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WE MEANS COMMUNITY

EDITION 54 MAY 14TH 2026

Hip Hop Jam was a huge hit



As raw as it was powerful, the Street Unity Jam in Burnie was more than just a concert, it was an experience!

Story and photos on P16 and p17

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Anne Urquhart 

Federal Member for Braddon



Authorised by Anne Urquhart MP, ALP, Shop 9 22 Willmot St, Burnie TAS.



WESTERN ECHO

Burnie, Wynyard, Sister's Beach, Stanley, Smithton, Marrawah, Waratah, Tullah, Rosebery, Zeehan, Strahan and Queenstown

WE MEANS COMMUNITY

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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. These views in this newspaper, political or otherwise, are not necessarily those held by the editor or anyone professionally associated with the Western Echo.

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

20,000 extra bulk-billed GP visits for West Coast

Healthcare access on the West Coast is set for a major overhaul, with the State Government announcing a massive expansion of bulk-billed GP services through a new partnership with Ochre Health.

Under the "TassieDoc" deal, four regional practices—Queenstown, Strahan, Rosebery, and Zeehan—will provide an additional 20,000 bulk-billed appointments annually.

The upgrade includes extended weekday hours, new weekend openings, and 24/7 telehealth coverage.

Health Minister Bridget Archer, who unveiled the plan in Queenstown, said the investment targets the unique geographic challenges facing the region.

"We know there are access challenges specific to the West Coast due to its dispersed population," Minister Archer said. "This will ensure Tasmanians on the West Coast have great access to affordable healthcare, so they can get the right care, at the right place, at the right time."

To bridge the gap for isolated residents, the deal also includes a new patient transport service to help locals

reach their appointments. Ochre Health secured the contract following a competitive expression of interest process evaluated by clinical experts.

The rollout fulfils a Liberal election pledge to bolster primary care, a sector typically managed by the Federal Government. However, the program remains a point of political friction.

While the "TassieDoc" name was originally a Labor policy for state-run clinics, the Liberal Government's version provides grants to existing private operators—a shift Labor has criticised.

The West Coast announcement is the second site to be confirmed since the 2025 election, following earlier grants in Deloraine and Westbury.

Residents in the Huon Valley, Legana, Bicheno, and Latrobe are still waiting for news on their promised clinics, with the government indicating further announcements are expected in the coming weeks.



Tower casts a wider net across Wynyard

If you've ever wondered what the tower on top of Coast FM in Wynyard is for, the answer is closer to home than you might think.

It belongs to Way South Internet and Phone, a locally owned internet provider based right here in Wynyard.

The company offers fixed wireless internet that bypasses the NBN entirely, delivering speeds roughly twice as fast as the typical NBN fibre-to-the-node connection available in Wynyard. And they're not stopping there, Way South is currently investing in expanding the network to make it even faster.

What sets Way South apart is how local the whole operation is. The network is built and looked after from Wynyard, support calls are answered by people who live in the area rather than an overseas call centre, and when something goes wrong it usually gets sorted in hours rather than days.

Way South started when Craig Jones and a few friends went looking for faster internet to run their racing sims. Today it's a small team of three, all based right here in Wynyard, looking for ways to give back to the community that's sup-

ported them along the way.

That's the thinking behind their new Community Partners program. The idea is simple: each year, Way South will choose at least one local not-for-profit and look after their internet (at no cost) so they can focus on what they do best.

Their first partner is CoastFM. Way South provides the station with internet and IT solutions to keep them on air 24/7.

"We can't thank the CoastFM board and the wider Coast FM community enough for their support over the years," Craig said. "Helping keep them online is the least we can do."

The program is still being set up, with more information to come on the Way South website soon. In the meantime, you can find out more about the company at www.waysouth.com.au.



Western Echo 'Wendy'

We had a bit more excitement than usual around here a while back; one of the cats escaped from the outdoor run and took off around Wynyard. Dad was beside himself but I knew she would come back and, sure enough she did. Found her way home again and at the back of the garden shed. Dad thought he had patched the escape hole and she did it again! She came back, walking across the top of the run as if nothing happened. Just another day for a cat. They are such silly creatures, especially when they are foolish enough to try and pinch my carrots.

Ayyway, I met another human the other day, his name is Sam the Grooming Man and he seems really nice. Dad said we are going back next week to see him again so that will be fun. His house has so many 'sniffs'. I will finally find out what this 'grooming' is all about and will tell you all about it next time.



Woof to you all... Wendy

Labor is delivering cost of living support for all Australians

- Delivered tax cuts for every taxpayer, including another cut from July 2026.
- Delivered a pay rise for all minimum and award wage workers.
- Expanded Paid Parental Leave (PPL) to 26 weeks from July 2026, and paid superannuation on all government PPL.
- Introduced a \$10,000 bonus for housing apprentices, on top of their wages.
- Introduced paid prac for midwifery, nursing, teaching, and social work students.
- Boosted Medicare with an additional \$1.8 billion in hospital funding.
- Expanded the 5% deposit scheme to include all first home buyers.

- Provided more choice, lower costs, and high-quality care for all Australian women.
- Delivered another pay rise for aged care nurses, following the first instalment in March 2025.
- Opened a further 50 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics, including in Burnie and Devonport.
- Made medicines cheaper, with all PBS medicines costing less than \$25.
- Cut student debt by 20%.
- Expanded bulk billing.



Authorised by Senator Josh Dolega, ALP, 1-3 Rooke St, Devonport 7310 TAS

Shaping council engagement

Circular Head Council is inviting the community to have their say on its new Draft Communications and Engagement Strategy, now open for public consultation.

The draft strategy sets out how Council plans to communicate, listen to and engage with the community on the decisions that shape the municipality into the future.

Mayor Gerard Blizzard said the strategy is about creating a clearer, more consistent and more transparent approach to how Council works with the community.

“Good communication is more than sharing information - it’s about making sure people feel informed, heard and involved where it matters,” Mayor Blizzard said.

“We know that in the past, Council’s communication and engagement has not always been consistent.

“This strategy is about improving that by creating a shared understanding of when Council is informing, when we are seeking feedback, and how community input helps shape decisions.”

The strategy outlines clear principles, goals and actions for the next two years, including improving Council’s website, increasing accessibility, strengthening feedback loops and creating more oppor-

tunities for meaningful community participation.

Council is seeking feedback on whether the proposed actions are the right ones, whether the engagement principles reflect community expectations, and what else could be done to improve communication and engagement across Circular Head.

Consultation will remain open for six weeks from Friday 1 May 2026.

Community members can provide feedback online or through hard copy surveys available at the Smithton Library and Council offices, or by attending drop-in sessions and community engagement opportunities throughout the consultation period.

“This is an opportunity for a reset, and we want to hear from as many people as possible,” Mayor Blizzard said.

“This strategy is not just about how Council talks to the community - it’s about how we listen, respond and work together to make better decisions for Circular Head.”

Following consultation, feedback will be reviewed and a final strategy will be presented back to Council for adoption.

To view the draft strategy and have your say, visit:

www.circularhead.tas.gov.au/yoursay



Calls to protect historic ‘Gravel’ Oval

For over a century, the Queenstown Oval has been a badge of honour for West Coast footballers. Since 1895, its unique gravel surface has forged some of the toughest players in the game, earning it a spot in the Tasmanian Football Hall of Fame. But today, the community is asking: has our iconic ground become too rough even for the locals?

Concerns over the safety and upkeep of the world-famous home of the Queenstown Crows have reached the halls of parliament. Independent MLC Ruth Forrest recently took up the whistle for the club, writing to the West Coast Council to highlight a "general decline" in the oval’s condition.

According to Ms Forrest, the state of the gravel during the pre-season was so poor it stopped the Crows from training properly. While our players are famously "tough enough" to handle the rocks, there are growing fears that poor drainage and a lack of regular maintenance are putting their safety at risk.

Crows coach Lachlan McKellar admitted that while the ground is "fine now" for match days, the team is often forced

to train indoors during the week.

"The ground had got to the point it wasn't maintained over the break and started to grow a fair bit of weeds," Mr McKellar said. He noted that between the drainage issues and the lighting, the team would simply "rather not train on it" when the weather turns.

Council General Manager Scott Riley assured the community that the council knows just how important the "iconic" oval is. He confirmed that a major re-dressing of the gravel surface is being considered for the next financial year.

However, the bigger issue remains funding. While the council has grand designs ready for a \$1.4 million upgrade of the Queenstown Oval (and \$1.8 million for Rosebery), the money simply isn't there yet. A previous bid for state government funding to fix the sub-structure drainage was unsuccessful, leaving the project in limbo.

As the Crows prepare for another season on the most famous gravel in football, the message from the community is clear: we love our history, but we need to protect our players’ future.



Biggest Morning Tea raising funds

For the past six years, Soroptimist International of Circular Head and Rural Health have partnered to host “The Biggest Morning Tea” events, raising about \$6,000 for Cancer Council Tasmania. These contributions have supported vital cancer research and provided essential services for Tasmanians affected by cancer.

Join us on Thursday, May 21st from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM for the Biggest Morning Tea at Emmerton Park Club House, Upper Grant Street Smithton.

Enjoy a raffle, games, a Lucky Dip, and plenty of delicious food.

All funds raised will be donated to Cancer Council Tasmania.

Entry is by gold coin donation.

Projects of compassion for dedicated students

A small school with a big collective spirit has demonstrated that positive change can be made just one small step at a time.

Laden with buckets of water, a dedicated group of St Joseph's Catholic School Rosebery students participated in a one kilometre Water Walk Around Rosebery on March 24 – to better understand what life is like for those experiencing water scarcity.

Catholic schools across Tasmania have been raising funds for Caritas Australia's annual Project Compassion, with the 2026 appeal supporting people in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who have to walk long distances to collect clean water every day. The appeal is held during the Lenten period, which has now come to an end.

There were 35 Grade 1-6 students from St Joseph's that completed the Water Walk around Rosebery and the school also held a mini water walk for their 12 Kinder and Prep students. St Joseph's raised a total of \$346.85 through the water walks and donation boxes at school.

"The opportunity to participate in Project Compassion each year reinforces the Catholic social teachings of human dignity, solidarity and the common good," St Joseph's Principal Tracey Kidd said.

"We may be a small school on the West Coast of Tasmania, but that won't stop us from doing all we can to improve the world, one step at a time."

The Grade 6 students have since reflected on the water walks and shared what they have learnt. Faith Wialu said the walk helped her to understand the long, tiring trek some people make daily to collect drinking water and Ruby Hay said she had a greater sense of what living in poverty would be like.

Bradlee Cox said he wanted to feel what it was like to walk all that way and for the water to be contaminated.

But for Sierra Ekinye, Project Compassion had a personal meaning too.

"Doing the water walk and raising money for Project Compassion is important to me because when I was a baby my parents did just that. We lived in Papua New Guinea in my dad's province, and they had to walk a long way to get water. So, I want to help people that are going through that now."



Emotional literacy and the Catholic social teachings of human dignity, solidarity and the common good, were reinforced through participating in the walks.

"It is about intentionally supporting our students to develop empathy, compassion, generosity, and global awareness," Mrs Kidd said.

"As a Josephite school, we are called to 'Never see a need without doing some-

thing about it,' so this is a perfect opportunity to try to understand a need and take action."



COMMUNITY NOTICE

Upcoming Helicopter Survey

Bluestone Mines Tasmania JV will be conducting a helicopter survey across the greater Renison Mine area in late May and early June as part of an ongoing exploration program.

A low-level helicopter with a sensor hoop will be used to collect data on subsurface geology without ground disturbance. The sensor hoop will pass approximately 35-40m above the treetops. Standard helicopter noise will be heard as the aircraft passes.

The helicopter will use the Renison Mine site helipad and will not involve any ground access to private land. This survey is separate from the Tasmania-wide Government helicopter survey taking place during April.

The survey will be conducted by highly experienced pilots and technicians following strict Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) regulations.

Figure 1. Helicopter with sensor hoop to be used in Renison survey.



Figure 2. The area to be flown over for the survey.



Survey Details

Timing: Scheduled to begin on or around the end of May.

Duration: Approximately 7-9 days, subject to weather conditions.

Operating Hours: Daylight hours only (approx. 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM).

Aircraft: A low-flying helicopter towing a large circular sensor hoop below the aircraft.

For more information, please visit our website at bluestonetin.com.au or contact Esther Little on 6473 2518 or esther.little@bluestonetin.com.au.

BLUESTONE
MINES TASMANIA
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New skyrun earns instant global reputation



Photo by Ryan Slater

QUEENSTOWN — The rugged peaks of Tasmania's West Coast have been pushed into the international spotlight

following the debut of the DIVERGE Skyrun 50km, conquering a "wild" course that saw participants scale both Mt Owen and Mt Lyell.



Photo by Nick Hanson

following the debut of the DIVERGE Skyruns, an event that pushed elite athletes to their limits and delivered a massive windfall for the local community.

Tasmanian runner Angus Tolson claimed victory in the inaugural Mt Ly-

ell Skyrun 50km, conquering a "wild" course that saw participants scale both Mt Owen and Mt Lyell. Despite describing the terrain as "tough at times," Tolson was floored by the scenery, calling the skyline views "just unreal."

The event drew more than 650 participants and an estimated 1,200 visitors to



Photo by RobertGroom

Queenstown over the three-day festival. Preliminary figures suggest a \$750,000 boost to the local economy, a significant win for the region.

The women's 50km title went to Canadian trail runner Emma Cook-Clarke, who described the technical course as the hardest race of her career.

"The views were amazing," Cook-Clarke said, noting that while the terrain

felt as rough and wild as her home in Canada, the unique Tasmanian vegetation and rock made for a completely different challenge. "I learnt a lot going through there."

Cook-Clarke headlined a deep international field that included a professional team from South Korea. However, it was the grit of the locals that provided the weekend's most harrowing story.

Former resident Alice McGushin finished as the third female despite sustaining a debilitating injury just 10km into the race. "Turns out I ran about 40km on a broken toe," McGushin revealed. "It's not for the faint of heart, they said."

In the 25km Mt Owen Skyrun, Canberra's Patricia McKibbin took top honours, declaring the West Coast challenge her "new favourite" over Hobart's Kunanyi Mountain Run.

Supported by the Tasmanian Government and adventure brand Arc'teryx, the festival was designed to showcase the region's raw landscape and mining history

Organisers confirmed the event was an "overwhelming" success and will return in 2027.

While official dates are expected later this month, eager fans aren't waiting; local accommodation providers report that bookings for the next event are already flowing in.



Photo by Nick Hanson



Photo by RobertGroom

West Coast Tassie doesn't whisper... it grabs you by the throttle and dares you to keep up!

West Coast Tassie doesn't just give you roads... it hands you stories.

After a slow start... sleep in, packing, and fixing a flat tyre... Thumper and I finally roll west. Late to the party, but who cares? The Lyell Highway is calling, and I already know this is going to be a good one.

Out of Hobart, through New Norfolk for fuel, then straight into those early sweepers that tease you before things get properly wild. The farmland out here stretches wide and lazy, rolling green paddocks under a sky that can't decide



what it wants to be. Clouds putting on a full show while I carve underneath them.

Through Hamilton and Ouse, the kind of towns you blink and miss... but they've got history baked into every old building and paddock. This whole stretch used to be a key route for early settlers pushing inland.

Just as it's about to get seriously twisty near Wayatinah, I detour... quick "hello" to old motorcycle mates at Wayatinah Lakeside Caravan Park; Mark and Coral.

Dangerous move. One glass of red turns into a bottle... then dinner... then "you're staying, right?" Done. Sold. Didn't even argue.

And honestly... this place? Bloody magic. Sitting right on Lake Wayatinah, glassy water, mountain backdrop, absolute stillness. They've built it into something special too. Big public kitchen with a roaring wood heater, pizza oven, fire pits, covered hangout spots, a bar, hot new showers... proper moto-camper heaven. You could roll in wet, cold, wrecked... and leave feeling like a human again. Definitely recommend and those owners are super awesome humans. Thanks guys.

Morning comes in soft and moody. Low clouds hanging over the lake like it's not ready to wake up yet. I am though. Back on Thumper. Time to dance...

Through Tarraleah, and now we're talking. Tight, technical, rainforest lined twisties. Roads climbing, dropping, snapping left and right like they've got attitude. This whole region is part of Tasmania's hydro powerhouse. Massive

engineering effort from early 1900's through to the Hydro boom years... rivers dammed, redirected, controlled. Wild water. turned into electricity that powers the entire state. You ride through it and don't even realise you're weaving between one of Australia's biggest renewable energy networks.

Then it opens up... big sweepers, sun warming my back, mountains stretching out like they've got no end. Thumper eats this up. Absolute weapon on these roads.

Quick stop at Derwent Bridge... and

yep, freezing again. Fuel turns into hot chocolate and a sausage roll because survival comes first.

Then... the run into Queenstown... This stretch? I send it. I know it well from working out here, and it still hits just as hard. The road snakes through dense bush, then suddenly... boom... Lake Burbury opens up like a curtain being ripped back. Huge water, massive mountains. It's one of those moments that punches you in the chest a little. Even at speed, which these roads demand!

Then the landscape flips. Trees disappear. Bare, raw, scarred earth. That wild, almost Martian look Queenstown is famous for. Mining history carved straight into the land. Brutal. Beautiful.

Quick stops at Iron Blow Lookout with its electric blue water against burnt orange rock... and Horsetail Falls flowing strong. Nature showing off again.

Then... the main event. 99 Bends.

