



# WESTERN ECHO

Burnie, Wynyard, Sister's Beach, Stanley, Smithton, Marrawah, Waratah, Tullah, Rosebery, Zeehan, Strahan and Queenstown - The West's own newspaper



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**WE MEANS COMMUNITY**

EDITION 51 FEBRUARY 12TH 2026

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**Anne Urquhart** **MP**

*Federal Member for Braddon*

-  Shop 9 Columar Court, 22 Wilmot Street, Burnie TAS 7320
-  [Anne.Urquhart.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Anne.Urquhart.MP@aph.gov.au)
-  (03) 6431 1333

Authorised by A Urquhart, ALP, Shop 9 Columar Court, 22 Wilmot Street, Burnie TAS 7320



# WESTERN ECHO

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

## WE MEANS COMMUNITY

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

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

127 Main Street, Zeehan, Tasmania 7469 www.westernecho.news  
All published material is published in good faith. 12,000 copies printed monthly.

## 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

I was touring through Tassie finally after retiring, with my Belgian boyfriend from 1980(!) and we based ourselves in Zeehan for 3 nights.. I am from the Hunter Valley/ Lake Macquarie area.

I have travelled all over the world during my youth - India , East Africa , Israel, Sinai , Greece, Italy , Spain, France, USA, Mexico, Peru, England, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Netherlands and the Nordic countries.. and finally got the opportunity to take my 4WD across Bass Strait.

Well.. we rumbled into Zeehan and I was captivated by the beautiful buildings and the surrounding countryside and coastline.. what a special place! We dined at the club and had great food at Duncans. I wanted to go and photograph the beautiful architecture of the

seemingly disused buildings in the main street and check out the train engines lined up on display.. I remember similar relics from my childhood staying at my Aunty's place in Cessnock as a small child.

We ran into Alan ( from The Western Echo) on the street and he ,like my partner, have model trains! They shared secret Men's stuff about that subject for a bit.. meanwhile I was photographing the impressive seemingly deserted buildings. I said I was sad that the town had seen better days and was informed by Alan that it looks like they are going to restart more mining and there will be a new boom heading Zeehan's way!! I sure hope this eventuates! You readers live in a magic place!  
*Pauline White*



## Animals in need and what to do

Whether it's an injured lizard, wallaby, possum, bandicoot or other Australian native creature please reach out to your local contacts BEFORE calling Bonorong or WIRES.

We can help quicker in most cases. We have specialists in snakes, lizards, quolls, devils, wallabies, possums and wombats etc.

**Amanda Norris - 0459825 241**

Microbats, lizards, snakes

**Angie Capan - 0409 164 394**

Snake relocation

**AWCI - 0423 625 183**

Most mammals

**WIRES AUSTRALIA WIDE**

1300094737

Launceston Area - Bonorong

0447264625

Hobart - Amanda 0419612624 to get the correct carer

### YOU HAVE FOUND A BABY!

NEXT STEPS

1.Location/state

2.If bub is furred, pop into a pillowcase as close as possible to your heart (depending on breed, I wouldn't put a devil there).

UNFURRED leave in mum, if possible, keep warm and pop both in a pillowcase if mums deceased, and ring your closest contact at right

**MOST IMPORTANTLY**

**DO NOT WAIT**

**DO NOT FEED IT**

**DO NOT LET IT GET COLD**

**DO NOT TAKE TO A VET (EXCEPT AS A LAST RESORT) PLEASE, WE VALUE WILDLIFE'S LIVES.**

And please, slow down when driving at night

## Western Echo 'Wendy'

So many exciting things are happening at the moment! The biggest is that I have a new home in a place called Wynyard and I love it! So many places to walk, so many sniffs and so many other puppies to meet and play with.

Dad has been taking me on walks down to the river and the beach and it is such a different place than I am used to.

Wait until the cats get up here! A much bigger yard to play in, lots of birds and a strange creature Dad called a 'Bandicoot. I am sure we will be friends as it doesn't mind me at all.



**Woof to you all... Wendy**

**ANDREW WHITTAKER, 8/12/87 to 3/1/2026.**

Thankyou to everyone that has been in touch with myself and my family, after our devastating loss of Andrew. The kind words that were shared, the memories I will hold in my thoughts. rest easy my boy. Love, mum.

**NEED A SPARKY? Contact Frank at DILLON ELECTRICAL**

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# West Coast pride reaches the halls of Parliament

The spirit of the West Coast echoed through the halls of Federal Parliament last week, with the 128th Mount Lyell Strahan Picnic officially recognised on the national stage.

Member for Braddon Anne Urquhart MP rose in the Federation Chamber on 5 February to formally acknowledge the enduring legacy of the event. Having joined the crowds at West Strahan Beach on 26 January, Ms Urquhart told Parliament that the Picnic remains one of the region's most "enduring and treasured" traditions, reflecting the resilience and deep sense of belonging that defines our community.

For locals, seeing the Picnic etched into Hansard—the permanent national record—is a significant moment of recognition. It's a nod to the identity of the West, acknowledging a tradition that has survived and thrived through more than a century of change. More importantly, it means the hard work of a small community is being seen and valued at the highest level.

The Picnic's story is as old as the mines themselves, beginning in 1897 when families first made the trip from Queenstown to the King River for a day of respite. By 1899, the celebration found its

forever home on the sands of West Strahan, establishing a legacy of nostalgia and connection that has only grown stronger with time. What started as a simple escape for mining families has evolved into a massive annual homecoming—a day that unites all of the towns on the West Coast and welcomes visitors into the heart of our community.

