

## Police call off tourist search

Cas Garvey

The family of missing Belgian tourist Celine Cremer are "devastated" after police officially suspended the search in Tasmania's wilderness.

Following "a comprehensive review", police have formally suspended the significant search effort in the Waratah area for the missing 31-year-old.

Commander Stuart Wilkinson said a major search, including police and SES ground crews, specialist swiftwater rescue personnel, ATVs, drones and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter had been undertaken in the Philosophers Falls area since June 27 when Celine's vehicle was found unattended in the carpark.

"Considerable search efforts have been undertaken in difficult terrain and treacherous weather conditions, but unfortunately Celine has not been located," Commander Wilkinson said.

"Expert medical advice has been received that given consideration to poor weather conditions and cool temperatures, Celine could not have survived the conditions she has been exposed to since she was reported missing."

Commander Wilkinson said Tasmania Police had been in constant contact with Celine's family throughout the search efforts.

"It's obviously a distressing situation, and they're understandably devastated," he said.

"As we suspend the formal search, I extend our thoughts to Celine's family and loved ones at this difficult time."

Missing person investigations in relation to Ms Cremer remained active.

"I'd like to acknowledge everyone involved in this extensive search, with particular thanks to our SES volunteers, who helped us cover a wide expanse of tough terrain - on the ground on foot and on ATVs," Commander Wilkinson said.

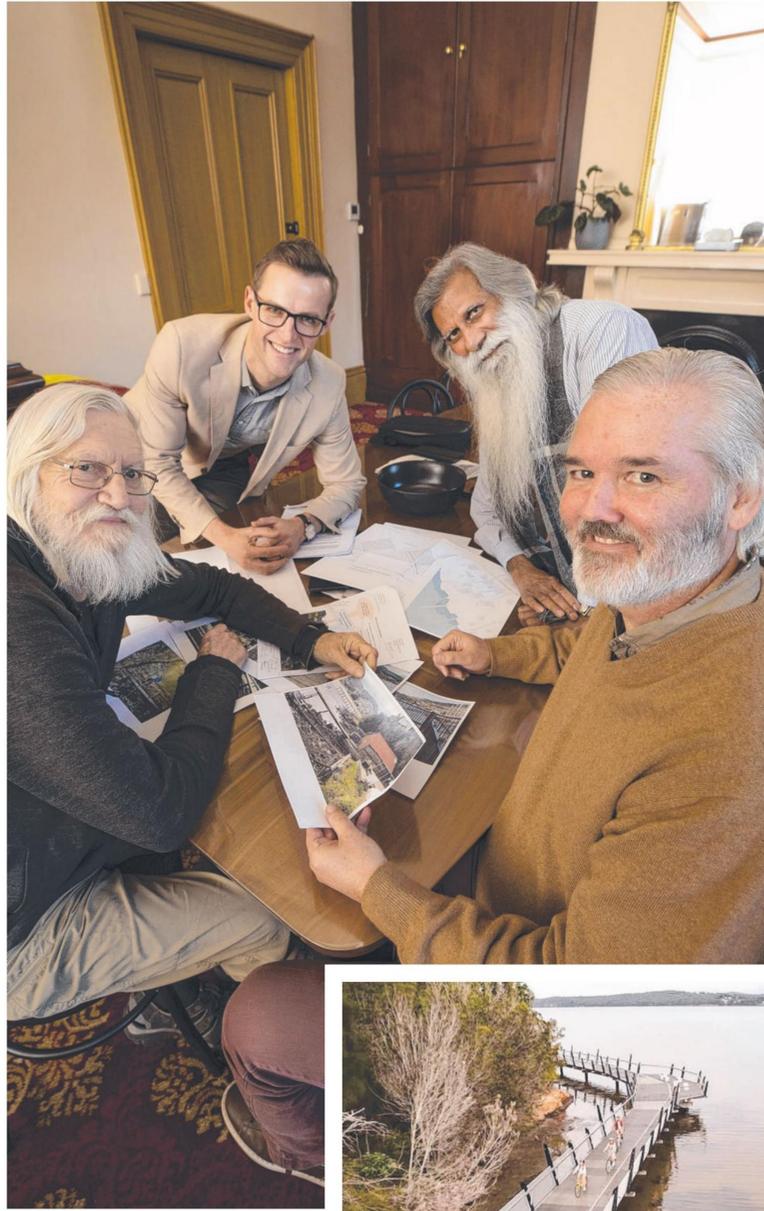
"Any further information relevant to Celine will be thoroughly followed up and we still hope to bring closure to her family and loved ones."



Celine Cremer

## NEW PLAN FOR BATTERY POINT LINK

# Residents designs on new 'hidden' walkway



Alternative Battery Point walkway design, retired Structural Engineer Jim Gandy, Hobart City Councillors Ryan Posselt and Mike Dutta and Economist David Hook discuss the new look which would hug the foreshore (inset) Main picture: Chris Kidd



Judy Augustine

Two Battery Point residents are working on an alternative vision of the proposed walkway in their precinct, hoping the council will adopt a new design which they claim would address the concerns stemming from the initial project.

The walkway, which would connect Sandy Bay to Battery Point was first proposed more than a decade ago.

In October 2014, stage one of the walkway was approved by the Hobart City Council, but in June 2015 the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal refused the multimillion-dollar project following backlash.

Talk of the project was reignited last year by Hobart City councillor Mike Dutta, who called for the council to recommit to the project, which the council voted in favour of.

A report on the walkway, as a result of Mr Dutta's motion, is due to be released in the coming week.

On Monday, Battery Point residents David Hook and Jim Gandy, who is a well known structural engineer, revealed their preliminary plans for the walkway.

"We thought there must be a better solution to the walkway," Mr Hook said.

"The main objections were around issues of visual impact, privacy and access to the water ... the design proposed addresses each one of those three objections.

"It's much more in keeping with the built form of the waterfront rather than impede it."

Mr Gandy said the walkway would take a different route, from Marieville Esplanade to AJ Park, a route he believed would be more agreeable to residents.

"The original concept was for a concrete thing out on the water, supposedly to reduce visual and privacy issues, but it would do the opposite," Mr Gandy said.

"It was a big lump of concrete - why not put it closer to

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**My proposal is more like a national parks walkway ... It blends into the environment**

**Jim Gandy**

**Battery Point resident**

the shore?

"We propose this walkway to follow the tidal zone ... we have a rocky foreshore."

Mr Gandy said different materials were also needed.

"My proposal is more like a national parks walkway, much like Montrose Foreshore, but we can make the balustrade less intrusive," he said.

"It blends into the environment ... we can provide all the residents with a little bridge."

Mr Hook said their alternative design would also cost significantly less to build.

"The initial design from ten years ago was an estimate of \$23.5m, our estimate with this approach would be closer to the \$5m ballpark," he said.

Mr Dutta said it wouldn't necessarily be a cost ratepayers had to wear.

"When you have something shovel-ready, it's not coming from the ratepayers money, you can get it from the state government or federal government," Mr Dutta said.

Councillor Ryan Posselt likened the design to a walkway in New South Wales.

"This design is more consistent with a walkway in Newcastle, called the Red Bluff walkway which is an unobtrusive design, no concrete and it blends in," he said.

Mr Hook and Mr Gandy have set up a group called the Friends of Battery Point Walkway.

The two are encouraging other members of the community to join the conversation by emailing [friendsofbatterypointwalkway@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbatterypointwalkway@gmail.com)

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