. This included twelve people aged 14-24, and twenty-four people aged 65 years and over (see Figure 3). This ratio between younger and older people roughly reflects the broader distribution in the City of Clarence (see Figure 4). Participants lived at suburbs across the City of Clarence including urban and rural/ less urban areas, and high and low socio-economic status suburbs (see Figure 5). Participants were predominately from Bellerive or Howrah, which reflects the larger populations living in these areas and the location of large schools and colleges.

Age Group	Woman	Man	No.	%
14-24	10	2	12	33.4
65+	15	9	24	66.6
%	69.4%	30.6%	-	100
TOTAL	25	11	36	100

Figure 3: Sample distribution (age and gender identity) of project participants

Age Group	Project No.	Project %	Clarence No.	Clarence Population %
14-24	12	33.4%	6,6607	37.5%
65+	24	66.6%	11,012	62.5%
TOTAL	36	100%	17,619	100%

Figure 4: Population percentage (age group) of project participants as compared to the City of Clarence

Suburbs	No.	Age Group (14-24)	Age Group (65+)
Bellerive	9	2	7
Clarendon Vale	1	1	-
Geilston Bay	2	1	1
Howrah	10	7	3
Lindisfarne	2	-	2
Mornington	1	-	1
Richmond	1	-	1
Rokeby	1	-	1
Rosny	3	-	3
Sandford	1	-	1
Seven Mile Beach	2	1	1
Tranmere	3	-	3
TOTAL	36	12	24

Figure 5: Sample distribution (suburb of primary residence) of project participants

Each participant generated between five to 73 photographs, with a total of 889 photographs. Regarding the interviews, 56.7 hours of interview data were collected, plus one email interview. The shortest interview was 37 minutes, while the longest was three hours. Most interviews lasted for approximately ninety minutes (1.5 hours). Interviews were typically conducted in the participant's home and occurred between April to November 2018. The length of time needed for the participants to take the photographs was variable but ranged from two weeks to three months. In the research outcomes, all participants are identified with pseudonyms to protect their confidentiality. The use of a pseudonym also allowed the participants to speak openly. In the data chapters that follow, the age of the participant is provided after their pseudonym.

All the younger people were living with family members with a mix of home ownership (which may include a mortgage) and home rental. All the older adults either owned their home (which may include a mortgage) or were on a lease arrangement (which applied to those in independent living or retirement villages). Further details on the participants are provided in Figure 6. Specific details on family arrangements and individual sexuality are not provided due to risks of personal identification. Seven participants also self-identified as migrants, with four from non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB).

Name	Age	Gender Identity	Suburb	Home status
Ava	14	W	Bellerive	Lives with family (renting)
Christina	15	W	Howrah	Lives with family (own home)
Sophia	15	W	Howrah	Lives with family (renting)
Julia	15	W	Howrah	Lives with family (renting)
Mia	16	W	Clarendon Vale	Lives with family (own home)
Maria	16	W	Bellerive	Lives with family (own home)
Cassandra	17	W	Howrah	Lives with family (own home)
Angela	17	W	Howrah	Lives with family (own home)
Emily	18	W	Howrah	Lives with family (own home)
Clarissa	19	W	Seven Mile Beach	Lives with family (own home)
Bruce	20	M	Geilston Bay	Lives with family (own home)
Gavin	23	M	Howrah	Lives with family (own home)
Kiera	66	W	Bellerive	Own home
Camila	66	W	Bellerive	Own home
Pierce	67	M	Tranmere	Own home
Dylan	67	M	Rosny	Own home
Roslyn	70	W	Rosny	Own home
Rebecca	71	W	Rokeby	Own home
Jeremy	71	M	Bellerive	Own home
Melvin	71	M	Howrah	Own home
Jarrod	71	M	Richmond	Own home
Gwendolyn	72	W	Bellerive	Own home
Wilbur	72	M	Rosny	Own home
Pamela	73	W	Lindisfarne	Lease arrangement
Martha	73	W	Seven Mile Beach	Own home
Leah	73	W	Sandford	Own home

Brenda	74	W	Mornington	Own home
Sabrina	75	W	Tranmere	Own home
Phoebe	75	W	Howrah	Own home
Peggy	77	W	Geilston Bay	Own home
Beatrice	78	W	Bellerive	Own home
Rose	78	W	Tranmere	Own home
Chad	79	M	Howrah	Own home
Evan	83	M	Bellerive	Own home
Hugo	83	M	Bellerive	Own home
Hannah	87	W	Lindisfarne	Lease arrangement

Figure 6: Participant profiles (name, age, sex, suburb of residence, home status)

Data analysis

During the interviews, common categories began to emerge that indicated potential themes for data analysis. Data analysis initially started with the WHO (2007b) eight domains of an AFCC (see page 16), but it quickly became evident that these did not adequately capture nor reflect the interests and priorities of the participants for an age-friendly Clarence. For example, in the initial analysis, most participant responses were categorised under the WHO (2007b) domain of "outdoor spaces and buildings". This meant the details and nuances of individual beliefs and experiences were becoming invisible, such as significance of the natural environment. In addition, some the WHO (2007b) domains could not be discretely identified in the data as they spanned across a variety of participant interests. This strongly applied to "social participation", "civic participation", and "communication and information". As such, it was decided to abandon the WHO framework and create one that directly emerged from the participant responses that reflected not only their beliefs and experiences, but also captured the unique contexts of the City of Clarence and, therefore, an age-friendly Clarence.

Data analysis was thematic, which involved identifying themes that emerged following from initial coding and categorisation (Green et al. 2007). After intensive and extensive data immersion and testing of different analytical frameworks, five relevant domains for an age-friendly Clarence were identified. These are:

- Services, facilities and development
- Natural environment and public places
- Relationships and inclusivity
- Parking and transport
- Employment, learning and training

Four features were also identified that are not domain specific, which overlap across the five domains and interrelate with each other. These four features are:

- Information, communication and consultation
- Programs and events
- Quality, experiences and feelings
- Availability and accessibility

Furthermore, when considering these domains and features, the locale/context and age/ life stage of the participant must be considered. For example, the life stage of the participant, such as working past retirement age, influences what is important to them. This may contrast to someone of the same age who is retired. In addition, the context in which individuals live within the City of Clarence (such as the suburb) as well as their specific locale within that context (such as the street they live in), provide important background information to understand their experiences. This is explicitly addressed in the chapter, "Parking and transport". Like the WHO (2007b) framework, the domains for an age-friendly Clarence overlap and are not discrete themes in all instances. The analytical framework is represented in Figure 7. In the next five chapters, these five domains and four features will be explored in detail, with their prevalence for an age-friendly Clarence scrutinised and revealed.
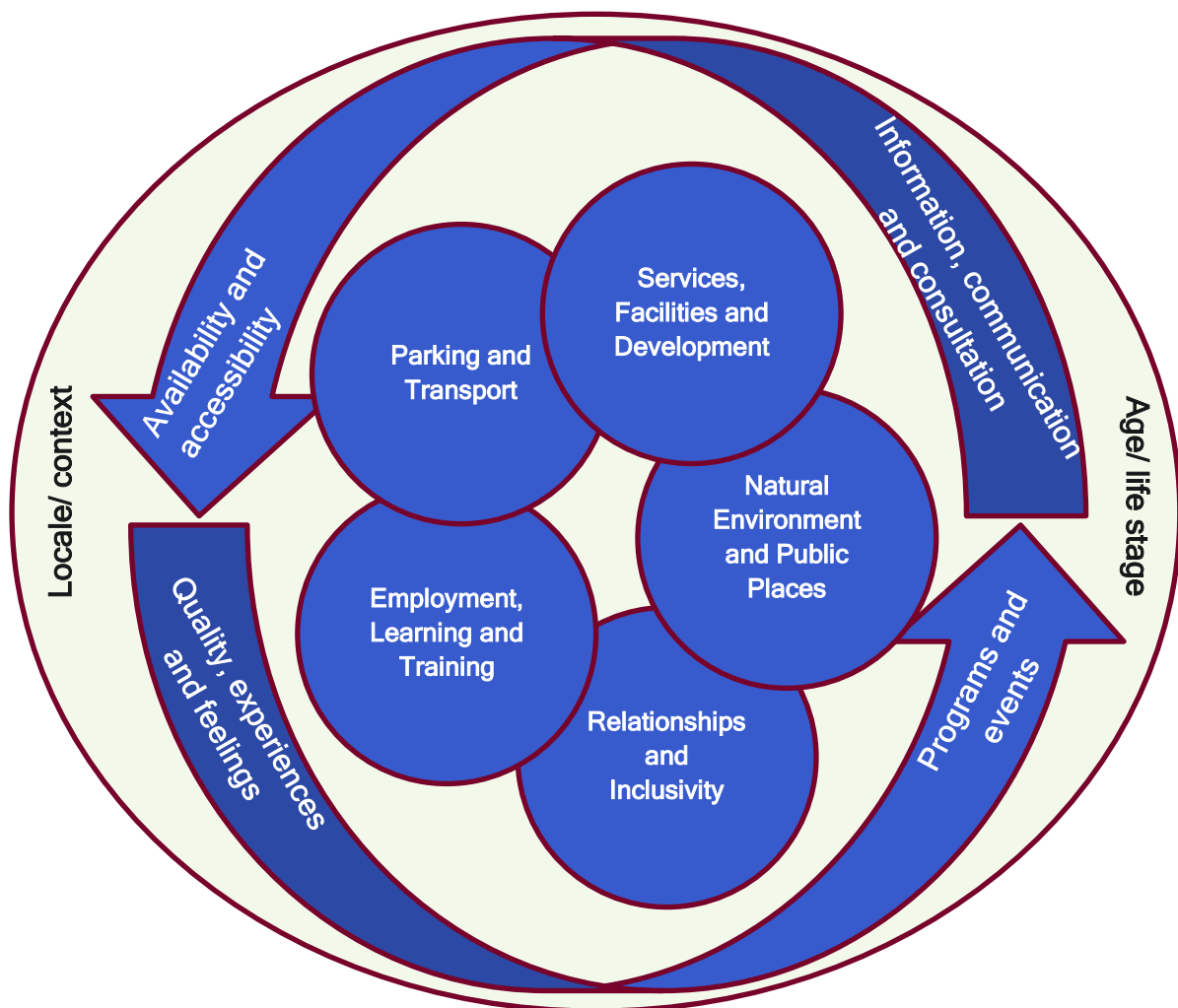
Figure 7: Analytical framework for an age-friendly Clarence

3. Services, facilities and development: Findings

Summary

The theme of "Services, facilities and development" relates to services, general infrastructure, and facilities provided in the City of Clarence. These might be provided by the Council, industry, non-government organisations, small businesses, and corporations. This theme also includes arts and cultural events as supported by the Clarence City Council, and building and land developments including housing.

This theme was extensively raised by the older participants, and less so the younger participants. These differences may reflect that older adults' access, use, and pay for a range of facilities and services, while younger people may still rely on their families for accessing services and financial support.

Findings

Availability and accessibility: Centralisation and services

The participants noted the diversity of services and facilities provided in the City of Clarence. The centralised convenience of a range of government, business, and health services at Rosny Park, as well as the shopping provided at Eastlands Shopping Centre, were frequently mentioned by the older participants. The four-hour parking limit and senior car parking spots at Eastlands Shopping Centre are valued by those with limited mobility:

 […] I've got such wonderful access to services. I've got the police. I've got the supermarket, behind that it is the Council building. I've got everything on my doorstep. It's good. […] It's got a huge amount of services because it's on the fringe of medical radiology, pathology, dental, podiatry, most things are in walking distance […] (Pamela, age 73)

That's out Rosny Park, Eastlands [Shopping Centre]. The entire complex, from my point of view, is brilliant because my lawyer is there, my dentist is there, the shops are there, and my accountant is there, the folks that did my tax return. The library is there, Service Tasmania, the police. […] And getting back to a possibility of getting to the stage where I may not be able to drive or I may not have the money to keep a car, you get a bus to there and everything is there. […] But I just think that there's everything there that you want without having to go into town [Hobart]. […] (Leah, age 73)

[…] Around the Eastlands [Shopping Centre] precinct and up Bayfield Street as well, […] almost anything that you want to do you don't have to leave Clarence to do it. […] And it's great for people like me who have a more limited mobility. I can come to Eastlands, I can park up there for four hours, I can do everything I want to do, and still be out of there within that four-hour limit. I can even get something to eat and drink if I want to. (Rebecca, age 71, photograph above)

The shopping in Rosny is great. It's got everything: medical and the community health centre which has lots of facilities. You can park at Eastlands [Shopping Centre] and go everywhere from there. The police station, the council offices, the state government offices, chemist, cinema. It's good. […] I think it's a good user-friendly place. Both for the type of shops and the car parking, especially for an older person. You don't have to go a long way with your shopping and there are senior car parking spots which are closer to the entrance. […] Everything is there or in the street. […] It's got everything: medical and the community health centre which has lots of facilities. […] The police station, the council offices, the state government offices, chemist, cinema. It's good. (Jarrod, age 71)

This convenience of service centralisation was also noted by the younger and older participants who lived in rural areas of the City of Clarence, such as Clarissa:

[At Seven Mile Beach] I like that there's a balance between having a touch of rural while still being able to have access to all your mainstream amenities. Everything is fairly close by. Shop; five-minute walk away; supermarket within a 10-minute drive, and various retail outlets [at Rosny Park] within 20 minutes. It's not like out in the middle of nowhere and having to make the choice between the two. You can have it all at once. (Clarissa, age 19)

As such, the location of shopping centres or villages can enable easy access to supermarkets and retail stores, as well as other services and facilities. This was also noted by participants who preferred to use other shopping facilities that are not as busy, noisy, or as spread out as Eastlands Shopping Centre:

This is the interior of the local Shoreline Shopping Centre. It has a chemist shop, beauty shop. It has doctors offices, what I call a junkshop, and we have most of the simple things that we need from there. […] And we have an eye care. […] So most of the things we need, we can get there. […] Most of the community or people meet us right in there, because everyone is doing their shopping at some part of the day or another, so we generally meet there, and there's a lovely little coffee shop which everyone likes to go to. […] And I like it because they do have little seats for people to sit, if you're feeling a bit tired and I do […], it's handy to have appropriately placed seats. […] I like this shopping centre because it's smaller [than Eastlands Shopping Centre]. I don't get tired going around it. (Sabrina, age 75, photograph below)

I tend to go there [Anzac Park] when I need to shop at Lindisfarne Woolworths rather than going into Eastlands [Shopping Centre], because Eastlands gets a little bit much sometimes. (Brenda, age 74, photograph above)

As such, the data reveals that the density and close proximity of services creates "opportunity structures" that enable healthy lives (Buffel, Phillipson and Scharf 2012). It was also notable that participants in rural/ less urban suburbs did not feel these types of features were needed in their suburbs, but did point to other developments needed (see 'Natural environment and public places" and "Parking and transport").

Younger people did not explicitly discuss Rosny Park in their interviews, but would mention Rosny to be a transit point for public transport, and Eastlands Shopping Centre as a place they would visit with family or friends. Ava specifically mentioned the food court and shopping options:

[…] the food is nice like Banjo's and Liv-eat in Eastlands [Shopping Centre], and I like Kmart, they have really low prices, and Big W (Ava, age 14)

Rosny Library was another service frequently mentioned by the older participants. Their comments included the convenience of accessing library services regardless of their location (such as when travelling), and the activities and services provided by the library in addition to book borrowing. Rosny Library was also accessed by participants living in more rural environments, such as Jarrod:

Here's a photo of the library. I use the library a lot. I read a lot. […] It's good for someone who is an avid reader who doesn't have a lot of money to spend, to go to the library and get books. I like the system that you can go to any library and borrow books and return them anywhere. It's a convenient way to keep up with your reading material. They also have meeting rooms and things like that and there's always something going on. (Jarrod, age 71, photograph on the left)

Significantly, none of the younger people mentioned the library and its services, even those who liked reading and study (see also "Employment, learning and training"). This may reflect the ability to access such services through their high school, college or university.

Some other facilities that the participants mentioned they either used or liked included:

- Lindisfarne Library (at the Lindisfarne Activities Centre)
- Bellerive Yacht Club and marina
- Sporting facilities and options

- Rosny Farm
- Clarence Integrated Care Centre (for health services including the Leg Club, and activities such as

Clarence Walkie Talkies Walking Group)

- Service Tasmania
- Howrah Community Centre
- Men's Sheds
- Neighbourhood and community houses
- Eating with Friends (Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre

and Lindisfarne Motor Yacht Club specifically)

- Bellerive Community Arts Centre
- Hunter Island Press
- Lindisfarne Activity Centre
- Lindisfarne CWA Hall
- Bellerive Squash Court
- Clarence Lifestyle Village
- Mathers House (Hobart) and other Hobart locations

Some participants also mentioned local service stations where employees would come outside and fill their car with petrol (this was particularly mentioned by some older adults with mobility problems), fish and chip shops, and the 'corner store'. This highlights the continuing service that small businesses and local amenities provide in generating social and community identity, belonging and inclusion (Grimmer and Mortimer 2019). These personal connections relate to "Relationships and inclusivity". In addition, there is a range of playgrounds, parks, pathways and natural resources that the participants regularly accessed and enjoyed, which will be explored in "Natural environment and public places".

Programs and events: The arts

> I've always been into arts and crafts. […] Clarence is really supportive of the arts. They've got a good team. […] Clarence does a really good job. (Brenda, age 74)

The visual and performing arts were consistently mentioned by older adults, as well as some of the younger participants, as an outstanding feature of the City of Clarence. Regarding Rosny Farm, it was highlighted for its facilities, historical qualities, and the events which it holds and hosts:

> There's the Rosny Barn, which I do like that it's still there. It was one of the first buildings in Clarence. […] And it's a reminder of our past there. (Wilbur, age 72)
>
> There're always exhibitions on in the School House. […] They've kept the gardens nice. […] And, again, the [Rosny] Barn is used for concerts and various other [things] throughout the year. […] It's a nice place to go look at whatever the exhibitions happened to be on. (Leah, age 73)
>
> It's Rosny Farm, another favourite spot. […] They have some terrific art and activities. There's always something interesting going on there. You have to keep an eye out for what is going on there. There's a market on every now and then, which is fantastic. […] There's a little museum and history thing in there, which is interesting. It's a nice thing to show visitors and then they have all the art exhibitions. […] Quite often when I'm doing my walk, I'll look at the board and see what's on at the moment. (Brenda, age 74)

This is the complex at Rosny Farm and they have the art bikes you can hire or borrow […]. And I often go to exhibitions there. I'd call in my way home from town [Hobart]. […] I do get the thing from the Council saying what's coming up so that I remember to go when the exhibitions actually open. […] That's a wonderful asset to the community. And a lovely carpark there too and you can leave the car there while you slip into Eastlands if you so desire. (Rose, age 78, photograph below)

That's Rosny Barn and we go to concerts there. […] Clarence have a jazz festival every year and we go to concerts in the grounds. And the Festival of Voices, they have concerts there too. So we love going to Rosny Barn. (Kiera, age 66)

[…] I've done a lot of volunteer work at the Rosny Barn […] and a lot of the presentations tend to be inside the Rosny Barn as well. But it's also the place that I said goodbye to the family, friends, that have passed away, all of those tend to be held in the Rosny Barn. […] It's maintained incredibly well and it looks fabulous […] and fits in so well with the actual area. […] I really like that they've still got the wooden doors there and they're well maintained, and the garden looks really nice. (Bruce, age 20, photograph above)

The above comment from Kiera also notes the Clarence Jazz Festival; an event that many older adults look forward to:

You just turn up to your picnic [to the Jazz Festival] and your folding chair and listen to lots of good music, and a good variety of music. […] It's at Bellerive boardwalk, but the rest of it, they're trying to spread it around Clarence. […] So, they've been around so that people from the whole South Clarence area can go to these things. […] We can't wait for the program to come out to see who's playing what and where, and because there's so much of it, you know, the evening performances, there'd be two, three different things going on. […] Jazz is so diverse – there are some types of jazz that you're not as fond of or keen on as other types but you can always find something to go and see. (Leah, age 73)

In the summer, they have a jazz festival at Bellerive, and they have this all set up with the bands that are playing and all that sort of thing, so it's a lovely spot to go to, to enjoy the music […].They have one at the back of Rosny which is really nice and that's outdoor [at Rosny Barn]. They have a couple of indoor ones as well […].It's really nice to go to, really enjoyable. […] It gets really packed and they bring – on the last days - they bring, you know, the food stands and everything, and you can sit and have a drink and coffee and, yeah, that's nice. (Martha, age 73)

It's free and it's good [the jazz festival]. […] It's the sort of thing where you can take a picnic and a bottle of wine and a folding chair and go to. (Dylan, age 67)

Regarding public art, there were two kinds that younger and older participants raised: sculptures in public parks (younger people only); and street art (younger and older people). It was notable that these comments were all highly supportive, with participants indicating their wish for more public art. The reasons included public engagement outcomes (particularly with youth); the beautification of public space; and the ease of engaging with the visual arts:

I love it and I can't see any reason why we shouldn't have it. […] To me it would be like going to a gallery, I suppose, to get to see lots of street art around. […] I love the concept of doing something like that on a public space […]. I think street art is absolutely fantastic. (Rebecca, age 71, photograph above)

So they're wood carvings that I actually find really, really intriguing. […] It's something I would like to see a bit more of in different areas. […] I really like public art rather than something that's in a museum or art exhibition, just because I don't tend to have the free time to wander into an art area and spend an hour looking for the different paintings. I like to see them whilst I'm walking down the street and I can have five minutes where I sit there and appreciate it rather than having to set aside time for it. (Bruce, age 20, photograph above)

I think it's beautiful, beautiful [street art]. They should do more; it engages the young people you know. I'm sure whoever painted that, they're proud of it […]. (Evan, age 83)

Where there are blank walls in the community, why not use them as artistic places where kids can use them? (Pamela, age 73)
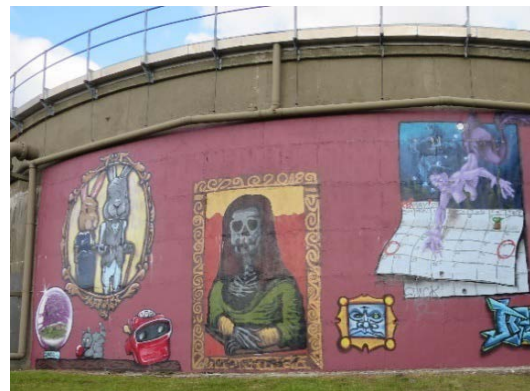
I think [public art] makes the place you live in more interesting. There's a pressure with public funding and city planning to make sure everything is functional and that the budget is used as efficiently as possible. It leaves the place looking bland. I am glad that time and effort and money has been spent to make it interesting and nicer. […] It's important to me that this stuff exists. […] Turns public space into a bit of a gallery. […] It makes me happy. (Gavin, age 23, photograph above)

Some participants suggested areas in the City of Clarence that could be used, as well as the potential format of a street art program:

> So if they could get these people and sit down and say, 'Look, you've got a kilometres worth of wall here. I'll supply you all the paints, come up with a plan'. [...] If they can come to some agreement [on content ...]. [...] You could open an outdoor coffee shop there. It's atmosphere. (Pierce, age 67)
>
> And I wish that they'd do that everywhere [street art] where there's a blank space. [...] Why don't they just commission something that takes all that blank space [soundproof fencing on the South Arm Highway]? It would look beautiful. [...] Maybe involve the schools, the kids coming through because that's going to give them pride in what's being done and they'd be less likely to destroy something as well if they're involved in the planning and the painting. [...] I mean the kids themselves could come up with various themes and then decide between them, them and the artist, as to what the theme is going to be. The artist is obviously the one with the talent to make something of it so [they] can then sketch out a couple of ideas and the kids can say, 'yeah that's the one we want to go with', then put it up. And the artist can do the main part of the drawing the, painting the outline and the kids could just do the fill in bits; but they would still be involved in it. (Rebecca, age 71)

We have these containers [at high school] to put stuff in and I don't know when that artwork was done [...]. I think it's a good idea because we can show how good we are at art and how we can be creative, and show that Clarence has a creative kind of side. [...] I think we could do more of that to bring out the school and then bring more to the community [public art]. (Christina, age 15, photograph above)

I go to areas like Risdon Vale or Claredon Vale or Rokeby where the tagging is still quite fresh and it's regularly updated [...]. And those areas where it's almost ripe for street art and instead of being turned into a street art area, it's just being left to be tagged over and over again, like the sound barriers in Howrah. (Bruce, age 20)

For Angela (noted below), public art also indicated that a community was a safe place, and one in which she could walk around in freely:

I love that. [...] When you see art in a public place, you're like 'Okay, this is a safe neighbourhood to live in'. (Angela, age 17, photograph on the right)

Research has shown that the arts positively build social bonds and contribute towards health, psychological, social and physical wellbeing, feelings of social inclusion and belonging, personal resilience and self-confidence, and as a source of tourism, employment, and income (Anwar McHenry 2009; O'Shea and Léime 2012; Zarobe and Bungay 2017). In addition, intergenerational arts programs and events can help breakdown the social barriers between generational groups and help to address ageism (Cook, Vreugdenhil, and Macnish 2018). As

such, the arts can contribute economically towards the City of Clarence, while also fostering feelings of belonging and social inclusion amongst its citizens.

Quality, experiences and feelings: Community 'feel'

When exploring areas of the City of Clarence that they liked, participants often discussed their enjoyment of places that they felt had a community or village 'feel'. Bellerive, Lindisfarne and Richmond were frequently mentioned. by older and younger people alike:

[Richmond's] got all these nice buildings and nice heritage place, and it's got ducks. (Christina, age 15, photograph above)

Richmond is a historic gem that has something for everyone to enjoy. From model village to sophisticated art gallery, olde worlde tearooms, a convict gaol and Tasmanian arts and crafts. […] Richmond's retained its village atmosphere and that's nice. (Beatrice, age 78)

[In Richmond, there are] beautiful old homes. They've been beautifully restored. […] It's good for our kids and grandkids because it brings the heritage that is theirs, and the knowledge of where it comes from. (Chad, age 79)

We consider ourselves very lucky that we have got a lovely historic village in Clarence [Richmond], that's easy to get to. […] We always take visitors down to Richmond […]. It's still got so much of the old historic feel about it. (Phoebe, age 75)

Lindisfarne they've done a very nice job of. […] They don't have as much of this over the other side of the river. I'm quite happy where I live because of this reason. (Sabrina, age 75)

I like the ambiance of Lindisfarne; I think it's got a nice village feel. People are very friendly. (Beatrice, age 78)

It [Lindisfarne] exudes friendliness, people are helpful and most seem pretty cheerful. (Hannah, age 87, photograph above)

There's a lot of little restaurants and cafes which is very nice; it's made Bellerive like a very big village atmosphere. […] It is very villagey and I like it. I'd go there to meet someone for a coffee or something. (Rebecca, age 71)

I do like Bellerive as a place, some of the little shops and cafes there, and just wondering around part of Bellerive, and some of the streets you got older buildings in them and nice views from Bellerive across to the mountain of course. (Dylan, age 67)

It's such an interesting place [Bellerive/ Kangaroo Bluff Fort]. I love it. It's such a piece of history that has been preserved. It's one of the main things I love about this place is you have your old historical buildings and you have your new ones, and they've just like living in this harmony, and they're preserved. (Angela, age 17, photograph above)

It was evident that Richmond is valued for the preservation of colonial history and buildings, and parklands; Bellerive is valued for its compact size, street shopping, historic buildings, views, and proximity to the water; and Lindisfarne is valued for its compact size; street shopping; and parklands. Significantly, greenness and heritage are strongly associated with place quality (Carmona 2019). Additionally, participants connected these places with a community or village 'feel'. While the noted features of each suburb contribute towards this feeling, wider factors such as human connection and belonging are also important. For example, in relation to Howrah, Sabrina notes:

> There are a lot of pensioners living around this area and they've lived there for long time and a lot of them walk because it's flat there, no hills, and everything is easily [accessed]; it's all together like a tiny village with stretches of area where there's grass and greenery and parks and it's a pleasant place to be. […] I'm just trying to get the feeling of this being a community that's kind of villagey but it's villagey in the loose sense of village. It's got enough green spaces and areas like schools and the community centre […] to feel sort of like loosely connected but a village just the same. […] So it's like you've got your little complex of shopping things, services, school, activities centre, and then the houses all spread out from there which is what I like to see. [… It] forms a little village. (Sabrina, age 75)

Sabrina is associating quality of life and liveability with Howrah as a suburb. Liveability refers to "the degree to which the physical and the social living environment fit individual requirements and desires" (Gieling and Haarsten 2017: 578). It has also been defined as "socially inclusive, affordable, accessible, healthy, safe and resilient to the impacts of climate change. They have attractive built and natural environments [… ,] and provide choice and opportunity for people to live their lives, and raise their families to their fullest potential" (Major Cities Unit in Badland et al. 2014: 65). As such, the features of liveable environments include accessible physical settings, social opportunities, and health outcomes. Relating to Howrah, Sabrina notes that topography, service provision, parklands, greenspaces, and health and social opportunities, contribute towards liveability. As such, liveability and place are strongly related.

