



## Jumping for joy at the Mt Lyell picnic



The 125th, Mt Lyell, Australia Day picnic was recently held in Strahan and proved once again to be a huge hit with locals and visitors alike. With bike riding, egg and spoon races, tug of war, sack and three legged races, gumboot throwing (thanks for aiming at the photographer Liz - you'll keep), and so much more. I took several thousand photos and have shown a few of these on pages ten and eleven. I am not going to mention which local 7XS DJ judged the sandcastle competition but he was

told that it represented two islands and a ship. Who are we to argue with the kids interpretation?

I did notice a bit of cheating (more artistic interpretation?) in the egg and spoon races as well as the horseshoe toss but I don't think anybody minded.

I know that I thoroughly enjoyed the day, as did hundreds of others, and a huge shout-out goes to the organisers and volunteers who put so much time and energy into making this one the best events on the West Coast's calendar.



FOR HIM | FOR HER

ESPLANADE, STRAHAN





# Letters to the editor...

Here at the Western Echo we love a good debate. If you have a concern, grievance, pet hate or even wish to congratulate someone for doing the RIGHT thing, then this is the place for it. Please note though, that everyone has the right to reply to your letter and we at the Western Echo are under no obligation to publish if things look like they are getting out of hand. We do reserve the right to edit letters for reasons such as clarity and length. Other than that, feel free to have YOUR say. **Editor: Alan Jennison 0488 2782 99 alan@westernecho.news**

### It's the Pitts!

As I wiped the dribble of tea which had escaped my mouth and made its way to my shirt; I sat agape reading the article written about a wonderful woman Pat Powell who had done so much for Strahan and our community; and the issues experienced by Lynn York and her ageing parents who are now confronted by such poor aged care outcomes on the West Coast. Their stories are confronting but unfortunately, they are not alone with so many of our seniors in our community being ripped from their social networks and way of life due to woefully inadequate aged care service provision in our townships on the West Coast.

It was not as if the distressing impending move away from home, and community were not enough; adding to this was the completely inadequate and misguided comments from our Mayor Shane Pitt who along with Councillors and the General Manager; believe the best and singular course of action is to advocate for an extra bed in the Queenstown hospital in the aged care wing! While there is no argument that the staff in this wing do a great job and work hard to making the time in the wing for our seniors the best they can; the fact that this seems to be the singular 'silver bullet' being offered by both State Government and advocated for by our Councillors and Mayor appears to be so inadequate and misaligned to the needs and aspirations of so many families and seniors on the West Coast.

While it is acknowledged that the Mayor and Council are advocating for aged care; it begs the question "is that it? Is that all we can look forward to as we all creep towards ageing? Where is there any vision and tangible action for a tri care facility? Research demonstrates that coastal age responsive accommodation and support facilities are very successful in keeping people who have been the backbone of our families and our community and keep our connections to early years alive.

Why isn't there more thought leadership by local Council representatives? Why are they not looking at examples

of health services and ageing services that have been created and built upon when there was a transformation of a small community? Why is Council not looking at success stories and taking learnings from places such as Harvey Bay – a sleepy village which has now the enviable reputation of being a desirable retirement area to call home and for locals to remain in their communities? Thank goodness Mayor Shane Pitt and fellow Councillors will never become my Enduring Power of Attorney! I'm sorry but is one extra bed in a hospital, the retirement and ageing place I or you want to call home? Is this the best we can do? Is this the best we can plan and realise?

Seriously! The State Government and our Council who have a greater opportunity to advocate for community needs can do so much better than what they are doing now!

**Stan Dup**

### Letter to the Editor from a concerned resident of Rosebery.

We are truly alarmed at the vegetation in our township around the West Coast. We are as silly as cows eating foxglove. Living in remote areas are no excuse for living with the bush up to our front doors. Strahan and Queenstown are as bad and I don't think the powers to be, have spent their budget money wisely on fire breaks and fire protection. The government needs to justify where money is being spent, not just handing it out to shut us up.

Just letting you know I'm a bit disappointed with our dying traditions. As a local Strahan resident I am now too old to fish in Macquarie Harbour, but on saying that, I grew up fishing and shooting game for food. West coasters and people from all over the state come to the area to fish in Strahan. She's bugged now, and you can all go back to being ghost towns or vanishing towns more like it.

Bring back the fishing.

**Ron**

### Letter to the Editor.

As a longtime resident on the West Coast I see more and more money being spent in Queenstown in the hopes Mount Lyell will reopen. Isn't it time the other towns were put in the picture and back on the map. It appears West Coast council have one vision only and that is let's pump money into Queenstown and hope we attract more money. Wake up, west coasters, it's time for council to move back to Zeehan and spread good fortune around and utilise the building it already owns.

It's 42 years this month since the last devastating fire crippled our town here in Zeehan and we lost so many homes and buildings from Granville and Zeehan. For several years now. Parks and Wildlife (Crown land), have been promising to clean out the creek that flooded several parts of our town, let alone the gorse bush that surrounds us again. What is it going to take? Another fire or flood? Summer or winter -we are endangered in both. A lot of homes were underinsured also or without don't forget to update yours.

It will happen if nothing changes.

**Kerrie L.**

The Strahan Fire brigade has had a very busy start to the New Year, with seven emergency callouts in January, and two between the Christmas and New Year period, ranging from vegetation fires, washaway incidents, structure fire, multiple car accidents, community engagement night and our normal brigade training and maintenance including new recruit training!

Please note that our community brigade is a 100% volunteer fire brigade and the more members we have, the lighter we can all share the load, if you would like to join our brigade, please contact us.



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Bookings: If already registered with us, you can also call Julie on 6208 8545.

# Valentine's Day story

Despite the rather depressing fact that marital infidelity is the leading cause of divorce along with lying about debt and spending money; and separation before divorce occurs on average around 8 years (gulp!); Valentine's Day or for those romantically following the 7 days of Valentine is still very much alive and celebrated.

For those who are extremely romantically inclined the 7 days of Valentine actually starts on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February and runs through to February 14<sup>th</sup>; with each day having a different theme to celebrate love. The days to express your love are Valentines Day; Rose Day; propose Day; Chocolate Day;

Teddy Day; Promise Day; Hug day and Kiss Day!

With that many days there really isn't any excuse not to find time to spend with your loved one; sure, some open their wallets and spend some dosh, however expressing love and affection doesn't need to require breaking the bank- thoughtful gestures and a chance to strengthen your relationship and create new memories for that someone special in your life remains very popular.

For those that are single or experiencing Valentine's Day alone for the very first time; instead of staying in alone; celebrate SAD day on the 14<sup>th</sup> by hosting a singles-only dinner party or BBQ, treating yourself to a beauty treatment taking advantage of our wonderful West Coast weather go for a walk, watch our amazing sunrises and sunsets, download your favourite movie, or go to your local West Coast library and guess how many chocolates are in the candy jar!!

Whatever your circumstance, celebrating Valentine's Day on the West Coast is really up to you!