This is where Thumper grins. Corner after corner tightening, stacking,

pulling you deeper into rhythm. And that moment hits... where bike and body stop being separate things. It's just flow. Lean, throttle, breathe... repeat. Feels less like riding, more like dancing with something wild and slightly unhinged. Hit the bottom. Laugh inside my helmet. Turn around. Do it again. Faster. Better.

Roll into Queenstown, park up under the shadow of Mount Owen, and before I've even got my helmet off... locals. Straight into chats about bikes, roads, life. No ego. No weirdness. Just genuine.

Grab a feed at Queenies Cribb (recommended by a local) and demolish a black bread burger that didn't stand a chance. Staff are legends. Good vibes all round.

More chats. A new chick rider building confidence on these roads. An older bloke with stories that make modern riding sound soft as hell. And honestly... he's not wrong. What are we becoming?

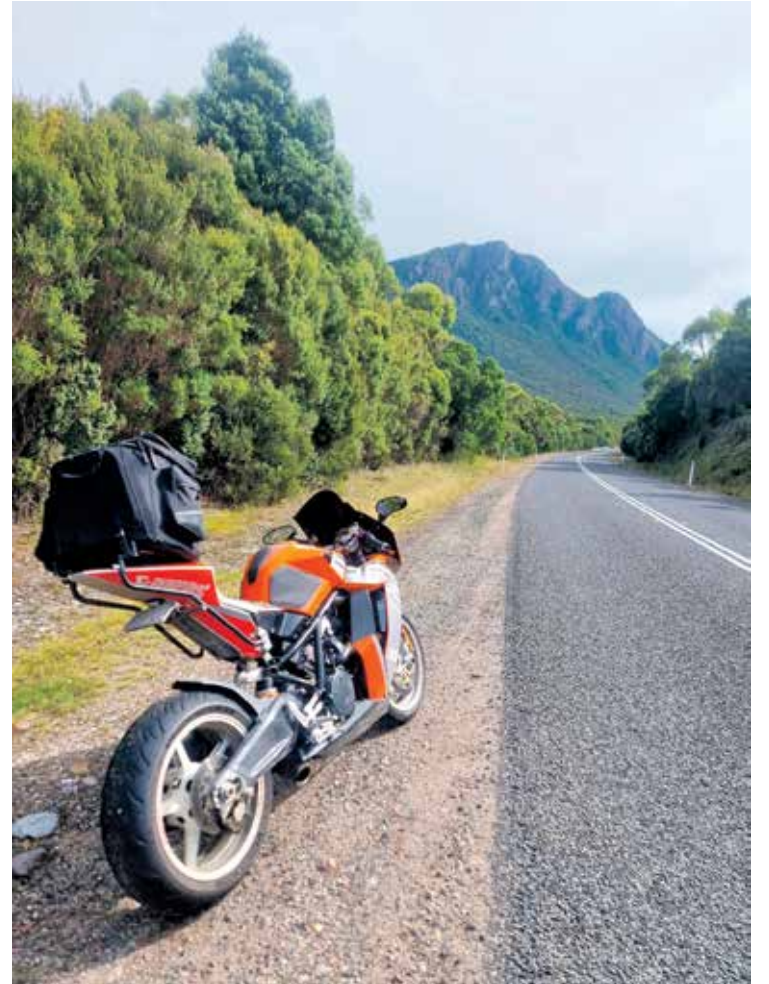
Somewhere along the way, we've traded grit for comfort. Adventure for convenience. Bit sad, really.

But not here. The West Coast crew... you're something else. Proper people. Open, raw, welcoming without trying. No fake smiles. No fluff. Rough around

the edges, yet genuine. Just good humans being good humans.

I've said it before and I'll say it again... you lot are a different breed. And I mean that in the best possible way. Don't lose it. The world's already losing enough of that kind of spirit.

And me? I came out for a ride... and got roads, stories, a bottle of shared



wine, and a reminder of why I do this in the first place.

Lights-Camera-Adventure

Irene Adventurette

Continued in the June edition



Whitmore's Wild Locals Night



It's the time of year that we start to wrap things up at Whitmore's Wild.

The days get shorter, the weather gets nice and crisp, and the animals start to turn in for winter. And so, as it's our last week for the season running the Night Walk Adventure, we thought we'd put on a special free tour for all the local humans.

The Night Walk Adventure runs along a trail leased from Parks & Wildlife through the Ocean Beach Conservation Area- a well-known but often overlooked haven for wildlife covering over fifteen thousand acres between Strahan and Trial Harbour.

It really is a truly wild habitat full of forest, beach, dunes, marshlands, lakes and rivers, and is absolutely teeming with wildlife.

We've been very lucky to have been running two-hour tours through this trail for the last couple of years, showing people from all over the world the wonders of West Coast flora and fauna.

This night in particular though was for West Coast locals, many of whom have walked this trail before.

Taking people that have lived here for decades out on the trail and trying to show them something new can be quite daunting.

Kaylee's never been one to shy from a challenge though, and one of the first things we try to show people on the Night Walk is what's been there all along and might not have been noticed. Burrows, diggings, tracks and, of course, poo. There's so much of it on the trail it

could have its own tour.

It's a chance to look at things with fresh eyes, whilst learning about the animals leaving those traces and discovering how to identify all the species that thrive there.

The second trick is that the return walk is in the dark- which many people, including locals, simply don't tend to have done before!

There were ten of us on the tour, ranging from children to grandparents, and we were thrilled that everyone came along, got involved and made it feel little bit different to usual.

We saw a flock of oyster catchers, burrows, fresh devil and quoll poo, a very large micro bat, some creepy crawlies and identified some animal calls that everyone had heard but never quite made sense of before.

We learnt about Charlie's adventures at Trial Harbour, how a Queenslander used to see a different kind of pademelon in their back garden, and we met locals that we hadn't met before.

It was a really fun night for us to try and give something back to the people who have supported us for the last two years- the West Coast locals. Not only have we been encouraged, but our tour has been recommended, meaning we can keep doing what we do for what will hopefully be a very long time.

We're looking forward to being back at Strahan Solstice, but until then see you all around and thanks again to such an amazing community.

Josh Selby

Salmon campaign launch

Salmon Tasmania is launching a new campaign to celebrate the people who help make its community in Tasmania truly exceptional, supporting growers who produce a high-quality product and contribute to local economies.

Salmon Tasmania chief executive officer John Whittington said the Tasmanians Depend on Salmon campaign featured a number of Tasmanians telling their own story about their connection to Tasmania's salmon community.

"These are real, everyday Tasmanians who value the role they play in supporting Tasmania's salmon community.

"They know their community. They know the importance of it, the value it brings, the opportunities it presents.

"These people are part of the salmon community - every single day. They are right there, shoulder to shoulder with our farmers. They understand the benefits growing excellent food products deliver, and they are proud of the role they play in that."

Dr Whittington said in the five years to 2025, salmon growers spent more than \$3.5 billion with Tasmanian businesses and suppliers.

"Our sector makes a huge difference to local businesses and the broader economy. Our investment drives jobs and opportunities, particularly in regional Tasmania."

Dr Whittington said Salmon Tasmania commissioned the campaign to give people a voice and tell their story.

"People who are often not a part of our community put a lot of time, energy and money into trying to define it. We felt it was time to give the people who are actually a part of our community the opportunity to define it themselves.

"We just wanted to give Tasmanians with real-world views the chance to put it out there. People who understand what it means to be a part of our community and what

salmon means to the State.

Southern Ocean Subsea Co-Managing Director Kelsey Treloar (pictured below), features in the campaign; his firm's world-leading underwater technology developing hand-in-hand with salmon growers.

"Our partnership over the last decade with aquaculture has allowed us to pioneer and develop technology right here in Tasmania and take it to the world.

"We are an example of what this sector does for Tasmania - how it drives innovation and economic activity. We are proud to be a part of the salmon community," he said.

Dr Whittington said Mr Treloar was just one of the many Tasmanians who roll up their sleeves every day to provide services not just to us, but to the people and families who live and work where they do because we're producing Tasmanian seafood.

"We have a number of people who have unique stories, and we will be sharing all of them. We are exceptionally proud of their contribution and thank them for their efforts to support us."

The campaign will feature on Tasmanian television, newspapers and social media over the coming weeks and months.



"I asked for help."

Carer Gateway's Tasmanian team provided free support and helped us access services.

Grace - Carer

Grace is a carer for her mum Rita, who has dementia. With Carer Gateway's support, Grace was able to access free coaching and counselling and connect with other carers through her local Peer Support Group.

Care2Serve is the local Tassie team connecting Tasmanian carers to Carer Gateway.

If you are a carer and would like help too, contact us.

Support is free, inclusive and confidential.

Call 1800 422 737 (press 1) or visit carergateway.gov.au





Photo: Lea Walpole

DIVERGE showcases West Coast spirit & scenery

Athletes and supporters gathered to experience in Queenstown from 1–3 May for the inaugural DIVERGE skyruns event, a three-day festival of trail and mountain running that showcased the rugged West Coast landscapes.

With events ranging from 5km to an epic 50km skyrun, DIVERGE offered participants a rare opportunity to experience the region’s dramatic ridgelines and historic trails. Runners (and walkers) tackled iconic locations including Mt Lyell and Mt Owen, while others raced the train back from Lynchford or made their way out to the Queenstown airport.

The West Coast Visitor Information Centre hosted a pop-up store on Friday afternoon, selling West Coast Tas brand merchandise and providing information to visitors

eager to discover more experiences and activities across the region.

The weekend was full of highlights and with over 670 participants, plus many volunteers, DIVERGE has opened doors to new opportunities for adventure, connection, and growth for the West Coast.

Council congratulates the many locals who were involved – businesses for extending opening hours, community groups & individuals for volunteering, the local trail builders, and those who participated in events. A special shout out to Sam Shea from

Queenstown for his Top 10 finish in the 50km Mt Lyell Skyrun.

Beyond the competition, DIVERGE highlighted the West Coast’s capacity to host adventure tourism events that foster connection, community pride and economic activity.

Council is proud to support an event that celebrates both challenge and community, and that showcases the beauty and resilience of this place.

We’re excited to see what DIVERGE 2027 brings!



BEYOND THE COMFORT ZONE

From the Strahan waterfront to events like the DIVERGE Skyruns, our Visitor Centre team gets out and about across the West Coast, helping visitors experience the region at its wild and wonderful best.

You’ll find us at our temporary location at 29 Esplanade, Strahan, ready with local advice, bookings, West Coast merchandise and gifts, plus plenty of insider tips.



ADVICE & BOOKINGS
WEST COAST MERCHANDISE
LOCAL GIFTS

Phone: 03 6472 6800
tourism@westcoast.gov.au
westcoasttas.com
#westcoasttas

Community Conversations

Recent Community Conversations have been held in Tullah and Rosebery, with good participation from residents.

These informal sessions are an opportunity for community members to meet with West Coast Councillors and staff, sharing ideas, raising concerns, asking questions, and talking about what matters most to their community.

Previous Community Conversations have seen matters such as proposed walking trails, RV services, facility master planning and housing options discussed.

There’s no formal agenda – just relaxed, face-to-face conversations designed to help Council better understand local priorities.



The next Community Conversation will be held at the Council Chambers in Queenstown on Tuesday 9 June.

Dog Registrations

Dog registration renewal notices will be arriving in mailboxes during May. Tasmanian legislation (the Dog Control Act 2000) states that dogs aged over six months must be registered by 1 July each year.

Dog owners can pay an annual registration fee, however Council also offers registration for 3 years or whole of life - a great option to save money and remove the risk of forgetting to register. Additionally, Council offers a discount for concession card holders.

Remember to bring proof of sterilisation and microchipping when registering your dog for the first time!

If your dog was registered previously with West Coast Council and you haven’t received a renewal notice by 28 May, please contact us. Dog registration renewals, and new dog registrations, can be completed at the Council Office and Council Agencies.

Dogs registered before 1 July will go in the draw to win one of three dog packs! Existing lifetime and three-year dog registration will automatically be entered. Packs will include items such as toys, treats, bowls, poo bags, leads, or bedding. We know things aren’t one-size-fits-all with dogs, winners will be notified and we’ll tailor the packs to suit your dog’s size/breed.



Rosebery Childcare Services

Childcare services in Rosebery have reached a significant new milestone, with preparations now well advanced and the service aiming to open before the end of the current financial year.

In August 2025, childcare services in Rosebery came a step closer, following Council's decision to partner with Coastal Family Day Care (CFDC) and activate a Council-owned property for use as a family day care service. That decision included finalising lease arrangements, undertaking necessary property modifications, and providing ongoing support to enable the service to be established for the community.

Since that announcement, further progress has been made. The lease between Council and CFDC has now been finalised, and the Rosebery family day care service has been set up, with a small number of compliance matters being addressed by CFDC as part of the standard regulatory process for opening a family day care service.

West Coast Council General Manager Scott Riley said the latest progress reflects Council's sustained commitment to supporting families and workforce participation across the region.

"Securing the lease and having the property fully set up are major milestones for this project," Mr Riley said. "Council recognises that access to childcare is critical for families and for the broader West Coast workforce, and we're pleased to see this service now moving into its final stages ahead of opening."

An educator is ready to commence, with plans for two educators to share the role, working on a rotating basis. Once operational, the service is expected to engage one educator on site at a time, supporting continuity while allowing flexibility in staffing.

The Rosebery service will operate under a family day care model, which allows for smaller group sizes in a home-style environment. The service will cater for up to seven children per day, with a maximum of four preschool-aged children and three school-aged children attending at any one time.

Service hours are still being finalised, however subject to staffing arrangements, there is an aspiration to operate up to seven days a week, responding to the needs of families and local workers. Coastal Family Day Care Manager Nicole Walters said the model has been designed to respond to local needs while meeting all regulatory requirements.

"Family day care allows us to offer high-quality, flexible care in a setting that feels welcoming and familiar for children," Ms Walters said. "We've been working closely with Council to ensure the Rosebery service meets compliance standards and reflects what families on the West Coast have told us they need."

Ms Walters confirmed there is already strong interest from families, with a waitlist in place ahead of opening.

"We already have families registered on our waitlist who are keen to access care in Rosebery," she said. "As we get closer to opening, we'll be in touch

with those families, and anyone else who would like to be added to the list can contact our Somerset office."

CFDC is also encouraging qualified early childhood educators from across the West Coast to get in touch.

"We see this as a model that has real potential for regional communities," Ms Walters said. "If it's successful in Rosebery, it could be replicated elsewhere, and we'd welcome conversations with educators who are interested in working locally."

Mr Riley said the Rosebery childcare service aligns strongly with Council's long-term community planning priorities identified in the West Coast 2035 Community Plan and Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

"Supporting access to childcare is about more than just a single service – it's about enabling families to live, work and stay on the West Coast," he said. "This project is a great example of what can be achieved through strong partnerships, and Council looks forward to seeing the service open and supporting the Rosebery community."

For more information contact Coastal Family Day Care by calling 6435 3322 or email admin@coastalfdc.org



REMINDERS

15 MAY
Recycling collection Zeehan, Rosebery & Tullah

19-20 MAY
Free biannual kerbside collection

5 JUNE
Recycling collection Queenstown, Gormanston/Linda & Strahan

9 JUNE
Community Conversation Queenstown

18-21 JUNE
Light Up The West

30 JUNE
Dog registration and food business renewals due

COUNCIL MEETINGS



2026

Tue 26 May
Tue 23 June
Tue 28 July

Agendas, minutes, and any associated documents are available on the Council's website or from the Council Office.

Your Councillors



Shane Pitt, Mayor • 0419 899 667
spitt@westcoast.tas.gov.au



Robert Butterfield, Deputy Mayor
Phone 0428 822 062
rbutterfield@westcoast.tas.gov.au



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LHamer@westcoast.tas.gov.au



Lindsay Newman • 0418 368 708
lnewman@westcoast.tas.gov.au

Reminder To Pay Outstanding Rates

With the end of financial year approaching, Council has sent reminder letters to those ratepayers with rates amounts owing. If you receive one, please take a moment to check your account and ensure your payments are up to date.

If you pay by periodic instalments, we encourage you to review your payment amount to make sure it's covering what you need it to. Sometimes small changes in instalments can lead to an overdue balance without people realising.

Please note that interest is charged on overdue rates, so paying on time helps avoid additional costs.

If you're experiencing difficulty or need to discuss your situation, please contact Council early so we can talk through options that may help you stay on track.



Keeping Your Contact Details Up To Date

Making sure your contact details are up to date with Council plays an important role in staying informed. Council uses your contact details to help you stay in touch about things that matter to you – like rates notices, dog registrations, permits, accounts or services. If your details are out of date, you might miss important information without even realising it.

Keeping your details current helps make sure information reaches you when you need it. How to update your contact details:

www.westcoast.tas.gov.au
Forms & Applications in the header and select *Update Contact Details* form.

Call Council or visit the Council Office in Queenstown.

FOGO

Food Organics & Garden Organics



For more information on the do's and don'ts when using your FOGO bin visit www.nwrrr.com.au



The results for the FOGO bin audits are in:

Burnie



710 tonnes of FOGO was processed between Spring and the New Year.



6.5 tonnes of this was contamination (or 0.91% by weight).

Circular Head



115 tonnes of FOGO was processed between Spring and the New Year.



Less than 1 tonne of this was contamination (or 0.48% by weight).

Waratah Wynyard



467 tonnes of FOGO was processed between Spring and the New Year.



2.4 tonnes of this was contamination (or 0.51% by weight).