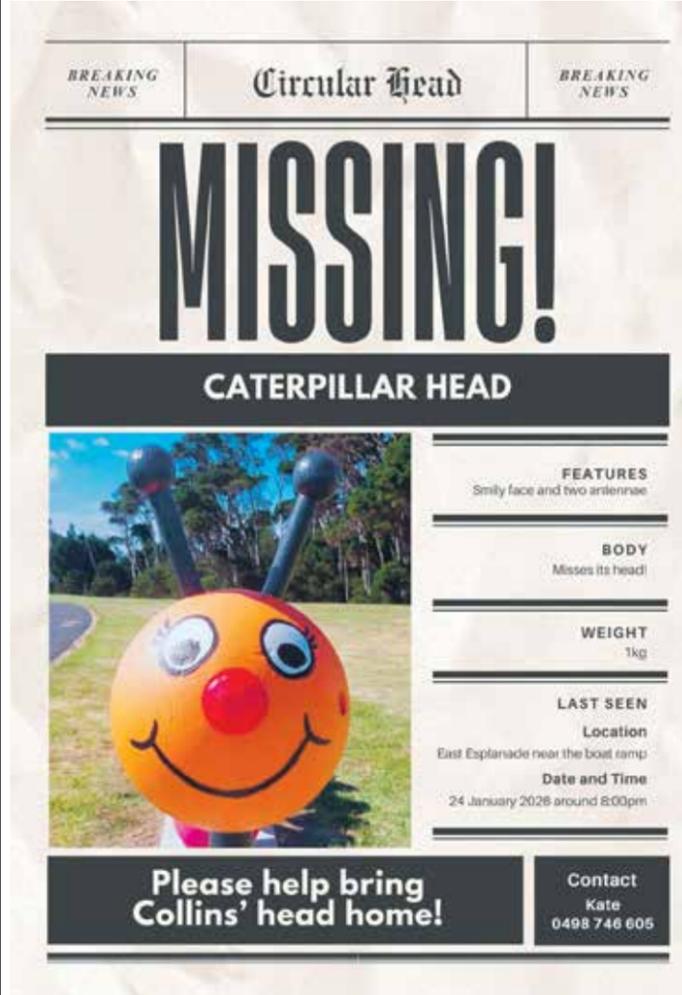
Ms Urquhart used her speech to highlight the "spirit of a community that supports one another through good times and tough times," placing the credit firmly with those who make it happen.

The event's success year after year is down to the tireless work of the Mount Lyell Strahan Picnic Committee and the many volunteers who keep the tradition alive. This year's celebration was also built on the vital backing of local businesses, service groups, donors, and sponsors, alongside an ongoing partnership with the West Coast Council.

While the day is anchored in pride, its true value lies in the way it brings people together. In the halls of Canberra, the message was clear: the West Coast doesn't just remember its history; it lives it through every generation that gathers on the beach.

*Photos from the picnic on page 6*

# Smithton falls in love with Collins the Caterpillar



less others stopped to chat, offer encouragement, or learn more about literacy in our region.

When it came to naming our alphabet-loving caterpillar, the community's enthusiasm was inspiring: 46 name suggestions were submitted, and 237 people voted to select "Collins the Caterpillar."

But Collins' journey hasn't been without drama. Not long after his grand debut, someone stole his head, sparking a community-wide search effort that would make any detective proud. From locals combing the area to Deputy Mayor Annette Dawes lead-

In true Circular Head style, our community has once again come together to celebrate learning - and this time, it's thanks to a very special caterpillar.

Collins the Caterpillar has become the newest and most colourful addition to the Walking Words Literacy Trail in Smithton. Stretching six metres long, Collins was created to give children and families the chance to practice singing the alphabet, play games with letters, and grow their literacy and learning skills, all while having fun outdoors.

The Walking Words Literacy Trail has been developed through 26Ten funding in collaboration with Circular Head Council. As one of only five UNESCO Learning Cities in Australia, Circular Head proudly embraces the belief that we all learn for life.

Local artist Hannah Bruce brought Collins and a whole family of insects to life with her joyful artwork. Over 62 community members rolled up their sleeves to help paint the trail, and count-

ing the charge, the town rallied to reunite Collins with his missing head. Despite everyone's best efforts, the original head was never found.

Fortunately, the story has a happy ending. McCain Foods and Greys Painting Service generously donated time and funds to help bring Collins the Caterpillar to life in the first place. And when Collins lost his head, Devonport's Entertainment Alley kindly sent a set of replacement bowling balls, allowing artist Hannah to paint a brand-new smiling face just in time, the day before she left to live overseas. The result? One smiling caterpillar, and one proud community.

Collins the Caterpillar isn't just a fun feature of the Literacy Trail — he's a reminder of what makes Circular Head special: creativity, collaboration, and a love of lifelong learning.

After all, in Circular Head, we all learn for life.

## Temporary Closure – Queenstown Pump Track

From 10 February, the Queenstown Pump Track will be closed for around two weeks to prepare for sealing works.

During this time, there will be barriers in place and machinery operating on site, and for safety reasons the track must not be used once preparation works begin.

Sealing works are weather-dependent, with the sealing itself expected to take approximately two days.

These works will improve the pump track by sealing the existing surface, enhancing safety, durability, and overall rider experience.

This project is supported through funding from the Open Spaces Grant, provided by the Tasmanian State Government, the Local Government Association of Tasmania, and West Coast Council.

Thanks for your patience while we

complete these improvements.

Queries regarding the project can be directed to Council's Operations Department:

64714700 ops@westcoast.tas.gov.au



# "DOING IT FOR THE ANIMALS" FUNDRAISER BBQ

Join Animal Welfare Centre inc. for a community family friendly day out, BBQ with Live music, and much more!

28th March 2026

LIVE MUSIC FROM LOCAL WEST COAST ARTISTS (TBA)

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE DETAILS.



# Got a great community project in mind? Council Grants now open!

Circular Head Council is encouraging local not-for-profit organisations to apply for Round Two of the 2025/26 Community Small Grants Program, now open until 1 March 2026.

Mayor Gerard Blizzard said the program helps bring local ideas to life - projects that build connection, boost health and wellbeing, celebrate our culture, and support the people who make Circular Head a vibrant and welcoming place.

Grants are available across six categories:

- Community Development
  - Community Facilities
  - Cultural Heritage
  - Community Events
  - Cultural Development
  - Sport, Recreation and Healthy Living
- Two funding options are on offer:
- Major Grants up to \$3,000
  - Minor Grants up to \$1,000

“These grants support a wide range of initiatives, from upgrading community spaces and purchasing essential equipment to running local events, caring for our environment, or launching new wellbeing activities” Mayor Blizzard said.

Council assesses applications twice a year to help local organisations plan, grow and respond to community needs. The program supports the goals in Council’s Corporate Strategic Plan 2017–2027, especially Connected Communities and Community Recreation and Wellbeing. It aims to build a community that is inclusive, active, safe and proud of its identity.

