



Thursday 14 September 2023

Circular Head Council encouraging careers in local government.

Council is a major employer in the Circular Head region and is proud to provide cadets and trainees with the opportunity to gain professional qualifications and start their careers.

The work that Council performs underpins the community. Council is responsible for engineering and maintenance of roads, footpaths and bridges, town planning and the development and maintenance of open spaces, encouraging local tourism, providing sporting and leisure facilities, organising and supporting community events and initiatives, and increasingly looks to take a role in environmental sustainability, and much more.

The broad range of activities and the core responsibilities of local government require a diverse range of professional skills. However, like many other rural and remote councils with small populations, it can be difficult to find this range of professionals locally and often Council must advertise vacant positions on a state-wide or national basis.

Most professionals are employed because of their training, qualifications, skills and experience but sometimes staff who already work for Council in one area recognise that they would like to pursue a career in another area and this is encouraged and supported.

Council also encourages staff to advance in their local government career by applying for newly established positions with Council and many staff have been able to take advantage of these opportunities, enabling them to progress in their chosen field or to follow new career paths in local government.

Chalise Moore, Isaac Popowski and Thomas McMahon all began their local government careers as Customer Service Officers with Circular Head Council. All of them grasped opportunities that arose during their time in Customer Service and moved into other areas of Council.

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For further information please contact:

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Following the completion of her studies in Hobart for a Bachelor of Science Degree, Chalise moved home to Circular Head and began looking for work locally. Eventually she secured a casual position with Circular Head Council as a Customer Service Officer and moving on a few months, she has just become Council's new Cadet Environmental Health Officer (EHO).

Chalise will be mentored in the role by experienced senior EHOs and will be supported by another former Customer Service Officer with Council, Thomas McMahon. Thomas also took advantage of an opportunity and has been a Cadet EHO for the last 12 months.

Isaac Popowski worked as a Customer Service Officer for 6 months before successfully applying for a position as Council's Cadet Accountant.

Chalise, Thomas and Isaac are all pursuing further education to become fully qualified in their new roles.

Catherine Sayer is another Cadet, working in the Infrastructure and Development Services work group. Catherine began studying Town Planning at the University of Queensland in 2019 and has been a Cadet Town Planner with Circular Head Council since December 2022. She is scheduled to complete her Town Planning degree by the end of 2023.

Kaylah Keogh is a Trainee People and Safety Administration Officer. She has received on the job training through mentorship by senior staff and is on track to complete her Work Health and Safety Certificate IV this year.

Joseph Huisman began a School Based Apprenticeship with Council in 2021 and continues his work in tourism administration with the Circular Head Visitor Information Centre. In addition, there are opportunities for School Based Apprentices to work part time with Council while continuing their high school studies.

Council recognises the importance of providing a supportive and nurturing environment for its staff to enable them to grow and broaden their horizons and is committed to providing mentorship programs that provide staff with opportunities to collaborate with seasoned professionals and gain practical knowledge to gain new skills and refine existing ones.

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CIRCULAR HEAD COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

Circular Head Mayor Gerard Blizzard said “Our staff members are a great asset to our community and this organisation wants them to be happy and fulfilled in their work. They are also a testament to Council's commitment to nurturing our staff and providing ongoing employment in the region.”

Photo caption names L to R: Isaac Popowski, Chalise Moore, Thomas McMahon, Joseph Huisman and Catherine Sayer

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