The contamination rate of the FOGO bins in the Waratah Wynyard municipality has halved since the 2024 audit. Well done!



Thankyou for all your hard work, the planet thanks you.



Wyndarra news update

National Volunteer Week is 18 – 24 May

Wyndarra will be holding a morning tea from 10:30am to 12:00pm on Tuesday 19 May. The event is open to all Volunteers, as well as to those who have been supported by a volunteer and would like to join us in recognising and celebrating the incredible contribution Volunteers make.

Wyndarra Support Services participants and staff have enjoyed another busy and productive month.

Anzac Day was remembered with baking of Anzac biscuits and they have also enjoyed several outings, one to the movies in Burnie and another being a tour of the local Police Station.



Their garden has been a great success, so much so that they've even had to sell off the excess produce.

Thank you to the gardening group for the following article.

“Firstly, we had to fertilise the existing soil, then planted our plants, each day we would water.

The group was excited to watch the plants grow bigger each day and then it came time to harvest our garden.

We used our harvest to make a group lunch and with excess produce we sold within Wyndarra and this allows us to have some budget for more plants

The garden will continue as a group activity, while also encouraging all participants of Wyndarra to be a part of maintaining, harvesting and using the produce. Thank you to Mitre 10 who kindly donated the veggies.”



A trio of trains

With Abt 5 now mobile and being moved in and out of the workshop regularly for testing, a shuffle of positions at Queenstown's Carswell Park was needed for ease and convenience. So this morning whilst the sun was shining the crew brought our three active steam locomotives out to play! This is the first time for some years that we have had so many operational steam engines together, and probably the first time that

these particular three engines (L-R Abt 2, Abt 3 & Abt 5) have been lined up in over 60 years! These opportunities are rare and the workshop team had a wonderful time this morning 'playing trains' with their cameras at the ready. In the not too distant future we look forward to having all three in service, lining up for train running, fighting for pole position at the front of the loco shed! **Rail Operations Supervisor, Mark**

Farm it Forward Tasmania

bookings essential



mondays - 1pm to 3pm
fridays - 1pm to 3pm
saturdays - 1pm to 4pm
last saturday of the month - 10am to 4pm
4th sunday of the month for the neurodivergent community - 10am to 12pm

contact:
0487 011 619
farmitforwardtasmania@gmail.com

farm it forward tasmania's
journal making and papercrafts

cost: gold coin - all materials provided



wynyard community centre
little goldie st

Here are some photos of the magic being created over many different sessions in our craft/journal making/papercrafts room at the Wynyard community centre.

Check out the poster in the first pic for the days/times that we are there - bookings essential due to limited space and the popularity of the sessions.

Thankyou so much to Quintin for facilitating the Friday session and Rachel for facilitating the once-a-month neuro-

divergent session and for also helping with the Saturday afternoon sessions.

These sessions are possible at a gold coin donation thanks to the wonderful generosity of the community who donate craft items for our use.

Also, a HUGE thankyou to the Waratah Wynyard council for allowing our sole use of the room - we certainly appreciate it

Circular Head CWA news

It's been a busy time for our local CWA branch.

We had Sgt. Walters from Smithton Police station speak to our meeting on Family Violence and how this may result in homelessness for older women as this is one of our focus issues for this year.

Sgt. Walters gave us some very interesting insight into some of the causes that can lead to family violence and the procedures that deal with any incidents.

We are fortunate in Tasmania as our laws are more appropriate to our communities than those on the mainland.

Tasmania Police have the ability to assess any situation on site and act accordingly. A very nice afternoon tea was enjoyed by our members.

We will be following this up with Margaret Odgers from Wyndarra speaking at our next meeting about how we can best support this group of women in our community.

Last year we were asked to embroider

a square that represented Circular Head.

Our president Tricia Florent embroidered a square and sent it to Hobart to be part of a quilt celebrating CWA's 90th birthday in Tasmania.

We are excited to have the quilt at our next meeting for members to see the finished product.

We continue to provide knitted teddies for the hospital and ambulance station and CWA has been asked to be part of ChArts program later this year. This will be discussed at our meeting.

We will also follow up on another of our focus issues in June with a guest speaker and donations for 'baby bundles' for new mothers who may need assistance.

The AGM will be held in May, and our books are being audited locally.

This will be followed by our monthly meeting on 18th May at 1pm. at the Clubhouse at Emmerton Park. New members would be most welcome.





Image: Members of Rosebery Mine's Emergency Response Team

Upskilling MMG's Emergency Response Team

Members of our Emergency Response Team (ERT) are participating in Certificate III in Emergency Response training as part of their commitment to managing site emergencies effectively.

The team recently completed defensive fire attack training, utilising BA Pro air units while simulating underground fire conditions and practising defensive fire manoeuvres.

MMG recognises the dedication our ERT members bring to this voluntary role, as well as the leadership Simon Snowball provides in ensuring the team is thoroughly prepared for all types of emergency scenarios.

Community engagement

Thanks to everyone who came in to see us at our recent pop up shop in the main street of Rosebery.

We discussed our new 3 level portal project which involves exploration drilling in a historical area of the mine as part of our life extension program.

ANZAC day service

MMG was proud to support the Rosebery ANZAC Day Committee in hosting the community commemorative service on 25 April, honouring those who have served and continue to serve our country.

We are grateful for the opportunity to play a part in such a meaningful occasion for the Rosebery community.



Image: MMG's Jill Richardson at ANZAC Day service

Rosebery Information session

A new long-term tailings storage solution is the key to Rosebery Mine's future. As we plan for the next chapter, we want to keep the community informed on potential locations to store our tailings.

We invite you to attend our upcoming information session, where you'll have the opportunity to explore potential TSF locations, view interactive maps, and speak directly with our team.

17 Sunday 17 May 2026
🕒 10:00am – 4:00pm
📍 Memorial Hall, Agnes St, Rosebery

Buses will run from Rosebery to Exe and Bobadil Heights from 10:30am (return trip will take approximately 90 minutes).

Register your interest through one of the following and we will confirm your booking via email or text.

Phone: (03) 6473 9372, email: chris.winskill@mmg.com or scan the QR code.



Burnie information session

We are also holding an information session on potential TSF locations in Burnie.

17 Thursday 21 May 2026
🕒 5.00pm – 7:00pm
📍 TMEC, 13 Wellington St, Burnie

RSVP essential via the same channels as the Rosebery Information Session.

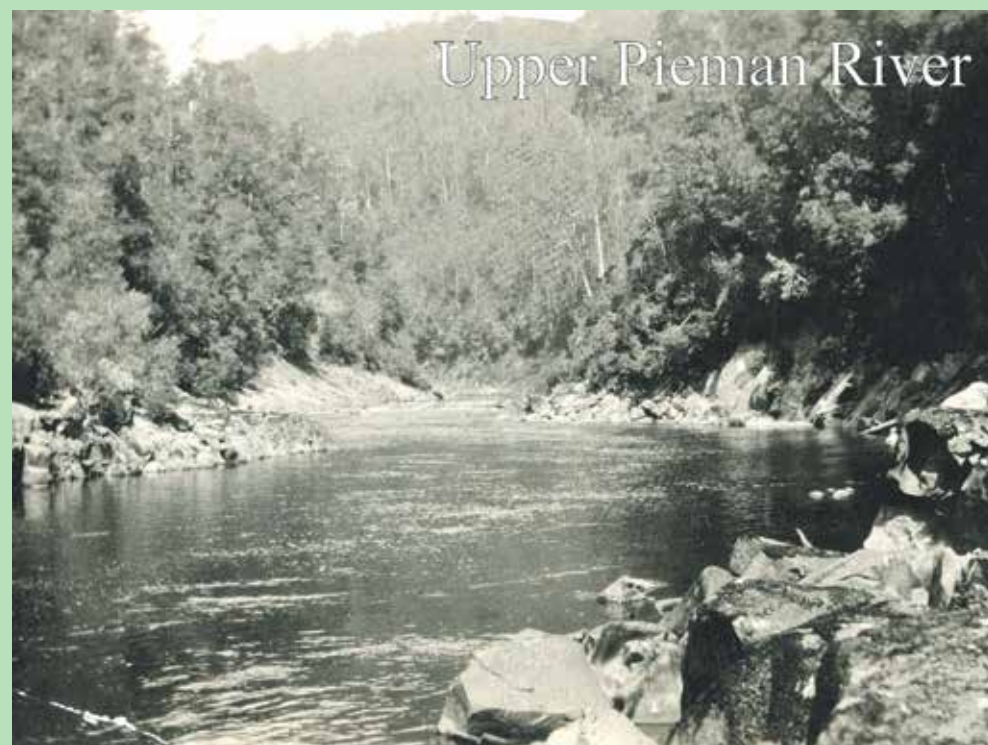
Under The Horizontal *with Tewkesbury Wharf*

Richard Timbs was a remarkably resourceful man and something of an enigma in the annals of West Coast history. Yet he rates no mention in the eminent tomes on West Coast history despite being at the centre of one of the most egregious mining swindles of the era.

A resident of New Norfolk, father of eight and an oarsman of some repute, he had become embroiled in a claim dispute in early 1877 while working indirectly for members of the powerful Crowther family prospecting in the north east tin fields. Timbs perhaps thought better of it as the case dragged on, eventually into Parliament, and decided to leave Hobart with two others for the Pieman River and the new tin fields at Mount Heemskirk. They set out in the yacht, *Corsair*, formerly of the Derwent Yacht Club, on the 6th September 1877 for the West Coast. Timbs' distraught wife, Emily, wrote to Dr Crowther in mid-January having heard no report from her husband since they put in at Port Davey, two months previously.

It would take nearly four months, and near disaster when the boat

overturned after leaving Port Davey, before Timbs and crew reached the Pieman River. When they crossed the bar, it was much to the joy of TB Moore and Owen Meredith. The two prospectors had been without supplies, living of the land for over a month waiting for the *Pauline* to



Upper Pieman River

arrive. According to Moore, Timbs behaved admirably supplying the two with tucker, tobacco and matches. He noted Timbs' pluck and skill

in making the West Coast in a craft singularly unfit to make the journey.

After a stint prospecting the Donaldson River, Timbs and crew moved further up the Pieman and began prospecting east of the river toward the Meredith Range. Early in March, reports began to appear that Timbs

had taken up a prospector's claim on 450 yards of auriferous quartz reef. John McCaviston, in a report, assured the writer that Timbs' quartz

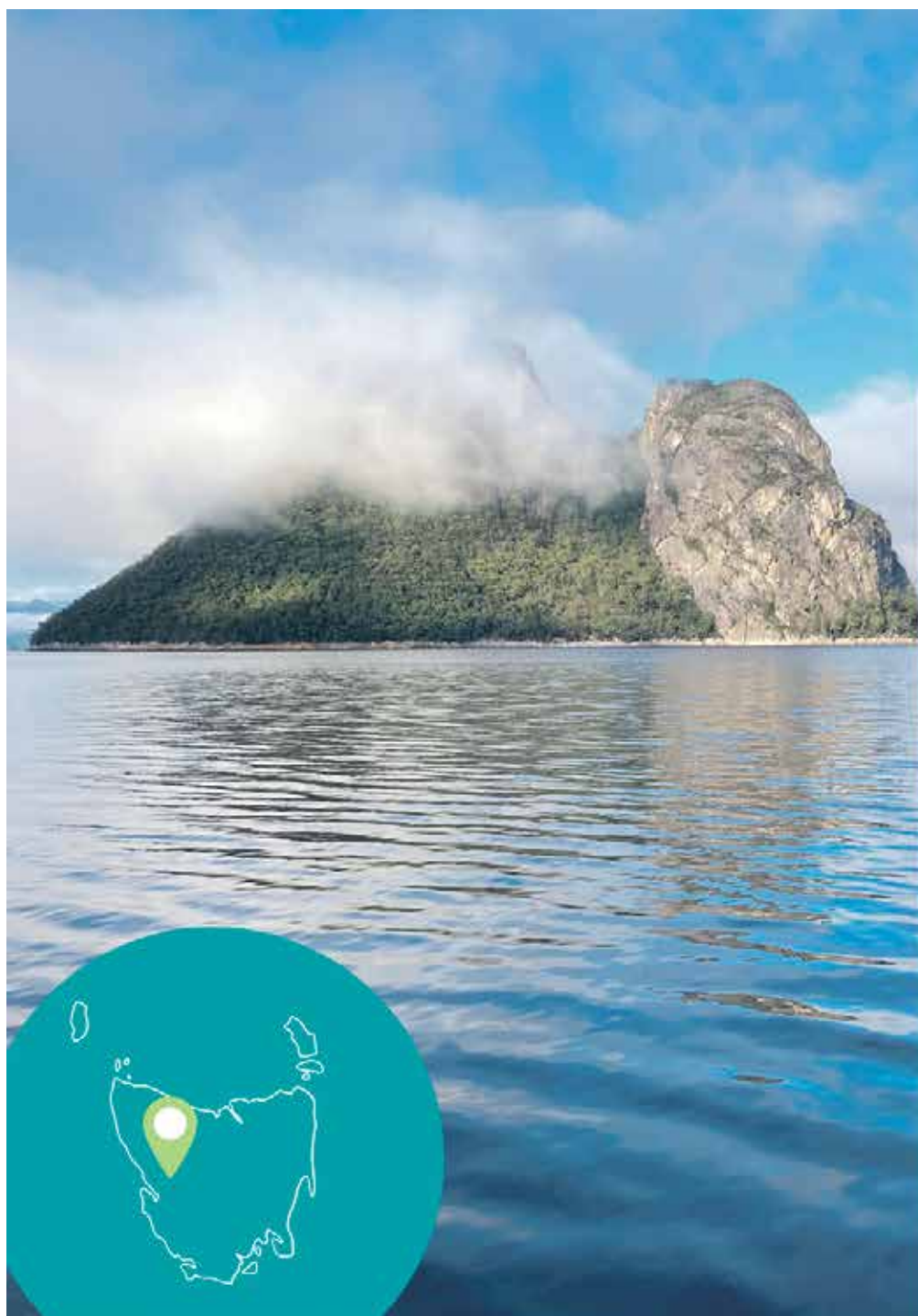
specimens were the equal of any he'd seen in Bendigo. Timbs had also pegged out seven tin sections east of the Meredith Range and three section near Mount Heemskirk before returning to Hobart, arriving on the 23rd of May 1878.

The quality of the samples that he brought back caused enough excitement that when a company was formed to take up Timbs' claims, the *Star of the West Tin Mining Company*, the shareholders reputedly wrote out cheques for the purchase price on the spot.

Among the backers of the new company was CJ Donnelly, the leader of the Great Western's prospecting crew. Timbs was then engaged to manage the claims and was retained on half pay until he made a start for the scene of operations.

Specimens of the gold and tin samples from the *Star of the West's* properties were put on display at Lloyd's Hotel in Hobart and the *Tribune* reported that an offer of £1000 was made for a share in the company shortly thereafter.

To be continued...



Explore the mighty West Coast

Lake Mackintosh is the perfect escape for camping, boating, and trout fishing.

Just a short drive from Tullah, this lakeside paradise is surrounded by stunning forest and mountain views.

Visit hydro.com.au to plan your trip!





Celebrating the People Who Make Burnie Shine

Burnie City Council is preparing to celebrate the individuals, groups and events that make a meaningful contribution to the local community through the 2026 Burnie Community Recognition Awards.

Held annually, the awards acknowledge the people whose dedication, leadership and volunteer spirit help make Burnie a more connected, vibrant and supportive place to live.

Community members are recognised across five award categories, including Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Event of the Year, with all nominees put forward by the community.

The awards ceremony will be held as part of National Volunteer Week and provides an opportunity for the community to come together and recognise the outstanding efforts of local individuals and organisations who make a positive difference across Burnie.

The 2026 Community Recognition Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, 20 May 2026 from 5:45 pm to 7:45 pm at Burnie Arts.

Community members wishing to attend can RSVP via the Burnie Arts website - www.burniearts.net or by scanning the QR code.



We look forward to celebrating the people and events that continue to strengthen and enrich the Burnie community.

Burnie City Council Invests in Brooklyn Road Safety Improvements

Burnie City Council has approved a \$317,000 investment to improve safety on Brooklyn Road as part of Council's ongoing Traffic Island Safety Improvements Program.

Council was also successful in securing \$76,252 in grant funding through the Tasmanian Government Department of State Growth's Vulnerable Road User Program to support delivery of the project.

Brooklyn Road has been identified as a high-risk area, particularly during wet weather conditions, with a number of incidents recorded over time.

Burnie City Council Mayor Teeny Brumby said the works are an important step in improving safety outcomes for the community.

"We've seen a number of incidents over time, and we know this is an area of concern for our community," Mayor Brumby said.

"These works are about proactively addressing the identified risks and improving conditions for all road users.

The works will include widening of the road lane on the northern side, installation of a pedestrian island on the corner, application of a high-friction road surface treatment, improved signage and footpath improvements on the southern side of the road.

Mayor Brumby said the project reflects Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining safe and reliable local roads.

"Ultimately, this investment is about protecting our community and making everyday travel safer."

Council is currently working with the contractor to confirm construction dates and will provide further information to the community once timeframes have been finalised.



Judy Huett
2025 Citizen of the Year

Judy was honoured for her decades-long advocacy for disability rights and inclusion.

Shorewell Creek Bridge Update

Progress continues at the Shorewell Creek Bridge project, with concrete bridge supports recently poured as work moves into the next stage of construction.