**Cupid's muse!**



# WESTERN ECHO

Queenstown, Strahan, Zeehan, Tullah, Rosebery Waratah - The West's own newspaper

## WE MEANS COMMUNITY

**Editor: Alan Jennison 0488 2782 99 alan@westernecho.news**

The Western Echo is available from IGA's and newsagents (as well as some other outlets) in Queenstown, Strahan, Zeehan, Rosebery, Tullah, Burnie, Stanley, Wynyard, Somerset, Ridgley, Smithton, South Riana and Waratah.

127 Main Street, Zeehan, Tasmania 7469.

All published material is published in good faith.



# Keeping learning local

## Study Hub - West Coast

There are loads of things happening at our Regional University Centre – Study Hub West Coast in Zeehan!

It's already February and the Study Hub is in full swing with a whole heap of new university and vocational education and training (VET) enrolments.

We've got students enrolling in a number of exciting qualifications – from health to science, community services to nursing and so many more. It's fantastic to see so many people across the West Coast making an active decision to study to enable them to stay in their community and hopefully become employed locally.

Last week a group of nine Early Childhood Education and Care students commenced study. This is such a great example of collaboration to address regional workforce needs from West Coast Council, Coastal Family Day Care and Study Hub West Coast. Students applied to the Regional Training Fund administered through West Coast Council for financial assistance to pay for their course and get a laptop.

Coastal Family Day Care and the Study Hub collaborated to create a program that offers online learning/face to face delivery and practical workshops. Coastal Family Day Care will not only supervise the practical workshops but will also offer work placement and ongoing job opportunities.

We're really lucky to engage with a Burnie based RTO who will manage student learning and keep their studies supported. It's such a great initiative for the coast – it keeps locals learning and

learning local!

Also coming up in the next month we've got a fair bit of training happening including first aid, snake handling and chainsaw. Happily, we'll organize any training if there is a community or industry need.

We've got lots of interesting people visiting the Study Hub. UTAS representatives across many departments are engaging with us to create even more fantastic UTAS options and opportunities on the West Coast.

We're excited to welcome the Vice Chancellor from Hobart and the Pro Vice Chancellor from Cradle Coast Campus in mid-February and members of the Geology department for a series of workshops with the students. We've also helped organise some robotic workshops with West Coast schools which is super exciting and engages our creative young engineers in some STEM learning.

We thank everyone for their continued support of the Study Hub. It's vital to have this community and industry input and participation to advocate for, and support regional, rural and remote students.

If you're interested in studying or doing a short training course, please contact us.

Nicky – Regional Manager [nicky@studyhubwestcoast.com.au](mailto:nicky@studyhubwestcoast.com.au)

Yolande – Student Services Coordinator [yolande@studyhubwestcoast.com.au](mailto:yolande@studyhubwestcoast.com.au)

Belinda Martin – UTAS Regional Learning Officer [belinda.martin@utas.edu.au](mailto:belinda.martin@utas.edu.au)



# Pre 1919 Car Rally



In 2016 we took our pre 1919 cars from the Woolnorth Wind farm to Cockle Creek. Entrants were from the UK, the USA as well as most Australian states.

We had another event in 2019 (with mostly the same entrants) from Musselroe Windfarm to Strathgordon. The National Veteran Rally was held as a hub rally in Ulverstone later the same year with 70 veteran cars entering.

The diehard enthusiasts were keen to do another rally after being restricted during Covid, hence the 'Around the 42nd Parallel Tour' came to be; an eleven day event from west to east. One entrant from the UK has participated in all the rallies I have mentioned. It is great to visit the schools and old people's homes in areas that rarely get the opportunity to see such a unique selection of veteran cars. It also gives local clubs, schools and church groups much needed funds through catering although this is getting much harder as Tasmania's volunteer base is shrinking and community are losing their local churches.

We will be on Tassie's West Coast on the following dates for anyone that would like to come and see what we are up to and admire the amazing old vehicles.



- Thursday, 23rd February**  
Breakfast at Turners Beach  
Morning tea at Ridgley Fire Station  
Lunch at Waratah  
Overnight at Corinna / Pieman
- Friday, 24th February**  
Fatman Barge over Pieman  
Travel to Zeehan  
Visit museum.  
Lunch at RSL Zeehan  
Afternoon tea at Strahan – wharf precinct  
Overnight, Queenstown - Silver Hills Motel
- Saturday, 25th February**  
Wilderness Railway - Heritage carriage morning train ride.  
Lunch at Football Club  
Overnight at Silver Hills Motel Queenstown.
- Sunday, 26th February**  
Morning tea at Lake Burbury Camping Ground.  
Lunch at Derwent Bridge  
Visit 'The Wall'  
Overnight at Tarraleah



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# It's all about the animals with AWCI



Zeehan based, Animal Welfare Centre Inc has had many animals come through its doors over the past few months including kittens, wallabies, dogs, and birds.

A very rare grass parrot was recently found injured and brought into AWCI by one of their carers. The bird was rehabilitated after the injury had healed and was happily returned to its home after a short stay.

Several wallabies have also come through over this time and most were released back into the wild, sadly not all make it.

Home sitting has been very busy with the Christmas holidays, hospitalisation of some people, holidays for others and incarceration.

They are always looking for more volunteers and donations as they are a not-for-profit organisation, and all volunteers.

So what does AWCI do?  
Care for: Native wildlife, domestic and farm animals.  
Animal burial within reason under fruit trees where possible  
Accept donations of any sort eg. animal food, cages, etc.  
Work with many other organisations to achieve the best possible outcome for the animal in question.

Give out information whenever possible.  
Have open days.  
Sell items from base.  
House cleaning where possible; end lease clean, yard maintenance, tenant left a mess, they clean it up, etc.  
Surrender of any animal  
Adoptions  
Market attendance when possible  
Day care when available  
Discounted desexing and microchipping where possible (they work with several different vets for cats only atm)  
Care for your animals while you are incarcerated, hospitalised or on holidays.

They cover even more, so if not listed above, please contact them on 0423625183,  
They are currently building rooms for the cat housing facilities with an isolation ward, which has been made possible with a grant from Avebury Nickel Mine, as well as setting up a second-hand room, like an op shop.

They already have a large range of brand-new stock, chemical free fly spray, Taz's Pot Heads, animal toys and bowls, bags of rags etc. for sale.

They also sell SCENTSY and all commission goes back into AWCI to help pay for formula and meat.

Do you have a loving caring heart? Do you have spare time? Do you have room to foster an animal? They are always looking for more carers.

Their headquarters is based in Zeehan, but they have carers Tasmania wide.

Their email is [awci1@outlook.com](mailto:awci1@outlook.com) and they can be found on Facebook @ Animal welfare Centre Inc or phone 0423625183 (or send a text).



Currently the AWCI has three very smoochy, cuddly kittens (one of them is shown below) up for adoption, 2 males and 1 female. They are all contracted for desexing, microchipping etc. They are just awaiting their forever homes.



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# Your RSL needs you!



ANZAC spirit is not just for the 25th of April, you can show your respect for those that have fallen on the battlefields, support Veterans & current Service personnel everyday, by joining your local RSL.

The West Coast is proud to have three RSL's, being in Queenstown, Rosebery & Zeehan, all happy to welcome new Members & visitors any time.

Anyone can apply to join the RSL, with three different levels of memberships available.