Information, communication and consultation: Development and nature

As seen in Sabrina's comments on Howrah (as per above), perceptions and feelings of place liveability can positively affect an individual's emotions and contribute towards their identity. These can, in turn, foster place attachment and place identity, which add to community identity and belonging. Proposed, approved, and commencing developments can disrupt or threaten this connection to place and foster individual and collective grief, anxiety, and loss (Devine-Wright 2009). These psychological and emotional responses reveal the value and connection that individuals and communities can form with the place in which they live. Therefore, when public opposition to development is marginalised, or pejoratively labelled and dismissed, there is a failure to recognise the symbolic meaning of and emotional attachment to place that fosters liveability and informs individual and community evaluations (Devine-Wright 2009).

Across the younger and older participants, it was evident that they had formed strong connections with their locale. This is seen in statements that draw distinctions between the City of Clarence and other locations, as well as demarcations of difference in liveability between the eastern and western shores of the Derwent River. Consequently, various land and building developments in the City of Clarence were often raised during the interviews. The viewpoints shared by most of the participants are encapsulated in the following quotes from Phoebe and Dylan:

> And I feel very strongly, when buildings are put in out of context, it's not a good thing. […] I don't mind change, but if you can put it in context with what's there, I would rather have that. (Phoebe, age 75)
>
> I certainly do have mixed feelings about what's going in the City of Clarence. There's a lot of good work to do with walking trails, sign posting, things like that, but inappropriate development […] destroys residential amenity. […] To me, it could've been something more appropriate [to the area]. (Dylan, age 67)

It is important to note that participants were not anti-development, but rather strongly felt the need for contextual sensitivity and public inclusion. This highlights how citizens attach meaning to specific locations within the City of Clarence (or 'place identity'). This is captured by Camila who noted "Bellerive is a lovely old area and many people take pride in where they live". This place identity (or 'sense of place') means that what is deemed an appropriate and suitable development specifically depends on location and place in question. For example, Rosny Park was deemed suitable for concentrated services and multistorey buildings, but this did not apply to Bellerive as a 'village'.

Regarding land and building development, specific sites discussed included the hospitality college at Kangaroo Bay/ Bellerive, and the proposed/ abandoned accommodation development at Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area (RHNRA) (noting the interviews occurred between April to November 2018). Three participants were in favour of the Kangaroo Bay/ Bellerive development; two of which also supported the RHNRA development. The majority were against the Kangaroo Bay/ Bellerive development, which exposed how tensions form between how place is framed politically, economically, and by the community.

Concerning the Kangaroo Bay/ Bellerive development, many younger and older participants believed that the site was highly unsuited for the development in location and scale. In addition, the participants view the development as impinging on Bellerive and the existing community spaces at Kangaroo Bay, and therefore undermining the village and community 'feel' associated with these places (see the next page for selected interview extracts and photographs). The place-based features that they felt were being undervalued and compromised by this development include:

1) The village qualities of Bellerive
2) Nature and views (which will be further raised in "Natural environment and public places")
3) Public/ community ownership of place

I'm very much against it. […] It doesn't fit into the land. It doesn't blend into it, and […] will spoil it [the view] if you're walking along the street. We'll have it right in front of us, between us and the mountain [views]. (Hugo, age 83, photograph above)

[…] And it's not right that an area like this should have monstrosities in this precinct, in Bellerive [referring to the Kangaroo Bay development]. I mean, it's an older part of Hobart. Say it was put in Battery Point. What would happen there? […] It will change the [Bellerive] Village totally. […] I think with this new hospitality place, that's going to invite a lot of people from everywhere here. So it's going to be smothered with people. (Jeremy, age 71)

That is a concern because […] it won't be built in keeping with the old Kangaroo Bay waterfront there. […] I don't like the fact that it's almost certainly going to take the view from all those people along the other side of the road there who've been there forever, or the houses have. And that will alter everything for them as well. […] If it was long and low then yes, that wouldn't bother me so much. Its, I know you have got to have housing, and I know you've gotta service an area with accommodation […]. I'm well aware of all that, but it's the type of building. (Phoebe, age 75)

Well the facility, putting the hotel there and that where it is wrong. It's the wrong area. That should be left open for the public [referring to the Kangaroo Bay development]. (Melvin, age 71)

So the training school, a five storey building is going to be straight on the road. […] It's going to be built on the street here and you won't be able to see the view. And if it was a bit further and was only a couple of storeys, no one would mind, but it's going to be street front. […] I think it will change the [Bellerive] Village. I think it will become another Salamanca Place. […] It will affect us because we walk over there and we cycle, and we may not be able to walk there. I think it will impact on us, and it will increase the visitors and the traffic around here. (Kiera, age 66)

With all the work that's gone into Kangaroo Bay; it [needs to be] very community based. (Bruce, age 20)

[Regarding the Kangaroo Bay development] You can't see anything but the building. The view will be gone. […] It will block it all up. They could have built it somewhere else. [… It should be] a barbeque area or something. […] Nature is really important. (Emily, age 18)

To me, Bellerive is a small village. […] These buildings are sort of destroying the historic nature of it, and I think Bellerive can be perhaps, not quite up there with Battery Point, but if […] some thought was given into the buildings that were built there and the controls, the planning controls […]. (Dylan, age 67)

It is down in Kangaroo Bay where the new hotel will be built. […] I walk past everyday and once it is built, I won't be able to do that anymore [and enjoy the view]. […] You can see yachts and the mountain, and the view will be ruined. The access will be ruined. […] It is a hotel and could have been built elsewhere. The public should use that area, not a privately-owned international company. […] There's no tall buildings here [around Kangaroo Bay]. (Maria, age 16, photograph above)

These comments additionally reveal that the participants make comparisons between discrete places. As such, place differentiation is important for how they attribute identity to place. These comparisons reveal their strong association between the location of the development and Bellerive Village, including:

1) Bellerive Village to Battery Point (desire for similar preservation values)
2) Bellerive Village to Salamanca Place (concerns over similarities regarding noise levels and congestion problems)

It was clear that most participants felt the Kangaroo Bay/ Bellerive development was public land being taken away from the community, and the development as encroaching on the desirability and liveability of that area. They suggested that the building size should be reduced or moved to another location; the view should be preserved for the community; and that the space needed to be freely accessible to the public and contain public facilities. As such, this place was framed as a continuation of the Kangaroo Bay Park and Parklands that flows into (as well as from) Bellerive Village. According to the participants, this was at odds with how the Council were defining this place.

Development at the RHNRA was also raised. As the interviews occurred between April to November 2018, they span the time during which the development proposition for RHNRA from Hunter Developments was proposed and withdrawn. This did not draw as much negative feedback from the participants as the Kangaroo Bay development, but the interviews with younger and older people still revealed tensions over how place is defined and used:

The only time I've heard of a [Clarence Council] development that I didn't like the idea of was when they wanted to develop Rosny Hill and that just seemed too radical of a change. […] It's not what Clarence needs. We don't need to be the group that stands out because we do so well at what we already do, so we don't need to then try and compete with groups like Hobart. People come to us for a completely different reason. Our views are just as good, if not better, because we are more of a greenery city [than Hobart]. […] If we didn't have our nature, then we would just be another generic area with less reason to visit. (Bruce, age 20)

At the moment they're aiming to take away the ambiance of that area [RHNRA] by putting a big hotel development up there. […] It's realistic that something goes there. […But] it's too big because it going to bring lots of traffic into the area. And really, unless the streets are modified, particularly at the end of the street, and getting in and out, it's gonna be a nuisance. […] It will impinge on the amenity of the hill and I think that's a problem. […] But whether it will remain a great place when there is a 200-room accommodation or maybe it's only 100 room accommodation? A 200-person convention centre, gymnasium, restaurant and all those sorts of things; it seems pretty big to fit there. […] They're going to take much of, you know, the flora and fauna that is up there but, and yeah, how they're going to protect it? (Wilbur, age 72, photograph above)

> They wanted to put a hotel there [at RHNRA]. That would have ruined the whole thing. There would be no view at all. […] I wouldn't go if they put a restaurant there. […] I don't think any development is appropriate. It would ruin it. It has always been like that. […] I think leave it the way it is. (Emily, age 18)

Participants also offered suggestions about what they thought would be an appropriate development at RHNRA:

> […] And part of a nature recreation area does allow some development within […]; the activities of the commercial development to be complementary to the region. In other words, I guess you could have a little place where, for someone who's big into bushwalking, they can have a coffee or something, or you can have a place that rents bicycles […]. [Something] that's complementary that assists people in enjoying their environment within that reserve. […] I think it'd be good [to have] sort of container-size little cafes or coffee places and things like that, and they could be clad in timber, it looks appropriate. […] There's no toilets there. There's no services that at the moment at all. […] I think there is room for some sensitive development that would bring some more people there, but not in huge numbers because there's narrow streets all around [Rosny]. (Dylan, age 67)

It was clear that most participants did not necessarily oppose some form of development at RHNRA but, similarly to Kangaroo Bay/ Bellerive, they felt it needed to align with the pre-existing uses and values of place. In this case, RHNRA is valued for its walking trails, nature (flora and fauna), views, and public accessibility. This has generated a sense of place identity and attachment that the participants want prioritised in development planning.

Developments occurring on or proposed for land that the community view as "public" (regardless of government definitions of place), brings tensions on place classification and use. For the participants, place identity and attachment foster a sense of belonging and ownership, and deepens the identity they associate with the City of Clarence. When place meanings and attachment are acknowledged, and strategies are used to incorporate and preserve these in consultation, planning, and design, community satisfaction can increase (Manzo and Perkins 2006: 338). This is at odds with place being defined in economic or commercial terms, which is how some participants viewed the Council's decision-making practices. For example, Dylan stated that "You can't put a dollar value on people's sort of wellbeing and sort of outlook on life and so forth. […] It's much harder".

It was less likely that participants living in rural/ less urban suburbs of the City of Clarence would discuss the developments in Bellerive and Rosny. Rather, they were more likely to be attuned to developments occurring in their own suburb or neighbouring suburbs. Martha, who lives at Seven Mile Beach, was concerned with how population growth within this suburb was not being met with increasing services and facilities. Again, Martha was not against these developments, but was concerned about how this related to place (that is, the lack of facilities to support population growth, and the specific needs of population cohorts). Problematically, housing developments at urban fringes often occur prior to provision of other services that support liveability including employment opportunities and public transport, which helps to increase dependency on private car use (Badland et al. 2014):

> The next lot of building that's going on around Seven Mile [Beach] […] There's no facilities to deal with these, these retirement homes. What if there's nothing for people to do here? And if people, as they get older, don't want to drive, what is there? […] And increase the facilities because [… Seven Mile Beach] it's growing. […] It's growing and so they have […] to be aware of that fact and start, maybe, providing more facilities for people. […] Possible something more for the young kids to do. […] There isn't anything for people here [in Seven Mile Beach] apart from one shop. […] There are a lot of older people in Seven Mile Beach that it would be nice for them to wander down and have drink at the RSL club or the kids maybe a better park than they've got. […] There's nothing for kids to do here. […] When I think of how populous Seven Mile Beach is in the summer, honestly, there could be so much more there for people. (Martha, age 73)

In 2016, 26.5% of the population in Seven Mile Beach was aged between 0 – 19 years, which is higher than the City of Clarence average (23.7%) (ABS 2018). While the older population living in Seven Mile Beach is significantly lower than the City of Clarence average (12.9% versus 20.1%) (ABS 2018), this figure is likely to increase with the opening of a new retirement village as well as other housing options. As Seven Mile Beach is also popular with visitors during the summer months, new social facilities could benefit residents and visitors alike.

As already noted, and as will be addressed in "Natural environment and public places", the natural environment in the City of Clarence is an outstanding feature of high value and importance to its citizens, and forms a significant part of their place attachment and identity. In thinking about current and future developments, preserving the natural values of the City of Clarence was important to all participants. As such, when faced with development and expansion pressures, the younger and older participants noted the natural values that needed to be valued and preserved:

> I think that's what we'd miss if we cover our hill tops [bushland and the ability to walk through it]. (Roslyn, age 70)
>
> I don't like high-rise buildings, because they always build them along the foreshore, and it doesn't take into consideration the community that are looking to the views on the river. […] I think that there ought to be a five-kilometre moratorium from any stretch of water, and you can't build high rise buildings in that area. They should definitely investigate that. (Chad, age 79)

I'm a firm believer in tree line, skyline preservation. Keep the trees over the hills. And you can see the encroachment that's gradually occurring over there [on the opposite side of the river], see how it goes over the top of the hill? I think they ought to stop that. […] And this photo shows where the tree line is now […]. And I think that should be maintained and that's a case where the Council could actually make it a requirement that you don't invade on the tree line. […] And it takes the softness of the view out of it, and it's another quality issue I think. And it's also maintaining your animal corridor. So there's lots of things tied up with it, and it's pretty simple issue for Council to be able to control that sort of thing. […] It's all about quality and preserving what you've got. (Chad, age 79, photograph on the left)

Information, communication and consultation: Development and the community 'feel'

Relating to the Kangaroo Bay/ Bellerive development, it was evident that public consultation processes and information provision to the community were considered problematic, as discussed by Camila:

I'm not really sure what's going on [Kangaroo Bay/ Bellerive development] and that to me is indicative of the fact that it feels a great lack of transparency has been happening from the Council. […] I feel particularly with this issue, of which I'm not even that well-informed, I've looked up and looked up, and can hardly find anything about it now. […] The decisions made by Clarence City Council appeared to lack transparency and full, fair and […] timely notification and consultation, because my belief is that when the notification happened here, it was right around the Christmas holidays and […] it's by design. The lesser people around, the less people will be upset. […] It makes me feel a deep distrust in our elected Clarence Council members. […] There just needs to be far better consultation and far better decisions being made and it's not, it must not be about the money. […] I think it [consultation] needs to be a much longer time period and much more evident for all to see. […] Clarence needs to work out how they consult and how they notify people. A little tiny advertisement when it's going to affect so many people, that is not good enough. […] Even if they letter drop. (Camila, age 66)

It is significant that Camila is unsure what is happening at Kangaroo Bay/ Bellerive, as she lives within a short walk of the development. In addition, Camila raises the need to ensure that stakeholders are consulted and notified, which includes the public. Indeed, during the interviews, it was clear that people were not clear on the purpose and focus of the hospitality college, and whether the public would still have access to the waterfront including a public pathway. In addition, the younger people did not feel they were included in the consultations:

[Regarding consultation] I think there should be a broader range of ages with many views that reflect society. It reflects the view of the community. (Maria, age 16)

As such, there might be ways that the Council can improve consultation and information communication strategies for the future, including mechanisms to update the community on the progress and outcomes of major development projects.

Availability and accessibility: Housing

The accessibility and affordability of housing as well as housing options, were raised by younger and older people. For the younger people who had finished high school and college, the cost of renting or purchasing a house was of concern:

[This photograph] represents how hard it is to get into the housing market with prices going up crazily compared to incomes. It makes things a bit more out of reach to get a step in on it. I just know that to get a deposit together, you need to save a whole lot of money, so then it's choice of whether you go out and do some renting, in which case, you're almost throwing away some of the money that you could be saving, or if you stay at home with your family, but then some people, even if they stay at home, they still have to pay rent; either if it's just taking responsibility, or if their family barely gets by with income so it's contributing to keep the family to rolling on. […] There's the renting crisis as well. (Clarissa, age 19, photograph on the left)

I would move anywhere [in the Greater Hobart area] if I could find somewhere to live. It's challenging at the moment finding somewhere to live. It's why I'm still living with my family. […] The rental and housing market is not good for someone looking to rent a house. […] It's been a barrier to me, considering going anywhere. (Gavin, age 23)

As noted by Eccleston and colleagues (2018), Greater Hobart has an undersupply of housing including low rates of new build completions, low rental vacancy rates, and an undersupply of low-rent residential accommodation. This is a challenge for state and local governments in Tasmania, particularly the Greater Hobart area which has additionally experienced population growth. For the older participants, they wished to age-in-place. Some were making home adaptions to try to ensure this could happen, or had moved to housing that they felt would be appropriate. They also noted the need for services to enable their ageing-in-place into the future, though were concerned about timely access and therefore were expecting, or are currently privately paying for, these services:

[A concern is] access to home care services as we age without having to wait a long time, because from hearsay, friends of ours who tried to access all sorts of home care services, it was, 'sorry come back in two years'; it's crazy. (Beatrice, age 78)

[… I'll probably] pay somebody for it [window cleaning] because [I don't want to wait that long] […]. In the end, I'll probably just pay them out of my own money. (Evan, age 83)

[…] In about a month's time, I'll turn eighty-three and so I do struggle a little bit with some of the gardening. Anyway, I find a couple of little guys who come in, and I'll probably employ them permanently or on a regular basis. […] I hope that we can stay here to the end of our days. (Evan, age 83, photograph on the left)

All the older participants owned their own home or lived in a leasehold arrangement, allowing them to make home adaptions. For older adults in private rental, or social and public housing, they do not have the same options or freedom. This means they may not have suitable accommodation for their needs. As such, ageing-in-place policies place responsibility on older adults to exercise choice, but constraints on the housing market limit

their options as well as their potential personal circumstances and health, economic, and social inequalities (Curryer 2016). For example, mortgage stress is increasingly affecting older adults, with the average mortgage debt to income ratio of people aged 55 years or over tripling from 71% to 211% between 1987 and 2015 (Ong et al. 2019). Such pressures can force older adults into the rental market or into public housing. These are not, however, a solution to their housing problems. As noted by Ong and colleagues (2019: 1):

> Due to tenure and demographic change, the demand for Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) is projected to rise by 60 per cent, from 414,000 in 2016 to 664,000 in 2031. The unmet demand for public housing from private renters aged 55+ is expected to rise by 78 per cent–from 200,000 to 440,000 households–between 2016 and 2031 (Ong et al. 2019: 1).

There is also a distinct lack in the private rental market. For an older couple living on the age pension, only 3.2% of properties available are affordable, which drops to less than 1% for older adults who are single (Anglicare Australia 2019). As such, housing affordability and availability are significant social and political issues that require urgent attention for younger and older people alike.

Key points

- Density of services and facilities at Rosny Park is valued, though smaller shopping areas are important for those who have health or mobility restrictions, or prefer less noise and congestion
- Arts are important and defining features of the City of Clarence, including public art (sculptures in parks and street art), Rosny Farm, Bellerive Community Arts Centre, and Clarence Jazz Festival. There was a clear desire that support of the arts should continue and increase
- Bellerive, Lindisfarne and Richmond are valued areas. Reasons included heritage, parklands, views, access to water, and historic buildings or sites. Participants wanted these areas to be preserved, including the village 'feel'
- Natural values, and place identity, attachment and meaning, need to be accommodated into development planning to increase community satisfaction and 'buy in'
- Rural/ less urban suburbs are expanding, and infrastructure needs to be reviewed in light of these changes
- Consultation processes and community information provision was highly critiqued, particularly in relation to Kangaroo Bay/ Bellerive. How consultation occurs, the timelines for feedback, and how to identify and include stakeholders (which also includes younger people), needs review
- Affordable housing is a source of worry amongst younger participants
- Older adults wish to age-in-place, which can be made possible through diverse housing options and more timely community services
- Spatial organisation should be based on inclusive design

Recommendations

Recommendation – Maintain the centralisation of services at Rosny Park, while retaining smaller service areas
Recommendation – Engage with housing experts on how to increase affordable and diverse housing options
Recommendation – Encourage the development of new and diverse housing options, including affordable housing, for younger and older citizens (for example, small/ tiny houses and intergenerational housing)
Recommendation – Investigate services provided through Clarence Community Volunteer Service for catering to older adults in need (for example, emergency situations, those with little/ no finances, or on the waiting list for services approved through an aged care assessment)
Recommendation – Ensure public feedback timelines for developments provide enough calendar time for their meaningful input (for example, a blackout on consultation feedback timelines over Christmas/ New Year, Easter and other major holiday periods)
Recommendation – Review processes for information provision and public communication, and identification strategies of relevant 'stakeholders'
Recommendation – Review consultation strategies to ensure that place identity and attachment are part of the infrastructure planning and design
Recommendation – Investigate models to preserve and enhance the historic qualities of Bellerive and Richmond, including the village atmosphere
Recommendation – Retain and preserve smaller pockets of community villages in the City of Clarence, such as Lindisfarne, Bellerive, and Richmond
Recommendation – Engage with residents, including youth, in suburbs with expanding populations to review social facility needs and desires with due consideration for gendered preferences
Recommendation – Maintain a tree line/ skyline policy
Recommendation – Investigate building height limits on developments close to the foreshore
Recommendation – Continue to support Clarence Arts and Events including Rosny Farm, Bellerive Community Arts Centre, and the Clarence Jazz Festival
Recommendation – Expand the street art program, potentially in partnership with external organisations/ groups
Recommendation – Create a walking/ touring guide for street and public art
Recommendation – Explore public areas to increase the presence of public art (such as parks and playgrounds), which may include interactional art forms

Recommendation – Investigate a sculpture-based art event/ competition in a public space (for example, 'sculptures in the park') in collaboration with Clarence Arts and Events, with the winning artwork acquired as part of the Clarence Art Collection and permanently on display in a public space (for example, a 'winners' trail in a parkland/s)

Recommendation – Creating a scheme that recognises local, small business for contributing towards an inclusive, age-friendly Clarence

4. Relationships and inclusivity: Findings

Summary

The theme of "Relationships and inclusivity" relates to connections, attitudes and relationships that the citizens of the City of Clarence form with themselves, humans, animals, and others in general. This may include considering how social design can enable or disable such interrelationships to be developed and nurtured. This theme was extensively raised by younger people and older adults.

Findings

> Clarence tends to bring people together in different ways. It makes it quite unique. (Bruce, age 20)

Programs and events: Volunteering and social activities

> [… It's important to] look after yourself as much as you can as well as trying to be there for others. (Julia, age 15)
>
> I like being able to do things for others (Martha, age 73)
>
> I love supporting others now just because I've been supported, and it's such a nice thing to do. Just to go out there and actually support people in the community. (Bruce, age 20)

All participants were involved in a range of social and volunteering activities. There was an extensive array of social activities that the participants engaged with that involved contact with other people. Many participants also did volunteering work or, in the case of older adults, unpaid work by caring for their grandchildren. Some participants also indicated some forms of volunteering that they would like to pursue. A list of volunteer and social activities are noted in Figure 8.

Social Activities		Volunteering (current)	Volunteering (future)
• Pilates • Badminton • Jazzercise • Tennis • Handcrafts • Sewing	• Ukulele class • Dragon boat paddling • Tai Chi • Printmaking • Book binding	• Trefoil Guild • Volunteer radio • Clarence Community Volunteer • Gardening services • Gardening club • School volunteer groups	• Health-related services • Counselling • Care for animals

• Knitting • Letter writing • Book club • Walking • Walking groups • Gentle squash • Music • Social activity group • Dancing • Gaming	• Art groups • Choir • Swimming • Dungeons and Dragons • Golf • Kayaking • Bike riding • Skateboarding • Netball • Board games	• Clarence Community Care Club • Sports • Home library service courier • U3A Clarence • School carnivals • Therapy dog • Landcare • Youth committees • Rosny Barn	• Services for older adults • Literacy classes • Reading to people who cannot read • Gardening services

Figure 8: Participant social and volunteer activities

The specific financial value of volunteers is difficult to ascertain and will vary depending on the measurement tool used, with the most common method being wage rate per hour. It has, however, been estimated that the economic value of volunteers to Australia was $43 billion in 2006 (ABS 2019). This figure may not reflect the full cost, as it may not account for the capital and material costs contributed by volunteers at their own expense (for example, vehicle running costs), nor the personal benefits individuals may derive from their contribution (such as personal wellbeing and positive self-identity). Thirty-one percent of Australian adults participated in volunteer work during 2014, contributing 743 hours over the previous year. This is even higher in Tasmania, with more than one-in-three Tasmanians contributing unpaid time to an organisation or group (ABS 2015). Volunteers can provide valuable skills, knowledge and expertise, and can complement the work provided by paid employees. As such, volunteers are vital for business and community success.

The social activities and volunteering undertaken by participants are noted below (pages 48 to 50). These interview extracts also demonstrate that stereotypes of younger and older people as disinterested and apathetic do not reflect reality.