Recent funding has supported a wide

range of local initiatives, including post-natal exercise programs, community gardens, youth recreation activities, facility upgrades, environmental projects, and the purchase of essential equipment for local sporting and community groups.

Applicants must apply online and include supporting documents, such as a project budget.

A separate National Selection Community Grant is also open year-round for Circular Head residents representing Australia in academic, arts, youth or sporting pursuits.

Eligible applicants can receive up to \$500, subject to available funding.



For help or more information, contact Kylie Monson on 03 6452 4803 or email [kmonson@circularhead.tas.gov.au](mailto:kmonson@circularhead.tas.gov.au). Full guidelines and application details

are available at: [www.circularhead.tas.gov.au/community-and-recreation/communitygrants](http://www.circularhead.tas.gov.au/community-and-recreation/communitygrants)

## What is the Heather Henricks Memorial Walk?

The Heather Henricks Memorial Walk is a community event bringing people together to support Australians living with lymphoma. Join us for a meaningful day of walking, connection, and encouragement, while raising vital funds for Lymphoma Australia.

Here's how it works:

Sign up and register for the walk.

Facebook page is Walking for Lymphoma: The Heather Henricks Memorial Walk

Follow the website link to sign up

On Sunday 29th March 2026, gather at the Wynyard Yacht Club to start the walk at 10am. The walk will take place along the walking track on Old Bass Highway and Bass Highway, finishing at ANZAC Park in Somerset

There will be no planned rest stops along the walking route, so participants are encouraged to plan accordingly.

Encourage friends and family to sponsor your walk, helping fund specialist nurses, education, and support programs for people affected by lymphoma.

ANZAC Park Somerset Fun Day  
11pm to 2pm

- Somerset Rotary Club BBQ Lunch
- Free face painting
- Live Music from EMUcians and Burnie Brass Band
- Coffee and Ice cream van
- Drinks Station
- Fire and SES
- Surf Life Saving Club



# COMING TO NELSON ST SMITHTON

Your new Westpac opens this month.

IT TAKES A LITTLE



# More support for salmon industry **Back to school, back to hospital**



Josh Willie with Matt Stackhouse (Left) and John Whittington

In January, Labor Leader Josh Willie visited the West Coast to meet with salmon workers on Macquarie Harbour and show support for the industry, and the critical role it plays in supporting regional towns and economies.

"It was a real privilege to be welcomed by workers in Macquarie Harbour to share a BBQ and acknowledge the pride, skill and professionalism in their workforce," Mr Willie said.

"When I became Labor Leader last year I visited the West Coast and made a commitment to workers in the salmon industry that I would support their industry.

"I also made a commitment that I would be back within six months, and I was glad to be up this way again even

sooner than that. "Too often lately, the salmon industry and its workers have been treated as political bargaining chips.

"While the words are often said in Parliament House in Hobart or via the media, the impacts are felt in regional communities like the West Coast.

"When regional industries like salmon are targeted, so are families, mortgages, apprentices, small businesses, and regional towns. "Supporting workers is in Labor's DNA, and as the birthplace of Labor in Tasmania the West Coast has a special meaning for the party.

"Our job isn't to sit in Hobart and argue politics, it is to stand up for people who work shifts, who build things and keep regional Tasmania alive."

Early weeks of school bring higher asthma risk; a written Asthma Action Plan offers a simple step to protect children.

As kids return to school, Asthma Australia is warning parents and carers that asthma flare-ups are more common in the early weeks of term, making it important for every child with asthma to have an up-to-date Asthma Action Plan.

National data reveals that asthma hospitalisations among children generally peak in February, the first full month after the long summer break. Past research also shows that hospital admissions for asthma in children aged 5–14 years increase sharply after the first day of school, peaking 2–4 weeks into the new term. The risk of hospitalisation is up to three times higher than before school resumes. This may be due to several factors. Returning to classrooms increases exposure to respiratory viruses, a common trigger for flare-ups. Exacerbations are also more likely if children have missed doses of their preventer medication over the holidays, leaving asthma less controlled. Environmental triggers such as dust, pollen, and mould at school or on the way to school can further aggravate symptoms, making this period particularly high-risk for exacerbations and hospital visits.

Asthma remains one of the leading causes of school absenteeism in Australia. Around 42 percent of children aged 0–14 with asthma have missed school

due to their condition. Despite this, only two in three Australian children with asthma currently have a written Asthma Action Plan, leaving many without clear instructions when flare-ups occur.

An Asthma Action Plan outlines how to manage asthma daily; how to recognise early signs of worsening symptoms; steps to take if asthma becomes severe and emergency instructions if a life-threatening flare-up occurs.

Kate Miranda, CEO of Asthma Australia, said: "Back-to-school weeks are the highest-risk period for children with asthma. A written Asthma Action Plan, completed with a doctor or other qualified health professional and shared with teachers, coaches, and carers, provides clear guidance for both daily asthma management and responding to flare-ups. "It's not okay for children to miss school or for parents and carers to carry the worry of what might happen if their child has an asthma flare-up. Kids should be at school playing, learning, and enjoying their day without fear for their health. Parents are encouraged to book an asthma review before school starts and to have a comprehensive discussion with their doctor about keeping asthma under control in 2026, ensure medicines are current and used correctly and provide a copy of the plan to the school and any carers. For more information and to download an Asthma Action Plan template, visit Asthma Australia's website.

Need help knowing what can go in each wheelie bin?

Want to find out where else you can recycle things in North West Tasmania?

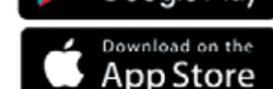


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Step 3: Check for alternative recycling solutions in your community

Step 4: Receive directions and do your bit for the planet



Visit [www.recyclemate.com.au](http://www.recyclemate.com.au) for more information



# MT LYELL STRAHAN PICNIC

Some of the action from the Strahan Mt Lyell picnic held on Australia Day.  
*Story on page 2*



# Celebrating Community Spirit: 2026 Australia Day West Coast Spirit Award recipients announced

The West Coast Council is proud to announce the recipients of the 2026 Australia Day West Coast Spirit Awards, recognising outstanding contributions to the community:

- **Bernice Mathewson**
- **Susan Pitt**
- **Strahan Community Op-Shop**

These recipients exemplify the values of generosity, resilience, and community spirit and their tireless efforts strengthen the social fabric of the West Coast and inspire others to give back.