**SERVICE MEMBER-** Whether you're separated from the Defence or still serving, as a member of RSL Sub-Branch you become part of the Tasmanian RSL network who not only share the bond of service but are also committed to giving back to the Defence Family.

**AFFILIATE-** Affiliate Membership is a type of RSL membership that caters for family members of serving & ex-service men & women. It is also for members or ex-members of the police, fire brigade, ambulance & SES.

**SOCIAL MEMBER-** Your membership goes towards supporting those in the veteran community. By joining the RSL it's a great way to recognise the service & sacrifices of those who have served before us as well as those who are still serving or will serve after us in the years to come.

The cost of memberships & opening hours of Sub-Branches varies so drop into your local RSL to find out more & see what they have to offer.

All RSL's welcome the support of volunteers for their daily operating needs, you may have some time to lend a helping hand throughout the year.

The Queenstown RSL has a vast array of local military memorabilia adorning its walls & display cabinets, extensive library to browse or for research purposes. With murals depicting scenes from the Boer War right through to modern day conflict & peace keeping missions.

We are always seeking more local military memorabilia to preserve for future generations to learn of the extensive history of West Coast service in all conflicts. Our collection grows with kind donations or items to display on loan from generous members of the public.

Function bookings available 7 days a week. Ease of access & Members/patrons car park. Located on the corner of Cutten & McNamara Streets we currently open from 4pm Wednesdays & from 12 noon Thursday & Friday.

Keep your eye out for more information so you can join us for upcoming events by going to our face book page Queenstown RSL. or by listening to 7XS or emailing [rsqueenstown@bigpond.com](mailto:rsqueenstown@bigpond.com) - Purple Poppy Day. The 24th of February, is a day set aside to

honour Service Animals & RSL Open Day. Wild West BBQ for members. Our Annual General Meeting is in March.

The Queenstown RSL is also seeking expressions of interest for a suitably qualified person/people to operate our kitchen for the resumption of meal service. Tradition at most RSL's it is a service which we are keen to again offer. Visit an RSL today.

## Zeehan RSL Calendar

Every Thursdays & Fridays we have lunches. Present your membership card and receive \$5.00 discount. Until the end of summer. 12 - 2pm

Every Friday night 6 - 8pm, Meals includes buffet @ \$25 self serve, meals available off our menu, Present your membership card and receive \$5.00 of main meal.

Thursday deliver meals to the elderly, 65 and over with chronic illness (terminal illness), disability, or hold a DVA card. Delivered free. For more information please contact Nardia Reader on 0448375351.

We are able to offer this service, due to the funds received on our meals during our lunch's and Friday night meals. With you ongoing support, we are able to offer this free service to our elderly and not so unfortunate member of our community.

## Upcoming events:

17th February 2023 Hogs will be at the Zeehan RSL 1pm.

24th February Pre 1919 Car Rally luncheon 12pm

25th April 2023 Anzac day, bar will be open after dawn service 10am 12 - 3pm.

14th May Mother day luncheon By Booking only.

3rd of September Fathers day luncheon by booking only.

11th November remembrance day light lunch and bar available after service.

Zeehan RSL Sub Branch: are always looking for dedicated people, that have a community Spirit, like to servers though that have served us.

Keeping the Zeehan RSL open for our service personal and ex service men and women and veterans.

If you are interested in helping the small group of volunteers we have, we would like you to come and see us.

We have a kitchen that supply meals to our elderly, veterans and community, Bar if you have or would like to get your RSA. Garden that is in loving need of help. Maintenance work that could suit you .

**Join Senator Anne Urquhart and guests Thomas Mayo and Senator Malarndirri McCarthy for an**

## Online Community Town Hall

### Understanding The Voice

**Saturday 18th Feb - 3pm**

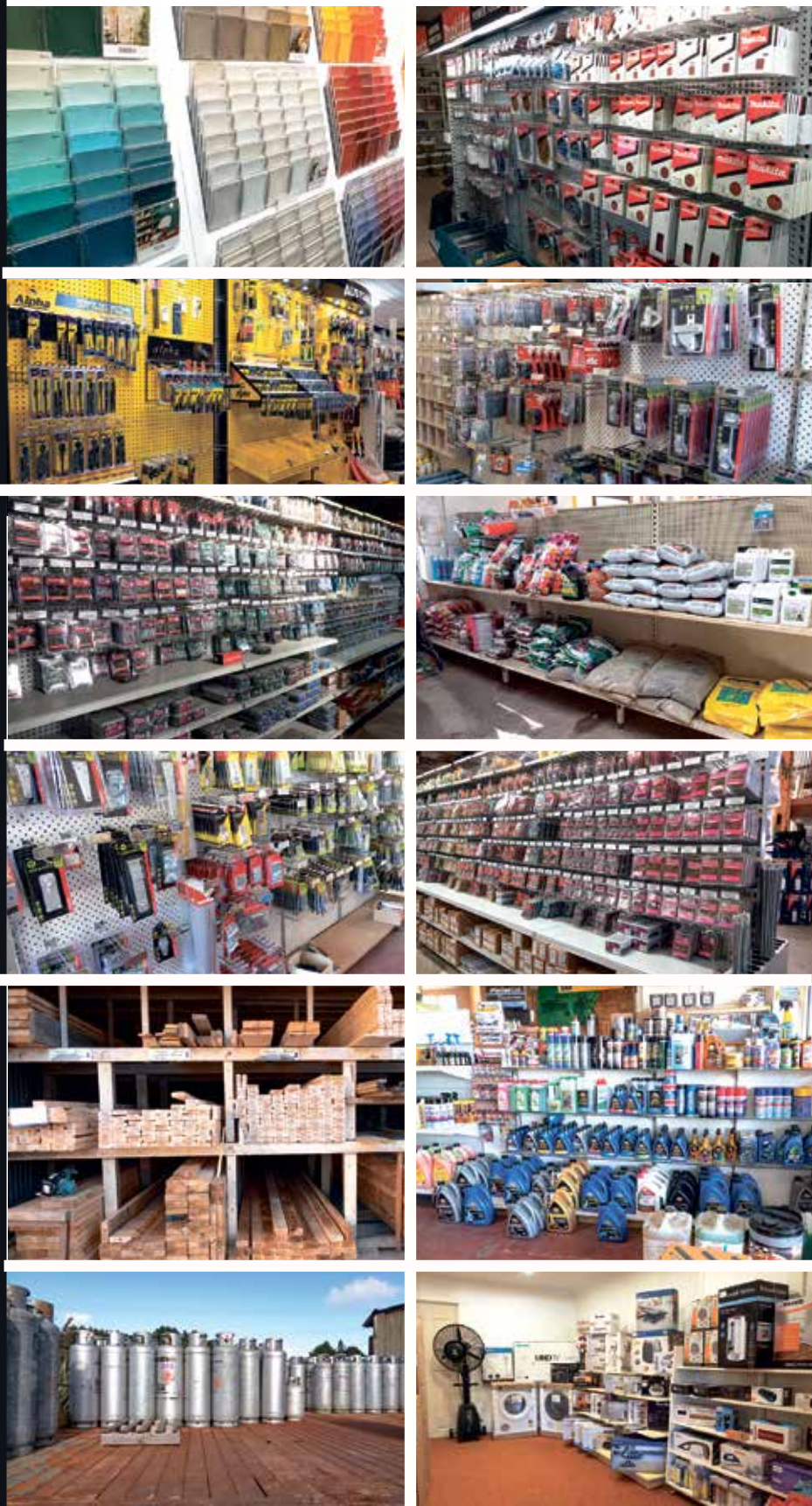
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## It's snake season

We want the West Coast Community to know that we are here to help if we can so have put together this story on snakes for you.