I actually deliver library books to housebound people. […] I was also volunteering driving for Community Transport for a couple of years. […] And it's interesting; meet some lovely people. (Roslyn, age 70, photograph above)

I've been a volunteer since I stopped working fulltime, nearly twelve years. […] It's a beaut way of meeting people. (Gwendolyn, age 72)

It has [volunteering] given me a purpose I think in my retirement. You know, perhaps I'm doing some good and helping people. (Beatrice, age 78)

It's important for people to understand is that this form of [aerobic] exercise is available on the Eastern Shore; for a monthly fee you can attend as many sessions as you like. And the atmosphere is friendly and fun […]. This is the only place where I do come in contact with some younger people 'cause there are a lot of young mothers in the class and they can bring their children along and they're minded for them out the back while they take part in the class. (Beatrice, age 78)

[…] I've made a few friends out of the band program, and I've met a fair amount of people from different schools and people playing different instruments. (Julia, age 15)

I've joined a gardening club where I pick out weeds. (Ava, age 14)

It's [dancing] good socially, physically and it's good for your memory, so it's got it all really. (Brenda, age 74)

I ride a bike myself. I've got a little battery on it now. (Brenda, age 74)

I like kayaking. (Wilbur, age 72)

I've done lots of netball and badminton and […] having been in band and [… a club] which helps the community. (Christina, age 15)

I like playing guitar and being productive. I'm learning Japanese and […] I like stretching. I like to get flexible and I like bike riding and reading and skateboarding. (Ava, age 14)

I got people I play tennis with who've had hip replacements. Some of them have been playing for thirty, forty years or more and they're just amazing people. (Gwendolyn, age 72)

So it's [tennis] exercise, its conversation and its hard work […]. (Roslyn, age 70, photograph above)

You go to Tai Chi or whatever it is and have the time to get to know each other. Friendships developed and they may not be the closest of friendships [...]. A lot of people in that group there have balance problems and Tai Chi is very good for balance, helping your balance. It's wonderful for breathing and it's enjoyable. I love it. […] And the woman that takes it, charges us nothing to go. We go every week. (Peggy, age 77, photograph above)

It's a big part of my life, badminton […]. At the moment I'm still playing but I'm not as twirly-whirly as I was before […]. I love it, because it's fun and we've got the camaraderie; that's why I really want to keep going. […] We've been playing it for fifty years. (Hannah, age 87, photograph above)

[My spouse] and I love to sing, so we're in a choir. […] It's an acapella group and there's no written work. You learn it all by ear. […] And I learnt to play the ukulele. I'd never played any music in my life, but I've always loved music and this was offered and I thought, 'Hmmm. I should try it'. (Peggy, age 77)
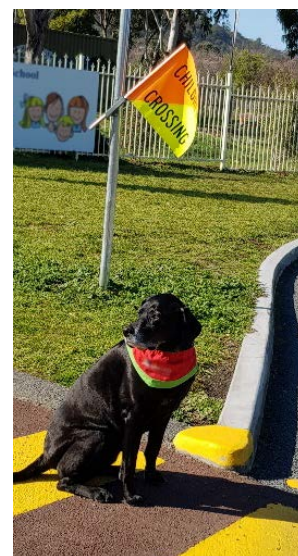
I enjoy volunteer day, and that's our volunteer day. […] So she's [my dog] a therapy dog and we go and visit a primary school every week. (Martha, age 73, photograph above)

Another thing that is important in my life and that's my Pilates classes. […] I would miss that if I didn't have it. […] Some people are very good at being self-motivated, but I think the majority of us don't come into that camp […]. When you're in the class then you have to do it. […] If I didn't have a class to go to, I wouldn't do it. (Leah, age 73, photograph above)

I go swimming twice a week. […] That's a heated pool so gets quite [warm], 32. 31, 32. So yes, I go twice a week in the morning and have a swim and in warm water. It's very nice, it's very restful. Very therapeutic. It's good for your joints because you can exercise without having to have the weight on. (Phoebe, age 75, photograph above)

A strong interest of mine that I've been able to follow up here, and it's a very good art group. They offer a lot. Everyday of the week, there are things on there for people. […] It's not just for old people. Anyone in the community can come along and learn all these things, but it's offered at Bellerive Community Art Centre. (Peggy, age 77, photograph above)

Bellerive Squash court. […] Games called gentle squash which are designed for people over 55. People are older, same as me, up to 84 [years]. They are all people who used to play tennis or squash but became too old for it. They have the technique or eye-ball coordination skills and they can go and play with a softer ball and the rules are less competitive, they get exercise, have fun and company and we have tea and cake between games. I go there every Friday afternoon. One of the few places I go to meet people and friends. […] It's the highlight of my week. (Jarrod, age 71, photograph above)

It's very popular [gentle squash]. […] I have fun. We finish up with a […] cup of tea. [… It's about] making sure people are active, involved, socialising, and mainly keeping their health up. They love playing. It's good for them, and because it's an aerobic activity and the hand-eye coordination, I think it's very important. […] We have nibbles afterwards. Tea, coffee, cake and biscuits and so on. That's to keep the group […] in a family atmosphere. I think it's very important because it keeps them together. (Hugo, age 83)

It's mainly solo [my art pursuits] but I'm very open to, if there's an art group to go along because that's where you do learn a lot. (Pierce, age 67)

I play competitive video games which happens at a couple of stores in Hobart. I play Dungeons and Dragons. (Gavin, age 23)

[…] I like getting down to the golf course at Llanherne [at Seven Mile Beach], which is very close by and I play twice a week with some ex-work colleagues. It's a good catchup - bunch of old men talking about their aliments and trying to hit a ball into a piece of green grass with a flag on it. (Pierce, age 67, photograph above)

I swim twice a week. Walk everyday. (Martha, age 73)

Some activities were specific to an age group such as golf, Tai Chi, Pilates and art groups (older adults), and netball, online gaming and skateboarding (younger people). Other activities were shared across the age groups included music, reading, badminton, cycling and gardening. The most popular and common activity for both age groups was walking as a solitary and group activity; often undertaken in the interests of physical health mental wellbeing and socialisation. The popularity of walking highlights the need for accessible footpaths, pathways, and public places where walking is enabled and made a pleasant experience (see "Natural environment and public places"):

The walking and the talking are equally important I found with this group and, as I'm getting older, I'm realising how important it is. […] They talk when they're walking and then they come back and have a cup of tea or two and they talk some more and it's wonderful. (Peggy, age 77, photograph above)

I go bike riding, do lots of walking. (Pierce, age 67)

I go walking. I try to go walking at least once a day. (Roslyn, age 70)

I do like walking. It's good for me. […] I enjoy walking. It keeps me fit and keeps me out of the doctor's surgery, I think. (Brenda, age 74)

I feel so much better if I've gone for a walk than not so it tends to be something I do. (Bruce, age 20)

I was there [Mount Wellington/kunanyi] on Sunday and I'm in a bush walking – a formal bush walking club and an informal bush walking club […]. And with both groups, we walk up there and plenty of other places. (Dylan, age 67)

I go wherever my legs take me; they take me around the corners […]. Whenever I'm having a bad day, I go and have a walk around. [… It] makes me feel better. (Julia, age 15)

I feel quite toey until I've got my walk in. […] I have been walking all over the place for thirty years. (Rose, age 78)

I enjoy walking, it keeps me fit. (Leah, age 73)

I've got a group that walks mostly on Sundays. […] Sometimes they do nice and easy walks and sometimes harder walks and I just pick and choose what I want to do. […] It's a general activity group. It's social more than anything. (Brenda, age 74)

Tasmania has hills and the roads are high sometimes. It gets tiring [walking] but is good exercise. (Sophia, age 15)

I am a bushwalker and I go usually walking on a good week, twice a week. (Evan, age 83)

Walking is a key part of keeping myself healthy. It's keeping me alive basically. (Chad, age 79)
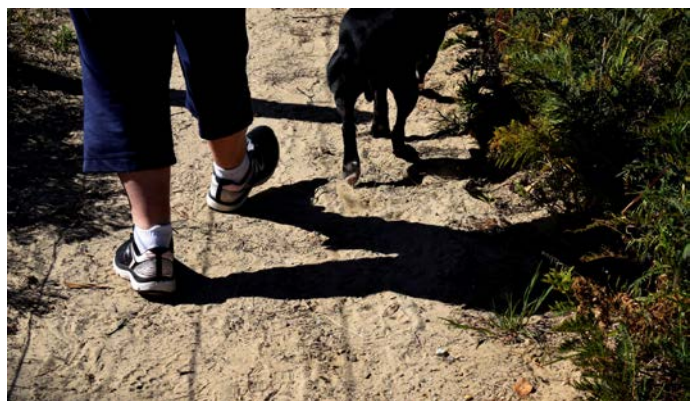
I walk with my mum and my dog. (Maria, age 16, photograph above)

My favourite walk would probably be the Foreshore around Bellerive and Howrah. […] I like to do it with someone else or a group of people (Bruce, age 20).

Every day is a lot to process, […] and we don't always get that time so when you're walking for half an hour, you're just like 'Oh, yes, this happened'. And you just move on from that. Or if you had a really bad day, you can just wallow in self-pity for your walk and then come home and be fine. (Angela, age 17)

It was evident that fun, companionship, wellness and socialisation are central to younger and older people's physical activities. This highlights the centrality of relationships to enjoyable programs and events. Such findings are replicated in existing research, with Miller and Iris (2002) identifying that older adults' participation with health promotion activities was dependent on a supportive environment with socialisation, social support, and social relationships being primary motivators. This can also lead to increased individual social activities including volunteering and community work, and improved personal development, wellbeing, and self-expression (Nadasen 2008).

Barriers to physical activity for older adults span physical or mental health (including pre-existing health conditions, ageism, and fears of falling or tripping), individual preferences and interpersonal circumstances (such as likes and dislikes, and care/ family responsibilities), environmental factors (including stairs, poor quality of footpaths, or lack of parking or transport), structural and organisational factors (such as cost, program quality, and lack of information and professional support), and cultural factors (including social isolation, language barriers, and gender roles) (Bethancourt et al. 2014; Evenson et al. 2002). Barriers experienced by younger people are similar and include environmental factors (such as proximity and location, accessibility, cost, availability of footpaths and after-school programs, walkability, neighbourhood safety and crime levels, and traffic volume/ speed), cultural and organisational factors (including gender norms, and young men engaging in rough play, exclusionary techniques, and ridiculing young women in mixed-gender physical education classes), and interpersonal factors (such as social support and interest from family, teachers, and friends) (Casey et al. 2009; Ding et al. 2011; Moore et al. 2010). Some of these environmental and organisational barriers were also mentioned by participants. These are examined in "Availability and accessibility: Social spaces" (see pages 54 to 57), as well as in "Natural environment and public places".

Relating to programs and events, the younger people noted gaps in mental health and wellbeing support, and the loneliness experienced by some youth:

I want it to represent how everyone is on technology all the time, and I think it's bad for people. […] You can get symptoms of anxiety and depression, and especially among the youths with Instagram and Snapchat and video games or whatever. […] I feel like there should be more things about mental health, like programs that go around talking about mental health and discussing it and trying to help people. There should be stuff in school about that or a club or something. [… I heard about a club] in Clarence or Hobart, but it's only for sixteen and older, so we couldn't really join in, but maybe there should be a younger class. [It would focus on] bonding with each other and figure out ways to make yourself happier and get through stress and depression. Figure out ways to prevent it. (Ava, age 14, photograph on the left)

When you're young and something like that happens [depression], you're like 'Why is this happening?'. […] You don't have the skills to deal with that. (Cassandra, age 17, photograph below)

It represents how some people feel lonely at school and don't get to interact with many people. I think it is really sad for some people. They might be shy and lonely, and they might just need someone to chat with. (Sophia, age 15, photograph above)

This morning, my friend, he hasn't been doing too well with his mental health […]. He's in a bad place and I worry about him as well as one of my other friends. (Julia, age 15)

Ava is concerned with the connection between digital technologies and mental health. While digital technologies have well recognised risks including addiction, cyber-bullying, and sexual grooming, they also help individuals to increase their social network and connect with new ideas and like-minded individuals (Patton et al. 2016). The Internet can also be a resource for younger people to seek information on mental health services and resources, which can overcome structural barriers to, or complement existing, support services (Burns et al. 2016). School services such as counsellors are important for supporting younger people with mental health concerns and can provide evidence-based programs (AIHW 2016; Mission Australia and the Black Dog Institute 2017), but lack of funding can be limiting.

While many younger people report having good mental health, mental health conditions are also common amongst children and adolescence; a time when many mental health disorders start (Kessler et al. 2007; Jamnik and DiLalla 2019). According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) (2016), fourteen percent of 4 – 17 year olds had a mental disorder in the preceding twelve months, while research conducted by Mission Australia and the Black Dog Institute (2017) indicates that 22.8% of young people aged 15-19 years could have a serious mental illness emergent from stress, school or study problems, and depression. Mental health problems can lead to school absence, decreased physical activity, engaging with health risk behaviours (such as smoking and drug use), and disability, as well as ongoing health problems (AIHW 2016; Jamnik and DiLalla 2019).

The younger people in this project clearly indicate that they are concerned about mental health, and they desire increased awareness of how to manage their mental health. Ava also indicated the importance of social networks in assisting younger people to develop friendships, feelings of belongingness, and social connections. Such wider social engagement and peer support are important for adolescent development, health, and

wellbeing (Patton et al. 2016), and can be positive for mental health (Mission Australia and the Black Dog Institute 2017). Ava's suggestion of a youth group would also help to address social marginalisation, alienation, and isolation that some younger people may experience at school/ college. While Ava suggests some activities, it is important that youth groups are of minimal or zero cost to attendees to foster accessibility and inclusivity:

> I think there should be more groups for teenagers to come together and just bond with each other and communicate and stuff so the community can be closer. […] Just a group to just hang out with each other and have fun and go places like the movies or Zone 3 or anywhere just so you can have fun for people who have nothing to do. […] So people feel like they have a place to belong. (Ava, age 14)

While there was a desire for age-specific socialisation, programs and events (which is also noted below in "Availability and accessibility: Social spaces"), there was also interest in intergenerational contact. As such, a mix of programs and events catering to specific age groups, as well as different age groups are important:

> I don't wish there were spaces for people my age. I don't have any desire to be away from people younger or older than me. I think it's nice. It is good that activities and services are useful for a lot of people. (Gavin, age 23)
>
> I do have a lot of good friends, luckily through the things I'm involved with in their 30s and 40s, which is nice, but I think for the general, the broader older community, it can be quite challenging. (Gwendolyn, age 72)
>
> One of my other dislikes about old age is that we have very little contact with young people, and I miss that contact. (Beatrice, age 78)

Availability and accessibility: Social spaces

It is well established that in older adults, social participation and life meaningfulness is associated with better cognitive function, reduced mortality, better physical and mental health, reduced social isolation, and improved personal wellbeing (Bath and Deeg 2005; Steptoe and Fancourt 2019). For younger people, social participation facilitates skills acquisition, which builds "physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and economic resources that are the foundation for later life health and wellbeing" (Patton et al. 2016: 2423). As such, social participation during youth can have positive impacts on their experiences of ageing. Urban social spaces, when carefully planned and designed, can connect citizens, enable socialisation, foster a sense of belonging, and contribute towards quality of life, health, and wellbeing (Thompson and Kent 2013). In addition, a sense of belonging and social connectedness can motivate individuals to attend programs and events, and is an important outcome of community-based programs and centres that cater to older adults (Dare et al. 2018). The older adults associated such inclusivity with Mathers House (Hobart), noting it to be a place of information and program delivery:

This is where I go to for Pilates and ukulele. […] They provide lots of activities. They have a wonderful program which they post to me four times a year. […] There's a whole list of activities, what times they're on. They're reasonably priced, most of them under $10. […] After Pilates we go out for a cup of coffee. They set up a table up. We reserve a table for the Pilates group to go to, and we sit there and we offload onto one another. Or just share the joy or whatever. It's really good. […] It's a really, really nice area for people my age to meet and greet, to stay active. […] It's more for our cohort. It's like our own club. […] For seniors to feel as though seniors had a place that was theirs. (Brenda, age 74, photograph on the left)

Hobart City has Mathers House which is very good. They have a program in Mathers House where you can call on somebody to come and just help you with a bit of gardening, not heavy stuff, just like a chum next door, come over to help you and pull out a few weeds or something very light. Sit and chat, get the elderly person outside in the sunshine. (Sabrina, age 75)

It is notable that only a few participants - one younger and one older person - were aware of Alma's Activity Centre in Bellerive. Gwendolyn, for example, had no awareness of such facilities in Clarence:

So I don't know whether there is an equivalent place [to Mathers House] in Clarence, a meeting point where older people could come on a regular basis and know that they can have food that they pay for. […] I just think that's something I don't think is in Clarence at the moment. […] A place people go to where they can meet like-minded, same similar-aged people and friendships strike up. (Gwendolyn, age 72)

Brenda was the only older adult to discuss Alma's Activity Centre. She has attempted to find information on the programs and events held at the Centre, but found it challenging:

There is Alma's in Clarence. I heard they did dancing at Alma's, but I couldn't find anything. They couldn't tell me anything. I rang a number, and they said the lady was away who knows that. […] There's a pamphlet that they [the Council] put out, but that's for a different program. It's like there's two sections to it - one that's run by Council and one that's run by volunteers. Council doesn't seem to know what's going on there. […] In the end I thought, 'I just have to go in there to see what's going on'. So, the only way you can find out what's going on is to walk through the doors and take a photo of the whiteboard. It's not like Mathers House. You have to be a member there and you can't just walk in and have a browse around like at Mathers House. There's a bus to Alma's, but you have to get off and walk up a hill, so I don't know if that puts people off. […] There was something at Alma's that went on which, would you believe it, I only found out through my Glenorchy dance group. […] I should know about it. If I live in Clarence, I should know what's going on there. There's lots of information about what's going on everywhere else. […] Something to similar to Mathers House up at Alma's [would be good]. […] Have a coordinator. Have volunteers but have a paid coordinator. Like with the [Rosny] Barn - they have someone paid to run the activities. […] It [Mathers House] has everything you could possibly want to look into - health, activities to help you keep up with the 21st century, a wide range of activities. There are volunteers and you can get a meal afterwards, $10 for a two-course meal. […] As I am getting older the things that I love doing I'll be doing less so something like that here would be fabulous, so I wouldn't have to go to Mathers House to do it. (Brenda, age 74)

Here, Brenda raises numerous issues that relate to all four features of an age-friendly Clarence (see pages 19 to 20). Brenda's concerns are tabulated in Figure 9. Significantly, *availability and accessibility*, as well as *information, communication and consultation*, have direct impacts on *programs and events*, and *quality, experiences and feelings*.

Information, communication and consultation	Programs and events	Quality, experiences and feelings	Availability and accessibility
Difficulty in sourcing information on programs and events	Range of activities and services are unknown	Compromised by difficulty in accessing information	Limited to membership
			Difficulty of access via public transport (steep terrain)
			Limited access hours

Figure 9: Alma's Activity Centre - Potential Issues to be Addressed

In addition to activities and events, places such as Alma's Activity Centre may also be used as a site for education and advocacy, as well as delivering information, services, and referrals (Kadowaki and Mahmood 2018). Research also indicates that some older adults believe that such centres need rebranding to reflect the heterogeneity of older adults. This highlights the different needs amongst older adults including the interests of 'baby boomers' compared to the previous generation (which is known as the 'silent generation') (Dare et al. 2018; Kadowaki and Mahmood 2008). To understand the needs and desires of older adults, it is best to engage with them in event design and programming, including those who are not currently participating. In the case of Alma's Activity Centre, it is evident that the community lacks awareness of it, and therefore it is difficult to know if the programs and events at the Centre meet community needs and expectations. In addition, while the Centre has off-street parking, access via public transport is difficult with the need to walk up an incline from bus stops in Cambridge Road or Clarence Street. Furthermore, the model at Alma's Activity Centre could be revised to a community information hub that includes volunteer and referral services, as well as hosting numerous free or low-cost programs and events. For example, Camila (on the right) noted that a low-cost massage or pedicure service could provide physical human contact to counter "skin hunger" and "touch hunger". This is a significant issue, with massage therapy shown to counter or reduce negative social and health problems such as pain, anxiety, anger, and depression (Field 2010). In addition, Sabrina noted a need for an information centre:

If someone is alone and they are so needing touch, they could have a massage or go and have a pedicure or something like that. [… Possibly could be offered at] the health centre. They might be free, or something cheaper or whatever. There are ways for people with skin hunger […]; they're hungry for touch so that's another way. (Camila, age 66, photograph above)

Actually, something like […] a community centre where we'd go and say, 'My grandma has just come out of a, a hip operation. She needs to get out of the house into the garden and get some sun and she'd like a friend or a person to come along and pull out a few little weeds and just have a chat and a cup of tea'. […] Not a professional gardener or anything like that, but just the social. It's a social thing more than anything. […] It could even be done through Clarence [City Council]. […] I would like to see an information centre somewhere that people can go to, especially people living on their own, for help. (Sabrina, age 75)

Camila further noted how changes at the Bellerive waterfront had limited accessibility for all. In her picture (below), it is notable bar tables dominate, which are difficult or inaccessible for people of short stature and with mobility restrictions. This also means that people who are in wheelchairs, or those walking dogs, can no longer enjoy these facilities:

This hotel did have a reputation for looking after the needs of people with disabilities and also people with dogs, even providing the [upstairs] restaurant menu […] in the bar downstairs […] because the restaurant is not wheelchair accessible. […] A few years ago it was possible for my late husband in his large electric wheelchair, our dog and I, to travel round the Bluff easily and to finish […] with fish and chips and a drink outside the pub [… and] there was always bowls of water for the dog. There were […] small tables outside the perimeter of the pub that were perfect for manoeuvring the chair and the dog would peacefully shelter in the table shade […]. Many happy hours we spent there as we enjoyed the view of passing and moored boats […]. It was a way for my [late] husband to feel free of the restrictions […]. But those days are no longer. The tables are gone, there's no place for dogs. The inclusive atmosphere has changed and it's very sad. […] There's obviously no thought of what is might be like for someone who has a disability and needs to sit out there, or a dog. (Camila, age 66, photograph on the left)

Quality, experiences and feelings: Relationships

All the participants raised the importance of their relationships with family and friends, but also the community:

Family I think is very important, especially as you get older, and the fact that we have all our family in Hobart is amazing. […] It's lovely when you're a granny and you can come and have your [grand] children stay the night. […] Yeah it's very nice being a grandparent when you're older. Yes, we do have fun with them. (Roslyn, age 70, photograph on the left)

I spent a lot of time with family. (Rebecca, age 71)

We are pretty good family, pretty tight knit family. I like to think we got a, pretty sensible family. (Chad, age 79)

[…] The people I'm surrounded by, who are very caring and thoughtful, and helpful and everything else. (Gwendolyn, age 72)

[I'm] very much close [to my family], especially with my [grandmother]. […] I do have a good, close relationship. (Christina, age 15)

We've very close and I have her [my granddaughter] every Friday, all day. […] This is her home. It is definitely her other home. […] She can tell me everything […]. She does now and I'm hoping that will always continue and that there will be some strength there. (Camila, age 66, photograph above)

I love my family. They're the most - one of the most important things to me. I don't think I would be able to do this, have this life without them. (Angela, age 17)

I like them [my grandchildren] to know who I am and I like me to know about them and what they're going to be doing. We don't see them all the time, but we see them frequently and they're on the Western Shore […]. So we're not right next door but it pleases me to hear their comings and goings, and what they're doing at school and all that sort of thing. […] They have wonderful minds. (Peggy, age 77)

Family has always been a big part of my life, so family tends to come first. […] I chose my family even if they are blood or not blood. I will treat my friends as my closest family, and I treat my family as much as they want to be treated as family. […] I have great respect for family […]. (Bruce, age 20)

I'm close to my Mum and my stepsister. […] I'm not very close to my Dad but I love him to bits and I miss him. […] I'm still finding things out about my family every day, which is really cool sometimes. [… My family is] very important [to me]. I actually have no full siblings at all, so even though they're my half or step [sisters/ brothers], I still count them as full blood. […] They are my family and I love them to bits even though they can be pains […]. (Julia, age 15)

My Mum, we're very, very, very close, like extremely close. […] I have a strong connection with my Mum. It's just kind of how it's always been. (Cassandra, age 17)

[… This photo shows] three kids helping each other out. It is about how kids are able to help people. You just want to help friends out, that's how you build friendships. That's how you can help people in the future. […] It's a positive thing to do. […] Kids are able to help others. (Sophia, age 15, photograph above)

I have this great relationship with all my grandkids and I feel very privileged to have that. I really do. […] They are a big part of our life. […] It's a bit cliched, but they keep you young because […] they certainly push our physical boundaries. (Pierce, age 67, photograph above)

In addition to the emotional closeness that younger people feel towards their family, they also wished to stay physically close to them. As such, their ties with the City of Clarence are closely connected to familial relationships:

I'm family orientated and I don't want to leave my family. (Emily, age 18)

They [my family] are always the ones by my side. They're so important to me. […] If I moved to Melbourne to study, I'd stay with my aunty. If I studied somewhere [other than Tasmania], a family member will have to be there. […] I don't want to move away from my family. If anything bad happened, I have to be there. They are really important. I will just stay here. (Sophia, age 15)

When I have a family and I'm ready to settle down, this is the ideal place for me. I'd like to get a property here and raise my kids here, so they have their grandparents with them and we have this wonderful place where everything is okay. (Angela, age 17)

[… The main reason I want to stay in the City of Clarence] I guess because of family. My family has always been in the area. (Bruce, age 20)

[When I move out of the family home] I would definitely want to stay close to home, I guess to it's easier I think, as well as for everyone. And I think I'll be a lot more comfortable being close to home. […] I don't want to move away and just kind of lose that [closeness with my Mum]. […] It's something that I really hold very important in my life is that relationship and seeing her. (Cassandra, age 17)

I'd be happy to just stay in Tassie 'cause it's a nice, safe place and just go out and travel when I can. […And] I like to keep close to them [my family] as much as I can. (Christina, age 15)

As mentioned in "Services, facilities and development", some participants noted local business owners they felt cared, displayed a sense of community, demonstrated inclusiveness, and provided personalised services and support. This included acknowledging the significance of pets by providing facilities and services for dogs:

I think [my pharmacist] has knowledge about ageing which is important for me. He is not just trying to flog me [products]. He seems to be concerned with your health and welfare and that is really important when you get older. He is friendly, and you can talk to him. […] It helps a lot in the ageing process to know there's someone to talk to. (Jarrod, age 71)

The local shop [at Seven Mile Beach] is really good. It's been through about three or four owners since I've been alive, but they really consistently put out a bowl of water for dogs just out the front, and they have those little spiral things attached to the wall where you can tie your dog up to while you go in the shop, so I guess they're all very aware of that [dogs]. (Clarissa, age 19)

There are a few places now that have dog bowls so that you can sit outside. Gastown East is a fantastic little place that we've got now. Three Little Ducks. There are a few places actually, and that's lovely. That's really important. (Camila, age 66)

And I always go there [to this service station] because he gets out and he puts the petrol in the car for his older clients. I like the service. […] The Caltex man, he will get out if you're elderly and fill up your tank for you and do all of that. You don't have to get up and bother yourself […]. I get quite spoilt there and I told him so. (Sabrina, age 75, photograph to the left)

The chips shop at the start of Tranmere Road. The Caltex service station, a local institution. The guy who runs it is a pillar of the community. He will fill your car up and say hello and introduce people. When I was last there, he waved to a guy doing some community program – really involved. I just really like the place. […] It is important to the community. (Gavin, age 23)

Because I've got [a dog], I tend to go places where I can take her. […] There's a new place in Lauderdale called Driftwood. It's a really nice little restaurant and they've got a deck and you can take your dog and we sit outside. (Chad, age 79)

For some older adults, family relationships were interdependent. For example, Rebecca's daughter cannot drive and therefore does her shopping with Rebecca who can drive. At the same time, doing the shopping together meant that Rebecca received assistance in managing her groceries. As a result, Rebecca receives assistance from her daughter, and provides help in return:

One of my daughters doesn't drive and I take her with me: we go every Saturday and just get the groceries together. It's handy 'cause she'll unload my trolley for me and stuff. (Rebecca, age 71)

I've got more and more used to the idea that they [my daughters] are there and I can call on them if I need them so I don't think I'd cope now if they moved away. I don't think I'd cope as well. (Rebecca, age 71)

The importance of relationships with animals, particularly dogs as pets (or companion animals), were frequently raised. It was notable that 'walking the dog' was an opportunity to socialise with others and provides a conversational starter. As found by Wood and colleagues (2015), pet owners are more likely to socially interact and form friendships in their neighbourhood:

I think it's important to spend time with her [my pet bird] instead of technology. (Ava, age 14)

I walk her [my dog] every day to our local beach, Bellerive Beach. […] I do go to the beach a lot. It's important to keep active and keep walking and that's what we [the dog and I] do. It's a social place as well, which is lovely. […] A dog is very much part of a person's life. (Camila, age 66)