## Awards Presentation

The awards were announced by West Coast Mayor Shane Pitt at the Mt Lyell Strahan Picnic on Monday, 26 January 2026. A civic event will be held at a later date to acknowledge recipients.

Quote from Mayor Shane Pitt

"The West Coast Spirit Awards celebrate the heart and soul of our community—the people and groups who go above and beyond to make life better for others. Bernice, Susan, and the Strahan Community Op-Shop remind us that true strength lies in compassion, connection, and the willingness to lend a hand. Their contributions are extraordinary, and we are proud to honour them on Australia Day." — Mayor Shane Pitt

## About the Recipients

### Bernice Mathewson

Bernice is a life member of the West Coast Rugby Club, the RSL Women's Auxiliary (Tasmania), and the Rosebery Festival Committee. She has volunteered tirelessly for decades, supporting events such as the Rosebery Children's Christmas Party and delivering meals for the

Red Cross. Bernice's enthusiasm and leadership have inspired countless others to contribute to community life, earning her recognition as an inspirational West Coast woman in 2012.

### Susan Pitt

Susan Pitt has dedicated decades to volunteering, serving in leadership roles across numerous local organisations. Her contributions include positions such as Treasurer of Queenstown RSL, President of the 1st Queenstown Scout Group, and Secretary of the Queenstown Anglers Club Inc. Currently, she continues her service as Secretary for multiple community groups and as a volunteer driver for Community Transport Services Tasmania.

Susan's efforts have ensured vital services remain accessible, including helping to establish a community transport service after the local taxi ceased operations. Her commitment to fostering inclusivity and supporting youth development makes her an irreplaceable asset to the West Coast.

### Strahan Community Op-Shop

Known locally as the "Harrods of Strahan," the Strahan Community Op-Shop is more than a retail store—it is a lifeline for the West Coast. Entirely volunteer-run, the Op-Shop provided \$11,000 in emergency assistance to local families last year and donated over \$5,000 to community groups. It serves as a vital social hub, combating isolation and fostering connection, while also championing sustainability by diverting tonnes of goods from landfill. The Op-Shop's work aligns directly with the West Coast

Council's strategic goals, promoting social inclusion, supporting families, and advancing environmental sustainability. Congratulations to all recipients!

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations—your support helps celebrate the incredible spirit of our community

Susan Pitt



Bernice Mathewson



## Strahan Community Op-Shop



## Driving progress for Braddon in 2026

Last year was a big one. The Albanese Labor Government has been hard at work delivering on the plan Australians voted for—making life fairer and more affordable for families across the country. From the biggest-ever investment in bulk billing to cutting 20% off student debt, we've made real progress.

As 2026 begins, our focus remains the same: delivering real help with the cost of living—right here in Braddon.

From 1 January, we launched 1800MEDICARE, a new advice and out-of-hours Medicare telehealth service for every Australian. Day or night, you can speak to a qualified professional when you need it most. This is particularly important for regional communities like ours, where access to health services can be challenging.

We've also made medicines more affordable. The maximum co-payment for PBS medications has dropped to just \$25—the cheapest they've been since 2004. And for mental health support, our free digital Medicare Mental Health Check-In is now live, helping Australians access care without a GP referral and without worrying about gap fees.

This builds on the new Medicare Mental Health Centre coming to Burnie

this year and the upgrade of headspace to headspace Plus—both right here in Braddon.

From 5 January, families receiving the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) will benefit from new minimum hours of subsidised care—at least 72 hours per fortnight, with up to 100 hours for families who meet certain criteria, including caring for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children or experiencing exceptional circumstances.

This means more flexibility and support for parents juggling work and family life in our region. You can find full details on the Services Australia website, but the message is clear: we're making childcare more accessible and affordable for families who need it most.

These changes are just the beginning. There's more work to do, and I'm committed to continuing that effort throughout the year.

Wishing you a safe and successful year ahead as I continue driving progress for Braddon in 2026.

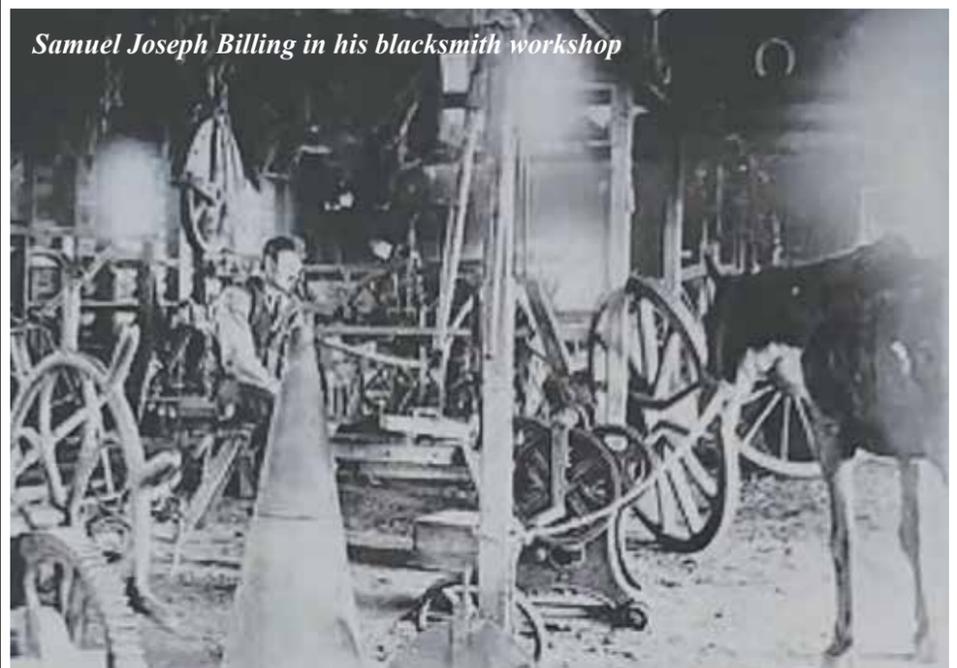
**Anne Urquhart MP**  
**Federal Member for Braddon**

## Circular Head 200 year anniversary

Circular Head, located in Tasmania's far north-west, was named by explorers Matthew Flinders and George Bass in 1798 after the distinctive, flat-topped volcanic plug now known as "The Nut". Settled in 1826 by the Van Diemen's Land Company (VDL Co.) for agricultural expansion, the region developed from a rugged, convict-influenced sealing area into a thriving agricultural and timber district.