Snakes don't have very good eyesight but they can see movement, and, sudden movement can scare the snake. So, if you do come across a snake, remove yourself calmly out of harms way. Snakes are also active on warm nights so it's a good idea to use a torch when walking around on warm nights. If you do see a snake, it is important to keep a safe distance from them. Obviously, get your children, people, and pets out of harms way.

Call the Snake Catcher. You could help the Snake Catcher heaps if someone could keep an eye on the snake (from a safe distance) until the Snake Catcher arrives.

There are things the Community can do as well to help. Keep your grass mowed. Clear away from your house any tin lying around, old tyres etc. Keep wood

piles as far from your house as practical and, when you grab the wood from your wood pile, just keep an eye out.

Unfortunately, there will be encounters between people and snakes. All Australian snakes are a protected species by law and it is illegal to kill them. All creatures are created by God, and all have the right to live. No one should kill snakes. Snakes have just as much right to exist as we do. So if you do have a problem snake, please call your local Snake Catcher.

Snake Catchers catch, collect, and relocate the snake. The snakes are released back into the bush, back into their natural environment.

In Tasmania there are 3 land snakes which are the Tiger snake, the lowland Copperhead snake and the white lipped whip snake. The yellow-bellied sea snake and other sea snakes have been found off the east Coast of Tasmania as well. All Tasmanian snakes are venomous. Did you know that all venomous snakes, when they are dead, are still venomous. The venom in their fangs crystallises and can remain in the fangs some say for years. So, it is important to teach our children and community about snake safety. Never touch the fangs of a dead snake, even taxidermy venomous snakes.

All Tasmanian snakes give birth to live young, and all Tasmanian snakes give birth to multiple live young with litter sizes ranging from around 8 to well over 20-30 plus. Tasmanian snakes seek warm sheltered places to give birth, such as under tin, rocky areas, other animals burrows etc. any-

where sheltered cosy and warm. Tasmanian snakes are not maternal. From the moment the snake is born it is off and ready, totally independent and their venom is just as toxic as their parents.

Tasmanian snakes eat mice, lizard's, small birds, baby birds and their eggs. They are attracted to chicken coops and aviaries. The chooks and the birds in an aviary will let you know if there is a snake around as the birds become very noisy. Copperhead snakes eat the same but with one addition, they are cannibals and have also been known to eat

their own young.

Snakes sense vibrations, and use their forked tongues to explore and interpret their world. Their forked tongues are not venomous- but enable them to pick up scent particles such as water, prey and the pheromones of other snakes so as to mate.

It is important to note that most of the time snakes come in contact with people, they are just passing through, seeking

food, water and shelter. If left alone they are generally placid and just want to get out of our way. When cornered or confronted, they will defend themselves whilst still trying to escape the confrontation.

There are certain times in a snake's cycle where they can be a little grumpier and more agitated than normal. When they are about to shed their skins which is often. When the female is not far off from giving birth. Snakes who have scars from previous encounters of humans who have tried to kill them, tend to be more defensive but they all just want to get away from us. Snakes are more scared of us than we are of them and just want to be left alone.

Snakes can travel along the ground; they can climb and even swim.

Blue tongue lizards do not keep snakes away.

If you have been bitten by a snake, call 000 immediately, remain calm and follow medical advice.

If you suspect your pet may have been bitten by a snake, call the Vet immediately and follow the Vets advice. "there may be many snake catchers on the west coast and

if people are interested in becoming a snake catcher, there are courses they can do in order to train them about snakes, snake handling and snake bite treatment. Then they need to apply to the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment or the DPI/PWE and apply for a Special Purpose Wildlife Permit to Catch, Collect and Relocate Venomous Snakes."

Snake catcher Angie 0409 164 394





# THE VETERANS POST – Real Stories of Yesteryear

*Every month we feature profiles of veterans from our community, honouring & respecting those men & women that have heeded the call of conflicts past, so that we as a nation can live as freely as we do today. If you have a story you'd like told, or an ancestor who contributed to war time efforts, please email [Queenstown RSL at Linton.Harris@rsltas.org.au](mailto:Queenstown.RSL@Linton.Harris@rsltas.org.au)*

## Sergeant Mark 'Doc' Doran Part 2

Following on from last month's Veteran Post, we conclude the quite remarkable service history of Sergeant Mark 'Doc' Doran, who at 38 years old made the quite gutsy leap back into the young man's game of infantry, after discovering that the maximum age limit for service in the ADF had been lifted.

The next challenge was to find his way back in an army that was 'full'.

The War on Terror had been simmering since 9/11, the Army had had quite an influx of willing and able patriots ready to do their bit.

Consequently, a full-time infantry role was simply unavailable.

When Doc re-enlisted, and on advice from the recruiters, he re-entered the ADF via the Army Reserves, doing the maximum allowable days at the 31st Battalion Royal Queensland Regiment (31RQR) - a reservist infantry battalion based in Townsville.

Doc's dedication to 31RQR was soon rewarded with his first deployment, being one of just nine men of the battalion selected to join a composite battle group of many nations to serve in the Solomon Islands on Operation Anode.

Doc at 40 years old finally deployed overseas, while at the same time pushing through the paperwork to transfer to full-time service.

On the same day as his return to Australia, he transferred to 1RAR.

As before, it didn't take long for Doc to use his photography skills, becoming the regimental photographer of 1RAR, among other roles, which saw him deployed to Timor Leste with Charlie Coy in 2007, on Operation Astute.

The next step for Doc was a photography course run by Air Force, which led to the posting that would change everything for Doc – a position with the 3rd Brigade

(3Bde) Headquarters as the brigade photographer.

As one can imagine, being posted to a brigade headquarters opens many doors if you play your cards right, and Doc had a venerable 'full-hand', being there taking pictures with every major event on 3Bde's calendar.



With his contacts, it was inevitable Doc, now a lance corporal, would achieve his goal to be a military reporter with a posting to the Defence News Bureau in Canberra.

What followed was an operational tempo that by Doc's own admission was a bit of a blur with the ADF heavily involved in operations across the world, an official ADF reporter/photographer was in high demand.

In 2012 Doc deployed to the Sinai on Operation Mazurka and Afghanistan on Operation Slipper before returning to Afghanistan in 2013 as the military reporter for combined Team Uruzgan in Tarin Kot for eight months,

Doc then returned to the Middle East Region in 2015/16 attached to the Headquarters Joint Task Force 633 (JTF633) on Operation Accordion.

During this tour, Doc was sent back to Afghanistan multiple times on Operation Highroad, visited Iraq on Operation Okra, and spent time on HMAS Mel-

bourne for Operation Manitou, which included visits to ports of Bahrain and Oman in the Persian Gulf.