Dogs are very important to people my age because you lose a partner, you separate, you slow down. Your dog is your main companion, and also they're a good ice breaker when you talk to other people. You walk on your own, people will smile or nod, but if you walk with your dog, they will say 'Oh hello, what's your dog's name? What breed is she?' You'll start a little conversation and then you'll move on. (Brenda, age 74)

People come up and say, 'Oh, can I talk to your dog?' […], so that was nice and it's amazing. The people that talked to you when you actually do have a dog with you. (Chad, age 79)

If you have a dog, it's often – makes it easier to talk to other people 'cause everybody knows everybody else's dog's name and, yes, a dog is a starting point for a conversation. […] On a Sunday morning, you just see so many dogs and everybody knows the names of the dogs, and the dogs are all playing with each other and it's lovely. It's a very social place down there [Howrah Beach]. (Rose, age 78)

This is my dog. […] I feel like dogs are such good companions. […] I'd come home really angry […] and I'd come upstairs and your instantly, like, you put a smile on your face because you see these two little dogs at the top of the stairs and you instantly just feel better. They're really important. (Cassandra, age 17, photograph above)

I like animals […]. I've always grown up with animals. […] My cat […is] always there when I'm sick. He comes and gives me cuddles. [..] I've got a dog at my Dad's [house]. They're always cute. […] Having someone that loves you. (Julia, age 15, photograph above)

This is my dog on the path to Bellerive Beach. It's nice to take him the beach. He really enjoys it. We do it regularly and it is fun and keeps you active. We go every day after school. Everyone is out with their dogs. […] Everyone stops and says 'hi' to him. It's like a community thing. Everyone is out walking their dogs. […] I love to take him [my dog] to the beach. […] It's a family thing to do to take your dog to the beach. […] (Maria, age 16, photograph above)

It is widely documented that pets (or companion animals) have therapeutic, physiological, psychological, emotional, and psychosocial benefits for humans including companionship, social support, and a sense of purpose and wellbeing (Wood et al. 2015, 2007; Wood, Giles-Corti and Bulsara 2005). They can also contribute towards healthy ageing through physical activity and social interactions (Toohey et al. 2013). The beneficial effects of pets is not restricted to the pet owner; they also have a positive effect on the broader community. Wood and colleagues (2007) found that there is a 'ripple' effect of pet ownership with community gains including increased social contact between people (regardless of pet ownership), reciprocity, civic engagement, and creating a sense of community and safety. These benefits were evident from the participants who did not own a dog, who noted their interactions with dogs and the

role of dogs in the community. As such, dogs are of positive significance regardless of dog ownership status:

At Seven Mile [Beach], there's quite a big dog culture. […] I found them [dogs] really companionable and friendly. […] I like the friendliness of it, how it adds an approachability to people and there's always a starting point so, you're like, 'oh what a cute dog' while you're out walking. So it's sort of a first step to making those connections to the people, as well as to the dogs themselves, that I really like. (Clarissa, age 19, photograph above)

People love to walk their dogs. It's nice to see. […] It's nice to see people getting exercise. […] And they're always on a lead. I don't see any dogs off lead there because there are children playing around. (Sabrina, age 75, photograph above)

Anyway it's [Anzac Park] in Lindisfarne where dogs and people interact together; no leads or leashes. It's free and easy and has a feeling of peace. […] The dogs play and have a lovely time and everybody's very happy. […] And I think a lot of people like it because it's the dog park. (Hannah, age 87, photograph on the left)

[…] We're not dog owners but it's [Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area] a dog on-lead area and someone has got their dog on a lead and it's behaving himself, that's fine. We don't mind that, and I quite like seeing sort of enthusiastic dogs going for a walk and their owners […]; getting exercise. (Dylan, age 67)

Availability and accessibility: Dog friendly spaces

The degree to which dogs with their owners can access social spaces such as beaches, can be a controversial topic. Restricting dog access to natural environments can be important for preventing dog-related incidents, including conserving other animal species and their habitats (Bowes et al. 2015). These concerns may lead to risk mitigation strategies by

requiring dogs to be on-lead or banned. Banning dogs, however, comes at the risk of marginalising certain human populations, and undercuts the individual and community benefits associated with owning a dog and dog walking. Beaches, for example, are important places of recreation, restoration, and social connection (Bowes et al. 2015), with dog owners being more likely to use beaches than non-dog owners (Maguire et al. 2011).

Dog presence, dog absence, and the lack of dog access can all be deterrents for beach visitation (Maguire et al. 2011). Maguire and colleagues (2011: 787) believe that regulations should be "directed at implementing and enforcing […] improved zoning of activities on beaches, with balanced and appropriate allocation of zones for activities such as dog walking". As such, balancing on-leash, off-leash, and banned dog zones could be important for ensuring compliance as well as being 'dog friendly'. In addition, restrictions can reinforce negative judgements on dog owners and lead to their exclusion from social spaces, thus highlighting the importance in balancing inclusivity and a sense of community.

Many issues were raised regarding dog access to beaches. These included:

- No clarity on regulation enforcement
- Sign placement
- Regulation days
- Regulation hours
- Accessibility to off-lead parks and beaches
- Accessibility to on-lead beaches in summer

These points reveal confusion regarding the regulation of dog access to beaches, and issues with accessibility to dog-friendly areas for off-leash activities. While dog parks were used by some participants, others avoided them due to the size and behaviour of other dogs, lack of attractiveness (for example, a fenced off area that only contains grass), and the lack of space to walk and interact with their dog. Some comments from participants on dog access to beaches are below; some of which are from non-dog owners:

> What used to be ideal for dogs, but you can see this sign here says no dogs on the beach. […] You gotta find some other areas for dogs and some other areas of beach for dogs because dogs love swimming and you gotta have some area for dogs to swim. (Melvin, age 71, photograph on the right)
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> There's certain times they [dogs] can go to the beach and there are restrictions in summer, [… but] I think they are probably too much. […] Maybe because it is busy in summer, they need to put regulations in place, but it is a long time. Maybe have part of the beach where dogs can go [at Bellerive Beach]. (Maria, age 16, photograph on the left)
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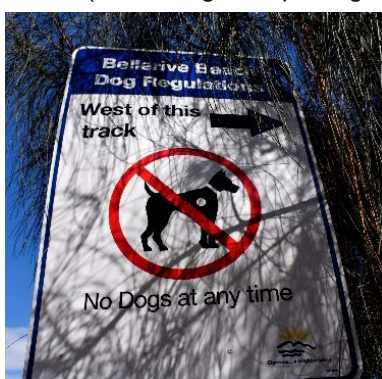
There's actually two signs which I thought was a bit overkill since they have one directly below the other restating when dogs are allowed and when not, with the only difference that dogs should be under control at all times, which I find a bit weird since I thought it would be pretty obvious that you shouldn't let your dog run around […]. Plus what are they gonna do to regulate it - there's no communication about what happens if you don't follow the rules or anything. […] And it's in an odd spot. It's not one of the main beach entrances. […]. This track is tucked behind a couple of houses where there's just an old path that cuts in the back, so it's not really a main place, and yet they have more signage there than at most of the other pathways. […] I find that a bit disappointing really to regulate dogs when they are such a big thing at Seven Mile [Beach]. […] It does cut out a massive chunk of the day. You're not meant to have your dogs on the beach at all from 10am to 6pm during summer - that cuts out a massive block of the day. It means that you either walk your dog right before work, presuming you're working, or later at night when you've already gotten home, likely had some dinner and are ready to just settle down for the night. It's not like dogs are gonna 'cause any more harm in summer than otherwise. There's more people [in summer], but that just means that you still keep your dog under control like usual. […] So I find that a bit odd and slightly annoying. (Clarissa, age 19, photograph on the left)

These are two Clarence City Council signs that can be found at popular Bellerive Beach. One points to the right [west], one points to the left [east]. […] I'm still appreciative of this beautiful beach and […] how lucky are we to have this […] [but] I'm really angry that the council has restricted my right to walk my dog on the beach anytime that I'm able and I feel that this is a matter of discrimination. […] The Council has blocked half the beach from any dog access whatsoever, which is okay [west track]. That's fine - that's where there's a huge car park and that wonderful play area for children so it makes sense […]. But the second part [the east track], it's restricted the day use of dogs between 10am and 6pm, between first of December and the first of March. […] They're crazy times because it's not even school holidays. Bellerive is a suburb in Clarence that contains a high percentage of older people. There are a number of issues within the demographic that are being ignored by the council's decision to restrict dog access. Loneliness is a well-documented issue for the older person and many own and rely on dogs for company. We know that. Unrestricted exercise is also really important at this stage of life. And being able to walk a dog at any time on half of Bellerive Beach [the east], while leaving the western end of the beach free for parents with children and non-dog lovers, is a right and that should not be ignored. […] They [the Council] have not bothered to think deeply about what the restrictions really mean. There are implications to these restrictions. For example, many older Australians experience chronic conditions that limit their mobility in getting up and moving easily enough to get to a beach with a dog is not possible before 10am. This is also an issue for those younger people living with any chronic illness or disability. […] And walking a beloved dog on our beach is a solace during times of grief, sadness, and pain and it should not be restricted. It's really important. […] What I'm saying is surely, if half the beach is closed always to dogs, the other half must be unrestricted for Bellerive's many dog owners. This is a huge demographic that is being discriminated against. (Camila, age 66, photographs to the left)

Lots of signs! Restrictions, restrictions, restrictions. [...] I have a little dog and he loves going for walks on the beach and they've changed the dog rules. [...] The beach is about a hundred years down the road, dogs are not allowed on the beach there. I have to walk about five hundred metres around to another entrance to take him to the beach. [...] He's getting old soon and I'll have to drive there because he won't be able to walk all that way to get on the beach. (Kiera, age 66, photograph above)

But it's getting harder and harder to walk off-lead anywhere now, which is a pain because she's [my dog] so well behaved, and all my dogs have been to school. [...] Off-lead areas, I think they could expand on. They seem to be clamping down. [...] There are less and less beaches you can take your dog onto, and I think that's why we got more dogs on Seven Mile Beach. (Martha, age 73)

It's getting harder and harder to find a place where you can let your dog off the lead. I love Kangaroo Bay and they have done a marvellous job down there, but that's the spot I use to go and throw the ball for my dog [...], but now you can't do that. To find somewhere to throw a ball is quite tricky. [...] I don't want to be driving for half an hour to take her [my dog] for a walk. It's got harder the last few years; the restrictions on dogs. (Brenda, age 74)

If you walk [...] from there, you can let your dog off the lead, all the way down the rest of the beach, except for summertime. In the other direction, which is a quiet spot of the beach and it has always been a part of the beach where you can let your dog off, you've got to keep them on the lead now. So, they come up with these arbitrary do's and don'ts and nobody seems to get consulted. [...] I wouldn't object even if they [the Council] said, "Well not at the weekends." [...] You wonder why and how and who chooses these things, 'cause a lot of older people, that's their bit of exercise, it's to take the dog for a walk. [...] I think on a quiet beach where there's never anybody there, why not be allowed to let your dog off? (Leah, age 73, photograph above)

The dog restrictions at Bellerive Beach were frequently raised. Camila's concerns were particularly potent (see previous page), as they reveal that not only can the design of the social and built environments potentially marginalise segments of the population, so too can place regulation. Leah (above right) also noted the restrictions are difficult for older adults and may limit their physical activity. This is raised more explicitly by Camila, who explained that time access restrictions for on-lead dogs could make it difficult or impossible for certain population groups to access the beach. This means forgoing the benefits associated with walking their dog (as noted earlier), as well as connecting with nature (this latter point will be returned to in "Natural environment and public places").

Quality, experiences and feelings: Ageism

As raised in "Methods and Sampling", ageism involves "negative attitudes or behaviors toward an individual solely based on that person's age" (Greenberg, Schimel and Martens 2002: 27), which can result in prejudice and discrimination. This is most acutely experienced by older adults (Ayalon and Tesch-Römer 2018), either on an individual or age-cohort basis (for example, through age-related policies and socio-environmental design).

Many of the older adults noted ageism as an issue that they, or people they know, had experienced. Older adults who are same-sex attracted (who are not explicitly identified in this report for confidentiality reasons), additionally raised assumptions about their sexuality, noting an overlap of ageism and heteronormativity (the assumption of heterosexuality and associated social norms). Some comments from the older participants include:

Walking groups I think are a lovely way for older people to not feel marginalised and that is an issue I think of the age that they feel marginalised or not respected because they're old. (Gwendolyn, age 72)

I think sometimes in the community they look at you because you're old and you're dismissed. […] I find that people are not aware of what you as a person are, that they're typifying you by age, which I think is something that society does. We don't have the respect for older people. […] You've done your bit. There's an arrogance - the arrogance of youth - I think, which dismisses the old. (Gwendolyn, age 72)

They've been times in my life where I've felt overlooked as an older person. […] But just generally being in a shop and quite often the person serving will go for a younger person before an older person. I think that's a part of our Australian culture; isn't all that respectful of older people. (Beatrice, age 78)

You do become kind of invisible as you get older and you'll find that your experience is different from younger people. (Sabrina, age 75)

The older I get, the more invisible I get. (Jarrod, age 71)

Some younger people also felt they had experienced ageism:

I guess some old people are very judgemental towards teenagers I guess, and they don't understand that we're different. We're human but we're still different in some ways. (Ava, age 14)

I feel like we [teenagers] don't get a lot of respect but kids don't really get a lot of respect in any culture, so that's no so important to me all the time. […] Disrespect, it mainly comes from like very older people which I was surprised. The baby boomers as you would say. I don't know why. […] I feel like younger people are such nicer customers 'cause […] a lot of them work in retail and they just kind of know what you're going through, so their such nice customers and I love that. (Angela, age 17)

I think they [teachers and people of that age] think we're not that good, like we're not that smart. (Christina, age 15)

Unfortunately, two younger people made ageist comments about older adults during their interviews, making assumptions on their attitudes towards same-sex marriage, and their political positioning (namely, conservative) and religiosity (which was presumed to be high).

As ageist beliefs are internalised during childhood and normalised in society through the persistence of ageism (Levy 2003), they can be difficult to change. In addition, the social separation of people into age-cohorts limits opportunities for cross-generation exposure. Intergenerational arts programs and events can help breakdown the social barriers between generational groups and help to address ageism (Cook, Vreugdenhil, and Macnish 2018). Long-term programs tend to produce the best results, with mixed results from short-term programs (Cook, Vreugdenhil, and Macnish 2018).

Information, communication and consultation: programs, activities, and events

The older participants identified numerous ways they find out about programs, events, and activities in the City of Clarence. This included noticeboards, and electronic and printed communication. It was evident that the older adults appreciated receiving news and information on programs, activities and events in a variety of formats:

That's the [Howrah] Community Centre. […] I go there to see what they've got on their noticeboard because sometimes things come up that you might like to join or if there's a funding thing going on. Sometimes they have that in there on their notice board. […] This is where you get all your information and they're pretty good there. It's a nice little centre. (Sabrina, age 75, photograph above)

Sometimes I'll go to the Eastern Shore [Sun] because they have all the groups listed there, and I'll look through them and think, 'Oh, I'll give that a go'. (Brenda, age 74)

It's easy to find out what's going on there [Rosny Farm]. You can go into Council to pick up pamphlets as well. And then newspapers that come out every now and then. They've got a good program. (Brenda, age 74, photograph on the right)

There is because a lot of information reaches me electronically these days and I'm comfortable with that. For instance, I get the Senior's newsletter from Council. […] I am very happy getting things electronically and I find it a great way to communicate. (Pamela, age 73)

Clarence Council have a booklet [the 'Get Going' Guide] and it covers all the things that go on. The bushwalking, the group that I'd walk with, the art group…. Everything is in it, all through the Clarence Municipality. […] Gosh it was good, and it was meant for older people. (Peggy, age 77)

I saw it [gentle squash advertisement] in the Clarence City newsletter that came out. The one that comes out every month. (Jarrod, age 71)

At the same time, Gwendolyn felt this information provision could be improved, as well as dispersed through wider avenues, to reach wider segments of the population including people who are socially isolated or lonely. Places she suggested information could be dispersed included Service Tasmania and pharmacies. Gwendolyn also recommended the Clarence Council news be reframed to include information on programs, activities, and events, and to be distributed to residents in the City of Clarence rather than ratepayers. She thought the newsletter, "What's On In Positive Ageing" (produced by Mathers House), was a good example of what the Council could produce:

A lot of people do use Service Tasmania centres, so wherever they are in Clarence, it might be worthwhile having things up on boards on a regular basis for the elderly. […] I think using pharmacies to access elderly people, because […] whenever I've been in there, there's always a lot of older people, having scripts fulfilled or just meeting people. It's a place they go to meet people. […] They could be used as a mechanism to promote or engage older people. […] There's the Clarence Council news, and that's something that should be redesigned - it's hard to follow through. I don't know whether it's given to everybody [Clarence Council news], or is it only given to ratepayers because there'll be people again in this age bracket [65 years+] who wouldn't be ratepayers as such. […] I think the Council newsletter, that's promotional, rather than informative and engaging. […] Mathers Place in the city [Hobart], and they produce brochures, "What's On In Positive Ageing". […] This could be something that Council could look at to produce. And they've got an amazing amount of information. You see a lot of older people going [there]. (Gwendolyn, age 72)

Key points

- A Clarence Youth Group with activities, events and programs that specifically arise from the interests and needs of younger people may help to support and address their concerns regarding mental health and loneliness
- There was a desire for opportunities to meet and engage with people in the same age bracket, as well as across age groups (intergenerational relations)
- There was a lack of awareness of what is offered at Alma's Activity Centre, and how to access information on what happens there. The model used at Mather's House in Hobart was perceived as valuable and supportive, and the older participants would like to see a similar model in the City of Clarence
- Dog and non-dog owners were concerned about the level of dog restrictions across the City of Clarence, particularly on the eastern track of Bellerive Beach. It was suggested that these restrictions are discriminatory against older adults and people with disabilities or chronic health conditions
- Younger and older people felt they had experienced ageism or identified it as an issue for their age group. Intergenerational programs and events can help address ageism
- Information provision in a variety of formats are appreciated by older adults, including the 'Get Going' Guide

Recommendations

Recommendation – Explore the formation of a Clarence Youth Group for social activities and support (not aligned with a religious or formal organisation)
Recommendation – Explore mental health workshops or training for younger people (high school age and above), either as part of the Clarence Youth Group or in partnership with local schools/ colleges
Recommendation – Investigate ways to improve information and communication on events and activities offered in the City of Clarence, particularly at Alma's Activity Centre
Recommendation – Investigate whether the range of events and activities at Alma's Activity Centre meet community need, as well as affordability (zero and low-cost)
Recommendation – Explore the possibility of Alma's Activity Centre becoming an information and support hub for people in need, including older adults
Recommendation – Investigate zero or low-cost transportation options for social events and activities at Alma's Activity Centre
Recommendation – Review the 'no dogs' policy during 1 December – 1 March (10am – 6pm) on the eastern side of Bellerive Beach
Recommendation – Continue to produce and update the 'Get Going' Guide
Recommendation – Use the 'Access and Inclusion Assessment Toolkit' to assess the inclusivity and accessibility of urban design, planning, and building
Recommendation – Explore partnerships to develop and evaluate intergenerational opportunities, events and programs, potentially with schools/ colleges/ U3A/ COTA Tasmania/ university partnerships

5. Natural environment and public places: Findings

Summary

The theme of "Natural environment and public places" relates to natural and public places that the citizens of the City of Clarence primarily access for recreation and pleasure. This includes footpaths and pathways, playgrounds, skateparks, parks and nature reserves, beaches, and services that relate to these spaces. The theme also encompasses climate change and cleanliness. Many issues raised in this section also relate to "Services, facilities and development", and "Relationships and inclusion".

Findings

As noted previously, place is connected to individual and community identity and a sense of self. This can lead to feelings of distinctiveness where physical or symbolic attributes of place become markers of difference and otherness (Devine-Wright 2009). Place identity and distinctiveness were frequently mentioned during the interviews whereby the participants expressed that they "love" and were "thankful", "blessed" and "grateful" to live in the City of Clarence (see "Summary and conclusion"), which they contrasted to the "Western Shore" and Hobart. This deep place identity and place attachment, as previously raised in "Services, facilities and development", strongly relates to many features raised in this chapter.

Quality, experiences and feelings: Green and blue spaces

Consistently, participants raised that the views, weather, and natural environment (green and blue spaces) as being outstanding features of the City of Clarence. Regarding the views, kunanyi/ Mount Wellington was often identified as a defining attribute, often featuring in their photographs:
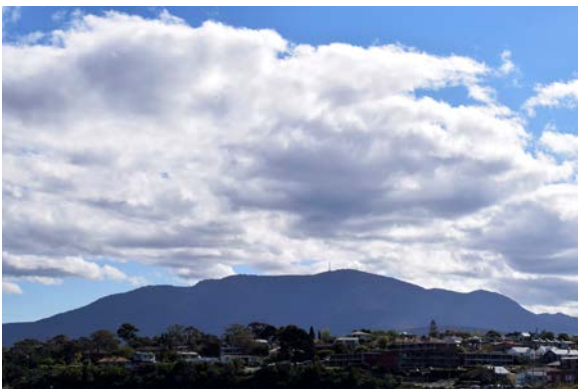
The mountain [kunanyi/ Mount Wellington] from Bellerive Beach. I thought it was a good view, unspoilt. (Maria, age 16, photograph above)
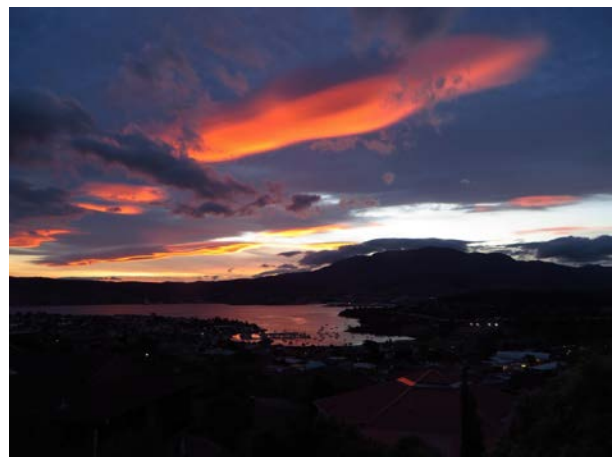
I love nature and the ever-changing moods of it […]. I do like the seasons […] (Evan, age 83, photograph above)

It's to illustrate the superb view we have on the Eastern Shore and the fact that I never tire of looking at that view. […] I love the constantly changing moods of the river. It's never the same; every day is different, and there's some wonderful sunsets because the sun sets on the other side of the river so they're constantly different. (Beatrice, age 78, photograph above)

[Our previous property] wasn't near the water but you actually looked at the mountain. Anytime you looked at it, it would be different. Dark, cloudy, sunny. We would have been quite content to stay there for a length of time. We are really happy to be here [at our current property]. (Jarrod, age 71)

We love the mountain [kunanyi/ Mount Wellington]. (Kiera, age 66)

This is a view of the mountain [kunanyi/ Mount Wellington], covered in cloud and fog. I always thought it was amazing when the mountain disappears. Almost supernatural elements about living here that I love. […] It's cool, mysterious, interesting. […] Probably the best side to see it from [Eastern Shore]. (Gavin, age 23, photograph above)

I love this outlook because I love to look at the mountain [kunanyi/ Mount Wellington]. I love to look at the changing mood of the mountain […]. I just love it. We are very lucky. (Phoebe, age 75, photograph above)

This is to illustrate the beautiful but underrated view so close to the city [from Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area]. (Beatrice, age 78, photograph above)
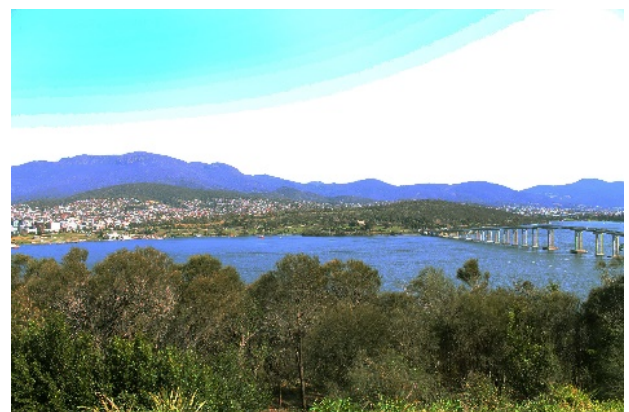
[This is] the Rosny lookout. […] It's just nice. […] It's nice to go there and see everything. The city, the bridge, everything. It's great on a nice day. […] I love it. (Emily, age 18, photograph above)

In addition to kunanyi/ Mount Wellington, views of wildlife, water, and other mountains were also valued:

Nature is really important. I have grown up around it. (Emily, age 18, photograph above)

It's a lovely area, it's got you know, all the lovely views (Phoebe, age 75)

I like that you can actually look up and see the night sky without all the light pollution blockages (Clarissa, age 19)

I love the physical beauty of the place. Our island of rivers, mountains, hills and beaches (Hannah, age 87, photograph below)

[It] is very pleasant to be able to sit and look at the view over the marina and that's something you can do here very easily. (Roslyn, age 78, photograph above)
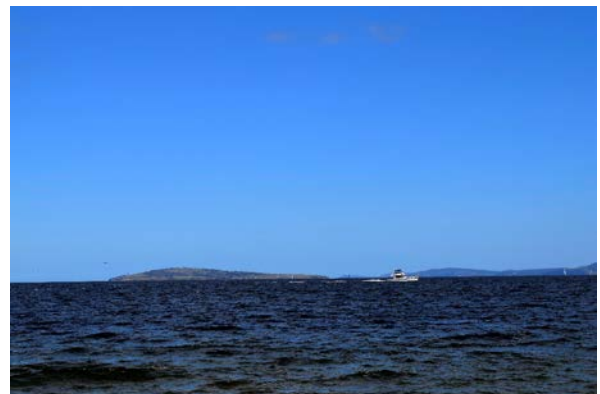
This is Bellerive Beach. It's just really nice with the boat in the water. It is clear and natural with the hills in the background. Clarence has a lot of nice views. (Maria, age 16, photograph above)

Something I like about living here, having access to these picturesque places to walk around. Looks nice even when it's overcast. (Gavin, age 23)

[At Pipe Bay Lagoon…] this view is so extensive. When you look to the right you look towards Clifton Beach, but it's the intimacy of being so close to the sea (Evan, age 83, photograph above)

I have always loved walking around the water and flowers and gardens. Even the particular smells as well. Salt water, nature, it's nice. One of the best things about living here. Not just this but also the suburban gardens are nice. (Gavin, age 23, photograph above)

Just a lovely picture of sunshine, blue sky and a tree that's starting to bud. […] Again living at the Eastern Shore, we always have some sunshine. […] I thought this was a good thing about living in Clarence – the amount of sunshine. This spot is close to facilities but also to country side, open air, grass, hills, and wildlife. (Jarrod, age 71)

[…] The wildlife we have around here which makes it a great place to live. We have rosellas, white cockatoos, black cockatoos, […] wattle birds […], the butcher bird […]. Lots of magpies. […] All these exotic birds, exotic for [me]. […] We still have possums and blue tongue lizards coming in, and kangaroos and wallabies, wombats, and snakes in summer time. […] Great area for wildlife only twenty minutes from the centre of town [Rosny]. (Jarrod, age 71)