October 2026 will be the 200 year anniversary of European settlement in Circular Head.

The Circular Head Heritage Centre will be holding an open weekend 7th and 8th of November. The new Museum exhibitions are finalised and will focus on early settlers and farming. There will also be events throughout the year. Check the facebook page for photos and event announcements.



Samuel Joseph Billing in his blacksmith workshop



## Council Acts on Community Feedback to Strengthen Waterfront Project

West Coast Council has taken decisive action to address community concerns and reinforce confidence in the Strahan waterfront redevelopment project, adopting a series of recommendations at its meeting on 27 January.

The decision follows strong community feedback, with concerns raised through a formal petition, a public meeting, and a community information session. Council acknowledged the value of this feedback, noting that community input has played a key role in shaping the project's next steps.

The adopted recommendations are designed to ensure the waterfront development aligns with both community expectations and Council objectives, while maintaining transparency and accountability throughout the process. Councillors emphasised that listening to residents and responding constructively is central to delivering a project that benefits the entire community.

Mayor and Councillors highlighted that the waterfront project represents a significant opportunity for the region, with the potential to enhance public spaces, support local economic activity and create a welcoming destination for residents and visitors alike. By addressing concerns, Council aims to strengthen trust and deliver a project the community can be proud of.

Importantly, Council confirmed that the recommendations will guide future planning, design and implementation

stages, ensuring community priorities remain at the forefront as the project progresses. Ongoing communication with residents will continue across Council communication platforms and with three community information sessions already scheduled.

A summary of the adopted recommendations is provided below, with the full detailed report that was presented to Council available on Council's website, providing residents with clear insight into the decisions made and the rationale behind them.

### Strahan Waterfront Project adopted recommendations:

- 1 Acknowledge the community concerns raised in relation to the Strahan Waterfront petition submissions and consider the proposed mitigations and outcomes detailed within the report.
- 2 Endorse the immediate actions taken in relation to the project Strahan Waterfront Project
  - a. Cessation of the installation of all hard rock landscaping.
  - b. Review of the project works contract implementation leadership.
- 3 Action for immediate implementation and progression.
  - a. The removal of all hard landscaping in the form of rock at the lowest possible cost reusing the material for alternative Council works.
  - b. Investigation of temporary fuel supply option via self-bunded module to allow the fuel tanks to be demolished to improve wharf access and traffic circulation.

- c. Provide advice to all non-essential traffic on the wharf area to be excluded through updated traffic signage to assist the working port functions.
- d. Review of all approvals for the project works.
- e. Completion of the new toilet facilities as a priority.

- 4 Action detailed community consultation on the project design elements including
  - a. Waterfront views in the design to align with the community vision.
  - b. Landscaping design review.
  - c. Removal of a large portion of the current wall structure excluding the support area for the new waterfront shelter.
  - d. Waters edge concrete designs
  - e. Site and precinct parking solutions.
  - f. Precinct signage and way finding.
  - g. Material selection and resilience suitability.

- 5 Action key working wharf industry stake holder consultation on the preferred wharf access protocols to support vessel use, refuelling and catch landing.

- 6 Consultation to be undertaken using the IAP2 model for the various project element components.

- 7 Investigate the potential options for additional toilet facilities on the Strahan Waterfront precinct.

- 8 Confirm the following schedule for community engagement and collaboration meetings to be led by the General Manager

in Strahan for February to April 2026 to refine the new design considerations prior to reporting back for costing and implementation to the West Coast Council.

- a. Thursday the 19th February 2026 at 6.00pm in Strahan.
- b. Thursday the 19th March 2026 at 6.00pm in Strahan.
- c. Thursday the 16th April 2026 at 6.00pm In Strahan.

- 9 Post community consultation engagement and collaboration consider a report on the community feedback recommendations for project modifications on the site at the West Coast Council Ordinary meeting in April 2026.

## Strahan Waterfront Redevelopment

### BE INFORMED:

- Receive a project update.
- Learn about the Strahan Waterfront Community Advisory Committee.

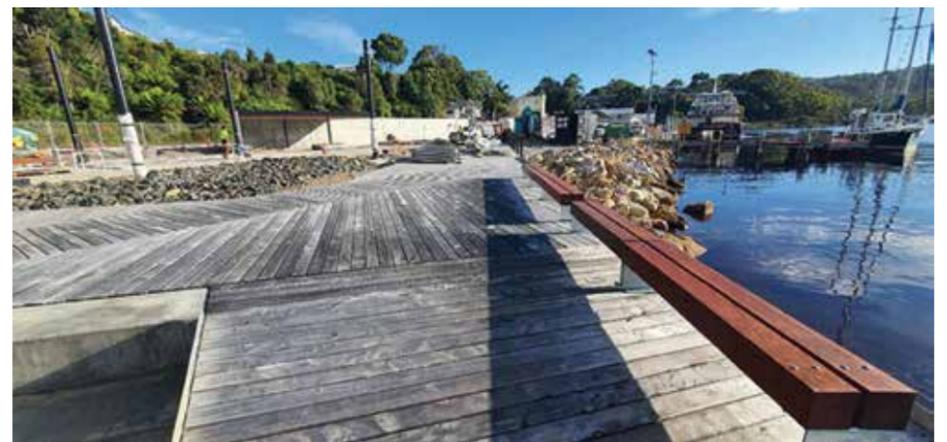
### CONSULT:

- Consult on key project design features.



### COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION:

6pm, Thursday 19 February at the Gym & Multi-purpose Centre, Gaffney St, Strahan





## Fire Risk Abatement Program Continues

Council is continuing its proactive approach to bushfire risk reduction, with inspectors identifying 80 parcels of Council-owned land requiring fire risk abatement as part of a broader municipality-wide fire management program.

The Council-owned sites identified include nature strips, stormwater drains and public parks that are under Council's direct management. Council's Operations Department is progressing abatement works at these locations, using additional plant and equipment specifically engaged for the program. This includes an excavator fitted with a mulching head and a skid steer with a mulching head, which are being used primarily to remove highly flammable weeds such as gorse and broom.

As at the end of December 2025, 13 of the 80 Council-owned locations had been cleared. Works at the remaining Council sites are ongoing.