The newly poured concrete will now cure over the coming week to reach the required strength ahead of bridge assembly. During this period, crews will begin placing armour rock around the embankments and supports to provide long-term protection from erosion, improving the stability of the site.



Need to Contact Council? Here's How to Reach Us



Whether you have a question, need to report an issue, or are looking for information about Council services, Burnie City Council offers a range of ways to get in touch.

Visit Us

Customer Service is available at the Burnie City Council offices during business hours for in-person enquiries and assistance.

80 Wilson Street, Burnie
Mon - Fri 8:45 am - 4:45 pm

Give Us a Call

Our friendly Customer Service team can help with general enquiries, service requests and connecting you with the right department.
(03) 6430 5700

Online Services

Many requests and payments can be completed online at any time, including:

- Reporting issues
- Paying rates and invoices
- Lodging applications
- Accessing Council information and forms

Visit www.burnie.tas.gov.au for online services and updates.

Stay Connected

Follow Burnie City Council on social media for community updates, project news, events, and important notices.

If you're unsure where to start, our team is here to help point you in the right direction.



You're invited to experience the Wivenhoe Recreation Grounds in a whole new light, as Burnie Bright Night transforms the space into a vibrant celebration of live entertainment, family fun and community spirit on Saturday 30 May.

Running from 4 pm to 8 pm, Burnie Bright Night promises an evening packed with excitement for all ages, with free entry and no tickets required.

The event will feature a huge lineup of carnival rides including the Gee Whizzer, Disco, Twister, Candy Swing and Tea Cups, alongside showbags, side show games, face painting, character visits and interactive kids' activities with Maggie Moo Music.

Live entertainment will take centre stage throughout the evening, with performances from Australian Idol contestant Jakob Gibson, local favourites The Ring Masters and rising youth band Palm Theory.

The night will conclude with a spectacular fireworks finale at 8 pm, lighting up the sky to cap off one of Burnie's brightest community events of the year.

Burnie Bright Night forms part of Council's ongoing commitment to creating opportunities for the community to connect, while continuing to showcase Burnie as a vibrant and welcoming regional destination.

Saturday, 30 May | 4 pm to 8 pm
Wivenhoe Recreation Grounds

Free Shuttle Bus Timetable

Heading to Burnie Bright Night? Leave the car behind and take advantage of our FREE shuttle service operating throughout the event.

Shuttle stops include:

- Marine Terrace Multi Storey Car Park (MSCP)
- Woolworths Upper Burnie
- Wiseman Street North Reserve
- Wivenhoe Recreation Ground (WRG)



To Event:

3:30 PM	MSCP to Wivenhoe Recreation Ground
3:45 PM	MSCP to Wiseman Street North Reserve to Woolworths Upper Burnie to Wivenhoe Recreation Grounds
4:15 PM	MSCP to Wivenhoe Recreation Ground
4:30 PM	MSCP to Wivenhoe Recreation Ground
4:45 PM	MSCP to Wivenhoe Recreation Ground
5:00 PM	MSCP to Wivenhoe Recreation Ground

From Event:

8:15 PM	Wivenhoe Recreation Ground to MSCP
8:30 PM	Wivenhoe Recreation Ground to Woolworths Upper Burnie to Wiseman Street North Reserve to MSCP
9:00 PM	Wivenhoe Recreation Ground to MSCP
9:15 PM	Wivenhoe Recreation Ground to MSCP

Thank you to our transport partners Metro Tasmania for helping make the event accessible and easy for our community to enjoy.

Free parking will also be available at the Multi Storey Car Park.

Property Value Changes What They Mean for You

Burnie residents may soon notice changes to their property value after a full property revaluation was completed for the 2026/27 financial year.

Property values are used to help work out council rates. These values are set by the Office of the Valuer-General, not by Burnie City Council. The last full revaluation was carried out in 2019/20.

Some property values may go up or down depending on things like home improvements, changes to the condition of a property, or changes in the surrounding area.

Residents will soon receive a Valuation Notice showing their updated property value. If a property owner thinks the value is wrong, they must contact the Office of the Valuer-General within 60 days of receiving the notice.

It is important to know that objections must be made after receiving the Valuation Notice and cannot be made later when council rates notices are sent out. Council cannot change property valuations.

Anyone who has not received their Valuation Notice by mid-June 2026 is encouraged to contact the Office of the Valuer-General directly.

Where to find more information

Information on rating adjustments factors and how to lodge an objection is available through the Valuer-General's Office:

Phone (03) 6165 4444 or via
Email ovg@nre.tas.gov.au

Council encourages ratepayers seeking clarification to contact the Valuer-General's Office.

Further information, including objection forms, is available through the Office of the Valuer-General website:

<https://nre.tas.gov.au/land-tasmania/office-of-the-valuer-general>



Information for property owners

Little Moments, Big Imaginations at Burnie Arts

Burnie Arts has introduced a new weekly space for young children and their carers, with Kids Corner now open every Thursday from 10 am to 4 pm.

Designed for children aged 0-7, the dedicated play area offers a welcoming space for play, creativity and connection, while carers can relax, catch up with friends or enjoy a coffee from Fleur by Hidden Sweets.

Visitors are also encouraged to explore the gallery and make Kids Corner part of their regular Thursday routine.

What's on at Burnie Arts

Burnie Arts is a cultural hub serving Burnie and NW Tasmania for performing arts, gallery, museum, events and functions.



There's no place like Burnie... especially when Burnie Musical Society takes you somewhere over the rainbow!

May 29 - 31 and June 4 - 6
Times vary
Burnie Arts Theatre



For the first time ever, Get Rhythm - The Johnny Cash & June Carter Show is headed to Burnie Arts Centre! and bring this timeless story to life.

This sincere and respectful show has been warming hearts all around Australia.

Saturday, 13 June
7:30 pm to 9:50 pm
Burnie Arts Theatre

For information on this and more - burniearts.net



Save the date

Burnie City Market - Marine Plaza
First and third Saturday of each month - 10 am to 2 pm

2026 Burnie Community Recognition Awards
Burnie Arts
Wednesday, 20 May
5:45 pm to 7:45 pm

Burnie Bright Night
Wivenhoe Recreation Grounds
Saturday, 30 May
4 pm to 8 pm

Burnie City Council Monthly Meeting
Council Chambers, 801 Wilson St.
Tuesday, 26 May
7pm

Intro to Computing (8 week course)
Burnie Library
Wednesday's - Commencing 3 June
9:30 am to 2:30 pm

For more info - burnie.tas.gov.au

BURNIE STREET UNITY JAM

Photos by Alan Jennison

Before I went to this event I knew nothing about hip hop and had never actually 'listened' to much rap music but wow, this was an experience!

It wasn't just the skilful way these words were strung together by the artists, it was the raw, powerful messages within those lyrics. Many of these performers threw their vulnerabilities and life stories into the audience gathered to watch and listen. From drugs to alcohol, ptsd, bipolar to loneliness to not fitting in, these words resonated for so many people there. I saw tears, I saw understanding and I saw laughter and joy on the faces of this crowd. I knew I was too much of an old fart to do this story justice so I reached out and Dylan answered the call. Thanks mate. *Alan/Ed*

The Street Unity Jam in Burnie was an unforgettable day that showcased the power of music and community coming together.

Hosted by the incredible Ashley Smith, this event was more than just a concert – it was a movement.

Ashley's passion for breaking the cycle of disadvantage and promoting social justice is inspiring, and his impact on communities across our state is undeniable.

Through his work, Ashley is making a tangible difference in the lives of young people and families. His commitment to empowering marginalised voices and fostering positive change is truly commendable.

The energy at the Street Unity Jam was electric, with people from all walks of life united by the power of music and a shared vision for a better future. Ashley's influence extends beyond giving artists the stage, his dedication to creating positive change is an inspiration to us all.

The Street Unity Jam was a testament to the impact one person can have when they're driven by passion and purpose. Big ups to Ashley Smith for making a

real difference in our community!

Massive shoutout to the incredible lineup that brought the house down at the Street Unity Jam in Burnie on Saturday!

Huge props to Darcy Young, Buddha, Timmy Stamel, Jake Blaze, Ivy J Dingo, MCB, The Butterfly, Jazzy B, Te'L, Cheffa-MC, Young Tom, Stray Whitie, NXT PhaZe, and all the artists who threw down on the mic.

Your energy was off the charts! It was an epic day of hip hop, with a stacked lineup that took us on a wild ride.

From fist-time performers to hard-hitting OG Tassie talent, everyone brought their A-game. The vibe was electric, and the crowd was hyped!

Thanks to Ashley Smith (pictured below) for bringing everyone together for this unforgettable day.

Big ups to all the artists for representing and bringing the heat. And to the crew that came out to support – cheers for being part of something special!

The Street Unity Jam 3 was a testament to the power of hip hop to unite and inspire. Can't wait for the next one!

Story by Dylan Harney





WYNYARD FREE WEEKLY BBQ
Community Unity BBQ

BREAKING THE CYCLE TASSIE

📍 Wynyard Wharf | 📅 Every Friday
🕒 5:00PM – 7:00PM

Come down and enjoy a free BBQ in a safe and welcoming space. Meet new people, connect with locals, and strengthen our community.

Everyone Welcome.

Proudly Sponsored by

TACTILE CARE AGENCY

📞 0486 342 000

"Bringing the community together."

Youth Expo connects local students with services, skills and support



More than 237 students took part in Council's Youth Expo on Wednesday, 8 April 2026, including around 60 students who attended the drop-in session. Students from four local schools — two primary and two high schools — had the opportunity to take part in nine interactive workshops, including robotics, virtual reality, DJ skills, mindfulness, art therapy, vision boards and escape-room activities.

The event also featured a Youth Services Expo with 12 organisations, including UTAS, Lifeline, Legal Aid Tasmania, Women's Legal Service Tasmania, Anglicare, Salvation Army, Rural Health and Cancer Council Tasmania. The day provided a fun, engaging and supportive space for young people to try something new, learn about local services and connect with opportunities in their community.

Pictures: Megan Bourn Photography.

Recycle Rewards: Waratah-Wynyard leads Tasmania in recycling success!



Mayor Mary Duniam and Deputy Mayor Celisa Edwards at the Wynyard Recycle Rewards 'vending machine' located near Vinnies. Picture: Waratah-Wynyard Council.

Wynyard, Tasmania

Waratah-Wynyard residents are proving that small actions can make a big difference, with the municipality currently leading Tasmania in the Recycle Rewards program. At the time of writing, Waratah-Wynyard was sitting at number one on the Recycle Rewards leaderboard, with an average of 410 containers returned per person across the municipality. Since May 2025, the community has embraced the program, helping to divert thousands of containers from landfill and support a cleaner, more sustainable future. The impact of these returns is significant. The containers recycled in Waratah-Wynyard are equivalent to taking 442 cars off the road, powering 100 Tasmanian homes, or filling 14 aquatic pools.

Waratah-Wynyard Council has congratulated the community for its outstanding efforts, acknowledging the role residents are playing in setting the standard for recycling across the state. Sustainability is one of Council's key values, and the strong response to the Recycle Rewards program shows what can be achieved when the community works together. Council encourages residents to keep up the great work as more sustainability initiatives are rolled out over the coming months.

Residents can return eligible containers at the following local Recycle Rewards locations:

- Wynyard Vinnies (behind Woolworths)
- Recycle Rewards Depot Somerset

For more information and the latest program data, visit the Recycle Rewards dashboard: <https://recyclerewards.com.au/dashboard/>

Rotary Peace Pole brings message of hope to Somerset

Somerset, Tasmania

A new Peace Pole has been installed at Somerset Esplanade, offering the community a place to pause, reflect and think about peace. Donated by the Rotary Club of Somerset and supported by Waratah-Wynyard Council, the pole is part of a worldwide Rotary initiative that began in Japan in 1955. Today, more than 300,000 Peace Poles have been installed globally, including more than 600 across Australia. The Rotary Club of Somerset hopes the installation will encourage conversation and reflection on the idea that world peace is possible. Council thanks the club for its contribution and is pleased to support projects that bring meaning, connection and community value to local public spaces.



Peace Pole located on Somerset Foreshore. Picture: Rotary Club of Somerset.

Camp Creek Draft Master Plan Consultation

Wynyard, Tasmania

Council has prepared a Draft Camp Creek Master Plan, setting out a vision for the future care, restoration and use of this important natural area at the eastern entrance to Wynyard. The plan focuses on protecting Camp Creek's wildlife and vegetation while supporting low-impact recreation, walking connections and community education.



Community consultation is coming soon — go to warwyn.tas.gov.au/camp-creek for more information and your chance to have your say.

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PERMISSION TO TRESPASS

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NIGHT MARKET

3 JULY 6PM - 8PM

EXPERIENCE GOLDIE ST AFTER HOURS

WARATAH WYNYARD COUNCIL

THE OFF SEASON 2026

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy at the time of publication; any errors will be corrected by notice on the Council website. Articles by Waratah-Wynyard Council, 21 Saunders St (PO Box 168), Wynyard TAS 7325, with office hours from 8:30am to 5pm Mon-Fri (after-hours calls are taken on call). Please note that some event details are subject to change at short notice, with notice provided on the Council website. For feedback, please email council@warwyn.tas.gov.au.

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Tasmania

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03 6443 8330

NW Coast shines at Australian Ocean Racing Championships

The North West Coast of Tasmania was on full display on Saturday, April 18, as Wynyard hosted the Australian Ocean Racing Championships, drawing some of the country's best surf ski paddlers to local waters.

The event was delivered through a strong collaboration between the Wynyard Yacht Club Paddlers and the Burnie Surf Life Saving Club, showcasing not only elite racing but also the region's reputation as a breeding ground for top-level ocean athletes.

Competitors tackled a challenging course starting at the mouth of the Inglis River in Wynyard, before racing south along the coastline to finish at West Beach, Burnie, in front of the Surf Club.

What is Ocean Ski Racing?

Ocean ski (or surf ski) racing is a fast-growing paddle sport contested in specialised sit-on-top kayaks designed for speed in open water. Races are typically held along coastlines and are heavily influenced by wind and swell. Paddlers aim to link ocean runners—small waves generated by wind—to surf their way down the course, making conditions a key factor in race strategy and excitement.

Tough Conditions Test the Field

While organisers had hoped for a classic North West Coast downwind race powered by a strong north-westerly breeze, competitors instead faced a fresh south-southwesterly wind. This created challenging side-on conditions that tested balance, skill, and race tactics.

Despite the tricky conditions, paddlers were treated to warm and sunny weather, contributing to a spectacular day of racing along the coast.

Local Talent on Show

In the men's race, former Burnie local Tom Norton (QLD) claimed victory, closely followed by his brother Sam Norton (TAS) in second place. Another former local, Dylan Askew (QLD), rounded out the podium after a hard-fought battle with current Australian champion Mackenzie Hynard.

In the women's race, local paddler Phoebe Woodhouse delivered an outstanding performance to take the win. She finished ahead of former world champion Jemma Smith (NSW) in second, with Wendy Reyntjes (VIC) securing third place.

A Region That Punches Above Its Weight

Hosting the national championships reinforced the North West Coast's standing as one of Australia's premier ocean paddling regions. Despite its relatively small population, the area consistently produces athletes who perform at the highest levels nationally and internationally—a testament to both the quality of local conditions and the strength of the paddling community.

With world-class downwind runs and a strong club network, the region continues to 'punch well above its weight' in developing elite surf ski paddlers.

By Cameron Taylor



Twenty years of artscape

Twenty years ago, a local Wynyard resident had an idea to create a space where artists could work together, exhibit, and share their love of art. Today the space has been successfully handed over to the community and has become an institution of local arts and culture for the coast.

This month, we celebrate that vision, and ArtsCape's changes and growth that have occurred in the small art space over the past two decades. The celebration will include a members show around the theme of 'Home' and a collation of history and memorabilia.

Waratah Wynyard council first supplied a temporary building to trial the idea of a community run arts space, at the top of Gutteridge gardens. After one and half years ArtsCape moved up into its current building where it has continued to shape local arts at a grass roots level.

The building has undertaken many changes, and the community has stepped up to create its vibrant and dedicated committee quality arts programming and provides an umbrella to the wider arts community and its peoples. The vision of one has been turned into a vision for all and ArtsCape has firmly become a deep part of Wynyard's arts culture.

Artscape has hosted many exhibitions over the years, with the majority curat-

ed from within the committee and local residents. But the impact goes beyond what is hung on the walls, ArtsCape has established an Arts Competition, Undercurrent, that aligns with the towns Tulip Festival and strives to showcase the incredible talent we have here on the NW coast. The art competition has become a premiere event for artist of the region. It has been host to many workshops, meetings, handmade markets and various small groups.

The committee has had many changes along the way but the intention has always remained strong to support local artists, exposing them to a wider audience and supporting their big ideas.

ArtsCape does not receive any funding apart from the building support provided from the council. The dedicated volunteers and what they give to the committee shows in the quality of programming that is delivered to the community at no cost.

ArtsCape has undergone many changes through the years; location, committee, members, logos and paint colours, but at the heart of it, its purpose still remains the same. Supporting artists in the North West, and giving them the space to shine.

Join us on Friday May 22nd for 'Home is Where the Art is' an celebration of 20 years of ArtsCape Wynyard.