The good thing is that lovely view and the weather. (Jarrod, age 71, photograph below)

The enjoyment that younger and older people derive from the view could be associated with calming and healing properties, which can expediate positive moods, relieve stress and improve health and wellbeing (Maller et al. 2006). The participants also frequently discussed the parks, playgrounds and greenspaces across the City of Clarence. This included highlighting the valued facilities in these places (such as toilets, ample parking, and barbeque huts), their proximity to other services (including pathways), enabling intergenerational relationships (for example, grandparents, parents, and children), and the mixing of children's playgrounds with public gymnasiums. Playgrounds and parks most

frequently mentioned included Bellerive Beach Park, Kangaroo Bay Park, Simmons (Lindisfarne) Park, Wentworth Park, Waverley Flora Park, and Anzac Park. There was also an appreciation for the memorials dedicated to Indigenous Australians and those who have served in the World Wars:

It's a Clarence Council initiative put there for people to exercise and keep their level of fitness and I particularly like the foot push. […] I'm very conscious of exercise. […] A bouquet for the Clarence Councillor. They're good with that [exercise parks]. (Hugo, age 83, photograph below)

And the Blundstone Arena has […] put in this really good playground. […] This is the new playground, and it seems to be better, and they've put in a fitness thing for adults there. (Wilbur, age 72)

There's adult exercise facilities in Bellerive that you can go and do soft exercises on the machines. […] You see quite a few elderly people on those pieces of equipment. […] There's little signs on it showing you what part of the body it's exercising. […] I've seen lots of elderly people doing very low activities, but they're doing something on it […] I just think it's a great thing to have there. (Pierce, age 67)

I think the level of parks in the Clarence Municipality are quite outstanding. […] When it comes to parks in Clarence, I think they're really, really good. (Pierce, age 67)

I like the fact that they've retained the trees there [in Richmond]. The blossom trees coming out, and that always, creates a very pleasant atmosphere. (Phoebe, age 75)

We've got great parks and we've got wonderful play areas. […] A lot of money has gone into play areas and they're safe. (Camila, age 66)

This is one of the good playgrounds. This is near Bellerive Beach; good facilities for kids (Melvin, age 71)

This playground [Bellerive Beach Park] is different setup to the one in Lindisfarne. And on this side of it there is a whole area which is a keep fit park for adults as well. And that's been modernised recently, that particular playground, and it's all very well used. There is always people there, always kids there. And I like to see that. I like to see places where you can take kids. (Phoebe, age75)

There's a fantastic park for kids [Bellerive Beach Park]. […] It challenges the kids. It's a great open space for them. […] You can go down there, there are comfortable seats for adults, and you can just let them run free. (Pierce, age 67)

This is Bellerive [Beach] Park and I took it because I love going here. It's very nice and it's a very unique place to play with your kids and bond with people there. […] I think it's really fun and they put a lot of effort into it. It's very entertaining. […] And around the other areas of the park there's stuff I've haven't seen before, like the bridge with clinky things that you press and it makes noise. And the swings. I've seen a swing before but the swings are cool. (Ava, age 14, photograph above)

There was play equipment [at Wentworth Park]. It's still there. I really liked it [as a child]. I went to Howrah Primary School. We would sometimes come to the park to play. Chasings, daily PE [physical education] sometimes. [… The general area around Wentworth Park is] definitely a rich area for a young person. (Gavin, age 23)

This is Wentworth park and shows BBQ areas with also garbage bins [and] the playground. Good facilities. […] And also this area over here where you've got traffic lights and for the kids to go round on their bikes and little kids go round on their bikes (Melvin, age 71, photograph above)

I like it a lot 'cause of all the bushes and trees [at Wentworth Park]. (Julia, age 15)

This is the [Ralph's Bay] canal. […] It's been left as a picnic area and it's lovely. The Council has put in barbecues and seats and things, and you see the notice board there that tells you the history of it. (Leah, age 73, photograph above)

I think Anzac Park is lovely. It's an off-lead park [for dogs]. There's also a playground so you've got both, you can take children. I love taking my granddaughter and my dog there and that's lovely. […] I don't go to many parks, so I would say the Anzac Park is fantastic. (Camila, age 66)

Now recently, fairly recently there's another Memorial thing there [Anzac Park] which is designated for the Aboriginal people, not necessarily because who were in the war, but because it was their land, which is very important; their Country. […] I think it's absolutely apt, very apt. (Hannah, age 87)

Anzac Park is where this was taken […]. I went there because I feel it's a beautiful area. […] It's free and easy and has a feeling of peace. […] This area allows people to reflect upon when looking at all the names of past soldiers, sailors and airmen who never made it home from the wars, World War 1 and World War 2, to this peaceful place; their country, their home. […] As well as that, the scenery is lovely. It's beautiful scenery you know you can walk out to the point and there's the water down there. […] There's a thing at Anzac Park, under just a little awning thing, where people have got photos of relatives or friends and some who had died in the War and that sort of thing. And this one shows four or five men all dressed up in their naval attire. […] Whenever I go there I make straight for the Bellerive navy and see this. […] I make straight for that photo. (Hannah, age 87, photograph above)

[…] I do like to see the playgrounds being built for children and in Clarence there are a couple of really nice playgrounds, and probably a couple more that could do with a similar development to that as well. […] That's over in Lindisfarne [Simmons Park] and that's a really good area for families. (Phoebe, age 75)

[…] It's very steep [the Charles Darwin walk] when you got through to the Waverley Flora Park, which is gorgeous… (Gwendolyn, age 72)

[It's good] being able to play in nature. It is cool to me to see kids being able to play around like that, even when they get dirty. (Sophia, age 15, photograph above)

It's in Waverley [Flora] Park […]. It's just a park public thing. I think those […] memorial thingies which is pretty cute. (Angela, age 17)

They did a great job there [Waverley Flora Park] getting rid of the bone seed and making it a beautiful place to walk, and there's the Darwin walk there which is a nice walk to take visitors on, and I've done parts of it. (Brenda, age 74)

That is the latest park down at Kangaroo Bay. I was just pretty impressed with it because I had grandchildren. It was a horrible day but they just ran from one thing to another and they just loved it, loved it. […] And then we went to Bellerive play park and that was wonderful, and they went from one thing to another and had a wonderful time. […] Kids parks. It's just an asset to the community and good parking there. (Rose, age 78, photograph above)

And that's Kangaroo Bay […]. It's a really good development down there now. And it's because it's open space and things, yeah, it's good. […] And another thing I like in the same area is they do have toilets there. (Wilbur, age 72)

I thought it was good they brought in the basketball and table tennis [facilities]. It is really good for people to get out and get active. It is Kangaroo Bay, near the hotel, near the water play area. [… I like] public areas for people to go and be active. (Maria, age 16, photograph below)

Waverley Flora Park. It has orchids; it has all sorts of plants, and [...] I go there a fair bit. I've found it's a wonderful environment. Once you get a little bit over the crest of the hill and you look across all the hills; there's to Meehan Mountain Range, it's just beautiful. (Evan, age 83, photograph on the left)

One of the lovely things about Clarence where we live is the orchids there in spring time [at Waverley Flora Park]. They are just gorgeous. You don't find them anywhere else; tiny little orchids (Beatrice, age 78)

As noted by the above comments, playgrounds and parks are valuable features in the City of Clarence. Other greenspaces mentioned included green corridors, bushland, gardens, and street greenery. There was also a clear appreciation of the animals inhabiting these spaces. These features were a balance to urbanisation; positively contributing towards the City of Clarence's place identity, place value, and place quality, and fostering mental health and wellbeing:

[...] They have these green pathways, and they put access to the bush in here. You see animals [...] when you walk up there. Wallaby and potoroos and whatever you can find up there, wombats. But, that's just one of the good things the council do, so they do try to have some effect on the quality around their suburbs. (Chad, age 79)

I like the Meehan Range. I like walking the Meehan Range; there are some gorgeous spots. (Evan, age 83)

The reason I like these areas [such as Howrah and Tranmere, they have] enough greenery to make it feel nice, like a park almost, but they've got enough shopping centres and enough community infrastructure there to make it function quite well. [...] It's just a picture taken to show [...] there are lots of areas in little parkland type places we can just walk though and be in a place that you want to be in a really short time. (Sabrina, age 75, photograph above)

And they are all over Clarence; these little pockets of parkland. Sometimes I'll just be a corner block somewhere where they've put a path through and a seat in the middle of it. And I think there's a lot of that going on. [...] And hopefully they don't keep filling it, because that's what they try and do don't they? [...] It makes a bit difference when you can see a bit of trees and grass and sunshine. (Roslyn, age 70, photograph above)

Across the road from Clarence High School, [there is] this little pretty flower garden and this really neat nice garden there. It's cute, and they have a swing there and that's pretty. (Ava, age 14)

The landscaping, trees, the whole thing about Richmond is, it's wonderful! And, if we could do that and more in other towns, that would be great too. (Phoebe, age 75)

It's a picture of Eucalypt in my backyard, 'cause one of the things I like is living surrounded by trees. Not like in the middle of a forest, but still having nature around. You can go outside and actually feel like you're outside, not just surrounded by more buildings […].. It's just there and peaceful. […] Even towards the busier areas like Eastlands [Shopping Centre], Rosny Park, they still have park areas and within a five minute to walk from anywhere which is nice and green. […] […] I like birds in general. […] [It's] just more peaceful; getting away from it with birds and animals. It's almost more social in a way; having those signs of life. (Clarissa, age 19, photograph above)

[…] They have put gardens in [at Kangaroo Bay]. They are developing it all. They have planted trees, further along there going towards Eastlands [Shopping Centre], and I think that [it's…] lovely what they are doing there. […] It was all rather untidy, and nothing much had been done down there for a long time. (Phoebe, age 75, 4971)

They sing [magpies] and it's pleasant and it makes me very happy. […] We're lucky to have wildlife where we live. […] We're very lucky to live in suburbia and still have contact with wildlife. (Kiera, age 66)

I do love standing there leaning over the fence and talking to the ducks. It's nice for adults and it's nice for children to have that area. (Pamela, age 73, photograph above)

I just wandered down round one of the smaller trails and saw a couple of bird sitting on branches […].And it's like that in a lot of places in Clarence. Gordon's Hill, you can go for a walk into the tops of the hills and be out in the bush and not notice the houses and the people down below […]. (Roslyn, age 70, photograph above)

As noted earlier, water views were commonly raised during the interviews. This also relates to the numerous beaches in the City of Clarence, and the importance of these for participants. This highlights the significance of blue spaces, which refers to "aquatic environments, both in natural and urban areas, with standing or running water. Blue space encompasses oceans, lakes, and rivers, as well as smaller water features such as fountains and streams" (Finlay et al. 2015: 98). Blue spaces frequently mentioned included beaches, bays, the Derwent River, rock pools, water views, and the waterfront/ foreshore. As blue

spaces were extensively raised by the participants, I have respected their input and included a diversity of the photographs and interview extracts (pages 79 to 81):

There are beaches that are close by for people to use (Melvin, age 71, photograph above)

That's Ralphs Bay. I just think it's beautiful down here. […] You get all these wading birds and it's just fantastic. When you drive over and you've got herons and eaglets, and you've got, when the water's in, you've got black swans. When the water goes out, you've got the herons and you've got the oystercatchers and all sorts of other wading birds. Because of that, you've also got marsh harriers flying over. It's just stunning. (Leah, age 73, photograph above)

Clifton beach is my favourite; it's a surf beach. […] I feel comfortable going to Clifton Beach. (Evan, age 83, photograph above)

That's Bellerive Beach. […] It's a beautiful spot. (Brenda, age 74, photograph above)

That's on Bellerive Beach and that's because I like beaches. (Phoebe, age 75)

[…] And to show just what, what a lovely lookout it is there. And I always like to look at water because I think it's restful. […] It's always restful to look at water. I think water generally is quite therapeutic, so looking at it or being in it. (Phoebe, age 75, photograph above)

One of my favourite places in Clarence is this beach [Clifton] and also other beaches […]. And I love the patterns on the sand and the patterns that the waves make. […There are] beautiful stretches of unspoiled land and ocean beaches in this municipality, only a short drive from our home. That's quite unique I think in a capital city. […] I just love the peace of it and the unspoiled nature and looking at the hills. [… I] just to enjoy the peace and serenity, listen to the waves. The sound of the waves I think is just gorgeous; I just love it. (Beatrice, age 78)

It's a picture of the actual beach of Seven Mile Beach, coming just over the main pathway […] that goes over the dunes, which is another place I like to be. […] It's a fun social place for a part of the year [summer] and a really separate get-your-own-time place in another part [winter]. […] Depending when and where on the beach you go-how far out you walk along the Seven Miles of it, there's lots of option! So depending if you want people or space or whatever you need. (Clarissa, age 19, photograph above)

The waterfront is an important part of Clarence. […] There's rock pools, you can find crabs. Beautiful place for kids playing. (Gavin, age 23)

There are so many great places. Nature, rock pools, I like them. The sea is amazing. (Sophia, age 15)

[I like] proximity to the beach and river. (Beatrice, age 78)

I like the reflection on the water and also it changes so quickly. (Evan, age 83, photograph above)

This is the shells and things that make up a lot of what eventually become sand on the Howrah waterfront. It's normal to me. (Gavin, age 23, photograph above)

That's the beach with the birds on it. Just saying, we're lucky we've got a beach nearby. (Roslyn, age 70, 154)

This is Bellerive Beach. It's really nice with the boat in the water. It is clear and natural with hills in the background. (Maria, age 16, photograph above)

It's Little Howrah Beach […]. And it's a river beach, but it provides easy access from the Eastern Shore suburbs and it's a safe and sandy environment for children to swim in and muck around in boats and it's very safe. […] Much more sheltered and very safe for children, easy to get to. (Beatrice, age 78, photograph to the left)

It shows just the beautiful situation of Anzac Park and there is the water. […] It's beautiful to look at. I think everyone would think that; I certainly do. (Hannah, age 87, photograph on the right)

It was evident that blue spaces were important for younger and older people's physical, psychological, and social wellbeing including socialisation, relaxation, and restoration:

The waterfront I find quite relaxing and it blows away a lot of your sort of, I was gonna say depression, but it's not depression, it's just sometimes you feel a bit [down] (Leah, age 73)

I like to be able to put my foot on the sand underneath me, but there's just something about […] the refreshing water, the seawater and […] the seabirds, just everything about it, I find, recharges your batteries. (Leah, age 73)

It is really calming and lovely. […] It's great to be near the water. (Maria, age 16)

You can see there's always lots of people there [on Bellerive Beach] to say, 'how are going', and occasionally someone will stop and chat. Some might be having a hard time, and some might have something exciting to say. And a lot of time people will just wink and wave and walk past, but it's nice. You feel like you're part of a community. (Brenda, age 74)

My pop, when I was little, used to take me around the Howrah rocks after school, even in bad weather. It was very calming for me and I still go there a lot. It brings back a lot of memories for me. (Emily, age 18, photograph on the right)

Natural environments, including green and blue spaces, are associated with stress reduction, improved social relationships, and positive mental health and physical activity (Gascon et al. 2017). Furthermore, "people with access to nearby natural settings have been found to be healthier overall than other individuals. The longer-term, indirect impacts (of 'nearby nature') also include increased levels of satisfaction with one's home, one's job and with life in general" (Kaplan and Kaplan 1989 in Maller et al. 2006: 47). For all participants, green and blue spaces were strongly aligned with the qualities and values they associated with the City of Clarence. As noted through their comments, this allows them to develop a social relationship with and attachment to place. These findings complement those raised in "Services, facilities and development", with specific regard to "Quality, experiences and feelings: Community 'feel'" and "Information, communication and consultation: Development and nature" (see pages 35 to 41). Ultimately, views, greenspace and blue space are important for the liveability and lifestyle in the City of Clarence by making it an attractive place to be and an attractive place to live.

Availability and accessibility: Association between green and blue spaces, and pathways

> I think it's very good to have nice walking areas. […] I think that's one of Clarence's strengths.
> (Sabrina, age 75)

Younger and older people engage with blue and green spaces through a variety of ways including enjoying the view, physical activity, rest and relaxation, restoration, psychological wellbeing, and social recreation. These positive associations and outcomes were also evident through the numerous discussions on pathways.

The younger and older participants frequently mentioned the Clarence Foreshore Trail, either in part or in full, for its accessibility and extensiveness, and as a facilitator or access point to greenspaces, blue spaces, services and facilities, and socialisation. How the Clarence Foreshore Trail was discussed also revealed a sense of place ownership and attachment, whereby it was believed that the foreshore itself was public space that the public should easy access to (which is facilitated by the Clarence Foreshore Trail). This connects to development concerns previously raised (see "Services, facilities and development"). Some older adults also mentioned how the car parks near the Clarence Foreshore Trail allowed access so sections could be completed that they found more desirable or accessible than other sections (for example, due to health or mobility problems, and preferred track surfaces). Consequently, the relationship of pathways to place, including how they facilitate access to other places, are important. For example, the Clarence Foreshore Trail allows the public to engage with those aspects of the City of Clarence that they find most valuable. Being separated or away from traffic was also seen as highly desirable. Furthermore, information signs were mentioned as a valuable addition to place such as featured along the Charles Darwin Walk.

Trails and pathways mentioned other than the Clarence Foreshore Trail included the Charles Darwin Trail, Kangaroo Bay Rivulet Track, Gregson Track, Waverley Wildflower Walk, Lauderdale to Seven Mile Beach Track, Natone Hill Circuit Track, Rosny Hill Circuit Track, Gordons Hill Nature Recreation Area, as well as trails near Eastlands Shopping Centre and Rosny Park Public Golf Course. As these were extensively raised by younger and older participants, several photographs and interview extracts are provided (pages 83 to 87):
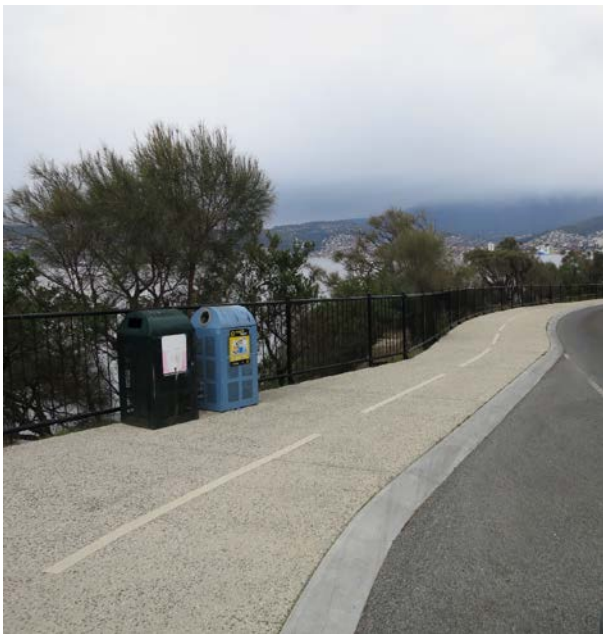
There are some very good walking paths around the area, and this one shows at the [Bellerive] bluff […] right along to Howrah Road. (Melvin, age 71, photograph above)

There is a very good path there [around Bellerive Bluff]. And then down to Howrah Beach. [..] And this is the path that sort of continues on from the path that goes around the bay. And it covers right around past the beach, right up over the hill, right up around Bellerive itself, keeps on going right around into Lindisfarne. […] I like to see the fact that they have put those paths right around the bay. And they're used very well. People use them a lot. (Phoebe, age 75)

The one [pathway] in Geilston Bay south is good, even right around at Rosny Point and you can then go around to The Bluff, all the way. That's a very good pathway. Then along the beach and over the headland, it's more of a track just over the headland. It's quite adequate; it just a gravel path. (Beatrice, age 78)

There's more walking tracks and the beach [than Glenorchy]. (Emily, age 18)

This path [near the Howrah Community Centre] goes all the way to Geilston Bay and people park […]. They might be mothers with kids and the mother just walks around the corner to the school or I take the dog sometimes as a special treat along there. There's a good place to park. (Rose, age 78, photograph above)

A lot of people part their cars around here [Howrah Community Centre] while they take their dog for a walk, or kids for a walk, or just go for a walk. I sometimes do that. (Sabrina, age 75, 967-968)

The footpath is for bike riding. I've ridden along that too which is good. (Roslyn, age 70, photograph above)

[…] I like the bike track. The bike track goes a really long way. I think that's really good. (Ava, age 14)

The Clarence Foreshore Trail, and that one is the one out to Kangaroo Bay which is obviously paved and tarmacked, and it's not far from Eastland Shopping Centre. So, on a day when it's a lovely day like this, if I was there, I could leave the car, cross the road and walk through to Kangaroo Bay. […] It's something to congratulate Clarence Council for is doing all these footpaths. […] And they've spent a lot of money on it and it really has become something that the whole community can enjoy because the kids play park there, and sitting where you can just sit and look at the water or the footpath; obviously, the cycle track there as well. But it's just very pleasant. (Leah, age 73, photograph above)

I decided I'd walk along the Esplanade into Bellerive because it's a beautiful walk. […] I think the Esplanade is a fabulous thing. (Gwendolyn, age 72)

I think they've improved on the amenity in the area. They've put better paths there. […] I like bike riding and this bike path is good for riding on. […] There's people out walking. I went bike riding this morning at about a quarter past seven or something [on part of this path] and there are people out walking, doing different things at that time. (Wilbur, age 72, photograph above)

I like the bike track because you don't have to ride on the road with the traffic. […] 'Cause you get a bit worried about riding on the road with the traffic. (Kiera, age 66)

[…] The Foreshore track that goes around the hill, and that's just a pleasant thing to do, and it ends up in Lindisfarne. It's still a really nice area. The tracks are always maintained very well […]. (Bruce, age 20)

It's the walkway down on the foreshore. […] And they're pretty good gravel paths and they maintain them, and they wood-chip areas all around so it's real good. […] It goes right along [the foreshore]. And it's a really gorgeous place to walk along there of a morning. (Chad, age 79, photograph to the left)

We can walk from Tranmere right around to Geilston [Bay]. […] We break it up and sometimes we walk around a couple of suburbs. (Kiera, age 66)

Clarence Council are good at that [bikeways]. I'll give them a bouquet for that. Bike paths are everywhere. […] I liked riding my bike. I miss it actually. (Hugo, age 83)

There's lots of walking tracks, in Lindisfarne and Rosny Hills as well. […] You can be more active here [than on the Western shore]. (Maria, age 16)

That's just part of the Captain Cook walk. It's part of another walk […] The Charles Darwin walk. That's a nice walk to take visitors on. […] You can pick up a pamphlet at the Council. I sometimes give one to visitors if I don't go with them. (Brenda, age 74, photograph to the left)

This is the circuit […] from Gordon Shore Road and walk back to Clarence. […] And it's a lovely walk. You've got the rivulet on one side and golf on the other side. It's nice and green and quiet. (Brenda, age 74, photograph on the right)
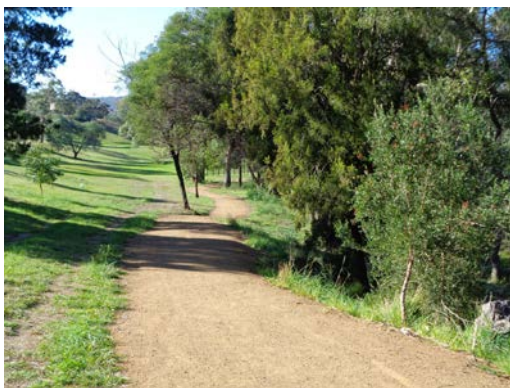
Here I am on the edge of the city [Rosny Park], but as I get close to Eastlands [Shopping Centre], I can turn off at the golf course and I can walk along this absolutely delightful track that comes in near Rosny Park. It's pleasant, mostly flat walk. They've provided for people with dogs. There's bags you can pick up and there's bins at either end, and it's right in the city [Rosny]. And I think that's a fabulous idea whoever thought of it. That's one of my favourite way to walk to Eastlands. It's just a beautiful area. […] I think it's great. And it doesn't matter what age you are, you can access that. So you could walk along there with the child in a pram; you can take your dog there; you can walk along there as a senior citizen. It's not too far. It's accessible to services and it's a good use of space. (Pamela, age 73, photograph above)

I love walking tracks and I do a bit of bush walking with some friends around the neighbourhood. (Pierce, age 67)

That's one of my favourite little walks that I go on to down by the golf course, just at the back of Rosny, the council buildings. […] You can do a circuit there now. So what I can do, I can park in Eastlands, just slip out of Eastlands with my dog and do this circuit and then put the dog back into the car and do my shopping. So it's a handy little walk. And it's beautiful. (Brenda, age 74, photograph above)

The Fort at the foreshore of Bellerive. […] It's another nice little circuit you can do up there, where there's no bicycles (Brenda, age 74, photograph above)

This is the track outside my house where I walked everyday for a long time. That's the tyre swing. It's been there for decades. […] This part of the track is near my place and it has been recently updated and maintained. […] There used to be no path or track to the beach and they have added one recently. (Gavin, age 23, photograph above)

[In the City of Clarence] we've got walking tracks right through, or bike. We've got trail bikes, […] But [my spouse] and I will walk every day, whether it's […a] short walk just around the neighbourhood here and back. A slightly longer one if you want to do the walking track down on Tranmere Beach [and] right along to the end of Tranmere. (Pierce, age 67, photograph above)

If I get upset or angry, walking is the one thing that tends to calm me down and really put me back into a nice place. […] If I was going alone [on a walk], I would probably to the Geilston Bay – Risdon Vale one. It's a lovely place, and I can sit down and admire the view. (Bruce, age 20)

It's nice to see people getting exercise on that flat area near the [Howrah Primary] School, near the [Howrah] Beach. It's just a lovely piece of infrastructure that's been out there. Very calming. […] That walking track goes for quite a long way, right up to Bellerive Beach and up to the Clarence High School. If you're fit enough, it's a very good walk. […] I'd say we're pretty lucky. […] Very practical and very good area - good planning. (Sabrina, age 75, photograph above)

[..] The council since they have taken it over [Rosny Hill Track] have done a good job by putting in a track that is slightly better than the one that was there before. And it means that lots of people can walk around the hill even in wet conditions; it's not muddy and so forth. (Wilbur, age 72, 9374)

That's in the Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area. That's the circular track around. A lot of people use it for dog walking. So it doesn't go right to the submit, but it's still a nice view. (Dylan, age 67, photograph above)

We like the bike track because we're cyclists and there's a lot of bike tracks around Clarence so that's very positive. (Kiera, age 66)

I like that little bit of information. (Bruce, age 20, photograph above)

There's a Charles Darwin walking trail there [in Bellerive], […] and there's the Foreshore Trail which goes up to Geilston Bay and down to Howrah, which I've ridden the full distance of on my bike. (Dylan, age 67)

[…] Something I could compliment Clarence Council on is the fact that they put these historic notices so you can read about a history of the place as you're walking past it, and part of that one, it tells you that Charles Darwin stayed there. […] I just appreciate the effort that they go to, to give information when you're going for a walk, and they seem to do that in lots of places. (Leah, age 73, photograph above)

There's the Rosny-Montagu Bay Foreshore Reserve and that's got a linear trail basically sticking to the shoreline, but it's also got little informal trails that go into some bushland there that we can cut back to the Esplanade. […] I could walk for an hour and a half upstream, you could say down to Geilston Bay through Rose Bay, Lindisfarne. You could walk over the top of Natone Hill or around the edge of it to Geilston Bay. (Dylan, age 67)