In addition to works on land owned and managed by Council, fire risk inspections have been carried out across all land tenures, including Crown Land, which is land owned by the State Government, as well as privately owned properties.

**In total, 4,786 properties were inspected, resulting in the issue of 614 Fire Risk Abatement Notices. Of these notices, 148 related to Crown Land and 466 were issued to privately owned properties.**

Council has now entered the next phase of the fire abatement program, with compliance inspections underway to determine whether properties issued with a Fire Risk Abatement Notice have adequately addressed the identified fire risks. These inspections commenced in early January.

Council has reminded land managers and property owners that non-compliance with a Fire Risk Abatement Notice may result in Council, or one of its authorised contractors, undertaking the required works and issuing an infringement notice to recover costs. Council officers will also continue to patrol Fire Hazard Management Areas

throughout the Fire Permit Period and will issue further notices where fire risks are identified.

To support the community, information to assist landowners and land managers to understand the fire risk abatement process and how to comply with notices when they are issued is available on Council's website.

Council said the fire abatement program reflects its ongoing commitment to community safety, bushfire preparedness and responsible land management during the fire season.



### FIRE ABATEMENT PROCESS INSPECTION



Properties are inspected for fire risk. Fire risks include flammable weeds and unkept vegetation and long grass.



### ABATEMENT NOTICE

If a fire risk exists, an abatement notice is issued to the property owner.



### ABATEMENT PERIOD

The abatement notice will advise how long the property owner has to abate (remove) the fire risk.



### RE-INSPECTION

The property is inspected again to check for compliance with the abatement notice.



### COMPLIANCE

The property owner has complied with the abatement notice and continues to maintain the property appropriately so that fire risk doesn't reoccur.



### NON-COMPLIANCE

The property owner has not removed the fire risk. Council organises for the fire risk to be compulsorily cleared.

## COUNCIL MEETINGS



2026

24 February  
24 March  
28 April

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

## Deadline Looming for Rates Concession Applications



Ratepayers receiving government concessions may be eligible for a discount on their property rates – however applications must be submitted and processed by Council before 31 March 2026.

If you received a concession last year, you don't need to reapply. If a concession has been calculated, the concession should be in the rebate column of your rates notice and your instalments adjusted accordingly.

If you did not receive a Rates Concession last year, you can complete a Rates Concession application form this year. Application forms are available on Council's website, from Council agencies or from the Council Office.

**To check if you're eligible, please contact Council as soon as possible – remembering that applications must be processed before 31 March 2026.**

**West Coast Council office:**  
11 Sticht Street, Queenstown  
Open Monday–Friday  
8.30am–5pm (closed Public Holidays)

**COUNCIL AGENCIES ARE LOCATED:**  
**Rosebery District School**  
Open Monday–Friday 8am–4pm  
7–11 Morrisby Street, Rosebery  
Phone: (03) 6473 1223

**Strahan Post Office**  
Open Monday–Friday  
10am–5.30pm during daylight savings  
10am–5pm non-daylight savings  
13 Esplanade Strahan  
Phone: (03) 6471 7171

**Zeehan Post Office**  
Open Monday–Friday  
June to August: 9am to 4:30pm  
September to May: 9am to 5pm  
114 Main Street, Zeehan  
Phone: (03) 6471 6361

## REMINDERS

**12 FEBRUARY**  
Council office closed 10am–3pm

**13 FEBRUARY**  
Kerbside collection  
Rosebery & Tullah

**16 FEBRUARY**  
Recycling collection Zeehan,  
Rosebery & Tullah

**19 FEBRUARY**  
Strahan Waterfront Community  
Information Session

**20–21 FEBRUARY**  
Rosebery Festival

**6 MARCH**  
Recycling collection Queenstown,  
Gormanston/Linda & Strahan

**13 MARCH**  
Recycling collection Zeehan,  
Rosebery & Tullah

**19 MARCH**  
Strahan Waterfront Community  
Information Session

**31 MARCH**  
Deadline for rates concession  
applications to be processed

## NEW DIGS, SAME LOCAL KNOW-HOW



**ADVICE & BOOKINGS**



**WEST COAST MERCHANDISE**



**LOCAL GIFTS**

We are currently operating from temporary premises at 29 Esplanade Strahan, while our usual location undergoes renovations. Drop in for local advice, bookings, and to browse our West Coast-branded gear. Or visit the website for everything you need to explore our region. Locals and visitors welcome. We're here to help!



**WEST COAST TAS**

Phone: 03 6472 6800  
tourism@westcoast.gov.au

**westcoasttas.com**  
#westcoasttas

# News from the CWA

Our local CWA members have all enjoyed family time over the holiday period and are eager to start fresh in 2026.

Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th February in the Emmermerton Park Clubhouse at 1pm and new members would be most welcome.

It will be a busy year as we consider the 'Topics of Interest' accepted at our state conference.

Our first topic is 'Women Facing Homelessness in Later Life'

Women aged 55 and over are an increasingly venerable group facing homelessness, often due to rising house costs, health issues or life changes. For many, this homelessness is hidden, including couch surfing or living in insecure accommodation.

CWA has a strong tradition of supporting women and communities. This is an opportunity for our branch to raise awareness and offer support to these women locally.

Another topic our branch will consider is Mental Health. This is an important part of wellbeing for women, families and communities. Life pressures such as

isolation, caring responsibilities and major life changes can affect mental health. Promoting mental wellbeing aligns with CWA's values of care while encouraging early support.

We are also concerned about the Impact the Loss of Small Abattoirs on Farms and Food Systems may have on our communities possibly leading to higher meat prices and reduced availability. Food security, local production and rural sustainability are long-standing areas of interest for CWA members across Tasmania.

Changes to local food infrastructure affect farming communities like ours directly and have broader impacts for all Tasmanians.

Our local CWA is committed to raising awareness of these issues by hosting speakers from farming or food production backgrounds, exploring how food moves from farm to table and encouraging the use of local produce.

Changes to food handling laws may also affect such events as farmer's markets.



# Location identified for Burnie Medicare urgent care clinic



six Medicare Urgent Care Clinics across Tasmania.

Over 100 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics are in operation across Australia, which have already seen 2.4 million presentations since the first sites opened in June 2023. This includes over 137,000 presentations to the existing Tasmanian Medicare Urgent Care Clinics.