In 2016 Doc was overseas and on the high seas once again, deploying to Solomon Islands on Operation Render Safe which included time on Australian and New Zealand warships.

Finally in 2018 it was a re-visit to similar locations and operations as 2015/16 when posted to JTF633 in the Middle East once again.

Despite this remarkable operational tempo, Doc also worked tirelessly within Australia's borders, reporting on military efforts for nearly every natural disaster affecting Australia.

These included major multinational Defence exercises, important anniversary's such as the Black Hawk disaster of 1996, and the G20 Leaders' Summit in Brisbane.

He also reported on the Invictus Games in London 2014, Toronto 2017 and in Sydney 2018.

The list goes on for everything Doc achieved in service of our nation, however his military career isn't quite over yet.

While considered 'inactive', he still fields the odd call from Defence asking him to participate in short term contracts - his skills are still highly valued and in demand.

With a total of 13 different operations in more than a dozen countries, there are very few soldiers as well travelled as Mark 'Doc' Doran.

Did you know that if you have a Defence Service History of any description, you are immediately admitted into the RSL? Or if a relative of yours has a Service History you can join the RSL as an affiliate?

Without RSLs in small towns, modern Veterans and their families have an incredibly limited choice of what services (of which there are many) can be accessed without travel to the larger population centres. We need to keep these vi-

tal institutions viable for the greater good of our communities. RSLs are not just a place to go and have a meal. They play a vital role in supporting veterans, offering a safe drop in space where they can connect with other veterans, get referrals and updates from service organisations.

We welcome you to join our local RSL and help keep the ANZAC legacy alive for future generations. If interested in joining, contact [rsqueenstown@bigpond.com](mailto:rsqueenstown@bigpond.com) or drop in at your local RSL on the West Coast. **Queenstown RSL**- Wednesday from 4:00 p.m, Thursday & Friday from 12:00 p.m. Available to book your up coming events or functions large or small give us a call. **Rosbery RSL**- Open seven days a week, Sunday through to Thursday from 1:00 p.m, Friday & Saturday from 11:00 p.m **Zeehan RSL**- Open Friday nights for meals from 5:30 p.m & Bingo On Sunday's eyes down at 2:00 p.m all welcome.



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## Visiting the West Coast on a regular basis

As your local Member, please contact me if I  
can be of assistance 64308400  
or [murchison@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:murchison@parliament.tas.gov.au)  
32 Goldie Street, Wynyard  
[www.ruthforrest.com.au](http://www.ruthforrest.com.au)



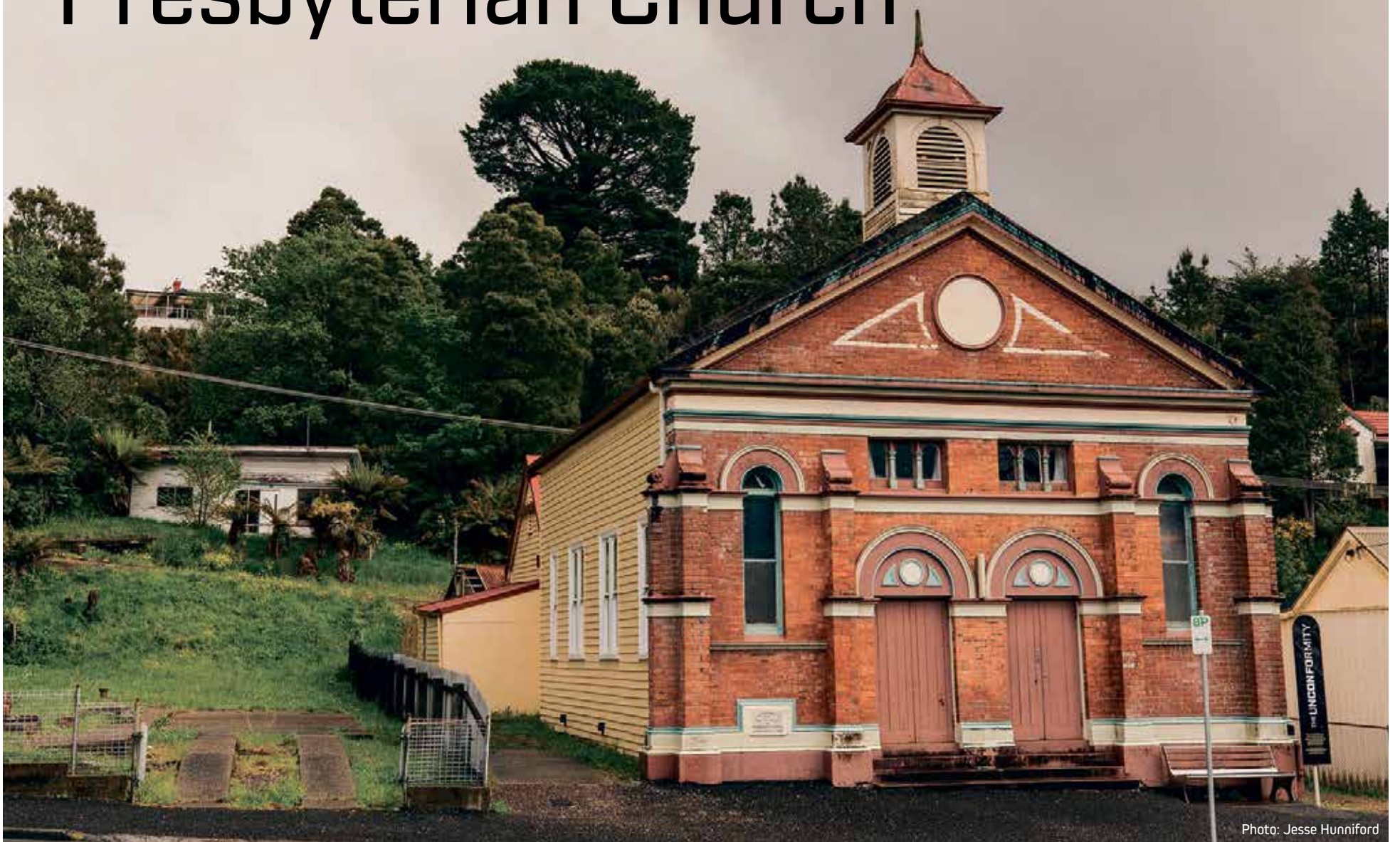
Hon.

**Ruth Forrest** MLC  
Independent Member for Murchison





# Study into former Presbyterian Church



## An opportunity to share your memories and future ideas for 35 Cutten Street.

In 2018, The Unconformity took on the former Presbyterian Church at 35 Cutten Street in Queenstown as a location for the organisation's cultural programming, meetings and operations.

Opened in 1899 by Marion Sticht, the wife of Mt Lyell mine manager Robert Sticht, the empty heritage-listed building was in need of a tenant and a plan for its future.

In agreement with West Coast Council as owners of the building, The Unconformity is undertaking an architectural study to understand the building's history, its relationship to the community and its future potential to support regional arts and cultural activity.