[… Ralph's Bay] canal. […] There's a boardwalk that goes under there, behind the restaurant […].But the pathway goes all the way around, so you can do a circular route and you can walk all the way around the canal so you could park at various places where you can leave your car. […] But it's nice, it's nice there. It's lovely. And again, it's nice that they've kept it simple. (Leah, age 73)

[… The Council] have done a lot of good things, and one of them is the boardwalk basically across the front of the Bellerive Yacht Club. […] I can just walk out the front door, walk around the Foreshore Trail here, around Kangaroo Bay and under the board walk there and you get another nice view of Mount Wellington [kunanyi] with the river; Kangaroo Bay with the yachts. (Dylan, age 67, photograph above)

We took that for how good the bike tracks here are on the Eastern Shore. I mean, a lot of people use that. It's on the way to Rosny College and there's plenty of room for walking people and riding people. Never an issue. And I think that's a credit to Council that they've put it in and it's so great. […] And that's the type of bike tracks that they're doing now. Nice and wide and plenty of room and there's plenty of room for people to walk on them as well which is great and it's a credit to the Council. (Jeremy, age 71, photograph above)

Track surface was raised by some older adults, and how this impacted on accessibility for themselves or others. As such having flat, smooth, wide pathways were raised for ensuring diverse populations can use these spaces. In addition, the ability to use mobility devices on pathways and trails was important when older adults reflected on their current or potential mobility restrictions:

This is just nearby at Bellerive. You've got seats overlooking where the yachts are. […] A good area open for the public to use (Melvin, age 71, photograph above)

That seat, with its layby there, it's a brilliant thing. […] It's just being used all the time. People walk along, just sit down and chat. […] I've seen a group of three [...], a tiny old lady and possibly her daughter or daughter-in-law, and then there's a man, and they walk along, and they sit there. They stay there for so long and then off they go again. So if the seat wasn't there, she might not be able to walk. (Rose, age 78, photograph above)

It is a wide path [Camelot Bay pathway to Pindos Park]. You could […] have a pram and cyclists could pass. (Rose, age 78, photograph below)

They've put in decent roads and footpaths there [Kangaroo Bay]. And you can walk right along there, it's all nice and even, and they've put in garden beds, and planted trees right along both sides. So that's all really nice. [… The walkway] goes right around the bay. (Phoebe, age 75, photograph above)

That [safety fence and concrete pathway] has given me a feeling of safety. (Rose, age 78, photograph above)

A couple of happy walkers, mum with a pram. A lot of kiddies ride their bikes there, especially the little ones that are just learning. They love it. It's wide enough path to be practical. (Sabrina, age 75, photograph above)

This is just one of many of the foreshore paths, […] which I think is just beautiful. And I feel very comfortable there, and I think maybe if you're looking for the future, in the future when I can't walk anymore I can bring my wheelchair along. There are lots of benches that are out there […]. When you think you can walk most of the Derwent coastline in Clarence, which I think is great, absolutely great. I think it gives people wonderful experiences; it's good for public health. […] I like this path and I certainly congratulate the council on doing that. (Evan, age 83, photograph above)

I like the fact that the path is even […]. It's flat, it fairly flat, only a gradual grade there. […] I don't like anything too steep, it gets to your knees. (Phoebe, age 75, photograph above)

That is sheltered and it has a seat. […] If you're walking with a friend […] if the middle of the day, you're more likely to say 'Oh, let's stop for a bit' if you know that you have got plenty of time. (Rose, age 78, photograph above)

There's quite a few places that are flat and walkable. (Sabrina, age 75)

This sign here which says Clarence Foreshore Trail. […] You can walk along here right through. It's a concrete one so people can easily ride their bikes or push things like wheelchairs even. It's just nice to walk along there. […] It's a good spot to ride a bike 'cause we just keep riding along that path, and then it just goes inland a little bit and then back along some headlands here, right through to Howrah. (Dylan, age 67, photograph to the left)

It's [Clarence Foreshore Trail] a bicycle and wheelchair accessible walking track around Bellerive's beautiful bluff. I took the photo because I wanted to express that […] I'm grateful that the Council has created this wheelchair accessible walking track because it didn't use to be like this. […] They've done a marvellous job of accessibility and I'm so grateful for that and […] my late husband, we had so many happy hours on this track because he had a huge electric wheelchair. […] It's picturesque. There's people along so you can say 'hello' to people if you want to. Great for dogs, great for bikes, and what it meant to [my late husband], it meant freedom. (Camila, 66)

The incorporation of pathways and trails into greenspaces helps to create walkable cities and facilitates accessibility for social engagement and positive physical and mental health outcomes. Inclusive trail and pathway design also help to encourage physical activity across the life course (Douglas, Lennon and Scott 2017). Walkability and bikeability, along with greenspaces, are important features for generating place quality and value and, in turn, a sense of place and quality of life (Carmona 2019).

While the accessibility of the Clarence Foreshore Trail was appreciated, this inclusivity does not extend to all footpaths and pathways, nor all sections of the Clarence Foreshore Trail. In addition, older adults identified the importance of seating to facilitate public access to place, as well as providing the support needed for engagement. These issues will now be explored in "Availability and accessibility: Pathways, playgrounds, public facilities and greenspaces".

Availability and accessibility: Pathways, playgrounds, public facilities and greenspaces

It is strongly evident that greenspaces and blue spaces are strongly associated with place identity, value, attachment and quality of life within the City of Clarence. Younger and older people seek out these places for health and wellbeing, as well as for socialisation and community connection. To increase the accessibility and inclusivity of these places, participants indicated a range of improvements that could be made. These included:

- Reviewing facilities for younger people in the 'outer suburbs'
- Increasing the number of greenspaces including green corridors (particularly in areas of expansion and development)

- Reviewing the availability and surface of pathways, footpaths, and trails (inclusive design)
- Increasing the number of accessible and inclusive pathways, trails, and footpaths in the 'outer suburbs', and ensuring their separability from traffic

As such, the participants identified the positive and inclusive outcomes from significant investment into accessibility for central areas of the City of Clarence. Their desire was for such investment to be expanded into less central suburbs. Furthermore, footpaths in established suburbs such as Rosny and Montagu Bay may have obstacles that severely compromise their inclusivity:

I mean you can walk along [that pathway] down at Tranmere, but it's not as well developed as some areas but there is certainly a path. And I used to walk that a lot too years ago but […] it hasn't got a rail or anything like that so. […] I think that in some areas it's a good idea to have some sort of rail just for support. You know, older people want to walk, they need a bit of support. (Phoebe, age 75, photograph above)

We like to walk. I think it's good for our health and the natural beauty of the place also helps and the facility of the walking track. […] It would be nice […] to concrete it for cycling or something, as they have done in other areas. This is still a gravel walking track. (Pierce, age 67, photograph above)
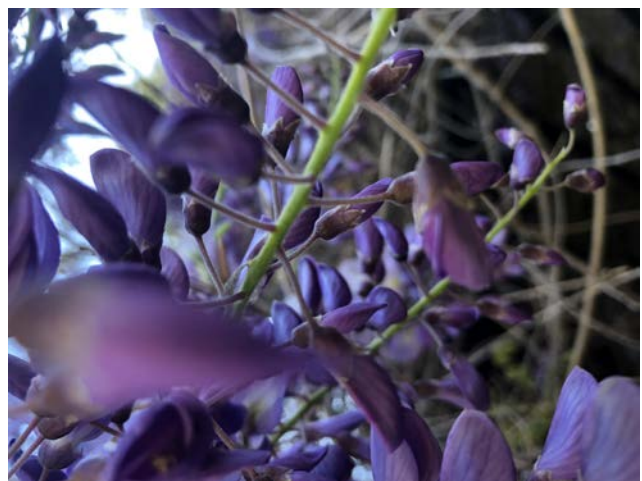
I just think there needs to be less buildings. Yes, there needs to be houses and stuff for people to live in, but I like the botanical gardens. We need more places like that. (Julia, age 15, photograph above)

They probably need more [skateparks], and more in the outer suburbs where kids don't have cars and can't get here. […] I can't see on the surface that's there's a lot for young people to do in places like Rokeby or Lauderdale or Risdon Vale or any of those places. (Beatrice, age 78)

Certainly, in the more outlying areas such as Cremorne, there's a lot of areas that if I was in a wheelchair out there, I would struggle for sure. […] In the more outlying, more rural areas, I think that there's a lot of work that needs to be done. (Camila, age 66)

I would love for there to be track […] from Sandford through to Lauderdale, but there isn't. There are cycle tracks on either side of the road, but then you're competing with the cyclists and there's a lot of traffic on that road. […] If there was even a similar distance of just that gravelly stuff at the side of the cycle track, flattened, would be fine, we'd be far enough away from the traffic not to feel unsafe. […] Just as an older person, you're a bit more unsure of your footing sometimes. So a flat-ish path and […] you're looking at probably the width of the cycle track again […] just in brown gravel stuff would make it much, much easier. […] That was really just to give you an idea of the difficulty of trying to walk from here [South Arm Road]. There's a bit of a path at the side of the – what's designated for cyclists - but there's some sort of a gully that goes underneath the road, so you can't walk [on the left hand] side of that [traffic] barrier, you've got to walk on that [road] side, and it just shows you how close you are to the traffic. […] If there was just space to be able to walk safely would be nice. […] There's plenty of recognition now for cyclists […]. Just to be able to walk to the shops in the event of not being able to drive. […] But even just for the pleasure of it. […] Everywhere has got a carpark, but when you get to the stage where possibly you're not able to take a car, what do you do? […] It would be nice just to be able to walk. (Leah, age 73, photograph above)

If I ever need a trolley [wheelie walker], the paths around here [Warrane] are not good. You'd never get a trolley on the paths here. The telegraph poles are in the middle of the paths so the only way to get from here to Eastlands is one the road, even with a trolley, or get someone to pick you up which imposes on your independence (Brenda, age 74)

That's Ralphs Bay. […] It would be nice if those were footpaths but there isn't. (Leah, age 73, photograph above)

At the moment, I've got a problem with – with one of my legs so a proper path is better for me than walking on rough ground. […] Hard packed [compressed ground] is fine (Leah, age 73)

The [Bellerive] boardwalk needs to be extended but it should be accessible. It should be dog-friendly. It should be people-friendly. It should be inclusive. (Camila, age 66)

[…] There's absolutely no footpath around Hookey Place [Rokeby]. There's no footpath. [… The ground] as you can see, slopes up and then down again […]. It's uneven ground. It's not smooth. (Rebecca, age 71, photograph above)

[…] they've got one [pathway] around the [Bellerive] Bluff but the one around the bluff is all gravel and bit more dangerous where the rest of it is very good. (Melvin, age 71)

It's all to do with footpaths and similar things. And in this part of Montagu Bay. [….] When the rubbish bins are there, it's quite difficult to walk past them. […] That's the road down to the swimming pool and early morning people going, but you know, if you've got to walk down there when this is happening, there are cars there, there are rubbish bins around, and the footpath is on poor condition. […] I'm quite capable of walking, but there are people around who haven't got good balance and things, and if they make there's obstacles, and it's actually quite difficult for them to get around them and things. Coming along here on a mobility scooter and meeting that, whether it's a sewage outlet or a stormwater… (Wilbur, age 72, photograph above)

Now, if you were in a wheelchair, you couldn't […] wheel along there properly which is annoying. And […] going down Montagu Bay Road is just as bad because there's a tree that you have to duck under now, and that's annoying; that annoys me. [… And some have] a telegraph pole in the middle of the path. […] That's technically nature strip, but who looks after it; the people don't and the council don't. (Roslyn, age 70, photograph above)

[…] It gets extremely messy walking about especially in the winter [here in Seven Mile Beach]. […] Everybody gets messy. Your shoes get filthy 'cause it's got that horrible reddy-brown stuff. […] The footpaths which are virtually non-existent because they're not pavements. […] We've got a lot of young families coming into the area with pushchairs and prams and things like that, and […] it's a hazard in a way and for the elderly as well. […] There's nowhere hard to walk. […]. There're no curbs. […] I think it should be a lot better than that, especially with all the building that's going on in Seven Mile Beach now. […] I would like to see them either put in a path or pavement. […] These days, when you've got retired people and you've got young people with prams, etc., you need something solid down there. It's much easier for people to walk on. You've got people with walking frames, you've got people with sticks. Yeah, to me, it makes more sense to have a reasonable hard footpath than anything else. (Martha, age 73, photograph above)

There's a nice path here from that goes down […] to Bastick Street […]. Quite a reasonable walk up and a walk down but I think somebody, that is the council, ought to pay more attention to areas like this. It's a really good thing, but they're neglected, often overgrown and so forth […]. They don't have any lighting down there so people don't, or wouldn't access it of a night […]. I think it would be easy to put lights down there, either solar lights or electric lights. (Wilbur, age 72, photograph above)

While the inclusivity of pathways for cyclists and pedestrians on shared pathways was applauded by many (as noted in "Availability and accessibility: Association between green and blue spaces, and pathways), there were also safety concerns. Some older participants indicated that cyclists can sometimes dominate the pathways, and make pedestrians feel unsafe and unwelcome. This compromises the inclusivity and accessibility of pathways, and undermines walkability including the physical, social, and psychological benefits that it brings:

[…I'm] searching for other walks now that I have lost some of my favourite walks along the foreshore. […] I was actually abused this week by two guys when I was on the bike path. I ended up getting abused, they actually abused me verbally. And I was on my side of the track, but they passed too close and I said 'please ring your bell', and then I got the abuse. […] They went off, 'ha ha ha', and thought it was a great joke giving an old person a hard time. [,,,] There should be either more signs saying 'no cycles' or 'cycles give way to people', or 'please ring your bell' or just something to slow them down when there's people there. (Brenda, age 74, photograph above)

[the pathways] they are nice and wide and the only trouble is some of the bicyclists, cyclists go a bit fast at times (Melvin, age 71)

You get cyclists, unfortunately, who don't necessarily pay attention to pedestrians (Leah, age 73)

 You'll hear me say that a lot: no bicycles. I get […] a startle response when the bicycles go past very quickly without letting me know they're coming. Because when I'm walking, I'm in a different headspace altogether. […] My head is in all sorts of places, and then suddenly a bicycle comes past within inches and I startle, and my heart is palpitating, and they're gone. […] A lot of them don't ring the bell and, for people my age, particularly if you don't hear very well, its frightening. It shatters your headspace. […] A lot of places where I used to walk, I don't walk now because of the shared bikeways [including the foreshore track]. […] A lot of places that had shared bikeways in the past have now gone to a separate bike path, or they have plenty of signs saying 'give way to pedestrians. […] It's not happening here yet. (Brenda, age 74)

These comments reveal that narrow pathways, pathways with obstacles (including an uneven track surface and objects blocking the pathway), shared pathways, or non-existent pathways, create obstacles and makes these places unsafe, risky, or inaccessible to pedestrians. Shared zones are particularly dangerous for older adults and people with disabilities whose ability to read and negotiate space can be impacted, and which may not be identified, recognised, or respected by other users (Austroads 2006; Victoria Walks 2015). As such shared pathways, while minimising spatial and economical cost, do not make place equally inclusive and accessible, setting up a conflict of use. Exploring ways to minimise pedestrian and cyclist contact, and to create unobstructed pathways with a clear path of travel, can safeguard inclusivity and accessibility of public places. This may include pavement markings and separated (rather than shared) pathways and trails (Victoria Walks 2015).

All I wanted to say with that, the way that's set up with the bike area, if all of them were done like that, that would be great. [...] You're riding a bike, you know exactly where to go and that's great. I can see the bold [...] so it's just a tick in my eyes to the Council because if they put those emblems on them, I think that would be great. (Jeremy, age 71, photograph above)

It is significant to note that the design and location of pathways can enable or disable pedestrian use. Therefore, while the Clarence Foreshore Trail was widely endorsed by the younger and older participants, some sections – as well as other pathways – were not seen as enhancing walkability. Younger and older people noted that accessibility and safety of pathways is additionally compromised by a lack of lighting and seating. Notably, while participants noted that they felt safe in the City of Clarence, younger and older women indicated that some pathways were not safe at night, which connected to a lack of lighting. In addition to a lack of seating along pathways, older adults also noted that the absence of or little seating available in playgrounds, which compromises their ability to engage in these places with others (particularly their grandchildren), as they have nowhere to rest. As such, rest areas in playgrounds and parks with flexibility and choice in seating including location, design (such as ergonomic design and seating that can be used for multiple purposes), and choice (for example, seating with and without armrests, and with and without back rests), can make place more accessible and, in turn, allow people to engage with public places and feel included (Carmona 2019).

This is just the concept of having more benches along the waterfront. [...] Having these seats – and people can sit, they can get [...] therapeutic things [...] because they can look over the river. [...] By having these seats means that, if they can't walk very far – and my late husband got to that stage. He had a walking stick and he shuffled on [...], but a few more of those [seating]. [...] So to me, it would encourage people to walk because they could have a broken walk which is important, and one could even have a little, maybe, little brochure or something that say, 'The following seats....', especially those that have been dedicated, and they've been quite a few that have been dedicated, being rather nice. (Gwendolyn, age 72, photograph to the left)

I am comfortable and feel safe where I live, [...] but also quite like knowing where the nearest police station is. (Pamela, age 73)

Probably not [using tracks/ pathways at night]. Definitely not the Bellerive Bluff one. It there were lights, maybe. (Emily, age 18)

There are some places where you go where there are walks and there is not enough seating for resting. Not everybody can do the walks the whole length without having a break. And also it's nice to sit and contemplate […]. You know it wouldn't be very hard to put a few more in around the place. (Phoebe, age 75, photograph above)

[…] We are near the Bellerive Bluff. […] They haven't got seats […]. (Phoebe, age 75, photograph above)

There is never enough seating for the adults that are supervising children in those [play] areas. And I found that out from taking my grandchildren there, because you can't always stand there and lean on the edge of the equipment, and if you are like me and you have to have something to lean on at times. I'd like to see a bit more seating in those sort of parks […]. There are adults as well and mums nursing younger children. (Phoebe, age 75)

[…] I think it's a great idea [to have seats along the walking track]. I think there is one or two with plaques on from people that lived in the neighbourhood. Good idea. (Pierce, age 67)

There are more of them [rubbish bins] than there are of benches [to sit on]. (Gwendolyn, age 72, photograph above)

I like the little huts and the Barbecue areas that they have down there [in Richmond]. […] I would like to see more seating and that sort of area available for people sitting down. […] There is plenty of room to put a bit more seating, and a bit more of a family designated area. 'Cause it plenty of room there. (Phoebe, age 75, photograph above)

I don't use it at night [walkway at Bellerive Bluff]. There's hardly any lighting. […] There's lighting once you get around and down, but up the Bluff and around the corner, there's no lighting apart from the moon. You can't even see people walking towards you. […] Even if there were lights, I wouldn't do it by myself.   (Maria, age 16)

[… But] I don't feel probably safe at night, not that I have gone out at night but that's probably the reason why I haven't gone out at night is because of that. (Cassandra, age 17)

While not raised in this project, others have found that pre-schoolers value playgrounds that allow for individual and intergenerational play, and therefore child-only designated areas do not always cater for their needs and interests. They also like diversity of play in natural environments, and colourful vegetation (Ergler et al. 2015). These factors could be taken into account when designing playgrounds and parks, and ensure there are opportunities for people of different generations to share in play and place.

Availability and accessibility: Skateparks

Skateparks are urban environments specifically designed for recreational wheeled sports including skateboards, BMX cycling, skating, and scooters. Often associated with younger people, skateparks provide a place for youth to socialise outside of home, engage in exercise that has physical and psychological benefits, explore their creativity, develop their social skills and identity, and create a place of belonging (Wood, Carter and Martin 2014). While adults may negatively view skateparks as dangerous places of deviant and anti-social behaviours including crime and drug abuse (Wood, Carter and Martin 2014), the younger and older participants in this project viewed skateparks as positive places. This was associated with giving youth a place for socialisation and physical activity, and as broadly catering to their needs:

That's the skatepark that got built. It's a good thing. (Bruce, age 20, photograph above)

[…] Something that I do like and approve of, and that is the skateboard ramps at Rosny College Park. […] And it's been used so much since day one and it's even lit up at night sometimes and it's so lovely to see the young people enjoying it. I think it's a wonderful facility for the young people provided by the council and it's extremely popular and it shows the importance of catering to the needs and interests of young people. […] It's also provided them [younger people] a meeting place. I'm sure they go there to meet each other as much as to skate. (Beatrice, age 78)

The Rosny skatepark is good. (Maria, age 16)

I think council have been very good in the way they have catered for all ages in sporting and walking endeavours. And this is the Kangaroo Bay skateboard park. That goes seven days a week, and most evenings, kids are using it all the time. Not just the small kids either, there's some reasonable sized children on it. (Chad, age 79)

[…] The skate park over near Rosny College is a great idea and there are less skateboards challenging me as I walked down footpaths these days. And I am suspecting it's because they got somewhere to ride, so they don't have to share my footpath. (Pamela, age 73)

And there's the skateboard ramp which reckon is great thing down there for kids. It's right outside Rosny College […]. I've got my grandson who's three […] and he can ride his little bike on that and he thinks it's pretty good. So you can go there from a very young age. (Wilbur, age 72, photograph above)

Skateparks, however, are not gender neutral as they tend to be male-dominated. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (2013) reports that "a higher proportion of males were involved in skateboarding, rollerblading or riding a scooter (60%) and bike riding (70%) than females (47% and 57% respectively)", which indicates skateparks cater more for the interests of young men as opposed to young women. Due to this dominance, male behaviour in skateparks can reproduce social inequalities and patriarchal attitudes including sexism and misogyny (Carr 2017), making these places uncomfortable and unwelcoming for women. This was noted by Ava, who identified as a skater:

I love bike riding and […] skateboarding. […] My mum doesn't really trust the [Rosny] skate park. […] I do go to other ones [Mornington Skate Park], but Rosny […] apparently there's been a guy who's been hurting […] some people. Sometimes, people do sketchy stuff apparently. (Ava, age 14)

As such, skateparks may not be experienced as safe places by young women or people who are gender diverse. Creating safe skateboarding environments for gender diversity allows for social acceptance, and for these individuals to experience the prosocial and other benefits that skating and skateparks can bring. This may include ensuring skateparks have "proximity to well traveled [sic] sidewalks, homes, active **green space**, and other recreational activities [, which] helps avoid the feeling of being in a 'skatepark in a box' where trouble can occur unseen, and without the possibility of help"; an approach which is popular with female skaters (Carter 2017: 32, emphasis added).

Quality, experiences and feelings: Cleanliness and climate change

Overall, participants believed that the City of Clarence was a safe and 'clean' place to live. This cleanliness was associated with preserving and maintaining the natural values of the City of Clarence, including the views and green and blue spaces. It also related to litter and rubbish. Having only recently received regular waste collection pickups from the Council, Jarrod appreciates this service and notes the previous inconvenience of having to find other ways of disposing of household rubbish:

This is a photo of my bin. This is a good thing about living here. When we moved there was no collection service. The Council sent a letter to everyone two years into living here, asking if we wanted the service. It was cheaper to live here because there was no service. Now we have a service every week and recycling every fortnight. Great service living here in the middle of nowhere. Before this we had to try to find ways to rid of your rubbish. I had to take the recycling into Richmond. […] We're really grateful that we get the bins emptied. (Jarrod, age 71, photograph to the left)

Hugo also mentioned the friendliness and promptness of the waste collection service, while Maria noted the annual waste collection service as a useful way for unwanted items to be repurposed and reused in the community. Maria's comments highlight how kerb-side hard waste creates "waste commons" and a community swapping culture that revalues and recycles these items. Such practices allow for landfill diversion in more effective ways than formal waste collection services (Lane 2011).

It is notable that Jarrod was the only participant that specifically mentioned regular rubbish collection as a valued service from the Council. This reflects his rurality, and the taken-for-grantedness of rubbish collection in urban environments in contrast to rural locations.

Waste collection services and rubbish disposal are a community maintenance service that helps to support public health and community wellbeing. The participants

This morning, we had our garbage picked up. The garbage truck came past it [my bin]. They start at six o'clock but the hours they came to pick up the bin was at 9:20 I was told. It was still there at midday, so I rang them up and you wouldn't read about it, it was gone within half an hour, so I rang them back and thanked them for it. It's a very good service. (Hugo, age 83)

This is somethings for the annual [waste] pick up. […] It doesn't look very good but it is a very good thing to do and it is free. […] Once a year we do it, and then one day we can go to the tip for free. […] My mum has picked a few baskets up [from the annual hard waste collection]. It is good people can go and get some stuff for free. It is reusing stuff as well. (Maria, age 16, photograph above)

noted, however, that specific areas in the City of Clarence had waste and rubbish problems, including the disposal of burned-out cars. These areas made the participants feel unsafe, as well as worried for the wellbeing of residents living in these areas. Social environments can contribute towards littering behaviours such as bin accessibility, lack of neighbourhood sociality and beauty, graffiti, and existing levels of locale cleanliness (Al-mosa, Parkinson and Rundle-Thiele 2017). The participants' concerns regarding rubbish also relate to the need to look after and preserve the environment and community, as well as their willingness to be involved in clean-up efforts:

I want it to represent litter. I feel like litter is a big problem here and it's very ugly and bad for the environment. […] Animals sometimes eat it and it destroys their home and it destroys the earth and plants too and it's really ugly. And it takes forever to biodegrade. (Ava, age 14, photograph to the left)

Get the bins down actually on the beach. Dot the bins right along the beach, not way up on the road because people may bag it but then they'll throw it and not even walk along with it. (Camila, age 66)

Some suburbs of Clarence are good at keeping their area clean from litter but other places like where I live [Clarendon Vale], needs more attention. (Mia, age 16)

It's the spare block next to the former shop along the corner and it's just an untidy eyesore. [...] It's virtually been in that state now for maybe twenty years or something, which is a pity. [...] But the person who owns it at the moment owns quite a few properties around and probably doesn't mind paying the rates and so forth on it just to keep a mess there. (Wilbur, age 72, photograph above)

I would like to see more of Clarence having a better effort in recycling and making a better effort for the planet. 'Cause I only recently found that you can have stainless steel straws so use only that, not plastic ones. I wish we would do that so we can promote and have people waste one like plastic straw that can't be recycled. [...] More of the recycling part. (Christina, age 15)

[...] I've seen a lot of rubbish everywhere so they could have a bit more effort in doing the rubbish. [...] Like [in] Bellerive [Beach Park] or Wentworth [Park] that have playgrounds that everyone can actually use. (Christina, age 15)

As you can see in the photograph, it's full of graffiti now and it's got a vacant block next door. There's rubbish around it. There's weeds growing out the footpath in front of it, and it's in quite a prominent place and it's near the entrance to the Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area [...], but it's a real eyesore. [...] Someone owns it and, I guess the Council appears [...] doesn't have the necessary regulations or whatever legal regulations to force anyone to do anything about it. (Dylan, age 67, photograph above)

So when I come out [from Bellerive Beach] I have to carry [my dog's] bag of poo right back to the main road before there's a litter bin. [...] Every entrance around here, there's always a litter bin right by the entrance. [...] Every entrance except this one has got a bin and bags. (Kiera, age 66, 140)

Well that's actually litter, which annoys me immensely. If you look at that, right in to the foreground is an empty drink container, not even squashed. Why couldn't be put in the bin? [...] Well, I think Council needs to provide bins in areas where people are going to frequent [...]. (Pamela, age 73, photograph above)

[...] That is at Rokeby Hills. [...] The longer you have rubbish, it attracts other rubbish. [...] There is more here now than there used to be and I think that's it's absolutely disgusting that we can't do anything about that. (Evan, age 83, photograph above)

There are [...] places where I walk where there are no bins. (Brenda, age 74).