Tales from a Zeehan graveyard

FOUR-YEAR-OLD BOY DIES AFTER BEING SHOT BY HIS BROTHER

Raymond Turley of Owen Street, Zeehan, was just four years and two months old. On Saturday, January 13, 1912, about 11 a.m. his brother Harold accidentally shot him in the stomach with a pellet fired from a pea rifle. At first, it was thought the wound was not life threatening, but this proved not to be the case and he passed away about 6:30 a.m. on the following Wednesday.

That afternoon a Coronial Enquiry was conducted at the Courthouse before Coroner E. V. Goldsmid, J.P.

The first person to take the stand was John William Turley, Raymond's father, who said he had been working at the Shepherd and Murphy mine at Moina, before returning to Zeehan on Monday, when he saw Raymond in the hospital. The rifle and the pair of pincers (produced) were his.

The next witness, Albert Anthony, stated he lived near the Turleys. His son had told him that Raymond had been shot. He ran to Turley's house and found Raymond lying on the bed. He later helped to carry the boy to the hospital.

The next two witnesses called were Raymond's brothers. Tasman, aged 10, said that his mother had gone out about 10:45 a.m. Harold came home about 10 minutes after his mother left. He had told Harold to get the two rifles, as there was a native cat in the yard. Harold brought out one of the rifles, and then went back inside with it, and Raymond went with him. Shortly after Raymond came running out into the yard and said to him,

"Look what Harold has done, Tassy." He undid Raymond's coat and pants and sent Harold for some warm water. He bathed the wound and then sent for Mr Anthony. He carried Raymond into the house and laid him on the bed. There was no cat in the yard when he asked Harold to bring the rifle, and he didn't know why he had said that. He



had never played with the rifles before.

Harold, aged 8, said he had been out getting some meat, and when he arrived home Tasman said there was a native cat in the rushes, and told him to bring the two rifles. He got one rifle and put it on the table in the kitchen, but could not reach the other one, which was hanging on a nail on the wall. He then got up on a chair, and

got a cartridge, and put it in the rifle. It would not go in well, so he got a pair of pincers and hit the hammer of the rifle twice. The second time the cartridge went off, and hit Raymond, who was standing on the sofa at the end of the table, in the stomach. Raymond then ran out into the yard, and he followed him, and then he went and got some hot water. He had had the rifle twice; once he took it into the yard and showed him how the shooting occurred. The pea-rifle was out of order, and the hammer would have to be struck to make the weapon discharge. Mrs Turley was too ill to attend the Enquiry. After hearing all of the evidence the coroner found that young Raymond died from an accidental gunshot wound. He added that this was one of those unfortunately numerous cases where boys got together with a pea-rifle and an accident occurred. It was regrettable that there were so many of these pea-rifles about. (somewhat different to today's interpretation!)

Dr. Gilbert E. Butler said that he received a message about 10:45 a.m. that a child had been taken to the hospital with a gunshot wound. He proceeded straight to the hospital and met Raymond, who was quite coherent and did not appear to be in much pain. He had a slight wound low down on the right side of the abdomen. He asked how it had happened, and Raymond said, "Harold was trying to get a bullet out of the gun, and it went off, and shot me." He had made

two or three unsuccessful attempts to locate the bullet by X-rays.

Constable J. Matthews said the day after the shooting he took signed statements from Raymond's mother and his two brothers. He took charge of the pea-rifle, a box of ammunition, and empty cartridges which he produced to the Enquiry. Later he accompanied the three to their home, and Harold showed him where he had got the rifle from, which was on top of a clock about [1.8 metres] from the floor, and showed him how the shooting occurred. The pea-rifle was out of order, and the hammer would have to be struck to make the weapon discharge. Mrs Turley was too ill to attend the Enquiry.

The funeral of Raymond Turley commenced at 4 p.m. on the following Friday, when his body left his parents' house for its final resting place in the Zeehan Cemetery, which is known today but has no headstone.

This is an abridged excerpt taken from books edited by Malcolm Ready, *Burials at the Zeehan General (Pioneer) Cemetery*

Honouring the visionary Kate Weindorfer

110 years after her death, a plaque has been unveiled to commemorate the reunion of the remains of Kate Weindorfer, the founder of the Cradle Valley.

Ms Weindorfer's remains were reunited with those of her husband Gustav at Waldheim in Cradle Valley.

Liberal Member for Braddon, Roger Jaensch, unveiled the plaque.

"Gustav and Kate are now recognised as pioneers of conservation and nature-based tourism in the Tasmanian wilderness, which ultimately led to the declaration of the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park in 1922," Mr Jaensch said.

"The ceremony was attended by descendants and friends of the Weindorfers. Kate was remembered as an equal partner and enabler of their shared vision for Cradle to be protected as a place 'for the people, for all time'.

"Kate not only introduced Gustav to Cradle Mountain and its surrounds, but

also used her inheritance to purchase the land in Cradle Valley where they built their Waldheim forest home to host visitors."

Kate died in 1916, just a few years after Waldheim was built, and was buried at Don Congregational Cemetery in Devonport. Gustav died in 1932 and was buried at Waldheim, where a stone cairn was built to mark his grave.

In recent years, Kate's great, great niece Sue Cox and Sue's nephew, Michael Carnes and their supporters worked through the complex process of relocating her remains to the cairn marking Gustav's grave, now located inside the National Park and World Heritage Area.

"The plaque's unveiling marks their final resting place not only recognises their loving partnership, but also Kate's equal contribution to the Weindorfer legacy and the creation of the national park they once dreamed of," Mr Jaensch said.





CIRCULAR HEAD

Community News



Sign up to our eNews



Stay up to date with what Council is doing, including projects, services, decisions and ways to have your say.

Help shape how Council communicates and engages with community

We're reviewing how Council communicates, listens and engages with the community - and we want your feedback.

A new Draft Communications and Engagement Strategy has been developed to guide how Council shares information, involves the community in decisions, and builds stronger two-way communication across Circular Head.

We know that in the past, Council's communication and engagement has not always been consistent, and we want to do better.

Your feedback will help shape how Council communicates and engages into the future.

How to give feedback
There are lots of ways to have your say on this consultation.

You can complete the online survey. If you prefer paper, hard copy surveys are available at the Smithton Library and at Council Chambers.

You can also share your feedback by email or post, or speak directly with Council staff at drop-in sessions and community events. Face-to-face opportunities will be advertised soon.

To read the draft Strategy, find all the information, and complete the online survey, use the link below.

www.circularhead.tas.gov.au/yoursay

How Your Property Value Affects Your Rates

Council rates are partly based on the value of your property. The value used to calculate your rates is called your Annual Assessed Value (AAV). This value is set by the Office of the Valuer-General - not by Circular Head Council.

Property Revaluations for 2026/27
A full Municipal Revaluation has now been completed by the Office of the Valuer-General for the 2026/27 financial year.

The last full Municipal Revaluation was completed in the 2019/20 rating year. This full revaluation may result in noticeable changes to your property value, especially if there have been:

- improvements made to your property
- changes to the condition or presentation of your property
- changes in the appeal of your street or surrounding area

This means your property value may go up or down, even if you have not recently bought or sold your property. If your AAV changes, your rates may also change.

What should you look for?

You will soon receive a Valuation Notice from the Office of the Valuer-General showing your updated property value.

If you think the valuation is incorrect, you must lodge an objection directly with the Valuer-General's Office within 90 days.

Important to know

If you wish to lodge an objection, you must do it when you receive your Valuation Notice - not later when your rates notice arrives. Council cannot change your property valuation.

Need help?

Visit the Office of the Valuer-General website to talk to someone, to read the FAQ's or to lodge an objection:

Phone: (03) 6165 4444

Email: ovg@nre.tas.gov.au

Website and Objection Form: <https://nre.tas.gov.au/land-tasmania/office-of-the-valuer-general>

If you do not receive your Valuation Notice by mid-June, please contact the Valuer-General's Office directly.

Save the Date

Stanley & Tarkine Forage Festival

Date: 13 to 17 May

Location: Stanley and surrounds

CHArts Festival

Date: 4 September to 4 October

Location: Circular Head

Dry Season Readiness Roadshow

Even though Circular Head often looks green, lush and productive, dry conditions still affect our region when they arrive and being prepared matters.

Circular Head Council is hosting a Dry Season Readiness Roadshow in May 2026, bringing farmers, industry experts and support services together for practical, local conversations about preparing for dry conditions.

Marrawah - Marrawah Inn, Wednesday 13 May - 5.30pm (Dinner included)

Smithton - Tall Timbers (Function Room), Thursday 14 May 7.30am (Breakfast included)

Forest - The Blackberry, Thursday 14 May - 5.30pm (Dinner included)

RSVP online using the QR code, on Council's website or contact Amber apower@circularhead.tas.gov.au



Community Catch-Ups



Mayor Gerard Blizzard and General Manager Paul Gardner are visiting communities across the municipality for informal Community Catch-Up sessions..

No bookings are required, simply drop in during the advertised times below.

For more information or to share feedback, contact Council on: (03) 6452 4800 or council@circularhead.tas.gov.au

Next Catch-Ups:

Rocky Cape

Date: Friday 15 May 2026

Time: 2:30pm

Location: Rocky Cape Tavern

Smithton

Date: Friday 12 June 2026

Time: 10:30am

Location: Hugo's Brew & Chew



Consultation open:
Friday 1 May to Friday 12 June 2026

LIGHT CYCLES STANLEY

An interactive sound and light experience



Friday 15th & Saturday 16th May from 6:30pm
Light Shows will play throughout the evening
39 Church Street Stanley
foragefestival.com.au

A FREE event proudly supported by



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MAY-AUG 2026

Join us for a robotic dairy tour with a difference!

What is Included:

- Duck River Meadows Dairy fully guided robotic dairy and cheese factory tour
- La Cantara Cheese & Milk Tasting
- Blue Hills Honey and nut tastings
- Scones three ways in the Pavilions Cafe
- Entry into the Circular Head Heritage Centre (Museum)



Bookings Essential:

info@stanleyandtarkine.com.au
12 Nelson Street, Smithton, TAS 7330
(03) 6413 5333

<https://duckrivermeadowsdairy.com.au/off-season-2025/>



Smithton Visitor Information Centre



Gift Shop with local products

Theatrette Showcasing Local Films

Cheese, Milk & Honey Tastings

Robotic Dairy Tours

Circular Head Heritage Centre

The Pavilions Cafe

Brochures, Maps & Information

Friendly, local advice on all there is to see and do to help you get the most out of your time in the region.

Open 7 days

12 Nelson Street, Smithton

(03) 6413 5333

info@stanleyandtarkine.com.au



Why do our Visitor Information Centres matter?

Travel is changing - and across Tasmania, Visitor Information Centres (VIC's) are more important than ever.

With rising fuel costs and cost-of-living pressures, travellers are thinking twice about how they explore. They're looking for ways to stretch their budget, plan smarter, and make every kilometre count. Most importantly, they want advice they can trust.

That's where Visitor Information Centres step in.

Every day, VICs across Tasmania help visitors:

- Plan efficient routes (saving time and fuel)
- Discover incredible regional destinations beyond the usual hotspots
- Stay longer with confidence
- Connect with local businesses and communities

It's not just helpful, it's essential and in regional areas, centres like ours play a huge role. Located in the north-west, Smithton is often the gateway to some of Tasmania's most unique and untouched experiences. But without local insight, many travellers would miss out on our exceptional corner of the island.

Instead, with the help of the Smithton VIC, visitors uncover hidden gems, explore further, and truly experience the region. That means more support for local cafés, producers, tours, and small businesses - the heartbeat of regional communities. Without VICs, tourism can easily become concentrated in a few well-known areas. With them, visitors spread out, stay longer, and contribute more meaningfully to local economies.

The role of Visitor Information Centres hasn't changed - it's grown. Smarter travel doesn't just benefit visitors. It strengthens regional communities, supports local businesses, and keeps places like Smithton thriving.

So come on in, whether you're local or visiting we would love to see you!

Tales from Emmerton Park - meet the residents

My Story – Annette Sayer (nee Poke)



I was born at the old Burnie Hospital, although our family lived in Smithton, I'm not quite sure why. I was the eldest of five children, with four brothers: Desmond, Jonathan, David, and Peter. As the only girl, I helped Mum with the household duties, while my brothers preferred working with Dad on the farm or tinkering with cars.

My parents were Doug Poke and Lexie King from Boat Harbour. They were married in 1946 and built a life centred around family, hard work, and community.

I attended kindergarten near ANZAC Park, then went on to Smithton Primary School and later Smithton High School. I enjoyed getting involved in most school activities. I had hoped to complete my matriculation in Smithton, but the program was discontinued before I had the chance. I didn't want to travel to Burnie to continue my studies, so my schooling ended there.

After we left the farm, Dad helped build the house we lived in on Massey Street in Smithton. My friends and I would ride our pushbikes down Tier Hill to school it was very steep, I remember one day when my brother Des was going too fast down the hill and crashed into a car at the bottom. There were no helmets back then, but thankfully he escaped with only a few bumps and bruises.

Growing up, we had a shack at Crayfish Creek where we spent our summers. It was a special place where extended family would gather, and we'd spend our days swimming and playing in the sand dunes. Later, the dunes were cleared to

make way for Port Latta, in an area now known as Lavender Beach. We also went there for youth group picnics, with running races, games of cricket, and plenty of food to share. I remember eating lots of sandwiches and drinking red cordial. I think that made us run faster.

During the war years, my father and my uncle Jim Poke started a grocery store. I remember Dad talking about the challenges of rationing and how difficult life was as people tried to manage with coupons and limited supplies.

Later, Dad established a menswear shop D & L Poke's Menswear on Smith Street, opposite the post office. The business eventually moved to Emmett Street. Mum managed the accounts while Dad handled ordering. I left school at fifteen and a half to work in the family store, serving customers and learning the business until I started my own family.

I met my husband, Bob, after his family moved to Smithton. He was training with PMG, working on upgrading the telephone system. We married in 1971 and had three children: Luke, Duncan, and Rachel. Raising our family brought us many happy memories.

We were actively involved in the Stanley Gospel Chapel, where we formed lifelong friendships and were inspired to take part in humanitarian work.

In 2000, after Bob retired, we began travelling. We spent six weeks in England visiting Bob's family, and later travelled to Africa, where we helped provide aid by teaching local communities how to build concrete water tanks. We stayed with village families, which was a truly eye-opening experience.

Returning home made us appreciate even more how fortunate we are to live on Tasmania's Northwest Coast. It truly is the best place in the world.

My father also played a key role in establishing Riverbend Youth Camp. He purchased a large accommodation building from Port Latta with a vision for a youth camp. Millie and Ernie Quilliam donated land, and the whole community came together to bring Riverbend to life. Located about six kilometres from Smithton on Trowutta Road, the camp continues to provide young people with a place to learn, grow, and have fun, supported by dedicated volunteers.

I feel grateful to have grown up in Circular Head, where the community supports one another in times of need. I cannot imagine living or raising a family anywhere else.



Sports clubs play an important role in promoting learning

Recent research by the University of Tasmania's Regional Partnerships Team has shown the vital role that sports club can and do play in the community. And it's more than just encouraging people to get active.

The research team, leading by Kate Sims and Dr Nhung Nguyen, spent months working with clubs across the Northwest and West Coast. Funded through the Australian Centre for Student Equity and Success (ACES), they recruited 572 participants, which were split into the control group and the intervention group. Both groups filled out surveys to establish the baseline from which the team measured change. The intervention group all participated in a short workshop about how to promote further study amongst club members and were then followed up.

While only a short project, the results clearly showed that the training delivered helped people to feel more confident about talking to club members about learning pathways. They learned about flexible and local study options, and how entry requirements to university have become more open, along with identifying options for themselves and others.

The team came back to the region and presented their findings at functions hosted at various clubs. The presentations included a short film, anonymised stories from participants, the statistics from the

research and the cards developed. The cards are one of the main results, a short guide for how to talk to people about learning based on the acronym ALTER.

- Ask
- Listen
- Tell me more
- Encourage
- Resource

The cards can be carried with you or be placed inside club houses where members can pick them up.

If you'd like more information about the project, you can contact Dr Kylie Carman-Brown at the West Coast Study Hub in Zeehan, kylie.carmanbrown@utas.edu.au or 0475302916.



West Coast Study Hub update

What a year so far, it is hard to believe we have hit May already.

We were busy in April with lots going on in the background as well as a few fun workshops for Youth week with UTAS financial Literacy project holding a great art for change workshop.

We ran our first youth week scavenger hunt over the school holidays. A huge thank you to those that took part and joined in the fun. Let's hope the next one is bigger and better. Winners will be announced soon.

We held a Chainsaw operations and maintenance course and 2 days of Enter and work in a confined space.

May will see a few new training workshops with ACDC Chemical Training happening. UTAS Financial Literacy training sessions. More training workshops to come in June including Forklift operations and 1st Aid.

We have a few new Art and Craft workshops in mind as well as the favourite mosaic workshop.

We have welcomed 7 new students to the Hub so far this year and the Hub is being busy with students attending their online courses.

Our Training Calander for 2026 is moving along nicely and we are open to ideas or needs you or your business may have.

If you want to learn more about how we can assist you in researching your study interests or guide you to the right

resources, visit us at the Hub on Fredrick St, Zeehan or email info@studyhub-westcoast.com.au

Keep an eye on our social media pages as we post what we have coming up on there.

STUDY CENTRE

CIRCULAR HEAD

Email - students@studycentrech.com.au
Phone - 0499 173 118

STUDY KING ISLAND

Email - learn@studyki.com.au
Phone - 0439 735 957

STUDY HUB WEST COAST

Email - info@studyhubwestcoast.com.au
Phone - 0491 205 400

Contact the Hub in your area for support and training

Learn and Study Local

Stanley Bicentenary - Settlement part one

In 2026, Bicentenary celebrations will be held to celebrate when Stanley, then known as Circular Head, was first settled by Europeans.