Minister Butler said "The Albanese Government is getting on with the job of delivering more Medicare Urgent Care Clinics for people in Tasmania.

"The new clinic in Burnie will be open seven days a week, extended hours and most importantly it'll be fully bulk billed.

"This clinic will take pressure off the local hospitals, including the North West Regional Hospital, and will fill an important gap in services across extended hours and over the weekend."

Anne Uruqhart MP, Member for Bradon said "The Burnie community requested better access to health care and the Albanese Labor Government listened and is delivering, the Burnie Medicare Urgent Care Clinic is another commitment we made during the election, and I am very pleased to be able to deliver this commitment for the people of Burnie and surrounding areas. This will ease pressure on the North West Regional Hospital emergency department, and make sure the community gets the care it deserves when most needed, and all you need to take is your Medicare card."

The Albanese Government is pleased to announce a location has been for the new Burnie Medicare Urgent Care Clinic following a competitive tender process led by the Tasmanian Primary Health Network.

The Burnie Medicare Urgent Care Clinic will be located at the Burnie Health Hub, 20 Mooreville Road, Park Grove, and partnered with the soon to be established Park Grove Medical Centre.

The clinic will be open seven days a week operating extended hours.

The new Medicare Urgent Care Clinic will begin delivering care for the community in the coming weeks.

The clinic will help to ease pressure on the North West Regional Hospital emergency department, where around 40 per cent of presentations in 2024-25 were for semi-urgent or non-urgent conditions.

The Burnie Medicare Urgent Care Clinic will join the existing network of

**From your place**



**To our facility**



**Back to your patch!**



Get the most from your green bin



# International Women's Day, Scholarship & Raffle



March is always a special month for Soroptimist International of Circular Head, as we come together to celebrate International Women's Day and reflect on the collective power of women supporting women.

This year's International Women's Day theme, "Give to Gain," speaks strongly to the heart of what Soroptimist does – when we give our time, skills and resources to uplift others, our whole community gains. In the lead-up to International Women's Day, our club is running a community raffle with four great prizes: \$500, \$250, \$100 and \$50.

Tickets are available now (\$2 each or 3 for \$5), with the raffle being drawn at our International Women's Day Breakfast on Friday 6 March. Funds raised through this raffle go directly back into Soroptimist projects that support women and girls locally, including education, wellbeing and leadership initiatives. It is a simple but powerful way for the community to "give," while helping create meaningful opportunities for others.

One of the most tangible outcomes of this support is our annual education scholarship program.

We are delighted to announce the recipient of the Soroptimist International of Circular Head Tertiary Scholarship 2026, Abigail Croft.

Abigail will be studying a Bachelor of Medical Science and Doctor of Medicine, and has been awarded the \$3,000 scholarship, which is offered to a woman who resides in Circular Head and is beginning her university degree.

Abigail's educational pathway has taken her through Edith Creek Primary School, Smithton High School and Hellyer College, with each step shaping her passion for learning and her desire to pursue a career in medicine.

Abigail has identified a significant challenge facing our region – North West Tasmania has the lowest density of medical practitioners in the state, with only 331 per 100,000 people, compared to the state average of 419 per 100,000. Many local patients are required to travel to Hobart or interstate for specialist healthcare.

Abigail hopes to be part of the solution, with a particular interest in helping address the shortage of female practitioners in rural and regional areas. She is looking forward to the challenges ahead as she undertakes her tertiary studies, and we are incredibly proud to support her journey.

The connection between our raffle and Abigail's scholarship is a perfect example of "Give to Gain" in action. Every ticket purchased contributes to creating pathways for local women to achieve their goals, build careers and, in turn, give back to their communities.

If you're a local woman looking to connect, give back, or be part of something positive, we'd love to welcome you.

Whether you can help occasionally or get more involved, there is a place for you in our warm and supportive club. Find out more by checking out Soroptimist International of Circular Head on Facebook.

## Mt Black Men's Shed – Update

Good news! Mt Black Men's Shed is open again

The past few weeks have been a bit tough with the Shed closed for a week and plenty of talk around town. We appreciate everyone's patience while things were worked through. The concerns raised about Shed funds have now been dealt with privately, with information reviewed by the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association (TMSA). The Committee has been cleared, and we're now moving forward.

With guidance from TMSA, we're getting back to basics — what Men's Sheds are all about spending time together, having a yarn, enjoying good company in a safe, relaxed space. What you need to know: The Shed is open and operating

We're sticking strong to AMSA values — mateship, respect, safety, wellbeing, and integrity. Thanks to everyone who's stuck with us through this. We're looking forward to getting back to what matters most — mateship, wellbeing, and community.

More info coming soon - **Mt Black Men's Shed Inc**

## Tasmania's fresh produce is building global partnerships - from the ground up

Last week, Tasmania welcomed international fresh produce buyers to our farms, factories and fields.

The visit is part of our Government's Fresh Produce Inbound Buyer Visitation Program, connecting Tasmanian producers to international decision-makers. Nearly 20 international buyers from 16 companies across nine countries attended. China, Malaysia, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Taiwan experienced firsthand why Tasmania's fruit and vegetables are so sought after.

It's the tenth inbound buyer program delivered by our Government, helping keep our economy strong, support Tasmanian jobs and bring the world to our high quality produce.

As part of the program, I toured Harvest Moon with the international delegation. Founded in 1981 in north-west Tasmania, the business has grown into one of Australia's largest privately-owned fresh produce companies, exporting vegetables throughout Asia and supplying major domestic retailers.

This visit is already delivering results. Contracts have been secured for Tasmanian cherries into the Taiwanese market, demonstrating the value of bringing international buyers to Tasmania to see for themselves the quality of our produce.

These agreements give growers certainty, support seasonal employment, and encourage ongoing investment in

orchards, packing facilities and regional communities.

Our investments in trade and the quality of our producers are central to why Tasmania's trade performance continues to grow. In 2025, Tasmania's total goods exports reached \$4.64 billion, outperforming the national trend.

Fresh produce may not be our largest export, but its importance should not be underestimated. Our fruit industry has a farm-gate value of about \$400 million, with export trade exceeding \$46 million.

Exported vegetables, such as onions and carrots, are valued around \$14 million for onions and \$5 million for carrots. At the same time, more than 70 per cent of production continues to supply local markets.