I think waste is really common in our community and there's always rubbish everywhere. […] If we could have more rubbish bins around our community, it would probably decrease the amount of rubbish in the community. I think it is a really important issue because it kills many animals and it is not a good sign for everyone. (Sophia, age 15, 461)

This is rubbish. When the Council were putting in the path, I said 'Couldn't you put something so I could get down on the beach?' [They replied] 'No, no, because it has to be regulation with rails and steps and everything'. […] I use to walk over there [to the beach…] and I would collect plastic bags and bottles and rubbish. [… I still try to clean up there]. […] I went along the other day, I thought, 'I wish I had a big rubbish bag with me'. […] You can spend five minutes in just one small area, but it's awful to think of all these cling plastics and film plastics. Everything there to get inside birds' insides, seals. (Rose, age 78, 90-2)

[This] is the place where they take cars and burn them out [at Clarendon Vale]. There would be fifty cars burnt out. It makes it look worse. There's rubbish and more burnt out cars. […] It is a dead-end street, a cul-de-sac and at the end, is this piece of land. […] It looks gross. […] They should clean it up. Not all the time, once a year. There's so much rubbish there piled in and outside the cars. […] It looks dirty, and it is littering. It doesn't belong there. Without the rubbish and cars, it would be nice. (Emily, age 18, photograph above)

It doesn't help the people who live there to be positive about their situation. I am sure there are lovely people living in Clarendon Vale who shouldn't be subjected to this. (Maria, age 16)

As some of these comments reveal, younger and older people care about the environment, and the impact that litter has on wildlife and place liveability. Climate changes was also a common concern. Younger people tended to talk about climate change broadly, including the need to care for the planet and wider environment. Older adults shared similar views, but also identified events or changes with the Clarence municipality that they associate with climate change events:

A couple of mornings ago I thought, 'I'm going down the beach. I'm going to check on that rubbish that still hadn't been collected from the salmon farm debris, and I will pull it up to the little Council rubbish bin'. […] But you can see how the bank is getting eroded away. (Rose, age 78, photograph above)

[This is] showing the erosion along sand dunes there at Lauderdale and it's just continually happening. You can see where it's just falling away. And it's been cleared of any vegetation, too which would help if there was something planted there, wouldn't it? […] Because the roots would bind the soil to stop that to some extent.[…] I mean it's a lovely area, and it's a lovely beach to go down and walk along. One wonders for how long. (Phoebe, age 75, photograph above)

[This is] the undermining of the sand dunes down at Lauderdale. And, there's been a huge problem with, because of the rising water undermining the beach, and the sand dunes along the edge of the beach. And that is a big concern, and the council […] they've erected a ramp and access to the beach to stop people from walking on the actual sand dune itself. And they've put sign up there, which talks about protecting the dune. […] I think the council are trying to address it. (Phoebe, age 75, photograph above)

I care for the environment because everything about it is beautiful and there is only one planet earth. We mustn't destroy it while we still call this place home and every little thing impacts it. […] Nature is important because it provides everything we need and once one species is gone, it's a high chance it won't come back. So we must take better care of what's around us. (Mia, age 16, photograph above)

Climate change can disproportionately affect older adults such as adverse health impacts from temperature extremeness, and home and familial displacement during environmental crisis such as rising sea levels (Phillipson 2012). Local councils can play a role in climate change adaption through strategic planning including urban planning, land-use planning, natural resources management, and coastal management (Measham et al. 2011, see also Krawchenko et al. 2016).

Key points

- Liveability was strongly related to the greenspaces, nature, blue spaces and the views
- Preservation of greenspaces, blue spaces, nature and the views were considered vital, as these features are associated with place identity and value of the City of Clarence and give residents a feeling of belonging, a sense of place and place attachment. These factors significantly contribute towards liveability and quality of life
- The Clarence Foreshore Trail was noted for its length, width, and accessibility, including nearby parking areas that facilitate access
- Some pathways, trails and footpaths are not accessible, and the project participants would like to see these improved. This was particularly the case in less urban/ rural/ outer suburbs of Clarence
- Shared pathways can be exclusionary due to cyclist-pedestrian interactions. This is also problematic for people with disabilities
- A lack of seating was identified along pathways and trails, and in playgrounds. This restricts accessibility and people with disabilities or chronic health conditions
- Skateparks have positive outcomes for youth but tend to be dominated by young men. It is important to create social spaces and opportunities where young women and people who are gender diverse want to be and feel they belong
- Climate change and cleanliness are of concern to younger and older people. They desire for the Clarence City Council to continue their efforts in addressing these issues

Recommendations

Recommendation – Ensure that nature preservation, encompassing green and blue spaces, is integrated into Council's Strategic Plan, throughout Council policies, and as part of the 'Access and Inclusion Assessment Toolkit'
Recommendation – Ensure areas for greenspace and green corridors are retained in increasing urbanisation and development
Recommendation – Review the surface, width, and availability of footpaths, pathways and trails, including their inclusivity for diversity, including the possibility of creating separate pathways for pedestrians and cyclists

Recommendation – Review the availability and accessibility of footpaths and pathways in suburbs outside of central areas of the City of Clarence as well as in established suburbs (for example, Rosny and Montagu Bay)
Recommendation – Examine ways to increase the safety and inclusivity for young women and people who are gender diverse at Rosny Skatepark (for example, *She Shreds*)
Recommendation – Partner with external organisations and younger people to investigate youth-based needs for facilities in public places, particularly in suburbs outside of central Clarence and with consideration for gender diversity and gendered preferences
Recommendation – Explore playground facilities and infrastructure that support and encourage intergenerational 'play' as an 'Our Shared Space' initiative
Recommendation – Review availability and frequency of bins and seating in playgrounds, parks, pathways and footpaths
Recommendation – Investigate methods to monitor and deter rubbish disposal in Rokeby Hills and Clarendon Vale
Recommendation – Develop a Council-wide climate change strategy and plan
Recommendation – Continue to survey, monitor, control, and plan for the impacts of climate change with a focus on coastal erosion

6. Parking and transport: Findings

Summary

The theme of "Parking and transport" relates to how the citizens of the City of Clarence move around internally and externally to the City of Clarence via public transport and cars. It does not include footpaths and pathways, which are covered under the theme of "Natural environment and public places". Public transport was discussed by younger and older people. Parking was only discussed by older adults. Issues related to parking also feature in other sections of this report (for example, "Natural environment and public places").

Findings

Availability and accessibility: Bus services

Access to transport impacts on assessments of neighbourhood liveability and individual quality of life (Gieling and Haarsten 2017). Like walkability (as addressed in "Natural environment and public places"), modes of transport can enable or disable sociality. As such, there is a direct relationship between transport and community participation and engagement, including the ability to access the therapeutic benefits of green and blue spaces (Gieling and Haarsten 2017).

When discussing public transport options, the participants focused heavily on buses. Some participants were positive regarding their bus options:

And if I want to go into town [Hobart], it's a five-minute bus ride or drive, but I prefer bus. [...] The bus service to this area is brilliant. You can get a bus from here into the city. [...] There's numerous [bus] services come through Rosny Mall, and numerous services come back – so you're never waiting for ages. [...] The bus service is excellent. And I value that because I can get a green card and you get that discounted as a pensioner. [...] I found the bus services are not only are efficient, but very friendly people who help you do what it is you are trying to do, and that's important, particularly the older you get. (Pamela, age 73, photograph to the left)

I use the bus every opportunity I can. If I've got to go to town, I use the bus. [...] I'd just rather use the bus than take the car into town. [...] If you've got your car, you've got to find parking and there's a cost and [...] it's just so much better if you take the bus. (Jeremy, age 71)

> […] The buses from Bellerive always stop at Rosny and then they continue to pick up passengers continuing into the city. [… They are] usually every twenty to thirty minutes. (Kiera, age 66)
>
> Bus service is excellent here. We get them going past about every ten minutes. We have a bus stop here and just across the road, both ways, it's fine. (Hugo, age 83)
>
> This is a good thing about Tranmere; we have a bus service. And I know a lot of people have to walk quite some distance to the bus […]. (Rose, age 78)

The availability and accessibility to buses was a key factor for Peggy and her partner when selecting a home to live and for ageing-in-place:

> When we were looking for a house, we wanted to get one near a bus stop. There's a bus stop just around the back here because there could come a day when we can't drive and we need to catch a bus, and it's nice. I quite like it. (Peggy, age 77)

These positive stories on bus services focused on the proximity, service regularity, affordability, and friendliness of the bus drivers. Such features are important to retain in public transport particularly given that older adults may not be able, or choose not, to drive as they age (Broome et al. 2010). Notably, "mobility and access are essential for healthy and happy ageing and significant challenges are faced when these are impeded" (Currie and Delbosc 2017: 193). As such, accessible public transport is vital for inclusion and ensuring quality of life.

The positive stories regarding public transport, however, were restricted to those who live close to major roads in Bellerive, Lindisfarne, and Tranmere. Those living in other areas, or away from major roads in these suburbs, have very different experiences. Gavin, who lives in Howrah, prefers to use the bus due to the expense of owning and maintaining a car (which was common amongst the younger people who were old enough to drive). However, despite living near a major road, current services do not meet Gavin's needs and he must rely on the goodwill of others to drive him around. For other younger people, bus service limitations included needing to change at Rosny Park, infrequency, and a lack of weekend and after-hours services. These aspects are restricting their accessibility to paid employment and social opportunities including sport. Julia also indicates that she needs to sometimes use taxi services to get to her job which, due to the cost, exhaust her day's earnings:

This is a bus stop. I am very lucky people can drive me around all the time. If I had to catch the bus, I would have to get the bus an hour before I start [work]. They have recently downsized [their services]. I use to get the bus everywhere and it became less convenient in the last few years to do that. [The buses are] running late, don't start as early, don't go to the city anymore – you have to transfer at Eastlands [Shopping Centre]. This is the one thing [that] is a legitimate challenge in the area. […] It's become a pain to get around on the bus. […] I start work 8:30am in the city so I have to be at the bus stop by 7:20am. I think the bus is 7:30am but they sometimes come early so you have to be there early. Then you're in town half an hour before work so you have some time to kill. It feels like an inefficient way to getting to the CBD. It's not an issue, [because] normally someone in my family will drive me. I am lucky that they do. […] Mum works in Rosny so she drives that ten minutes extra to drop me off [at work in Hobart]. Unless I leave work five or ten minutes early, it's waiting forty-five minutes at the bus stop to get home. I finish at 5:30pm so all the peak hours buses are 4-5pm. I would end up on a bus that comes after 6pm. […] Waiting half an hour isn't the end of the world but I'd rather not when I'm tired at the end of the day. […] Unless I plan it out ahead, there's less chance I'll get on a bus. [… On the weekend], that's even worse. Less often […]. I usually wouldn't consider it. It would be a last resort option. I used to catch the bus every weekend. Now they're all over the place and infrequent. […] You can't rely on it. […] More frequency I'd like to see, and more consistency [of bus services]. (Gavin, age 23, photograph on the left)

[To get to the Western Shore] by car, fine. By busses, annoying. You have to go from Seven Mile [Beach] to Rosny; Rosny to town; town to New Town, which is … interesting. Plus most of netball [at New Town] is on a Saturday and you can only catch busses from Seven Mile [Beach] every two hours, and between the actual busses and the transfers, you're looking at about an hour and fifteen [minutes] to an hour and a half to get out there. […] Of a weekday, I cannot get home with buses after about 7pm from Eastlands [Shopping Centre] and after about 6:30pm from town. […] We get no buses whatsoever on Saturday/Sunday or public holidays, so it does put limitations on things further like work […]. All of a sudden you cut out half your shifts because you couldn't possibly work. Or any sport commitments. […] [We need] some late at night options to be able to get home, especially when you live far enough out. I mean, getting a taxi is too expensive to get home. (Clarissa, age 19, photograph on the right)

The [bus] timetable scares me a bit when I'm almost late for work or I'm trying to get there by a certain time […]. Or work instantly messages me and is like, 'Come to work ASAP'. Sometimes they're a bit haywire and I have to catch taxis to get there 'cause there's not… For instance, I have early shifts on Sundays and there are no buses at 6am in the morning so I have to catch a taxi. […] Most of what I work for is to get to work. (Julia, age 15)
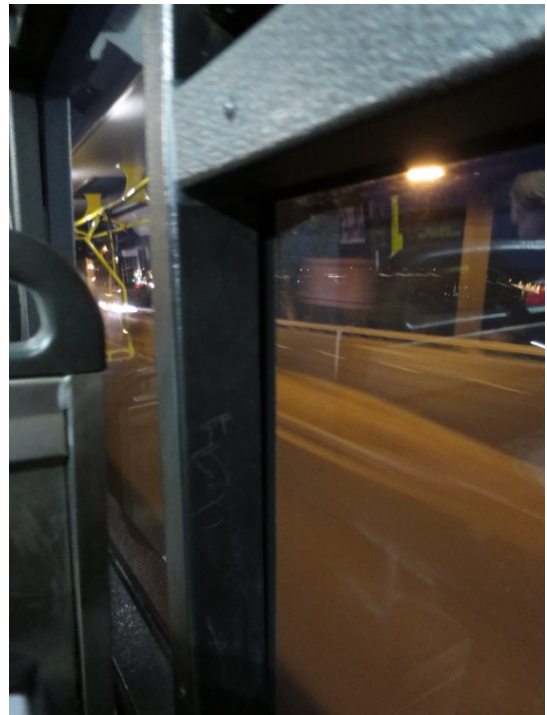
The complications and limitations of existing bus services, including a lack of options and the delay of travel time when transferring through Rosny Park, were common themes for younger and older people:

And transport used to be really good, but it started to be sorely lacking buses. […] Most of them are then minutes late, but […] they've changed routes […]. I could go to Eastlands and then into town on the same route, but now it's one route that way […], one way to Eastlands, one way to town. And getting to go to Glenorchy has been a lot harder as well. And so transport has become something that's not as nice. (Bruce, age 20)

If I'm going to catch a bus, I'll walk around there. When I'm older, I have to catch a bus. If that happens, I'm just going to have to give up a lot of things I do. There won't be time. You get the bus and then you get into there [Rosny Park] and then you change the bus, get to there [your destination], and the same to come back and you have to time it with the timetable of the bus. So you might need to be there in the city in an hour and a half from now, but you've got to get the bus now, so you can get the other [bus]. (Peggy, age 77)

The bus service - once you get into Lauderdale - the bus service isn't too bad. But the bus service here is not good […]. If there was a better bus service maybe more people from the likes of South Arm would use it. […] If you go to the town to meet friends for lunch, to not take your car, to hop on a bus and then you can have your glass of wine; a) you're not searching around for a parking space, b) you can relax, have a glass of wine and you're not wanting to driving back, then you get the bus, and it's not expensive. (Leah, age 73)

I'm hoping that there's going to be extra buses put on so it's not an hour between buses because I don't want to have to walk up to Oceania [Drive] to catch it. […] But if I'm shopping, I don't want to be watching the time and being in a queue at Woolworths down there thinking 'I'm going to miss the bus' and then have to wait an hour for it. So I'm just hoping they're going to adjust the bus timetable. (Rose, age 78)

While some participants living in Bellerive had good access to bus services, this was not the case throughout the suburb. This indicates that bus services are unequal between and within suburbs in the City of Clarence:

Certainly I don't use public transport because I have to walk about half a kilometre to get to the nearest bus stop, or if I walk down there I've got to walk up the hill. And if you've got shopping it's not much fun as you get older. […] And [the] hard; nearest bus stop half a kilometre away; steep hills preventing walking as mobility declines. (Beatrice, age 78)

What I noticed was there aren't that many buses actually servicing the Bellerive Bluff area and […] nothing at weekends. […] It's not the council's issue but it's something they could take up with Metro if there was perceived to be a demand. […] A lot of people don't have it [mobility] and that's part of it. […] They [older adults] need to be able to get places and with a limited bus service. They can't afford taxis. Taxis are not cheap or there are not enough of them whizzing around. […] I don't think the public transport around here is adequate at this end of Clarence. […] You've got an hour to wait unless you walk down the road and there's one every ten minutes [from the major road], and I can't walk down the road. (Gwendolyn, age 72, photograph on the left)

Previous research has indicated that younger and older people have similar barriers to accessing public transport. These include unsuitable timetables and scheduling; inappropriate bus routes (including lack of direct routes); inappropriate bus stop locations; lack of connections and services; and lack of bus shelters (for example, with seating, shade, and weather protection) (Broome et al. 2010). Some facilitators include appropriate timetabling (more frequent night and weekend services); convenient bus stop locations; coordination with other public transport services; appropriate routes; and availability of smaller buses (Broome et al. 2010). Some of these barriers and facilitators are evident in the above comments, whereby timetabling and routes are clearly problematic and are turning people away. These factors need to be addressed to increase bus patronage.

Of further significance in the City of Clarence is the topographical terrain; which is an additional barrier to bus services. This can be seen in the suburb of Bellerive where the topography and bus service distribution are uneven, and therefore the street and house at which an individual resides influences their public transport accessibility (see Figure 10). It is evident that smaller bus services may be needed to service more diverse areas in the City of Clarence, including steep terrain and rural/ less urban suburbs. These could run to major service centres, public venues, and transit hubs (if developed). Considerations of smaller bus services are particularly important for people with disabilities (regardless of age) (Currie and Delbosc 2017).

Figure 10: Topographical terrain and the location of services and bus services in Bellerive

Notably, time and ease of journey (including direct routes) and bus punctuality, are important for younger and older people. Furthermore, as housing developments are increasing in the outer and rural suburbs of Clarence (such as Seven Mile Beach, as addressed in "Services, facilities and development"), public transport infrastructure warrants examination to reduce car dependency. Promisingly, affordability of bus services was not raised as an issue among the participants.

According to the ABS (2017), in the City of Clarence 74.4% of people aged 15 years or over in paid employment either drove to work or were a passenger, with only 5.9% using public transport. As Menec et al. (2011: 485) indicate, "a car dependent society […] potentially leads to social exclusion of those who do not, or no longer, drive". As such, car dependency can increase social isolation. Furthermore, and as previously noted, a car dependent society assumes that everyone can afford the costs of purchasing and maintaining a vehicle (Badland et al. 2014), and is age-exclusive by assuming the only people needing reliable and easily accessible transport are those who can drive.

Availability and accessibility: Ferry services

When discussing bus services, the older participants raised the potential for a ferry service. They believed a ferry service was needed due to increasing congestion on the Tasman Bridge and in Hobart, as a river touring option for tourists, and additional ferry access point for the Museum of Old and New Art (MONA):

It would be great to have a ferry system from Bellerive to the city and back and even from Geilston Bay or Lindisfarne. […] I'd be good and that'd be for us as getting older. It'll be great to have a ferry system. The bridge is getting busier and busier all the time with all the traffic flow. […] I think it's a great idea. […] I could just walk down, catch a bus to Bellerive Quay, jump on the ferry, go into the city for the day […]. (Pierce, age 67, photograph above)

The need for a ferry is there. (Camila, age 66)

I want ferries again. When I was growing up we all had to catch ferries […]. I want ferries again to Hobart as in my youth. […] I always if I get a chance say something about the ferries, because I think it is needed. You know, the traffic here all the time and occasionally you'll get a hold up going over the Bridge so… I'd certainly like to see that happen and I think a lot of people would because of the mess that sometimes the City of Hobart is in getting places. It was very easy. We just used to have to jump on the ferry, twelve minute trip and you'd be in Hobart; virtually in the city. (Hannah, age 87)

They might come in here and build an extra jetty into the bay on this side for the MONA ferry and eventually there might be a public ferry back into that bay as well. […] I'd be all for that [public ferry] […]. (Beatrice, age 78)

I love the idea of the ferry service. […] I think it's probably take a few years for them to assess whether or not it's being used effectively because people got to get used to something that wasn't there before. (Gwendolyn, age 72)

Oh, bring them on [ferries]. Oh, we have to have them. For a small place like Hobart, because it's so hilly on the other side, you've got traffic problems there and people need access from the Eastern shore to the Western shore to get to the city, and all we've got is one bridge. […] We have to have ferries, most important. (Hugo, age 83)

I think if you got the right size vessel [regarding a ferry service] with the right timetable and a bit of trial and error, a lot of research with the transport economists. And if you just have the right route, the right timetable, I think that would work. […] I think ferries are a great way of commuting to and from work, and also for tourists as well […]. (Dylan, age 67)

However, was the ability to access the ferry via parking facilities and bus services was of high concern. This particularly related to Bellerive, as there was a strong desire to retain heritage values and the village concept (as examined in "Services, facilities and development"). This dilemma was encapsulated by Pierce (see quote below). In addition, there were concerns a ferry terminal would be placed at Bellerive Beach and impact on its amenity:

[… Bellerive Village has got] the potential to be a cute little place and to put in a big ferry terminal, car park, bus terminal - it could be a problem. […] I don't know what they're doing here at the Bellerive area. It's a lovely little village. It's cute and quaint, and then to turn around and have it as a working port, it would really change the flavour. (Pierce, age 67)

They are thinking about putting a ferry terminal in here at Bellerive Beach and they talk about that there used to be an old jetty there somewhere years ago. Again if you are going to put a ferry terminal here, where's the parking? […] If ferries come in here for sporting events and all that, okay the people can walk, but that's going to take away the beach, so again is that something that's going to happen? (Melvin, age 71, photograph on the left)

In developing a ferry terminal at Bellerive, there is clearly a desire that it must reflect the context; namely the surrounding place identity and values. Furthermore, there was a strong belief that parking needed to be placed elsewhere, with a community bus service operating between the transit hub and ferry terminal, and an integrated ticketing system:

[…] I don't know how they would quite solve the problem of a car park for it [a public ferry]. People are not going to use a bus all the time. […] We're so spread out in the municipality; they have to be able to use their cars at least to the ferry terminal or somewhere near. So that's a problem that needs addressing. […] Or even if there was a little shuttle bus when we get a ferry service; a little shuttle bus round the suburbs to take you down to the ferry. (Beatrice, age 78)

This where the ferries used to come in and there was limited area for parking. So if they talked about using ferries for transporting people there's no nowhere for parking. There's nowhere for people; limited area for people to drop off. I say they need ferries for public transport yes, I agree, but where? […] how are the people going to get on to the ferry? […] Basically, there should be some parking area and where the buses can pick people up from the parking area, drop the people off at the ferry and its one ticket. […] You've got all those parking areas up near Eastlands [Shopping Centre], but they are not going to benefit from any of this. If they're going to have ferries they'll probably have to have to make multistorey car parks over opposite Eastlands or something (Melvin, age 71, photograph above)

[…] I'm very concerned about future parking when the ferry starts running, which they will, and there's not enough parking there now already. […] Goodness knows where people will park. We have to use public transport, improve public transport perhaps. (Hugo, age 83)

 People coming from, say Richmond, and they have to park a car and take a ferry across. Well, that's fine, but you've got to find it, you allocate [parking] spaces or something. […] They need to allocate parking somewhere within reasonably close proximity. Well, the Bellerive Village is not appropriate for a big car park, so I don't know where they're going to allocate it. (Jeremy, age 71)

[…] Certainly the idea of a possible water taxi would be nice, although the trouble with that is I'd love to think that I could use it but, then you'd think, well, there's going to be a carpark. Where will you put that? […] To go and use the water taxi there would need to be a designated carpark for it. (Leah, age 73, photograph above)

Obviously, the best [way to go] is integrated with Metro bus network and you can use your green card […]. Brisbane, Newcastle, Sydney and Perth all have ferries that are integrated into the other transport systems. (Dylan, age 67)

Availability and accessibility: Parking

As noted earlier, parking near greenspaces and blue spaces enables participation and accessibility for diverse populations (see "Natural environment and public places") and arises as an issue in relation to potential ferry services (as per above). These are, however, not the only parking concerns in the City of Clarence. Martha noted that, with popularity during the summer and the population expansion at Seven Mile Beach, there was a need to address the lack of parking near Seven Mile Beach itself. Competition for and a lack of parking can make traffic a problem during the warmer months:

The other thing too is there is only space for about half dozen cars […] and it gets quite, quite busy in the summer. It's unbelievable. But the cars […] tend to park on this [along the side of the road on the right side of the photograph] – there was not really anywhere to park but they sort of try and push themselves off onto the grass and park. […] And with the rate that Seven Mile Beach is growing, they [the Council] could be a bit more concerned with more areas to park. […] If you come down here in summer […] there is just – all the cars, all parked all around here and children running along […]. It could be improved with a growing population. (Martha, age 73, photograph on the left)

In addition, for residents who live on western side of Clarence Street (Bellerive), access to their homes was highly problematic during events at Blundstone Arena, which impacts on their sociality:

And Blundstone Arena really has a huge impact on our life living here, because when there's a big cricket match or football match on, I have to know about it even though I don't follow football or cricket. I have to be aware; I put it in my diary when there's matches on because I can't plan to go anywhere. Or I can't invite people over because of the parking restrictions because they get caught in the traffic jam coming here or going out and there's nowhere to park. (Kiera, age 66, photograph above)

[…] If there's an event up there [at Blundstone Arena], no parking (Jeremy, age 71)

When there are events on [at Blundstone Arena], it gets horribly busy. […] But it's such a burden. We have to drive through crowds of people to get home. (Maria, age 16)

[…] At the moment, you're allowed to park on both sides of the street. And when there's a big cricket or football match on, the Council come along and they put little signs here to say, 'No Parking', which is very good. But sometimes it doesn't work. They think 'it's only a local match' and there's heaps of people that come. And they don't put out the signs and then there's traffic jams [because we live in a very narrow street]. (Kiera, age 66, photograph above)

Events at Blundstone Arena also have impacts on other community members who cannot access and use facilities in Bellerive at this time, including hotels on the waterfront and the South Street dog park. As such, the lack of parking and transportation to events at Blundstone Arena have negative effects on community. Parking transit hubs with connected public transport services, which may include small or community buses, may help to address the adverse outcomes:

[This is] South Street dog park […] When the football game or the cricket game is on, this area is used for parking so the dogs can't go there (Melvin, age 71, photograph above)

Say the footballs on and you want to go around to the hotel there, around 5pm, 5:30pm in case you go for an early dinner - you can't. The police stop you, you can't get there, and I reckon it would be a problem for the people who live there but the police don't take any notice they just close everything off (Melvin, age 71)

There's lots of cricket and football games, but more community consultation would help a lot [regarding what happens at Blundstone Arena]. (Maria, age 16)

For older adults, accessible parking was an issue throughout the City of Clarence. They noted that the proximity of parking to services and facilities they need is vital. While this was noted as good in sections of the City of Clarence (see "Services, facilities and development" and "Natural environment and public places"), they also noted the lack of accessibility parking across the municipality. As Rebecca notes, the demand for accessible parking spaces will increase with an ageing population:

[…] There aren't enough disabled spaces around. But I mean, like on the waterfront where the boardwalk is, there's a parking area there, [… but] there's one disability parking space in the whole lot. […] It's behind a doctor's surgery, a chemist, a dentist, etcetera, and there's that one spot in the whole carpark which is disabled. It's just, to me it's silly that they have one disabled space in a place like that. (Rebecca, age 71, photograph on the left)

There's not enough facilities about really for disabled parking. Because we're an ageing population, there's going to be more and more need for this, not less. (Rebecca, age 71)

They seem to not have enough disability parking; there's not a lot. In a car park there'll be a space or something like that you know; and that's about it. […] You need it for its proximity to whatever you're going to; that's why you need it. And sometimes I have to park at the other end of the carpark or something and walk it; I don't have any choice you know. It's because there aren't enough spaces really. […] It comes down to there are times when the proximity is important, particularly if you have to walk a long distance to get to where it is you're going […]. (Rebecca, age 71)

As many of the older adults frequent the Rosny Library, the availability of parking options in this area was also of concern (see also "Employment, learning and training"):

But parking is an issue and if you want people to use the services provided you have to find parking. […] I think there's only two disabled spots; I'm not positive. They're up near Council, and there's two out the front of the library. But people are getting older, you've got to provide enough resources for them to access what you provide. (Pamela, age 73)

That is the library on a Sunday morning when there are parking spots there. […] Quite often, you just want a parking spot while you take books back or get the books you've had on hold; just collect them. Sometimes you're in and out in five minutes. […] There is a shortage of parking for the library. (Rose, age 78, photograph on the left)

Key points

- Bus patronage is impacted by bus stop locations, service frequency, timetabling, and lack of direct routes to Hobart. These services were particularly lacking in rural/ less urban/ outer suburbs of Clarence, and uneven in urban areas (for example, Bellerive)
- The lack of bus services at weekends and outside of peak times disproportionally affects younger people and limits their employment and social opportunities
- Parking transit hubs are needed to support and encourage the use of public transport, which may also reduce traffic problems associated with events held at Blundstone Arena
- More accessible parking spots are needed throughout the City of Clarence, particularly as the population ages

Recommendations

Recommendation – Discuss with Metro Tasmania public transport options, particularly for rural/ less urban communities (for example, Sandford and Seven Mile Beach), and services on weekends and prior to/ after peak times
Recommendation – Examine the potential of a small community bus service or smaller buses with Metro Tasmania, which service areas with steeper sections and rural/ less urban communities
Recommendation – Review and increase the number of accessible car parking spaces across the City of Clarence, including at Rosny Library
Recommendation – In conjunction with other local councils and the State government, explore the feasibility and accessibility of a ferry service
Recommendation – Examine the feasibility of 'park and go' transit hubs for commuter parking, which can also function as parking for Blundstone Arena events

7. Employment, learning and training: Findings

Summary

The theme of "Employment, learning and training" relates to the accessibility and opportunities for the citizens of the City of Clarence to engage with employment, learning and training. Regarding learning and training, these include formal and informal arrangements.