The Unconformity has engaged Taylor and Hinds Architects to undertake this study. Across 13–17 February 2023, architect Mat Hinds will be in residence to conduct research, speak with people who have a lived connection with the building and discuss potential ideas for its future.

The Unconformity invites you to drop in and share your memories and thoughts between 9am–12pm and 5pm–6pm on Wednesday 15 February 2023 at 35 Cutten Street, Queenstown.

Alternatively, you can share your thoughts via email at [info@theunconformity.com.au](mailto:info@theunconformity.com.au)

Around 70 students from the University of Tasmania's School of Architecture will visit Queenstown in March 2023 with their research into West Coast architecture also contributing to this project. ■



Photo: Rémi Chauvin | Sculptures by David Fitzpatrick and Mal Gotjes

## The Unconformity 2023 Art Trail

One of the central experiences of The Unconformity festival program is the Art Trail, which has evolved over time to become an important part of the festival experience for local and visiting audiences.

The Art Trail aims to provide supportive infrastructure for West Coast-based artists to publicly present and sell their work over the festival weekend. Past venues have included studios, galleries, shopfronts, empty buildings, domestic spaces such as houses and sheds as well as accommodation and hospitality businesses with available wallspace.

The Unconformity promotes the Art Trail through the festival program alongside a dedicated brochure and map to guide audiences to participating venues. If you are an artist on the West Coast or a venue owner in Queenstown and you are interested in participating in the 2023 Art Trail, please register your interest by emailing Community Engagement Coordinator Helena Demczuk at [helena@theunconformity.com.au](mailto:helena@theunconformity.com.au) ■

THE **UNCONFORMITY**



# Zeehan Housechurch



2022 is now a memory and the Zeehan Housechurch has relocated to the Zeehan Town Hall. Each week when we gather, we are being reminded that Church is not about a building. It is about but the people who gather. Now we get to share the space with other community groups who use the Town Hall The Housechurch itself has not changed but our change of meeting venue is heralding some new possibilities in our service to God and the Zeehan community, supporting the values of the Kingdom of God across the West Coast.

The Housechurch has been the custodian of the Town Hall facility for the community for a couple of years now. With the sale of the St Luke's Anglican Church property in Belstead St, we are now able to look to what the future may hold. We can further assist in offering a place and resources for individual and community events. We are grateful for the faithful Christians and community members over the last 100plus years who have served Zeehan. This move has reminded us that service comes in many forms, and we are hoping that the

Town Hall can be a venue that inspires dreams, promotes relationships and offers facilities.

The Regular Sunday gatherings are at 10am. It's not just a Church Service. We have been grateful for donations of furniture, toys and kitchenwares from Queenstown Uniting Church and the Rosebery Neighbourhood House in the past. The smaller tables are very comfortable for relaxing and sharing a cuppa. (Gathering for Church may be very different from what you remember or expect).

Everyone is welcome at Housechurch activities.

If you are not keen on Sunday mornings, why not come along to the next **MOVIE AND MEAL** Sunday Evening February 19th at 5pm

We are glad that the Zeehan Town Hall is available to the community and look forward to sharing the facility.

If you want to book (or just have a look) text or leave a message on 0498 546 824.

## Word on the street...

Avebury Nickel Mine General Manager John Lamb joined Anglicare Tasmania, Zeehan Men's Shed and community members for the official opening of the Zeehan 'Word on the Street' Children's Street Library on Tuesday.

This community initiative led by Anglicare Tasmania is to enable children to easily access this free service to assist with building language, connection and community pride.

Zeehan Men's Shed have fabricated a bright and inviting bookshelf which Avebury sponsored through our Com-

munity Sponsorships and Donations Program.

The Children's Library is located outside the Zeehan Anglicare Office in Main Street.





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Ph: 08 9433 3344  
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# Off the rails

I recently had the opportunity to read a new book by first time author Grant Youd and really enjoyed it. Working for the railways in Tasmania for almost fifty years, Grant has written a book full of humour, suspense and anecdotal stories about his time on the rails. The first chapter will have you hooked as it really puts you in the cab of the train, which, in this case, is somewhere you do not want to be. Once the heart slows down and the hands holding the book stop their shaking the book eases into a very interesting look at what it takes to become and be a train driver in Tasmania's West

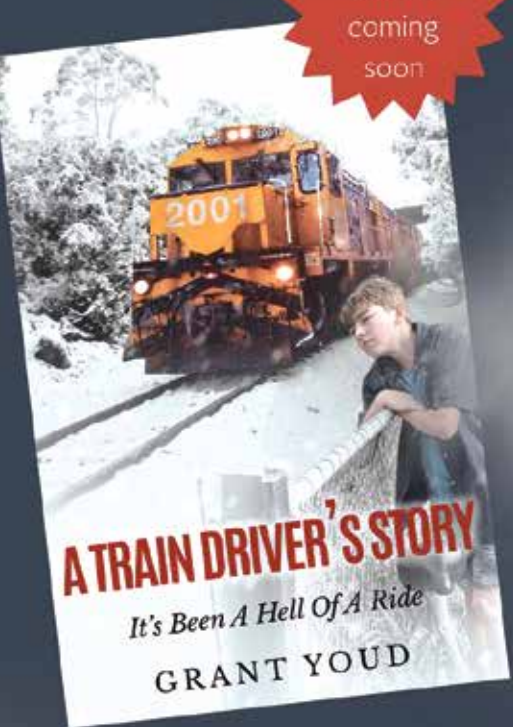
and North West.

This is a book that I can recommend to anyone with a love for trains, history or Tasmania in general, you will be transported to another world that only a few get to work in.

So... Would you like to win a copy? Send a message to the Editor of this paper telling us what YOUR scariest, near death moment has been in Tasmania. It doesn't have to be train related just scary and true. I will judge my favourite and have a signed copy of Grant's book sent or delivered to you. For the rest of you, you can order your copy of the book on the ad below. Enjoy the read and 'Don't go off the rails'!

## A TRAIN DRIVER'S STORY

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Written by Tasmanian author Grant Youd

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And speaking of trains, I have been busy in the Zeehan model building workshop recently. Work is underway on the Zeehan streetscape model which will be set in the early 1900's.

Think an old tram running down the street alongside horses and buggies and the first motor cars. What a time that would have been, and I am recreating it in miniature.

I am also working on a large scale model loosely based on the old Spray Mine, and am busy putting fibre optic 'glowworms' in the 'Spray Tunnel'.

What a tough job I have - I love it! Alan - Editor





# Mount Lyell Strahan Picnic time again

The Mt Lyell Australai Day Picnic is a great event for a photographer.

These and many other photos from the day will be placed on the Western Echo website for anyone to purchase beautifully printed A4 prints.  
[www.westernecho.news](http://www.westernecho.news)

Photos by Alan Jennison



And we have a winner.



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**WEST COAST TAS**





*Fantastic display of trick riding by Borys Zackrogi*



*This is how it's done.*



*Winners are grinners*



*Fairy floss for everybody*



*The winning sandcastle entry*



*Volunteers and organisers of the Mt Lyell, Australia Day Picnic once again did a magnificent job with the event.*





# Tramway update

Tracing Granville Tramway History. After a recent visit to the State Library and a viewing of Archives Information .Friends of Tracks and Tramways were unable to find any plans or photos of the original Bridge that crossed the Pine River built 1914 / 1915. So we are now sending out a request hoping that maybe some one may be able to assist us in our endeavour to find a photo. Such information would be greatly appreciated. This photo shows all that remains of the original Tramway Bridge, holding down bolts and steel bracing.



