



MEDIA RELEASE

16 August 2023

Huonville's Black Swan Park is officially open

Black Swan Park has officially been opened by Mayor Sally Doyle and local Elder Rodney Dillon.

The opening event coincided with the closing of this year's NAIDOC exhibition and the celebration of our Aboriginal Elders and knowledge holders on 12 August 2023.

The event attracted a strong community turnout to hear from Uncle Rodney, Mayor Doyle, mural artist Jamin and multidisciplinary artist Alex Moss – whose work 'parrabah – listening, learning and reflecting for our Elders' was showcased in the Hub.

Uncle Rodney opened the event with a smoking ceremony, and told those assembled that the black swans of the mural symbolised the area's Aboriginal history and how important it was to many people to see their history "visible".

"This makes us, as aboriginal people, ... very much part of this community and I thank the Council for doing that," he said.

Mural artist Jamin said the opportunity to paint the mural was a "great honour."

"To be able to bring that story to life in such a big way on such a public wall in Huonville, is a really proud thing for me to be involved in," Jamin said.

As well as the swan mural, features of the park include new seating, fresh turf and a water refill station. Mature trees have been planted to provide shade in those warmer months.

Mayor Doyle thanked those who contributed to the project, including Council staff and the project's external supporters, namely Tasmanian Community Fund, Community Bank Huon Valley, Hydro Tasmania, TasWater and Neville-Smith Forest Productions.



Mayor Sally Doyle and Uncle Rodney Dillon officially opened the park together by unveiling a plaque that is fixed to the mural, telling the story of the pugherittah/the black swan.

The event included a photographic exhibition in the ARTBOX, short films titled 'For our Elders', kelp basket-making activities and an immersive installation on the whale story.

For more information: Mayor Sally Doyle (03) 6264 0300