This is the smallest theme of the five themes identified during the data analysis. This is due to the life stage of the older adults, all of whom are retired or transitioning to full-time retirement and had no intentions of seeking paid work. Except for three, all the younger people are currently attending high school or college in the City of Clarence. One younger person was employed fulltime in Hobart, another was a fulltime university student (University of Tasmania), and the other was completing certificate training and seeking employment.

Findings

Availability and accessibility: Employment

For the younger people, paid employment was of concern. Their concerns included:
- the pressure to find paid employment;
- the difficulty of finding and securing paid employment; and
- the perceived need to leave Tasmania to work in their chosen profession.

Pressure to find paid employment

For younger people in high school, they indicated a desire to find paid employment, but also noted that they experience pressure to do so:

> Something I dislike about my age is being pressured to find a job when your either too busy with school to find one or you have a specific profession you want to do and working at a fast food business isn't what you would enjoy. (Mia, age 16)
>
> That's kind of a bit hard and as a teenager, you're expected to get a job. […] If you see family, it's like 'Oh, if you had a job'; 'Yeah, I know'. That's like the main topic of conversation. There's definitely a lot of pressure to find a job as soon as possible. […] You know, it'd be nice to have a job. (Cassandra, age 17)

Many of the younger people did not explicitly identify the source of pressure, but some indicated it was to self-fund activities or purchase clothing they wanted (this might be because their family could not afford to do this), or believed it was required or expected at their age. As such, paid employment was viewed as an 'age norm'. For Bruce, he wants paid employment for self-fulfilment and to economically contribute to his family, while Sophia was thinking about supporting her family in the future:

[… I'm] looking for a job and just trying to support the family. […I'm] not really sure where I want to go. I tend to spend most of my time looking around at what I could do, what I can't do, and just looking at what experiences I have that can actually help me there, and how I can get new ones. (Bruce, age 20)

I want to help my family. If I get a good job, I can help my family. […] If I am smart enough and get a good job and earn a good wage, then I can help my family. (Sophia, age 15)

The difficulty of finding and securing paid employment

The difficulty of finding paid work was the most commonly raised concern. For example Ava stated that she was trying to find paid work and liked how, at her age, "we can have jobs now and start earning money for our future and planning for our future". Age, however, was also identified as a barrier to entry-level paid work in retail and hospitality. For Clarissa, she noted it was cheaper to employ someone younger than her, which she felt had marginalised her and her friends from securing paid work and associated opportunities:

There are like blocks on people in my sort of age bracket on getting employment […]. Age discrimination is real. Even late teenagers I know: a few of girls at school had worked at the store for a good couple of years, and were point blank told when they were getting close to eighteen, they were not going to have a job anymore because 'it's too expensive to keep you now'. In my sort of age bracket unless you have a bunch of experience to be able to step into a more leadership role in retail or hospitality or whatever, it's really hard to compete with your fresh-faced 14 and nine month year-olds […], who they can pay for a couple of dollars less each hour to do the same job. (Clarissa, age 19, photograph on the left)

Clarissa and Christina had engaged with volunteer work to improve their retail skills and experiences. They both valued these experiences, though Clarissa said it did not lead to paid employment:

I really want to have a job but I haven't really had the opportunity to do that. I do volunteer at Vinnies to give me a better chance and, yeah, that's been good. (Christina, age 15)

I managed to get into some volunteering retail work through Salvos [the Salvation Army] which gave me a step [to paid employment], but even after two years' experience there, I applied for a crazy number of jobs […] and didn't get at all of a look in, even from a couple of couple of years' experience. […] While I do have a bit of experience, it's not at the level of a number of people who've been working since they were fourteen, and I also don't have strong evidence of leadership capabilities to take up a more managerial role. (Clarissa, age 19)

Cassandra also noted the amount of effort required to apply for paid work, and the lack of acknowledgement and feedback from her job applications:

It's really hard and I think I've been looking [for casual employment] since Year 10. It doesn't sound like a long time. It feels like a very long time like writing resumes and cover letters, and going into places and you don't hear anything back. I don't think I've ever heard anything back from anyone that I have applied to. (Cassandra, age 17)

Younger people are also experiencing increased work precarity. Precarious employment "involves irregular hours and earnings with no guarantee as to the longevity of the contract" (Chesters and Cuervo 2019: 223). In other works, precarious employment is insecure, temporary work. Such work is usually low paid, typically involves no or little training, and has no leave entitlements. This insecurity and temporality are also witnessed in the 'gig economy' such as Uber and Airtasker, where payment is based on task completion rather than the time dedicated to the task.

Australia's unemployment rate for 15 to 24 year olds currently sits at 11.8%; above the OECD average of 11.1% (OECD 2019). For those 15 to 24 year olds Australians who are employed, 76% are in precarious work; the highest share of all age groups (Wilkins et al. 2019: 75). Additionally, 31% of 15 to 19 year olds, and 19.8% of 20 to 24 year olds, experience underemployment (Wilkins and Lass 2018: 64). These statistics highlight the difficulties that younger people seeking paid work and secure employment face.

Younger people's ability to access paid employment can also be exasperated by the availability and accessibility of public transport (see "Parking and transport"), which was previously raised by Julia and Clarissa. A lack of public transport infrastructure, particularly during the weekends and before and after peak-hour traffic, can severely limit job opportunities for younger people. Forcing younger people to purchase cars or use taxis when faced with limited job opportunities and precarious employment can contribute towards a cycle of debt (Badland et al. 2014) and reinforce social inequalities. Local employment opportunities can reduce the need for travel.

The perceived need to leave Tasmania to work in their chosen profession

It is a social expectation that individuals will move for paid employment opportunities, which known as labour mobility. For rural youth, they can experience a mobility imperative whereby they feel a need or requirement to move into urban environments and cities for education and employment opportunities (Farrugia 2016). Within Tasmania, such out-migration has been normalised for younger people but, for youth, it brings concerns over the physical and relational distance between themselves and 'home', and is paired with an expectation they will eventually return 'home' (in-migration) (Easthope and Gabriel 2008; Gabriel 2006). These feelings of forced out-migration bring tensions for the younger participants, given their desire to retain strong familial relationships (see "Relationships and inclusivity"):

I'll need to go to the Mainland to get some work experience before returning [to Tasmania]. In which case, I'll probably aim to move to Canberra for a few years before coming back. (Clarissa, age 19)

[I don't want to leave Clarence, but] I don't know what I want to do and there might not be opportunities for me here. (Maria, age 16)

I imagine staying around here [in the future], well at least being in Tassie. […] But I don't know. It depends if I join the [military] or, I guess it depends on the pathway, the career pathway I take as well. […] I probably wouldn't be able to live everyday life without seeing Mum or Dad at least once a day. (Julia, age 15)

Quality, experiences and feelings: Learning and education

Younger people rarely discussed their education experiences at school, college, or further education facilities. For those at high school, they often did not like how they were treated by teachers and were looking forward to more independence at college. Consistently, however, the younger participants noted the importance of education and learning opportunities:

Access to education to always good for an area. (Gavin, age 23)

I really want to improve my education. […] If you're not well educated or don't have someone to rely on in your childhood, then maybe your future won't be so good. (Sophia, age 15)

I'll always enjoy learning. [..] It's fun. […] I rather be at home learning. I feel like I will continue to learn even if I don't go to uni[versity] straight away. (Cassandra, age 17, photograph on the left)

For Bruce, attending college was a positive experience where he experienced good support from his teachers and peers. This made a difference for his attendance and educational outcomes. As such, attachment to the people within the college made a positive impact on his self-esteem and motivation:

So that, Rosny College, was probably my favourite of the schools and schooling experiences. Most of the friends I made at Rosny College I still keep in touch with. It was definitely where I felt I could actually start to do something for myself. […] The teachers and the people were very, very supportive. […] The people were really where it was. […] So I went from being somewhere I didn't like, to being somewhere I had to be, to then suddenly becoming someone I actually wanted to be and that was 100% the people. (Bruce, age 20, photograph above)

For older adults, lifelong learning and exploring new things are important for their personal wellbeing. They identified a range of learning activities that they are either aware of or currently engaging with including University of the Third Age (U3A), reading (see "Services, facilities and development"), Adult Education, School for Seniors, and creative classes, which were also opportunities to socialise and make new friends:

I think it's very important to have an open mind; to always be ready to learn new things. It doesn't matter how old you are. If you can do that, it makes life so much more enjoyable. (Beatrice, age 78)

[…] We are both involved with the University of Third Age as well (Evan, age 83)

[...] You want to not only use your own learning to benefit others, but to encourage other people. […] Books are really important to me. (Pamela, age 73, photograph on the left)

I think it's a good role model, you know, kids – that learning doesn't stop when you leave school, in fact, that's when it begins. (Pamela, age 73)

I have to be challenged or learn something new. […] If it's not enjoyable, I'll find something else. (Brenda, age 74)

I meet with U3A and School for Seniors – I love to do all those – I haven't got time. (Gwendolyn, age 72)

You never stop learning and I did some Adult Ed[ucation] courses and I met some magnificent people there. (Pierce, age 67)

I've been attending classes at U3A Hobart since I retired. It's one of the greatest pleasures of old age when one can learn just for the love of learning; its mental stimulation and it's on any subject from foreign languages to history, arts, science or politics. And also the social interaction with like-minded people is also very good. My husband always says that morning tea is the best time. And we've made a lot of friends through U3A Hobart. (Beatrice, age 78, photograph on the right)

I've learnt in the last few years, I've been learning book binding. […] I'm hoping I can always do a bit of arty stuff. If I'm really old – in a wheelchair even – you just have to try and do things and I thought book binding might be something I can do if I'm really old. […] I go once a month to a class in Bellerive. (Peggy, age 77)
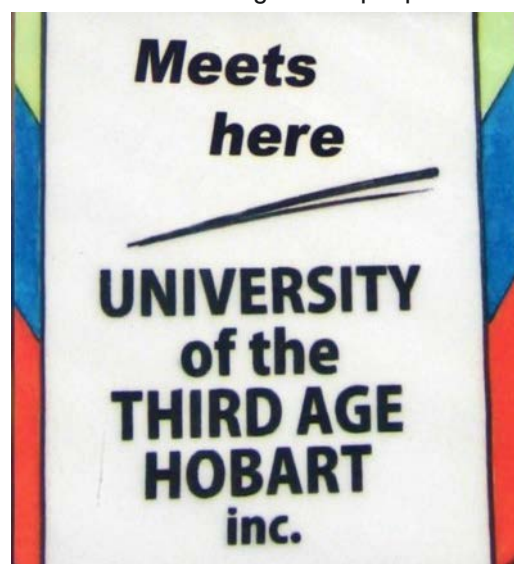
I think it's really important to have a positive curiosity about our changing world and it's also important to be cheerful and have a cheerful frame of mind. (Camila, age 66)

I enjoy learning […]. (Pamela, age 73)

If I ever felt that I had time and if I ever felt I wasn't doing enough with my life I could go there [School for Seniors] for some company and something to do. It's good to know they are there. (Jarrod, age 71)

It was also noted that the City of Clarence has a good range of educational options for younger people, as raised by Wilbur (see the textbox on the right).

Some older adults believed, however, that there were some missing opportunities or avenues that could use further exploration. For example, Jarrod wanted a class or workshop on understanding 'normal as opposed to disease and illness; Pamela commended the Clarence City Council's 'aWake Before Death' project; and Beatrice would like to see opportunities for younger people to attend U3A to help breakdown ageism (which relates to intergenerational relations, see "Relationships and inclusivity"):

I like the educational facilities that are in the Clarence Municipality. Rosny College is one of them, but obviously not the only one. […]. People here are very lucky; we've got a primary school, a high school, a college, Catholic school primary. We've got another Catholic high school all within three kilometres of here. (Wilbur, age 72, photograph above)

When you get to 55 or 60, there should be some classes which could teach you what to expect. […] Sometimes you don't know what to expect. […] It's about not knowing what might happen. I think that's missing. As you get older you get aches and pains all over your body and your breathing changes. It means wasted visits to the doctor for things you can expect. (Jarrod, age 71, photograph above)

[…] There people from U3A, people who lived here and they did that 'before dying' ['aWake Before Death' project] and they've got a little kit. I thought that was immensely sensible because it was, those are the conversations that people should have and they're the conversations that should be more open and out there for people to have. (Pamela, age 73)

But what we also find fascinating about U3A is the people who go there […]. You get them [other attendees] in conversation and they might look like a little old lady who can hardly move, and she's had the most interesting life if you really sit down and talk to her. […] I think it's a pity more younger people can't have contact with these people because they might see them differently. (Beatrice, age 78)

Availability and accessibility: U3A

University of the Third Age (U3A) was introduced in Australia in 1984. While different models exist internationally, Australian U3A's are community-based models that rely on volunteer support (including self-management, and unpaid tutors and presenters from within and outside the membership). As such they receive little or no external funding and require membership or course fees to cover operational costs and newsletter production (Swindle 1993). This can prove difficult for the sustainability of U3A branches, as noted by Swindell and colleagues (2011: 200): "U3As receive no core funding and many report difficulty in

securing reasonably priced and situated premises in which to carry out their successful ageing activities". By drawing on the experiences and expertise of its members, U3A challenges ageist beliefs of older adults including perceptions of dependency, inevitable cognitive decline, and passivity. As such, in U3A Australia, it was calculated that 871,000 hours of volunteer time was provided in 2008, equating to an equivalent of approximately $21 million (Swindell et al. 2011). It also enhances quality of life through enriching sociality, and self-perceived physical and mental health (Hebestreit 2008). Consequently, it is important that U3A branches remain viable for the significant health and wellbeing benefits to older Australians.

For U3A Clarence, there are two factors that limit the full benefits of participation. These include restricted parking and the hire costs for meeting rooms. Regarding restricted parking, the time limitations on nearby car parking makes it difficult for members to attend multiple classes across the meeting duration. This is particularly pertinent for those with disabilities or mobility restrictions. Furthermore, parking limitations were additionally viewed as challenging for people with children who attend events at the Rosny Library. As a result, Pamela would like to see more parking for the library and parking time limits to be at least four-hours. As an alternative, Rebecca suggested that parking permits could be issued to U3A members that can be used during term days and times only:

This is library parking for three hours only. […] There is not enough three-hour parking. But why three hours? Because if it was going to fully cover you [to attend U3A], it would be four hours. U3A isn't the only group that uses it, but what's the harm in four-hour parking to anyone? The number of parks for people accessing the [library] area to accessing the council is out of proportion. […] You think of those mums that have come into that bubs thing today [at the Rosny Library]. They need parking to get the strollers and kid things out of the car to get the kids to the program that is running. It's not just older people that need the services; it's the younger people too with young children. (Pamela, age 73, photograph above)

[…] Some of the parking areas [near the Rosny Library are] for three hours. It is still not enough if someone wants to do all three [U3A] classes in a day. And they were getting booked, or they were having to go out and move their cars part way through the morning. […] Last year these signs appeared with permit holder excepted, and I just can't understand […] why [this] can't extend that to U3A members? […] Two hours is the maximum on the street, and four hours at Eastlands, which is, by the time people walk over and back, is still not enough. […] I'm dependent on crutches if I walk any distance, so I like to park as close as possible. […] I'd like to see permission given for us [U3A] to issue our members with a card that they could put on their dashboard stating that they belong to U3A, and that they not be booked in U3A meeting times. If they try to use it any other time, then I think it's fair enough that they should be booked. […] We could easily supply Council with our term dates. And our now meeting days never change: it's always Monday and Wednesday. (Rebecca, age photograph above

Pamela also raised the cost of hiring meeting rooms at the Rosny Library. As volunteers organise the classes and guest speakers (who are internal and external to U3A Clarence, and give their time freely) over two days per week for three terms per year, the major financial burden for U3A Clarence and its members are the hire costs for meeting rooms.

I attend U3A […].Clarence U3A meets in the library. And we need activities for seniors. […] I think councils and government bodies should be putting money into U3A. No one who provides a course there is paid. They may be given some sort of thank you at the end, but it might only be a pen or a bookmark. […] Now there are things that keep your brain active. There are things like line dancing and so on to keep your body active, and there's creative like painting, drawing, card making. There's singing. […] Morning tea is a social event. […] You've got to keep your brain active as you get older, but you've also got to keep physically active and here's the ideal place. I love it! […] The Council could subsidise the rent [for hiring the space]. So we rent it from [the library], which isn't Council owned […]. But we're paying big fees in rent yet we provide all the courses, so really we could do with subsidy. […] That would help us immensely. […] Some rental assistance would be of value. […] I just feel that it shows a support of what's happening both mentally, physically and socially. It's keeping the health of your community. (Pamela, age 73)

Key points

- Younger people are facing difficulties and barriers to paid employment opportunities. Volunteering can help them to build skills and experience
- Local paid employment opportunities can also help to address some difficulties associated with public transport faced by younger people
- U3A provides significant health and wellbeing outcomes for older adults, but often receives little or no external financial support. By providing some assistance to U3A Clarence (for example, parking of appropriate duration and accessibility, or financial contribution), the educational and social benefits for older adults could be increased

Recommendations

Recommendation – Explore opportunities to further develop the 'aWake Before Death' project
Recommendation – Discuss with local schools/ colleges the potential of volunteer programs for students in partnership with Clarence Community Volunteer Service
Recommendation – Explore partnerships to develop and evaluate intergenerational opportunities, events and programs, potentially with schools/ colleges/ U3A
Recommendation – Examine the potential to support U3A Clarence, such as extended parking times and rent assistance

8. Summary and Conclusion

This project has responded to the City of Clarence's dedication to be an age-friendly city, including a commitment to a cycle of ongoing review and improvement. This has involved a 'bottom up' approach, whereby the project participants could determine the scope and focus of the project. This allowed citizens to direct and shape the project scope. Through their photographs and interviews, younger and older people have revealed the features of an age-friendly Clarence. Overall, the project participants are very positive about their lifestyle in and the liveability of the City of Clarence. Some also commended the Clarence City Council on their efforts:

I can't think of any faults. […] It's all pretty positive. (Cassandra, age 17)

I think we're pretty lucky on the Eastern Shore. (Sabrina, age 75)

We've been blessed with this beautiful area. We've got to make the most of it. (Camila, age 66)

Well what's not to like about living in Clarence, you know. It's a lovely area, it's got you know, all the lovely views, it's not too crowded at the moment. (Phoebe, age 75)

I wouldn't live anywhere else [Bellerive]. It's super. (Hugo, age 83)

I'm full on for the support for the council. I think they really try hard and they do things. (Chad, age 79)

To live somewhere like this, it's paradise. It really is to me. I just feel I'm blessed to live here. (Brenda, age 74)

I am so blessed here. (Angela, age 17)

I think the people living in Clarence are very privileged [to have nature], simple as that. (Gwendolyn, age 72)

We're catered for quite well in Clarence, and I think the council is sort of very aware of the community's needs. (Phoebe, age 75).

It's hard to find something not to like [about living in the City of Clarence]. (Gavin, age 23)

For our age group, I think Clarence is set up really, really well. (Pierce, age 67)

I like the atmosphere of it [Seven Mile Beach], and it's quite family based so it's good having people actually out and about. (Clarissa, age 19)

But from my point of view, I live in the best Council. (Pierce, age 67)

I've always lived in Clarence since I came down in 2001. I like Clarence. (Pamela, age 73)

I'm glad that in my future seems most likely finish up here. (Hannah, age 87)

I'm quite happy I think with the way the Eastern Shore is generally going. (Sabrina, age 75)

The magnificent place that we're lucky to live in […] I'm very lucky. I'm very privileged. (Gwendolyn, age 72)

It's wonderful where we live. The Clarence Municipality's wonderful. (Camila, age 66)

I'm quite happy here. And I think generally, Clarence Council does a very good job. (Hugo, age 83)

We are fortunate to be here [in the City of Clarence] (Jarrod, age 71).

We're just so lucky living in [the Greater area of] Hobart. (Dylan, age 67)

I have worked in different states in Australia and all-round London. I've also seen various parts of Europe and my favourite spot, however, is right here [Lindisfarne] in the City of Clarence. (Hannah, age 87)

The strong message from the participants to Council was succinctly captured by Chad:

> I mean, we are very well catered for in the district. And I think the Council should be told they're doing a good job, but not to stop. (Chad, age 79)

As such, the participants rate the lifestyle in the City of Clarence very highly. They also appreciated the opportunity to participate in this project and voice their views. As Sabrina noted:

> If you don't have conversations, communities fail. (Sabrina, age 75)

The younger and older people in this project associate the following qualities with the City of Clarence, viewing them as defining place-based features that should be considered and nurtured in the Clarence City Council's future planning, strategic initiatives and policies:

- nature (natural reserves, parklands, greenspaces, green corridors, blue spaces, beaches, and the views);
- high quality public places (pathways, playgrounds, and skateparks);
- good and varied services in a concentrated space (namely, Rosny Park);
- arts and culture (including Rosny Barn, public art, and the Clarence Jazz Festival); and
- human-to-human and animal-to-human relationships (which notes the importance of family, friends, pets, animals, and social connections formed through places as well as social events and activities).

The concentration of services in Rosny Park was commended for ease of accessibility (ability to access multiple services in one trip), though smaller shopping areas were appreciated for less congestion, noise, and for a different experience (such as Shoreline Shopping Centre in Howrah, and the village atmosphere of Lindisfarne). There was a strong desire for the history of Richmond and Bellerive to be preserved, as well as the village atmosphere of Bellerive, Lindisfarne, and Richmond. Consistently, concerns were raised about developments in the City of Clarence particularly at Kangaroo Bay/ Bellerive and Rosny Hill Nature Recreation Area (RHNRA), as the participants believed that public space was being commercialised at the expense of the existing place-based quality and value (such as nature, history, and the views). There was a strong belief that any developments needed to reflect and enhance these place-based qualities and values, as specific to the locale and context. They felt the proposed and existing developments at Kangaroo Bay/ Bellerive and the RHNRA were best placed elsewhere in the City of Clarence, and that public consultation processes and information provision needed review. In addition, as the City of Clarence expands housing options in less urban/ rural suburbs, there is a need to ensure that facilities are developed to support these growing populations. Affordable housing for younger and older people, and

community service provision for older adults to age-in-place, are also relevant when considering current and future developments. Participants also discussed the arts extensively and had high praise for Rosny Farm, Bellerive Community Arts Centre, public art (street art and public sculptures), and the Clarence Jazz Festival. They would like to see more public art distributed at various locations in the City of Clarence.

Some younger and older people (both dog and non-dog owners) were concerned with dog restrictions on beaches particularly at Bellerive Beach, which they believed undermined human/ pet relationships. In addition, these restrictions can marginalise segments of the population such as older adults and people with disabilities, who may find the regulated dog walking times to be prohibitive and impossible. For younger people, they wanted the opportunity to form friendships outside of high school/ college and to attend workshops on mental health. Older adults wanted the opportunity to meet people from different age groups, as well as a community space that catered specifically to their needs and interests. Services offered at this place would include activities, information provision and support. Alma's Activity Centre was only known to one older participant, who found information on events held there difficult to access. Additionally, ageism could be identified, or had been experienced by, younger and older people.

Liveability within the City of Clarence was strongly associated with the views, greenspaces, nature, and blue spaces. This includes parks and parklands, playgrounds, natural reserves, beaches, the foreshore and river, accessible walking facilities (such as footpaths, trails and pathways), and wildlife. Engagement with such places can be undermined or compromised by shared pathways, lack of seating, track surfaces, and obstructed footpaths. Skateparks, particularly the Rosny Skatepark, were discussed positively as facilities that support younger people and their interests. Such places, however, can marginalise younger women and people who are gender diverse, and therefore do not cater to all youth. There was concern that such facilities, or facilities catering to youth interests in general, did not exist in less rural/ urban suburbs of the City of Clarence. Engaging with younger people is important to determining their interests and needs, with due respect to gendered differences. Cleanliness (or rubbish) and climate change are also of worry to younger and older people.

Access to public transport in the City of Clarence was highly variable. For participants living near major roads or Rosny Park, bus frequency and availability was positive. For all other participants, buses were inaccessible and were not typically used. This was particularly the case for those living in steep sections or in rural/ less urban areas of the City of Clarence. For younger people, bus inaccessibility restricts their ability to engage in paid work and recreational opportunities, particularly if there is a lack of after-hours and weekend services. A ferry service was strongly supported, but participants were concerned about accessibility due to issues with bus services and a lack of parking. Parking transit hubs may help to address such issues, which may also be used as parking for events at Blundstone Arena. As the population ages, more accessibility parking spots will also be needed across all parking facilities in the City of Clarence.

Most younger participants were currently attending school or college in the City of Clarence. While their interest in schooling varied, all exhibited an interest in learning, and believed in its importance for their future. Many younger people were concerned about a perceived or real need to move away from their families for future paid employment. Younger people also noted significant barriers they face in securing suitable paid employment. Many older participants identified learning opportunities they were engaging with including U3A Clarence. Parking and the costs of hiring appropriate facilities, however, were barriers for older adults to maximising their social and educational activities.

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