



Tuesday 8 August 2023

The Colour and flair of CHArts to hit Circular Head again

Circular Head will once again become northwest Tasmania's arts hub for over a month in September and October.

The CHArts Festival (Circular Head Arts) includes a multitude of arts events, exhibitions and classes spread over various venues in and around Smithton and Stanley from Friday 1 September to Sunday 8 October 2023.

CHArts is a month long celebration of culture, heritage and arts in Circular Head showcasing many genres of art. It provides a platform for local artists to showcase their talents while providing residents and visitors with the opportunity to attend, participate and learn new skills.

The main CHArts exhibition of open art and youth art will once again be held in a pop-up gallery space in a former furniture shop at 27 King Street, Smithton. The CHArtchibald portrait prize is also an exciting and popular annual element of CHArts and this year it has once again attracted more striking portraits of well-known locals from past and present, hosted in the same venue in King Street.

The month-long program kicks off with celebrated Tasmanian musician and singer Claire Ann Taylor and her band performing with students at Smithton Primary School on Friday 1 September, followed by a Celebration of Country and Spring Swim at Godfrey's Beach, Stanley the following morning. Claire returns that evening to perform at the official opening and announcement of winners at the pop-up gallery.

Circular Head Mayor Gerard Blizzard said "This is Circular Head's premier annual event and it brings community and visitors together for a feast of art and events every year. We're very proud of CHArts and we invite everyone from far and wide to come along."

New events include Circular Head Nicknames and Turning back the clock, with an 80's exhibition at the CH Heritage centre, a retro party at Tall Timbers with Kitty and The

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For further information please contact:

Communications Officer

Circular Head Council

P 03 6452 4826 | M 0498 742 753



Heartbeats and a Nuts-and-Bolts Exhibition by the Circular Head Men's Shed. There will be a weekend of activities in Stanley from Friday 8 September, with lots of arts classes, singing and poetry.

Those with a hankering to hone their artistic talents or learn new skills can participate in classes and workshops including painting, sketching, pastels, woodworking, stencil art, zentangles, Neurographica, block printing, scrapping, ceramics, basket weaving, wearable arts, poetry, singing and dancing.

Anyone who is musically minded can join in with a choir or attend one of several musical events. If you're a movie buff head to the Stanley Town Hall. Readers and writers will enjoy The Art of Words at Smithton Library.

CHArts culminates in October with a finale weekend including, a car and tractor display, the Spring Flower Show, Sounds Around Town and Light the Night, with live music, a bar and more to celebrate CHArts 2022 on the final evening of Saturday 7 October. The final event is the Stanley Harvest at the Stanley Recreation Ground on Sunday 8 October.

See Council's website for details, including a full program of events:

<https://www.circularhead.tas.gov.au/community-and-recreation/charts>

Contact: Jodie Saville, (03) 6452 4803 or jsaville@circularhead.tas.gov.au

Photo caption: CHArchibald 2022 winner Jeff Power with Deb Mainwaring

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