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# Bloodsucking monsters

Paralysis ticks are most definitely found in Tasmania so keep an eye out and your animals safe. What are the symptoms of tick paralysis?

While Australian wildlife have some immunity to the tick toxin, cats and dogs are very susceptible and will develop paralysis, breathing difficulty, which, in severe cases, can lead to death if they are exposed to a tick.

There are a number of symptoms to look out for. The early stages of a paralysis tick bite can be hard to determine as they are typically vague. As symptoms quickly progress from the initial bite, they become more severe. Early vague stages of tick paralysis can include the following symptoms:

- Lethargy
- Reduced appetite
- Occasional vomiting
- If you see any of these symptoms, search your pets for ticks immediately and contact your vet, as from these initial symptoms their condition can rapidly deteriorate.
- Other symptoms of tick paralysis include:
  - A change in the sound of the bark or meow. For example, becoming softer or changes in pitch.
  - Cannot blink. If ticks become attached near the eyes the eyelids can become paralysed which means they are unable to blink. This can then lead to the eyes drying out and becoming damaged.
  - Difficulty breathing or rapid breathing. As the paralysis advances the muscles used in breathing become weak. Heavy breathing can occur, this can involve panting, noisy breathing and at times grunting and coughing.
  - Change in heart rhythm or rate.
  - Excessive drooling. Paralysis can lead to difficulty swallowing which lead to a build-up of fluid in the mouth and throat.
  - Wobbly gait, which often starts off from the back legs.
  - Reluctant to move, stand or jump.



Completely paralysed. What should you do if your pet shows these symptoms? If you believe your pet is experiencing any of these symptoms take your pet to your vet or nearest emergency centre immediately. Early treatment is thought to be a key element of successful recovery from tick paralysis and deterioration can occur in a short space of time, often within hours. Animals exhibiting any of the symptoms of a tick bite, such as paralysis and breathing difficulty require immediate treatment. However, the early signs are often subtle and may occur singly, such as vomiting and reduced appetite, and therefore easily to go unnoticed without a professional assessment.

By taking your pet to the vet immediately after showing symptoms of a tick bite, the veterinarian will be able to complete a focused examination which will include a search for additional ticks. It has been found that 10% of patients will have more than one tick. Tick preventatives can also be administered. If you do find a tick, keep your pet quiet and calm, and at a comfortable temperature. Search for any ticks and remove them if able. If a tick is removed prior to visiting a vet, it is important to bring the tick along with you so the species can be identified. It is important not to provide food or water as if your pet has been affected by a paralysis tick, they will be unable to protect their airway when they swallow. This may lead to food or water being breathed into their airways which can cause aspiration pneumonia and serious breathing difficulties. Do not use chemicals to remove ticks or try burning the tick off. Even if a tick is removed it is still important that you take your pet to a vet. Pets can continue to worsen up to three days after a tick has been removed. The poison ticks inject remains active in the pet's system for 1-2 weeks after it has been removed.

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## Public Notices

Strahan residents and carers we want to hear from you.

Carers Tasmania is conducting statewide NDIS consultations to find the good, the bad and ideas for improvement for the NDIS. We will collect your feedback and then share it with the NDIS review team.

Come and join us on 16 Feb, Thursday at Franklin Manor from 9:30 to 11 am.

Register here or just come on the day - <https://www.carerstas.org/events/ndis-consultation-strahan/>

For more information contact Julie R at [peak@carerstasmania.org](mailto:peak@carerstasmania.org) or 03 6144 3700



### Community Discussion on NDIS with Carers Tasmania

#### Have your say...



Do you care for a family member or friend who either;

- Has an NDIS plan
- Or does not have an NDIS plan but would benefit from this sort of support?

If so, then here is your chance to share the good, the bad, and ideas on improvements for the NDIS. Come along to a community discussion about the NDIS, where we will collect your feedback and pass it on to the NDIS review team.

#### Strahan

Date - 16 Feb 2023

Time - 09:30 - 11:00 am

Venue - Franklin Manor

75 The Esplanade, Strahan

#### Queenstown

Date - 16 Feb 2023

Time - 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Venue - Queenstown Library

9-13 Driffield Street, Queenstown

RSVP - Julie Ryan | 03 6144 3700 or [peak@care2serve.com.au](mailto:peak@care2serve.com.au)

If you can't make it, but want to share your voice, please contact Julie Ryan on [peak@carerstasmania.org](mailto:peak@carerstasmania.org) or 03 6144 3700

**To Bubba, love Pumpkin.  
Happy Valentine's Day**



**Taneka Parker  
Happy 30th Birthday  
for Sunday  
Love Kerrie & family**



**Queenstown  
14th February  
10:00 - 11:00  
Story Time with  
Learoy**

**The Children Who  
Loved Books**

Join Queenstown Library for Library Lovers Day!  
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## Zeehan Neighborhood Center Summer Market

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2023**

#### TIME

10am – 2pm

**School Stadium  
7 Belstead Street Zeehan**

We encourage stall holders to please bring along their own tables \$ 10 Table and 2 \$15

To book a spot please 64716108

## Positions Vacant

### Avebury Nickel Mine

**ARE CURRENTLY HIRING**

We are seeking enthusiastic, committed individuals who want to be part of our incredible team at Avebury Nickel Mine.

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Heavy Diesel Apprentice  
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Avebury Nickel Mine offers a great team environment, where you can contribute as a valued team member. Avebury offers great conditions and benefits to its employees, while making a valuable contribution to the local west coast community.

**Want to submit an Expression of Interest for future opportunities?**

West Coast residents are encouraged to send Expressions of Interest applications to [careers@aveburymetals.com.au](mailto:careers@aveburymetals.com.au)





# WE GROW

I love February – not necessarily because of Valentine's Day but because February on the West Coast is the month of harvesting an abundance of sun ripened berries and smorgasbord of vegetables and herbs while glowing in the knowledge that the next few months will provide more from the garden.

There is so much to do in the garden in February! If it's not ensuring adequate watering, it's about managing pests that are also wanting their fair share of my crop! Weeding seems to be an endless task only made sweet by the eyewatering abundance of colour, growth and produce.

One of the most misconceived beliefs about the West Coast is that we are not able to successfully grow fruit and vegetables in our gardens. Comments include the mistaken belief that our season is too short, it rains all the time, it's too windy,

our soils is so poor, it's too cold, we are limited in what will grow and if it grows it won't produce!

Sure, it true that we have some challenges on the West Coast; but the list and variety of produce over this summer has included, five varieties of potatoes, snow peas and beans, silverbeet, chard and kale, radishes, capsicums and a variety of chillies, zucchini, tomatoes, garlic, spring onions, shallots, artichoke, cucumbers, egg plant cabbages, lettuce, mizuna and squash just to name a few! In addition, sweet corn will be ready for the last of the season run and the garden is ablaze with the colours of the last of the Asiatic lilliums, lavenders, daisies, pig-face, ajuga and nasturtiums! The dahlias and cosmos as well as the sunflowers are well underway and promising to have a pumper bloom!

