

LANDMARK POSTCODE

7330/7331



Stanley township and 'The Nut'.

Story: Sheryl Allen

LOCATION: Smithton / Stanley
1.5 hours northwest of Devonport

POPULATION: 6,500 (Circular Head Region)

INDUSTRIES: Agriculture, fishing, forestry, tourism

CLIMATE: Temperate
Summer: 11.1°C – 21.0°C
Winter: 4.5°C – 12.8°C
Rainfall: 1,106mm

Smithton and Stanley are at the heart of Tasmania's north west region known as Circular Head. It's an untouched, near-to-nature place which dairy farmers, fishermen and foresters share with a growing throng of eco-tourism operators.

The infamous "roaring forties" that helped propel the clipper ships carrying the earliest convicts and colonials to settle in Tasmania still shape the way of life here. They bring the plentiful rains that energise a century-old dairying industry and they power giant wind turbines that generate renewable energy for many Tasmanians.

"And they deliver us beautiful clean, crisp air that has to be experienced to be believed," says Landmark's Betty Kay. "Circular Head is a rich, fertile rural area with dairying, cropping and vegetable growing being the mainstays. A vibrant fishing industry harvests renowned rock lobsters, abalone and oysters from the unspoilt Bass Strait seas and beautiful tracts of blackwood and hardwood trees support forestry and milling activities."

Nature and man are in balance here. There is a sense of respectful co-dependence that lures tourists seeking an experience that's good for the soul, the mind and the planet.

"They come to surf the remote and legendary Southern Ocean waves at Marrawah, to get close-up with rare wildlife and to explore Arthur River and the Tarkine – Tasmania's largest protected wilderness area," explains Betty. "And they come from across the globe."

The Tarkine includes the Norfolk Range, Mt Bertha, the Savage River system, the Meredith Range, several pristine rivers and Australia's largest swathe of quality wilderness rainforest.

Circular Head links the wilderness to the coastline where there are long, pristine beaches and rugged cliff formations.

"At Seven Mile Beach you can literally walk for seven miles without seeing another soul," reports Betty.

Smithton is the main commercial centre, with a population of around 3,500 and is well-appointed with modern shops, schools, health services and more. There's a pleasing mix of the old and the new – charming period cottages flank contemporary residences and commercial buildings. Quaint eateries and specialty shops border modern supermarkets and sporting facilities.

Fifteen kilometres to the north is historic Stanley, population 460. Stanley's landscape is dominated by the "nut" – a raised circular plateau that's actually the solidified lava lake of a long extinct volcano.

"The Circular Head region is named after this natural feature," explains Betty. "Visitors enjoy climbing or riding the chairlift to the top for uninterrupted 360 degree views. It's a favourite with the locals too."

Being local is important here and it's mostly local interest that keeps the property market on the move. "We've just come out of a very wet winter which has slowed things down a little but we're starting to get really active again now. We get plenty of interest from mainlanders, both for farming and lifestyle opportunities but we really thrive on the repeat business from our loyal, local clients who just love to live here."

"We consider ourselves really spoilt, in terms of our weather, our lifestyle, the environment and the services available," Betty sums up.

Spoilt in an unspoilt nature-rich locale? Sounds perfect.

CONTACT:

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PROPERTY GUIDE:

Residential: Three bedroom home
\$240,000 – \$260,000

Rural: Dairy property \$6,000 – \$10,000
per acre