This article predominantly follows those early years which was the first settlement west of Devonport. Circular Head was later named Stanley (1842) after the Secretary of State for the British Colonies, Lord Stanley.

With the formation of the Van Diemen's Land Company (VDL Co) in May 1824 by wealthy London merchants who were interested in developing a supply of fine wool for the British textile industry, the die was cast for the European settlement of Stanley and North West Tasmania.

By Royal Charter (1825), the Company was granted the rights to select 250,000 acres in one block in the unexplored area of the far North-West.

An advance party consisting of a group of senior officers headed by the Company Chief Agent, Edward Curr (27yrs), and accompanied by Stephen Adey (Superintendent), Alexander Goldie (agriculturalist), Henry Hellyer (surveyor and architect) and surveyors, Joseph Fossey and Clement Lorymer, landed in Hobart March 1826.

After exploratory expeditions which found the land did not meet the Company's expectations, Edward Curr argued with Lt-Gov. George Arthur over the location but Arthur insisted that the VDL Co restrict its selection of land to the country west of the Mersey River, beyond the ramparts of the unknown. The Company was finally permitted to select several blocks totalling 350,000 acres including 100,000 acres at Cape Grim (Woolnorth) and 20,000 acres at Circular Head (Stanley).

Circular Head (Stanley) was chosen as the site for the first settlement, mainly due to the port accessibility by sailing vessels.

After leaving England on April 21, 1826 the brig 'Tranmere' arrived at



Watercolour of Circular Head from Highfield Allport Collection

George Town September 29, 1826 before heading on to Circular Head (Stanley) and unloading on October 27. Apart from supplies, the first settlers comprised 14 indented servants, 3 of whom were married and one family. They were:

William Legerwood, Carpenter
Thomas Turnbull, Shepherd
John Young, Millwright
James Morton, labourer
William Elliot, Mason (Family)
William Smith, Ploughman
William Sherwood, Blacksmith
Nathaniel Russell, Ploughman
William Russell, Blacksmith
John Sherwood, Ploughman
Robert Ellis, Spadesman
A. Campbell, Ploughman
John Linton, Shepherd
John Scott, Ploughman

Livestock included 46 Cotswold sheep, 2 stallions (Suffolk and Cleveland), 4 Teeswater and Durham cattle. A further 1,500 ewes were purchased from Thomas and Joseph Archer of Woolmers, Longford, along with other imported merinos – these formed the future foundation of the company's flock.

Fourteen convict servants arrived via the Lady Nelson a few days later while the next group of indented servants arrived on the brig Caroline 19th January 1828.

Temporary cottages were built of turf and a shingled roof until log and weatherboard houses were built. In the ensuing years, sawpits were established and a gang was set to work splitting palings and shingles; timber was accessible from the Nut as well as at Sawyer's Bay with Baltic Pine brought in as the ballast on vessels.

of satisfaction to me to find all the old indented servants of the Company who came out aboard the Tranmere and Caroline doing extremely well with not more than, I believe, one exception".

In 1832, there were 45 men, 11 women and 25 children living at Circular Head (Stanley); indented labourers and assigned convicts (mainly agricultural workers sentenced for protest activities) made up the bulk of the Company's workforce.

Building of convict barracks commenced in 1834 and numbers ranged from 35 in 1827 to a peak of 117 in 1835; assigning of convicts ceased in the early 1840's. The lack of free labour and the failure of wool venture forced the Company to turn its attention to attracting tenant farmers. This happened after Edward Curr was replaced by James Gibson in 1841. By 1851 there were 846 tenants. Twenty five years after the first arrivals, there were 2,825 cattle, 100 pigs and 76 deer at the deer park. Crops included wheat, oats, potatoes, peas, barley and cabbages but most of the arable land had been sown to grass.

However, at a special meeting in London February 26, 1851, the directors decided that the Company's own farming operations would be wound up with land leased or sold and live-

stock sold. Highfield house and property was leased in 1857 to Dr William Story but soon after re-let to the biggest buyer of VDL Co land, Frederick Wilbraham Ford. By 1853 most employees had been dismissed with James Gibson employed until October 1859.

The last of the Company's holdings on the Stanley Peninsula, Western Plains, was sold privately in the 1960's. The Company still retains some of its original land grant at Woolnorth.

References:
Beyond the Ramparts by Kerry Pink and Annette Ebdon
Historic Stanley by Marguerite Close
www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/V/VDL%20Co.htm
ontheconvicttrail.blogspot.com/2015/10/highfield-house

Compiled by the Stanley Discovery Museum
Part two will feature in the June edition of the Western Echo.

Stanley Bicentenary Weekend Activities
Saturday 31st October to Monday 2nd November 2026
Stanley Recreation Ground (Saturday) 10am-4pm
A free family day including a procession open to the public to participate with activities and displays throughout the day.
Highfield House (Sunday) 10am-4pm
Free admission to the public with guest speakers throughout the day.
Stanley Museum Open all weekend with Alexander Terrace and Cemetery Walk
"Julie Burgess" in port over the weekend offering 2 hour trips from the port (weather dependent)
Enquiries: E: stanleydiscoverymuseum@gmail.com
Follow Facebook: Stanley Discovery Museum

A bed of good clay was located at Brickmaker's Bay and was used for brickmaking while blue stone was also transported from Victoria. Stables and a blacksmith's shop were erected as a priority and Henry Hellyer designed and built the first jetty.

In 1831 the decision was made that Circular Head (Stanley) would become the headquarters for the Company's operations.

A weatherboard cottage at the Highfield precinct was built in 1827 for Edward Curr and his family but between 1832 and 1835, a substantial homestead (Highfield) was constructed with gardens laid out in a manner befitting a gentleman's residence.

In a letter to London written by Edward Curr in 1831, he reported:

"It has been a source



Looking towards Highfield Colored 1858 Frith Brothers

Specials are just a WIM away, a WIM away, a WIM away

Now that the song is playing in your head, why not take a visit to the beautiful Northwest town of Wynyard and hit the Wynyard Indoor Market (WIM) and snap up a bargain.

The market is open on Friday and Saturday from 10am until 4pm and a nicer bunch of people you would be hard pressed to meet.

If you mention you saw this page in the Western Echo newspaper then you will be able

to grab the following specials from these lovely people.

From dog treats to model trains, jewellery to belts and electronics to clothing there is something here for everyone, you can even grab a feed! Oh and the WIM is pet friendly too so you can bring your furry, scaly or otherwise adorned animals for a day out.

Make the Wynyard Indoor Market a must visit place on your trip to the Northwest...

it's just a WIM away...

Please note, these specials run from 14th May until 11th June only.

Don't forget to mention the Western Echo newspaper!

Wynyard is just fifteen minutes west of Burnie and is a little known Tasmanian treasure. Do yourself a favour and head on out here for a day at the markets, a wander by the river and some of the best food and drinks you will find in the state.



Danniella at 'Blankslate.Co' has a great deal on T-shirts. Buy 1 get 1 half price or buy 2 and get 1 free



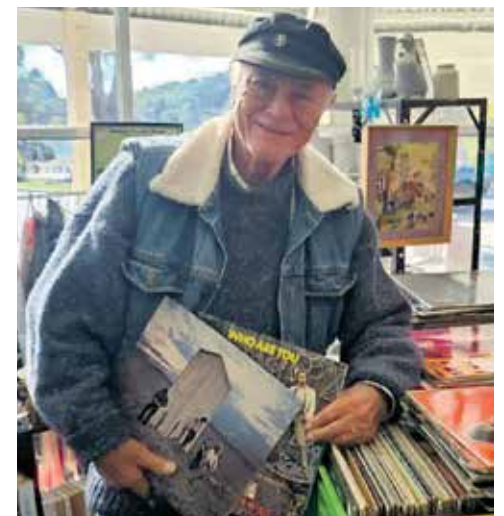
'Be Creative' has 10% off matchbox cars and Handmade spoon rings



Steph at 'Love me two times' has 10% OFF everything



Petrice at 'Gypsy Lea' has 10% off crocheted tops



John is offering 10% discount on vinyl records



Suzanne is offering \$10 off the price on 'Reborn Babies'



'Beryl's Crafts' has 10% off knitted beanies and toys



'Pete's Snags' - Half price snags



Rick has 10% off Motorbike gear



Buy two bags of dog treats and get a free tennis ball from Lynette at 'Bone Zone'



Get 10% OFF everything at 'Anjay Creations'



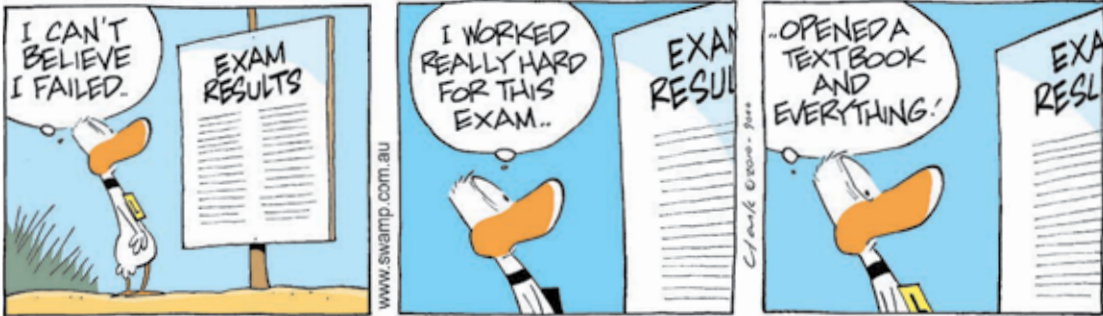
Tania from 'Tee's Vintage & Not' has taken 10% off gold jewellery for this promotion.



'Maker's Haven's' Sonia is offering \$5 off all belts and Marie is offering 30% off baby rompers and toddlers flared pants

WESTERN ECHO PUZZLE PAGE

SWAMP



BEYOND THE BLACK STUMP



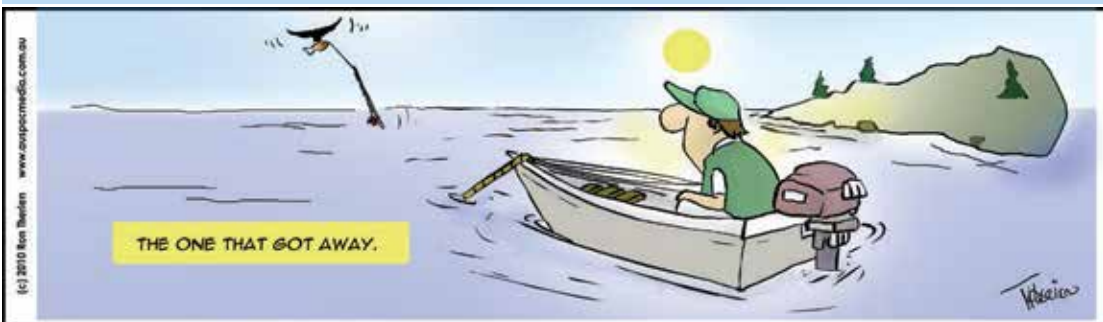
CLANCY



INSANITY STREAK



AGAINST THE GRAIN



JUMBLE No. 699

E	S	C
A	L	I
T	E	L

TODAY'S TARGET
 30 Words **Good**
 36 Words **Very Good**
 43 Words **Excellent**
 50 Words **Genius**

THE RULES: How many words of 4 letters or more can you make from these 9 letters? In making a word each letter may be used only once, and the centre letter must be included. There must be at least one 9-letter word. No slang, foreign words, plurals, hyphens or apostrophes.

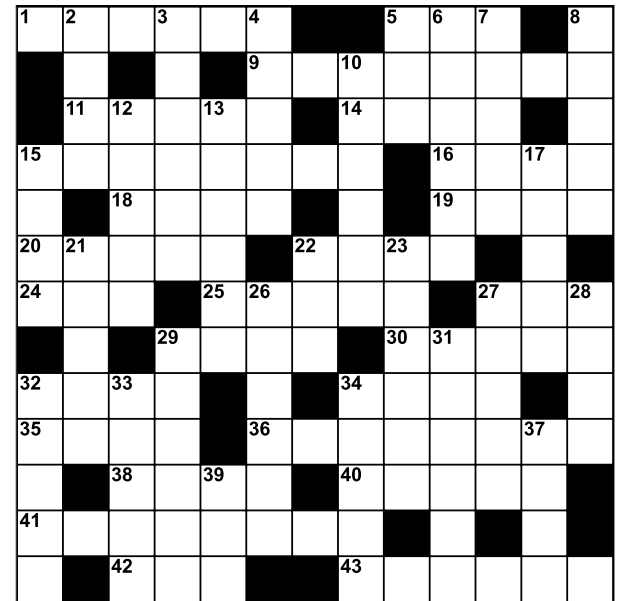
SUDOKU No. 020

								8
	6		5	7				2
1	8	3	6					
			7	2				6
		5	8					
								9
3	2		5	1				
	5							4
7		6	1	3				

CROSSWORD No. 10868

ACROSS

- Painted unskilfully
- Serpent
- Boxing blow
- Reduce in intensity
- Mine entrance
- Chief priests
- Part of the foot
- Becomes firm
- Spoken
- Phantom
- Express suffering
- Offspring
- Gain knowledge
- Male swan
- Look after
- Spiny shrub
- Festivity
- Golfer's warning
- Dash
- Utters repeatedly
- Drinking vessels
- Scolded
- Short light opera



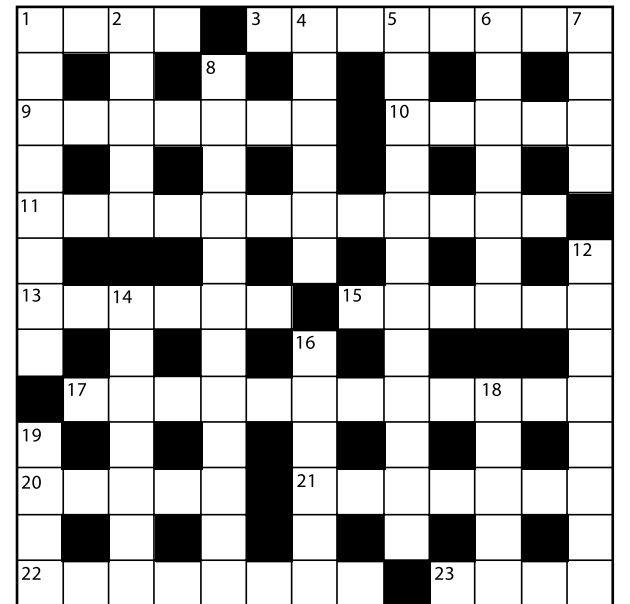
- Lair
- Partly open
- Lays responsibility on
- Songs for two
- Resting place
- Prayer
- Thespian
- Metal
- Clergyman
- Buffalo
- Tell tales
- Farm animals
- Nigerian port
- Mean dwelling
- Insane
- Mohair
- Join the army
- Greek island
- Wagers
- Time of holding
- Public speaker
- Criminal
- Domesticated
- Wild
- Border
- Necessary information

DOWN

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD No. 16519

ACROSS

- Stick around a street (4)
- He brings it in - I'm the one who carries it (8)
- It's utter folly and wildly in a muddle (7)
- Put in an oven or fried, perhaps (5)
- Panic at having to suffer execution (4,3,1,4)
- Adopt a new attitude in sleep (6)
- Pardonable language? (6)
- Copy made of poor, crude tin (12)
- Be way out about a point (5)
- Messages in the sky? (7)
- Eden is in the march past (8)
- The French ship is smaller (4)



DOWN

- Walkers on one side are still walkers (8)
- Range in the American desert (5)
- Doesn't hit girls (6)
- Not on the right track, confidentially (3,3,6)
- Land a trainer badly (7)
- Colours of most pots on the table? (4)
- Shown disturbing odd men at rest (12)
- Disease affecting bone on broken legs (8)
- First cabinet-maker (7)
- High principles shown by various ladies (6)
- I scold, being extremely angry (5)
- It's bound to mean a change of plea (4)

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

Crossword No. 10867

C	O	R	A	L	S	I	R	C	S
R	M	A	C	E	E	M	O	T	E
P	A	G	A	N	T	I	G	E	R
T	Z	E	S	T	I	T	E	M	S
L	O	V	E	S	L	A	M	E	E
A	R	I	D	P	E	D	E	S	T
M	S	O	D	O	E				
I	M	A	G	I	N	E	S	S	I
N	E	N	D	S	R	O	L	E	S
A	S	H	E	S	T	O	O	L	G
T	A	S	I	D	E	B	A	N	A
E	R	R	E	D	E	P	I	C	T
D	P	E	L	M	N	E	V	E	R

Sudoku No. 019

7	3	5	4	8	2	9	6	1
1	8	6	9	5	7	4	3	2
9	4	2	3	6	1	5	8	7
3	6	9	5	1	4	7	2	8
5	2	1	8	7	9	6	4	3
8	7	4	2	3	6	1	9	5
4	9	3	7	2	5	8	1	6
2	1	7	6	4	8	3	5	9
6	5	8	1	9	3	2	7	4

Cryptic No. 16518

Across: 6 Lawsuit; 7 Cruel; 9 White; 10 Lexicon; 12 Secret agent; 14 Nothing to do; 18 Denmark; 19 Movie; 21 Agree; 22 Wagered.
Down: 1 Yacht; 2 Tsetse; 3 Kid; 4 Trying; 5 Rebound; 8 Testate; 11 Granary; 13 Foreign; 15 Hamper; 16 Drover; 17 Sinew; 20 Saw.