For the sweet tooths, all I can say is Wow! We have strawberries,

**February - the month of romance and abundance!**

**by Potty about plants!**

blackberries, raspberries, and blue berries produce; let alone the black currants, range of herbs and edible flowers which are so prolific!

February is also a time to start collecting seeds for the next Spring and Summer season as well as starting our Autumn planting and sowing! Peter Cundall's February planting and sowing guide is a wonderful reference point for West Coast gardens-

**PLANT:** Seedlings of broccoli, Brussels sprouts, winter cabbage, kale, cauliflower, celery, leek, lettuce, silverbeet and spring onion.

**SOW:** Broccoli, carrot, cabbage, cauliflower, late Brussels sprouts, leek, turnip, late swede (risky), beetroot, Chinese brassicas, Asian roots, parsnip, and silverbeet.

Hint: When sowing any brassicas remember the dreaded white moth is already out and about and ready

to wreak havoc on your newly emerging seedlings so netting them immediately before they shoot is advisable to really ensure that they will survive without infestation!

Additionally, it's time to divide bulbs such as snowdrops, and plant those that need planting 'in the green' Prune evergreen hedges and remove overgrowth. Happy harvesting and gardening!



# WE PLAY QUEENSTOWN SWIMMING

The 2022-2023 season is progressing well, with lessons recommencing after the Christmas/New Year break and the Infant and Preschool Aquatics program starting.

The Infant and Preschool Aquatics program is for children aged six months to 4 years and aims to provide water familiarisation to the children, kick starting their swimming journey whilst also providing tips and techniques to parents and carers to ensure children can learn to be comfortable and safe in and around water.

With a time trial scheduled for the Australia Day Public Holiday, all QASC members were invited to participate in some fun activities that were held in addition to regular time trial events.

Younger members had fun in their Late for the BBQ relay race, with newer members having a go (and achieving) their 25m certificate. Older swimmers participated well in the 50m Free handicap.

Participation was also high in the 25m and 50m Back events. The time trial ended with a fun Late for the Picnic Relay where swimmers used their imagination to carry "picnic" items down the pool. Members then enjoyed a BBQ and a free swim on a beautiful Queenstown summer evening.

Achievements from the time trial held 12 January:

Cards for taking up to 5 seconds off swims: Conner Keogh (50 Back, 50 Free), Sydney Gray (25

Back, 100 IM), Lillyah Hindle (50 Back), Bryce Jolly (50 Free), Kurt Bennett (25 Back).

Banners for taking over 5 seconds off swims: Lillyah Hindle (50 Breast), Sydney Gray (100 Breast).

Club Records: Sydney Gray – 10&U 25 Back

Swimmer of the Week for 12 January: Harley Stubbs for taking the most combined time (16.81

seconds) off his previous personal best in 50 Fly, 100 IM and 100 Back.

Achievements from the time trial held 19 January:

Cards for taking up to 5 seconds off swims: Taelah Jolly (50 Free, 100 Back), Jack Williams (50 Free),

Bryce Jolly (25 Back), Oliver Williams (25 Free), Harper Lewis (50 Back, 50 Free), Kurt Bennett (25 Back)

Banners for taking over 5 seconds off swims: Taelah Jolly (100 IM), Nash Latham (50 Back)

Swimmer of the Week: Calin Jones for taking the most combined time (13.72 seconds) off his previous personal best in 25 Back and 50 Breast.

Achievements from the time trial held 26 January:

Cards for taking up to 5 seconds off swims: Rajanie Jones (50 Free), Sydney Gray (50 Free), Azaria

Jackson (25 Free), Kurt Bennett (25 Back)

Banners for taking over 5 seconds off swims: Bryce Jolly (50 Free)

Swimmer of the Week: Lillyah Hindle for taking the most combined time (13.34 seconds) off her previous personal best in 50 Back



**Australia Day time trial 26 Jan 2023, 25m certificate, Clay Morgan**



**Sydney Gray, 25 Back 10&U record 19 Jan 2023**



**Calin Jones, swimmer of the week 19 January**



**Australia Day time trial 26 Jan 2023 participation Bentley Chilcott, Eli Chilcott, Clay Morgan, Shaylah Bennett, Paislee Burden**



**Lillyah Hindle, swimmer of the week 26 Jan**

## **Western Echo FREE!**

As part of a trial to bring the paper to everyone, the Western Echo newspaper is now FREE.

Yes, FREE!

Pick one up for a friend or a neighbour



# WE PLAY WEST COAST MTB

West Coast Council and West Coast MTB Club proudly presented an MTB & BBQ Day on Sunday January 29 at the trailhead in Queenstown as part of the youth school holiday program.

A small attendance but everyone had a blast.

Here are a few shots from the day.

*Photos by Alan Jennison*



## My Big Mountain Adventure

The bike can take you to amazing places.

Big mountain, waterfalls, boulder fields and rugged terrain is what you will experience on this epic ride down Waterfall.

Journeying up the access road towards the summit of Mount Owen, I felt nervous but excited for my first ride on Waterfall.

The views from the top of Mount Owen were better than I imagined, breathtaking, I was in awe of the sheer vastness of back country.

A glacial pathway lay before me, starting my journey down rocks and boulders, placed together like a Roman cobblestone path, interconnected, fitting together like a jigsaw puzzle. Navigating this undulating trail had my teeth chattering.

Riding, weaving, dropping down.

So open and exposed, so many features, so much to look at.

The trails topography changes from glacial boulders to manicured gravel and berms descending towards the falls.

I approached a small stream in which the trail crosses.

The stream which feeds into the spectacular Horsetail falls.

Standing on top, looking towards Queenstown.

I continued descending through the valley, riding through vegetation, grav-

el and berms with the trail narrowing, crossing over creeks.

I reached the dreaded climbing section of the ride.

Switchback after switchback, continuing up, relentless, legs burning, cooked!

Reaching the top of Welcome to Queenstown.

Continuing onto the Welcome to Queenstown and then Ready Orr Not trails.

Wonderful, groomed flow trails with plenty of giant berms and rollers for some jumping opportunities, descending to Conglomerate Creek, my preferred style of riding.

A nice way to finish a big ride.

As I reflect on my experience riding Mount Owen, my riding capabilities only at the intermediate level, I found this ride quite challenging in some sections. Pushing and committing myself, walking away with a little more confidence whilst having fun along the way with some amazing riders.

Special mentions: West Coast MTB Club for providing a full weekend of coaching, thanks to a grant from Health Tas, Lync from Shredlys for the instruction and guidance, Aaron for providing me with a reliable bike from West Coast Ride and Anthony from RoamWild for the shuttle service.

*By Elizabeth Youd*



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We have moved to 14 Alexander Street, Burnie



# WE PLAY BURNIE DOCKERS WORKSHOP

The Burnie Dockers visited the West Coast recently and held a footy workshop in Zeehan that proved very popular, with lots of youngsters looking to improve their game and have lots of fun in the process

