



SAVED!!

Thanks to you, Ralphs Bay's future is secure

To all who supported the campaign to save Ralphs Bay: THANK YOU for all your help and support over these many years. Without your help (however big, however small) the bay would not be safe today.

CELEBRATION LUNCH

Lauderdale Hall

Sunday 11th July

11.30 – 3.00

We invite you to join us

We'll set up the tables

Bring lunch for yourself or to share

BYO drinks and glasses

Tea, coffee, cordial, BBQ food for a gold coin

Activities:

Entertainment for children and adults.

Displays, produce stall or buy SRB memorabilia - Pied Oystercatcher tea towels & Brenda's embroidered hats & scarves.

Donations for the produce stall most welcome – plants, veggies, jams, chutneys, cakes (labelled with name, phone number and ingredients).

Quiz Night

Fun for all the family

Calverton Hall

South Arm

7:30pm Saturday, July 17th

Cost \$10 per person, byo drinks, teams: 6 – 8

Don't miss out. Book early!

email: quiz@saveralphsbay.org

phone: 6239 9172

How did it happen?

Monday, June 21st:

The Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) delivered its final Integrated Assessment Report to Premier, David Bartlett.

Tuesday, June 22nd:

The report was made public and the Premier announced that the proposed "Lauderdale Quay" development had been rejected by the TPC.

The Premier also announced his Government's intention to bring in a Tasmanian Canal Estate Ban. The states of New South Wales and Victoria have already banned canal estates.

Wednesday June 23rd:

We celebrated the fact that the Conservation Area is back. After being virtually "suspended" since 2006, the Ralphs Bay Conservation Area now once more protects the sandflats we have fought so hard to save. In fact the Conservation Area has almost doubled in size! The Conservation Area is now 171 hectares in extent, and takes in all of the Lauderdale section of Ralphs Bay, north and south.

Links to the Integrated Assessment Report and other information at www.saveralphsbay.org

Where to now for Save Ralphs Bay?

We'll be working to have the Ralphs Bay Conservation Area formally annexed to the Pitt Water Orierton Ramsar-listed Wetland of International Significance. The Commission has determined that the Lauderdale site meets the criteria for Ramsar listing. This will put Lauderdale "on the map" for all the right reasons and will be a stimulus for tourism.

What a wonderful way to celebrate this International Year of Biodiversity!

With your help, we have protected:

- The peace and tranquillity of Lauderdale;
- The uninterrupted vistas across the sandflats to Mount Wellington;
- The sandflats and the myriad molluscs, crabs, worms and microbes beneath their surface;
- The resident and migratory shorebirds which use the sandflats as critical feeding habitat, following the waterline in and out with the ebb and flow of the tide, probing the sand and mud for vital food;
- Roosting (resting) habitat, where shorebirds wait at high tide when sandflats are covered by water;
- Nesting habitat for Pied Oystercatchers in particular, at the shoreline around the bay;
- Other marine creatures, and people who eat fish caught in Ralphs Bay surrounds;
- Salt marsh vegetation fringing the sandflats: UTAS research has shown the Lauderdale salt marshes in Ralphs Bay to be the most biodiverse mosaic of saltmarsh communities in southern Tasmania;
- The Spotted Handfish, which would have been threatened by turbid waters, resuspended heavy metal pollutants and a likely increase in Northern Pacific Seastars if sediments had been dredged;
- The denitrification process carried out by sandflat microbes – denitrification is one of the processes in the nitrogen cycle. Sandflats are renowned providers of this “ecosystem service”. They help maintain healthy water quality by removing excess nitrates and returning them to the air as nitrogen gas.

Why did the Planning Commission reject the proposed canal estate?

The Tasmanian Planning Commission’s Integrated Assessment Report can be viewed on the Commission’s website. It is very clearly written so as to be accessible for the general public, not just lawyers and planners. Although the report is 200 pages long, it can be searched electronically, so you can see for yourself why the Commission rejected the development. The Recommendation is on pages x, xi and xii.

In brief, the reasons given are:

- Sustainability: the proposal does not meet the first two objectives of Tasmania’s Resource Management and Planning System (RMPS) or the second principle of the State Coastal Policy.
- Strategic Planning: the proposal is not wholly consistent with the RMPS.
- A major and unacceptable intervention into Ralphs Bay.
- Importance for the Red-necked Stint and the Pied Oystercatcher.
- Significantly detrimental visual impact.
- Noise, dust, odour impacts over an extended period (at least 40 months to construct islands).
- Significant negative impact on the amenity of the existing community.
- Likely lack of integration and social cohesion with the Lauderdale community.
- Strength and depth of demand for the proposal not sufficiently demonstrated by the proponent.
- Environmental offsets unlikely to be substantially effective.
- No apparent solution if environmental offset measures are unsuccessful.
- Uncertainty in regard to heavy metals in sediments and seafood.
- Uncertainty in regard to sediment transport and build-up in the canals
- Potential threat to Spotted Handfish from the Northern Pacific Seastar, sedimentation and other forms of pollution.