Jumble 698

earth ether hare hart harvest HARVESTER haste hate have hear hearer hearse heart heat heater heave here hers rash rasher rather reheat reha share shave shaver shea shear shearer sheave sheer sheet tahr thee there these three trash

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WEST

Rosebery Harvestime Church
 Bible Based - Non Denominational
 Bringing Christ to the Community
 and the Community to Christ
 Bible study Fridays at 10:30am
 Sunday Services at 2:00pm
 7 Agnes Street Rosebery
 (behind the pharmacy)
 0466 011 913
<https://www.facebook.com/Rosebery-HarvestimeChurch>



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June	July
7	5

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 Saturday May 16th 8:00pm start
 Proudly Sponsored by:





Tickets \$50 each



Car Boot Sale
Sat May 30
 11am-2pm
 \$10 per spot
 Rosebery District School
 Sausage Sizzle
 For Bookings - 0417849543



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 Celebrate the Winter Solstice with us!

SATURDAY 20 JUNE
 4 - 7 PM
 MEMORIAL HALL

Join us for an evening market with hot soup, roast meat & gravy rolls and the Footy Club.
 Contact Jo to book a spot: 0417 849 543

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SATURDAY 4TH JULY | 12PM - 2PM
AT THE TOP PUB



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 ...keeping the west coast well



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11AM TO 1PM

QUEENSTOWN 11TH MAY - RURAL HEALTH OFFICE
STRAHAN: 19TH MAY - CHURCH HALL
ROSEBERRY/TULLAH: 15TH MAY - ROSEBERY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE & PLATYPUS CAFE
ZEEHAN: 26TH MAY - ZEEHAN NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

ROSEBERY WIGGLES n GIGGLES
 Fitness Class!

MONDAYS JUST GOT FUN!
MONDAYS 4PM

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- ✓ Laugh it out.
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30 MINUTE SESSIONS | LET'S LEARN TO MOVE TOGETHER

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 THEN JUST \$5 PER CLASS



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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE NORTHWEST

ANNUAL FAIR, MARKET & GARAGE SALE

WYNYARD UNITING CHURCH
9 DODGIN ST, WYNYARD

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH
9.00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Cooking, Plants, Sewing, Craft, Produce

Devonshire Teas Sausage Sizzle

INCLUDING INDEPENDENT STALLS

COME ALONG & ENJOY THE FUN OF THE FAIR



Worship Services MAY

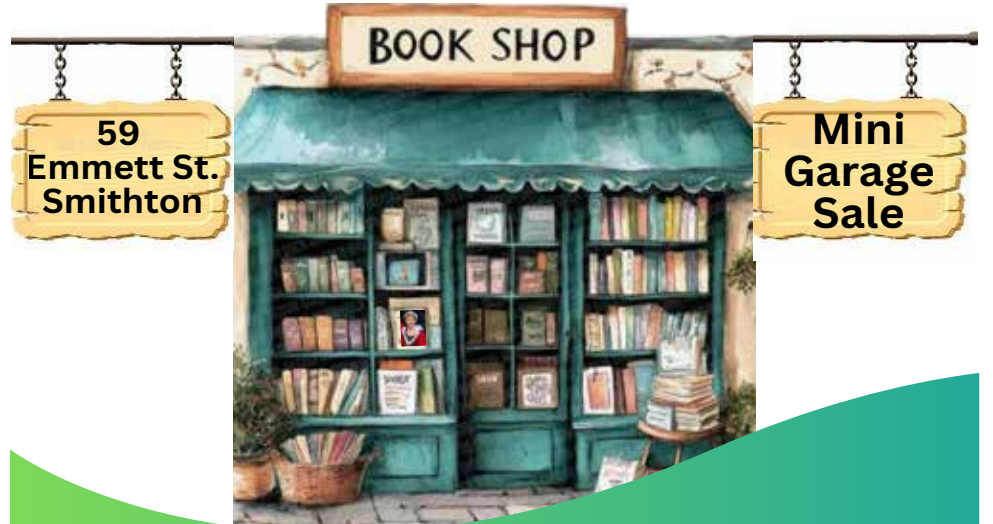
WYNYARD
9 Dodgin Street, Wynyard
SUNDAY 3RD – 10.00 a.m.
SUNDAY 10TH – 10.00 a.m.

CAMRISE
3 Wragg Street, Somerset
SUNDAY 17TH – 10.00 a.m.
SUNDAY 24TH – 10.00 a.m.

PENGUIN
50 Main Road, Penguin
SUNDAY 31ST – 11.00 a.m.

All Welcome

Rotary Club of Smithton Annual Book Fair 2026



Date: 13th - 31st July, 2026

**Time: Mon to Fri 10am-3.30pm
Sat: 10am-12.30pm**

Donations of books, puzzles, games, toys, DVDs and CDs would be greatly appreciated and welcomed.

Thank you

Please contact Wendy on 0429 186 876

*All proceeds support pre-kinder books, Youth programs & Community projects.

bookings essential



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mondays - 1pm to 3pm
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saturdays - 1pm to 4pm
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4th sunday of the month for the neurodivergent community - 10am to 12pm

contact:
0457 011 619
farmitforwardtasmania@gmail.com

wynyard community centre
little goldie st



REDPA FOOTBALL CLUB INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR

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SATURDAY 30TH MAY
6pm (for crackers at 7pm)

No cover charge

Canteen will be open for light meals prior to crackers

MOTHER'S DAY

MOTHER'S DAY

SATURDAY 16 MAY
10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

BURNIE WEST BEACH / HILDER PARADE RESERVE

SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST: **JOY MARIACHI**

- DANCERS & CULTURAL PERFORMANCES
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- BRING A PLATE TO SHARE
- COMMUNITY EVENT FOR ALL FAMILIES

A DAY TO CELEBRATE OUR MUMS WITH MUSIC, CULTURE AND **Latin JOY!**

Come along, celebrate and enjoy together!

Health Foundation appoints proud coaster to the team



Clifford Craig Chief Executive Officer Vanessa Cahoon with Nigel Tapp

Nigel Tapp brings energy, warmth and a deep commitment to community connection in his work with the Clifford Craig Health Foundation.

Drawn to the Foundation's mission to strengthen locally community funded health programs across medical research, patient care hospital-based projects and health advocacy, Nigel was compelled to offer his experience to the role of Community Relations Lead - North West, a position he began in April.

Raised in Ulverstone and shaped by a career spanning Tasmania and mainland Australia, Nigel combines extensive communications expertise with a strong passion for place-based impact on the North West Coast.

With decades of experience across the not-for-profit, government and corporate sectors, Nigel is widely respected for his ability to build trusted relationships and translate complex issues into clear, engaging and meaningful communication.

Throughout his career, Nigel has advised Federal and State politicians, CEOs, Mayors and senior leaders, led diverse and highly skilled communications teams, and worked alongside communities to ensure their voices are heard, understood and respected.

A consistent theme in Nigel's professional journey has been genuine engagement. From leading communications strategies that helped guide communities through challenging and uncertain times, to strengthening member, stakeholder and industry connections, Nigel has always taken a values-driven, people-first approach. He is known for listening carefully, collaborating openly and creating communication that builds trust, confidence and shared purpose.

Nigel will be based at the North West Regional Hospital, providing a strong

on-the-ground presence for the Foundation and helping strengthen connections with hospital staff, community partners and supporters across the region.

His deep local knowledge, strong networks and authentic style enable him to connect easily with individuals, community groups and organisations throughout the North West Coast.

For Nigel, effective community engagement relating to healthcare is not just about sharing information - it is about building relationships that lead to stronger, healthier communities.

Speaking about joining the Foundation, Nigel said:

"I am thrilled to join the Clifford Craig Health Foundation to establish a highly impactful presence on the North West Coast. Growing up in Ulverstone and having worked across Australia, there truly isn't any place like home and this very connected charity work is something I'm proud to support."

Nigel's experience, enthusiasm and deep community roots make him a valuable addition to the Clifford Craig Health Foundation team and a strong advocate for positive, lasting change across the North West Coast.



How SWIRL is helping protect a vulnerable penguin colony

With more than half a million visitors arriving in northwest Tasmania each year and tourism growing up to eight per cent over the last three years, Smithton Wellbeing Indoor Recreation & Leisure (SWIRL) is stepping in to help protect a local penguin colony in Stanley that's increasingly at risk.

The colony, once thriving, has seen numbers fall as visitor pressure grows. To help turn the tide, SWIRL has partnered with Parks Tasmania, Wildcare Tasmania and Friends of Stanley Penguins, joining a passionate group of local volunteers who have spent years protecting the coastline.

Together, the partnership has introduced a dedicated bottle recycling station at the venue, giving guests and locals an easy way to help fund the reduction of waste near the colony's habitat. Every bottle recycled helps fund conservation work and reduces waste.

Aquatic Services Coordinator Zalia Gorringe says the team felt compelled to act.

"When we heard how quickly the penguin numbers were dropping, we knew we couldn't sit on the sidelines," she says. "This is our community and we can't let the local wildlife suffer."

Helen Buckley, Duty Manager and Green Team Leader, says the initiative is helping bring the community together.

"People want to help, they just need an easy way to do it," she says. "What I love about this project is that it turns an everyday action into something that directly protects our wildlife."

The new station is also sparking important conversations about how communities, leisure venues and visitors can balance tourism with environmental care, something Herath Pitawala, Venue Manager at SWIRL says is long overdue.

"Tourism is great for our region, but it can't come at the cost of the animals that make this place special," he says. "If we can generate debate and inspire more venues to take action, that's a win."

Alexia Morgan, General Manager Environment and Sustainability, said:

"I'm thrilled that the SWIRL team have stepped up to take on this challenge in Tasmania. Protecting local wildlife is a step in the right direction, reflecting Belgravia Leisure's broader commitment to environmental sustainability."

SWIRL shows how local partnerships can make a real difference in environmental impact to protect some of Tasmania's most adorable locals.



Pictured left to right: Zalia Gorringe, Aquatic Services Coordinator and Helen Buckley, Duty Manager and SWIRL Green Team Leader.

Sharks, Rays and Skates Presentation

The Healthy Harbour Project will be hosting a presentation centred around the local elasmobranch species that inhabit the waters of western Tasmania. We've enlisted the help of marine specialist Dr. Michelle Treloar to deliver the presentation. Dr Treloar has extensive experience studying the ecology and biology of different elasmobranch species, including published research on our very own Maugean Skate. We invite you to join us at the Strahan Fire Station, Saturday 23 May from 6 pm to learn more about these fascinating creatures."

Black River campground upgrades to improve visitor amenities



Work is underway to improve safety and enhance the visitor experience at Black River Campground, near Stanley on the North-West Coast.

Our Government has committed up to \$750,000 to deliver the upgrades to the campsite through the Spirit Preparedness Fund.

Minister for Parks, Nick Duigan, said the fund was designed to help Tasmanian businesses and councils prepare for the new Spirit of Tasmania vessels, which are future-proofing visitor demand through increased capacity.

“The Black River campground is a hidden jewel on the North-West Coast, offering an idyllic beachfront location to set up camp for a few nights,” Minister Duigan said.

“This investment will deliver safety improvements and the visitor experience

for all campers, in particular the growing caravan and motorhome visitor market.

“Upgrades include the delineation of individual campsites and installation of three new total capture toilets. The roads will be resurfaced, traffic calming measures installed and site drainage improved.”

The works will be delivered by two local firms - Marcol Construction will build the new toilets and Allan Lord Holdings Civil Pty Ltd will complete the road upgrades and campsite delineation works.

The upgrades are expected to be complete by October 2026, in time for the camping season.

Access to Black River Campground will remain open, however visitors may experience delays accessing some areas of the campground.

Happy Birthday to the Empire Hotel

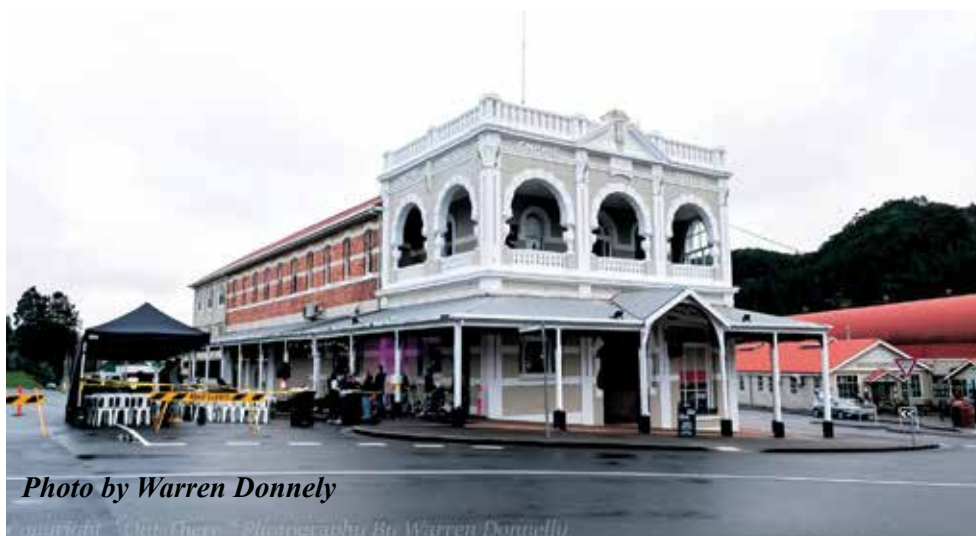


Photo by Warren Donnelly

Last week the "Grand Ol' Lady" the Empire Hotel, celebrated her 125th birthday and she put on a show for the towns people to show her appreciation and a good night was had by all. The music was fantastic and the crowd had a rollicking ol' time

Stanley is about to glow!

As part of North West Tasmania's Illuminate the Coast and alongside the delicious vibes of the Forage Festival, the Stanley Light Show is set to transform Church Street into a dazzling nighttime experience.

Across two magical evenings, Alex Moss will bring stunning interactive light displays to life, illuminating one of our loved local buildings in a way you won't want to miss.

FREE event

Church Street, Stanley

15th + 16th May from 6:30pm (first show time to be confirmed)

Show times will continue throughout the evenings.

Please note: Church Street will be closed to vehicle access from Friday morning through to Sunday for the Forage Festival event.

Proudly made possible by the Circular Head Tourism Association, Circular Head Council, Stanley Discovery Museum and West x Northwest.

Grab your friends, bring the family, and come see Stanley shine!

For more information contact us on (03) 6413 5333 or stanleyandtarkine.com.au / foragefestival.com.au

STANLEY LIGHT SHOW

Friday 15th & Saturday 16th May from 6:30pm
Light Shows will play throughout the evening
39 Church Street Stanley
foragefestival.com.au

A FREE event proudly supported by

Stanley TARKINE, ALLEN WEST, NORTH WEST TASMANIA, FORAGE FESTIVAL

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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Wynyard Yacht Club

Story and photos supplied by Michael Hughes aged 10 years

This season we have had a lot happening at the Wynyard Yacht Club, from the Mirror Nationals and the McIntyre Cup to Tackers and Start Sailing.

We had a lot of people join, and the Yacht Club bought some sailing helmets and a new disability sailing boat, the RS Venture.

My experience this season in the Mirror Nationals was amazing. We raced for 4 days, with an average of 2 or 3 races per day. We had lots of people from all over Australia come to race in the Nationals, and overall it was a great time to make new friends, meet new people, and for the people who weren't racing to take a cruise on a yacht and watch us race.

There were lots of people volunteering to be on a safety boat, be on shore to communicate with the people on the safety boats and help us on the Mirrors to get on and off the water by being amazing and getting our trolleys for us, which was amazing. Brady Tassicker was the Race Officer, and he was an amazing Race Officer, and vital for us to do it. I think that everyone had a great time, and we had some amazing people help us.

The McIntyre Cup was a great test of ability for everyone in Tasmania but came, with challenging conditions on the first day meaning that we couldn't race.

We got in three races the next day, though, which was just enough for it to be an official regatta and the trophy to be handed out, which was lucky (whew!).

In Tackers, I volunteered to help, and we had about 5 people coming who had finished their tackers to help teach.

We had lots of new people join, with



Samantha and Warrick being amazing and teaching all of them how to sail, with the help of all our fantastic volunteer assistant instructors.

The Beginning of the Age of the End of Abundance

1 Pedal Power

Annie Venables

For much of the past few generations, we have lived with the assumption that life would keep getting easier, fuller, and more abundant. Each decade seemed to bring more choice, more convenience, and more consumption. Many economists and social commentators now suggest that today's younger generation could be the first in a long time to be worse off than their parents. If that proves to be the case, it challenges more than our finances; it challenges the philosophy of how we live. A society built on consumption and constant growth may need to shift toward one built on the values of self-sufficiency, resilience, and rethinking what "enough" really means, especially if/when supply chains start to falter.

The recent rise in fuel prices has made many of us stop and reconsider our daily routines. For me, it was enough to finally drag the bicycle out of the garage, where it had been sitting unused for a couple of years. I took it to the local shop for a service—supporting a small business in the process—and got it back on the road. Nello at West Coast Ride in Queenstown stocks quality spares and parts, offers a wide range of servicing options, plus expert help and advice to get you going, whether on a mountain bike or not. He is really friendly and helpful.

Now, instead of automatically reaching for the car keys, I find myself riding around Queenstown to the shops, heading to the café, or just getting from A to B. Even when it's raining!

It's a small change, but it feels significant. Not just because it saves money on fuel, but because it represents a different way of thinking—less about convenience at any cost, and more about making do, making connections, and making choices that fit a changing world.

If this truly is the beginning of the end of abundance as we've known it, it may also be the beginning of something else: a quieter, more thoughtful way of living that values community, resourcefulness and self-sufficiency. Values long embedded in our remote West Coast communities and now needed again. Over the next months I will write about other businesses and activities on the North and West Coast that contribute to this way of being. I would love to hear of any stories you have too, either from the past or the present.

Write to me at vikings-films@bigpond.com

Thank you. Annie



Workshops strengthen community connections to local support

Circular Head Council is inviting community members and service providers to take part in two practical workshops aimed at improving how people are supported and connected to local services.

The sessions build on The Right Place initiative, introduced in 2023, which equips locals with the skills and confidence to guide people to the help they need. The program is based on a simple idea - there is no wrong door when someone asks for help, only opportunities to connect them to the right place.

More than 25 local businesses are already part of The Right Place network, with Council encouraging more to get involved through this next round of training. "When people reach out for help, the first response they receive matters," Mayor Gerard Blizzard said. "These workshops help ensure people are met with understanding, practical information and clear pathways to support."

The Right Place workshop focuses on building awareness of local health and community services and how to connect people with them effectively.

A second session, Accidental Counsellor, delivered by Lifeline, builds on these skills by providing practical communication tools to support people experiencing emotional distress.

Participants will learn how to listen and respond with empathy in everyday situations.

While not a formal counselling qualification, the training offers practical, real-world skills for supporting others during difficult moments. Participants who attend The Right Place can access the Accidental Counsellor workshop free of charge. For others, the session is heavily subsidised at \$30 (normally \$195).

The Right Place workshop will be held on Monday 11 May, with Accidental Counsellor sessions on Monday 25 May. Two sessions will be available, with refreshments provided.

The workshops are funded through an FRRR grant, supporting Council's commitment to a connected and caring community.

For more information or to book, contact Kylie on 6452 4803 or Yvette on 6452 4827.



MumSpace and DadSpace

MumSpace is a free Australian website supporting the emotional wellbeing of pregnant women, new mums, and their families.

It helps women find the right support for where they are right now, from practical advice and early support through to effective online treatment for perinatal depression and anxiety. Resources can be explored at an individual pace, with flexibility to move between options as needs change. MumSpace is also used by healthcare professionals.

www.mumspace.com.au/

DadSpace is a free Australian website supporting the emotional wellbeing of fathers during pregnancy and early parenthood.

It brings together practical advice, real stories, and evidence-based support designed specifically for dads. Fathers can explore everyday guidance, peer resources, and structured online programs for depression and anxiety, and choose what suits them best as their needs change. DadSpace can be accessed at any time and is also used by healthcare professionals. www.dadspace.com.au/ All programs available through MumSpace and DadSpace are evidence-based, accredited to the National Safety and Quality Digital Mental Health Standards, and developed and evaluated in Australia.

Classified section trial in the 'Echo'

We are trialling a new classified section so if you have a public notice, something to sell or buy, looking for employment or offering employment, a personal ad or pretty much anything else why not place an ad in the 'Echo'?

Classifieds

Standard ad
63mm wide x 50mm high
\$50 per monthly edition

Public notices

or have a double size ad
63mm wide x 100mm high
\$100 per monthly edition

Employment

This is great value. Your ad is in front of thousands of people for a whole month. Why wouldn't you?

Don't be this person



They don't understand leaving... only waiting...
What would you say to someone who abandons a pet?

Classifieds

4WD for sale

2002 Toyota Prado VX V6 petrol Automatic. Runs great BUT does have an engine miss due to low compression on cylinder two. It has plenty of go and drives fine but does get warm (not overheating) on long steep hills. Starter motor sometimes makes noise when starting up (suspect broken tooth?). Sold as is! Driven 434,937 km Kilometres will go up as still being used as daily driver. Other than that she has just had over \$1000 spent on new rear brakes, rotors etc, has near new Maxxis Razr AT-S tyres (spare is brand new) and has near new battery. Kings drawers in the back and vehicle is registered to June 2026. \$4000 firm. Pick up in Wynyard. Alan - 0488 2782 99



Amazing Ebike for sale

The ultimate go anywhere machine! Shengmilo S600 twin motor off-road/onroad fat tyre ebike in excellent condition. Only travelled 74 kilometres. Want to hit the tracks and trails around Tassie? This is the way to do it. And quietly too. The Shengmilo S600 is equipped with two (one in the front wheel and one in the back) 1000W motors, delivering impressive power for top speeds of up to 45 km/h with the option to unlock even higher speeds or get you through the roughest terrain. It has dual shocks, hydraulic brakes and a removable battery. I am just not using it so someone else may as well enjoy it. Please note, there is a tiny patch of paint rubbed off from the car rack. This is the only flaw in what is a near new ebike. Comes with charger and I will even throw in a helmet. These bikes are \$2500 new and then freight on top to Tassie so this one is a bargain! \$2000 pick up from Wynyard. Alan - 0488 2782 99



Classifieds

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Public notices

Seeking a partner for life's unwritten stories



Local (Wynyard) newspaper publisher accustomed to meeting deadlines but having trouble meeting the right lady is seeking someone special.

Tired of always coming home to a quiet house (as much as four cats and a dog can be deemed quiet anyway), I am looking to start a new chapter.

I spend my days reporting on the stories that matter to our region, but now it's time to write a more personal one, though not for publication perhaps. I'm seeking a lady who appreciates good conversation, a bit of wit, the spark of a genuine connection and a bit of traditional romance.

It's the simple, special moments I am after: someone to hold hands with while watching the sunset or walking on the beach, quiet cuddles on the sofa once the paper is put to bed, talks into the night, lots of hugs and perhaps the odd kiss to brighten the day. A gentleman with old fashioned values, I offer a life of interesting stories, lots of laughter and a partner who actually listens.

If you're looking for a story that doesn't end at the bottom of a page, let's grab a coffee (or a wine perhaps) and see if we can write a chapter of our own.

At the very least we will have enjoyed a coffee (or a wine) and maybe made a new friend each. *I call Editors prerogative in running my own ad in my own newspaper. All my contact details are at the front of this paper and I am easy to find on social media so I am not hard to get in touch with, should anyone wish...*
Alan/Ed

Anzac Day... around the towns

Circular Head Commemorates ANZAC Day Services in the Community

The first ANZAC commemorative service was held on Friday at Emmerton Park Inc. Circular Head RSL President Terrence Holland and Patrick Bakes assisted, with students from Circular Head Christian School and Smithton High School speaking. John Hammond played the Last Post and Reveille, and Joel Nankervis delivered the prayer.

Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Anthony (Tony) Burchill was the ANZAC Day guest speaker at the three main services in Smithton, Stanley, and Marrawah. He joined the Royal Australian Navy at seventeen in January 1980. Retiring from full-time service in December 2022, he continues as an active Reservist and received his second Federation Star (45 years' service) in 2025. He is currently working in the office of the Commander Surface Force.

At the Stanley Dawn and Morning services, Kelvin Bryant was MC for both and Parade Marshall for the morning. Leila Power delivered the prayers, and Stuart Law played the bagpipes at Dawn. Forest Primary School students Amber and Ethan, and Stanley Primary School students Koa and Hugh, spoke at the Morning Service. Both services were well attended, with the Dawn Service held at Godfreys Beach beside the World War One Memorial. A gunfire breakfast followed at Marley's.

At the Marrawah Dawn Service, Bill Gale was MC and Paul Saward was guest speaker. Breakfast was catered by Anita, Mandy, and Simon at the Marrawah Hall. At the midday service, Stuart Gale was MC, CPO Burchill was guest speaker, and Redpa Primary School student Harry read Not a Hero. Lunch followed,

catered by the Redpa Primary School Association.

At the Smithton Dawn Service, RSL President Terrence Holland was MC. Damien Heres delivered the prayer, Jonathan Arnold sang the National Anthem, and John Hammond played the Last Post and Reveille. Circular Head Christian School Captain Kiara Keen and Vice Captain Tannah Jenkins delivered the address, and Annette Dawes sang We Will Meet Again.

At the Smithton Morning Service, Ali Dennison was MC. Jonathan Arnold sang the National Anthem, Joel Nankervis read the prayers, and Smithton High School students Ruby Lardner and Sam Radford Bryan delivered the address. CPO Burchill was guest speaker. Shannon Heald, Annette Dawes, and Jonathan Arnold performed Song of Australia.

Thanks to Mary and the Circular Head RSL Women's Auxiliary for organising the Field of Remembrance crosses displayed at ANZAC Park.

Following the Dawn and Morning Services in Smithton, breakfast and lunch were served at the Circular Head RSL. Thank you to Peter, Jai, Corey and team, and all who donated produce. Funds from the RSL breakfast and the Marrawah and Smithton collections go to Legacy.

On ANZAC Day evening, the Smithton Saints Football Club held a moving tribute before their home game. Jonathan Arnold sang the National Anthem, RSL President Terrence Holland delivered the ODE, Thomas Lamb played the Last Post, and John Hammond played the bagpipes. Both teams proudly wore specially designed ANZAC jumpers.

To every community member and visitor who attended, your presence honours the legacy of those who served.



Anzac Day Marrawah service



Smithton Anzac Park service



Morning service in Stanley



Anzac Day Saints football match



Anzac Day Zeehan

Anzac Day... around the towns



Waratah's ANZAC Day 2026 was another very successful commemoration to our soldiers with pleasing attendance at both Services. Many thanks to our organising committee which consists of: of Kim Kecely, Tony Schmidt, Victor MacIntosh, Steve Webster, Jenny Hardstaff, Ben Swinburne & myself. A huge thanks to the volunteers from the Waratah 7321 Mens Shed, Noel Fagan, Luke Gmelig & Winston Nickols. A special thanks to dear Leah Blake Watts and her daughter Jade who did a fantastic job of ensuring the morning tea was top notch, and indeed it was. Thank you to the Bischoff Hotel for their Gunfire Breakfast after

the Dawn Service. No commemoration such as ours would be complete without our friend Johnny Peisker who played beautifully on his Bagpipes. Thank you, Johnny.

We would like to thank Waratah Wynyard Council Deputy Mayor Celisa Edwards for her beautiful presentation. To the team at the Waratah-Wynyard Council for their generous support with equipment, printing and promotion - without you the event would not happen. Thank you all and to the many that came and supported such a special commemoration. Lest We Forget.



Table Cape Primary School

On ANZAC day, 41 students and a number of staff represented our school at the Wynyard service. We are so proud of everyone's respectful and considerate attitude. We are especially grateful to our student leaders who led our group and laid the wreath at this important commemoration.



Bluestone Mines, Rosebery

At dawn on ANZAC Day, Bluestone Mines employees and contractors came together onsite to honour the first ANZACs and all who have served our nation.

Through reflection and remembrance, we acknowledged their sacrifice and the enduring values of service, mateship and community that continue to shape who we are today. Lest we forget



St Joseph's Catholic School Rosebery

During the school holidays our School Captains proudly represented our school at the ANZAC Day 11am service at the Rosebery Cenotaph.

We thank them for their respectful attendance and the leadership they demonstrated. We also thank the students and families who joined them to pay their respects.

Lest we forget.



Parklands High School Anzac Day 2026

Thank you to our Student Leaders for proudly representing our school today at the Burnie Anzac Day Service. Lest we forget.

Queenstown Anzac Day

ANZAC Day in Queenstown Tasmania today. Despite the photo, there was an excellent turnout. I took this after the commemorations had finished. I was lucky enough to be asked to lay a wreath for the Queenstown SES Unit. Thank you to everyone who turned up, to those who laid a wreath and a big thank you to the weather gods who put on a perfectly warm day.

Courtney Scherger



Car show at Rocky Cape

12th April 2026 and Rocky Cape came alive with the sound of thundering v8's, the gentle hum of mini mokes and the snarl of high (and low) horsepower engines for the Rocky Cape Lions Club Car and Bike show. With live music, market stalls selling everything from car parts to coffee it all made for a great day out. Cars and their drivers (and bikes

and their riders) made the trek from across the state to show some of the variety the automotive world has given us over the last century or so. I even put my car in for a bit of fun, I just wish I had thought to wash it first. Put next years car and bike show in your calendar now and we will see you there *Alan/Ed*



Fancy yourself as a videographer?



Tasmanian Online Leos Video Competition

We want to see YOUR world. YOUR voice. YOUR community. We're inviting all young people aged 12 to 18 across Tasmania to grab their phone and make a short video that shows just how amazing young people are, and why it's time the world stopped and listened.

No fancy camera needed, just your phone and your creativity. Add music, involve your friends, show your community, keep it lively, be yourself.

Videos can be anywhere from one to three minutes long. Submit your entry to one of the contacts below and join us on Tuesday 19th May at 6pm for a screening night via zoom.

All entries will be screened, members will vote and the winner of the \$100 Prezzy gift voucher announced.

Linda Payne - Tasmanian LEO co-ordinator leo@lionstasmania.org
Marg Cranney - President Tas online Lions Club info@lionsonline.com.au

The power of connection



This is our story of a group of like-minded people who began cold water ocean swimming two mornings a week and then discovered that we loved hiking & swimming in the rainforests and lakes as well.

Today is another connection day for the outdoors. It's Saturday 9th May, 8.45am and there is a group of 17 of us that are hiking into Philosopher Falls to-

day finishing off with a cold water swim in one of the 3 lakes in the gorgeous little town of Waratah in the NW of Tasmania.

At the entry of Philosopher Falls and once everyone has arrived, we gather for our group photo about to head into one of the most beautiful 'Hansel & Gretel' rainforest and at this time of the year it is filled with such colourful Fungi in all shapes and sizes. Our reward at the

half-way mark is going down about 220 steps to the lookout where we get to see the falls in action and this is where we will stop for a cuppa, a chat, some more photos and just to take in the presence of being in nature..

Time to walk back up the 220 stairs, stopping for a breather also and then it's on our way back along the Arthur River is where we see more Fungi that we may

have missed walking in.

What a great way of spending about 2+ hours in the rainforests of Tasmania and even better when we have some people in our group that may not have ever been hiking but want to give it a go, well Philosopher Falls is one of those hikes that anyone can do because its a lush rainforest that will never dissappoint.

Next, it's time to say 'goodbye' to such a fantastic morning and onto the next thrill of our day and that's cold water swimming in one of the lakes in the middle of the town.

It's the 'Power of Connection' that has made us so welcomed and to be a part of this group has just been the biggest blessing for us here in Tasmania.

Swimming in the cold ocean waters or lakes of Tasmania can give you such health benefits, boost circulation, reduce inflammation, lift your mood, reduce your stress levels and improve mental resilience, while also connecting you to nature....it's the 'Power of Connection'..

Why not give it a go, we'd love you to join us?

A showcase of harmony and skill A market full of puppies

The Inglis Pony Club in Wynyard has been running for nearly five decades and is much more than just horse riding — it's been about teamwork, sportsmanship, friendship, and a shared love of life in the saddle.

From first-time riders finding their confidence, to seasoned competitors chasing new goals, we believe every member plays a part in building a supportive, encouraging team environment. We ride together, we learn together, and we grow together.

At Inglis Pony Club, it's not just about ribbons and results — it's about respect for our horses, commitment to one another, and creating lifelong memories along the way.

This year the club was honoured to be chosen to host the Tasmanian State Championship Dressage and Showjumping event and we had a wonderful weekend with riders coming from all over the state to compete.

Across two exciting days of competition, riders and their equine partners demonstrated the best of Pony Club dressage and showjumping disciplines.

Dressage competitors took to the arena early in the weekend, with each combination striving for fluidity, accuracy and connection with their mounts.

Dressage, often described as the “gymnastics” of equestrian sport, tests both rider and horse on a series of prescribed movements, judged on balance, rhythm and harmony.

Riders delivered a range of impressive

tests at various levels, from preliminary through to more advanced grades — earning placings and praise for their dedication and refinement.

As the weekend progressed, the atmosphere shifted to a buzz of excitement in the jumping arena.

Show jumping challenged competitors with a course of fences that tested the horse's scope and the rider's decision-making under pressure.

The event's course designers crafted tracks that rewarded boldness and precision alike, and many riders made clear statements with clear rounds and confident performances. We would like to congratulate and thank all the other clubs that helped make this a weekend to remember.

Here's to strong partnerships, muddy boots, early mornings, and the incredible community we're proud to call our own.

Zone Games 2026 Volunteers needed!

The Inglis pony club are hosting the north west zone games on the 17th of May at Frederick street sports complex.

We are in need of a few extra hands to help out on the day. If you think you might be able to spare an hour or two we would love to hear from you.

Find us on facebook if you would like to help out.

Ok, they may not all be puppies but the Wynyard Foreshore market has always welcomed our four-legged friends and this recent weekend was no exception. Here are just a few of the photos taken by myself just because I can. I must take Western Echo Wendy down there for a visit and to meet all the other

dogs, she would have a ball. Held the first and third Sunday of every month the Wynyard Foreshore Market is on the Old Bass Highway and is definitely worth a wander, even if just to meet all the pups.. A dog friendly, local market with a little bit of something for everyone. 8am-2pm weather permitting.



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