The Government's inbound buyer program's success is clear: stronger market access, increased export certainty, local food security, more resilient supply chains and sustained employment across regional Tasmania.

Each visit builds confidence among international buyers and reinforces Tasmania's reputation as a reliable supplier of premium fresh produce.

Tasmania may be small in size, but we punch above our scale in what we offer. By inviting the world to see what we do best we are not only exporting produce, we are also delivering lasting economic returns for Tasmanians.



14th March 2026  
**WYNYARD SHOW**

# CALL *For Vendors*

Are you looking to showcase your product or services at a classic family-friendly agricultural show?

Spaces are limited and filling up fast. Don't miss this chance to be a part of our 2026 show. To apply as a vendor, visit our Website or Contact Us for more details.




**Contact Us!** [wynyardshow@gmail.com](mailto:wynyardshow@gmail.com) [wynyardshow.org](http://wynyardshow.org)



Rosebery Mine

# Community Newsletter

February 2026

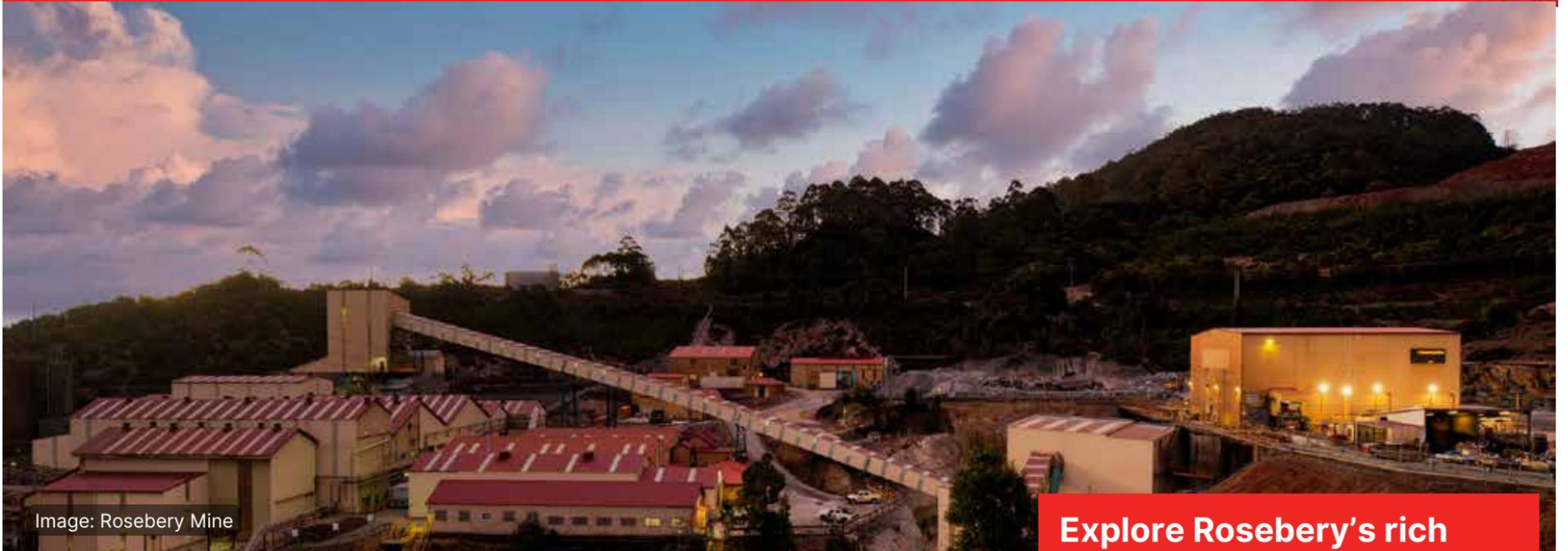


Image: Rosebery Mine

## Explore Rosebery's rich mining history

MMG is teaming up with the Rosebery Heritage Centre to run guided bus tours as part of the Rosebery Festival and to celebrate 90 years of continuous operation of Rosebery Mine.

The one-hour tours will depart on Saturday 21 February at 9am, 11am and 1pm, taking you on a journey through the area's mining past and its role in shaping the community today.

From historic milestones to modern mining, there's something for everyone to discover. We'll also have a virtual reality experience.

Tours will depart from the Rosebery Heritage Centre, so come and learn about Rosebery's mining heritage.

## Service milestone

Congratulations to Ian Pigden, who has reached an incredible 55 years of service at Rosebery Mine this month.

Growing up in Rosebery, Ian followed in his father's footsteps by joining the mine. Mining has been a family affair, with his two sisters and nephew also working at Rosebery Mine over the years.

Reflecting on his career, Ian said working at the mine has felt like "winning Tattslotto half a dozen times."

"I never intended to work this long," Ian said. "But the camaraderie and the enjoyment I get from the job are what have kept me going."



Image: MMG's Ian Pigden with his sister Chris Winskill

## RCCC meets in Rosebery

The Rosebery Community Consultative Committee (RCCC) met last month for the first time this year.

During the meeting, there was a presentation outlining plans for Rosebery Mine's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Also discussed was the progress of the Community Bus Working Group as well as ongoing sponsorship for three local sporting organisations and events through a Memorandum of Understanding.

There was also a presentation on how community investment will be rolled out, with the support of the RCCC. Working groups would be created from interested community members. If you would like to be involved, contact Jill Richardson.



Image: MMG's Jill Richardson and Xavier Flugal

## Awards for excellence

Congratulations to Rosebery students Xavier Flugal and Hayley Woods, who are recipients of MMG scholarships for year 11 at Hellyer College.

Hellyer College is also celebrating a significant milestone, marking its 50<sup>th</sup> year. We thank them for their support of our remote students over the last five decades.

# Under The Horizontal *with Tewkesbury Wharf*

Concluding the tale of 'Black Bella'. With the characters explored in previous articles, a question yet remains as to the circumstances of the stabbing of Black Bella. It is presented as an isolated incident, a jealous suitor unwilling to share Isabella's favours. However, it was not an isolated incident, but the tip of an iceberg. What lay behind this tale was a far more violent and riotous action that took place in the closing days of 1881.

In December 1881, the licencing bench of Circular Head granted liquor licences to John Conrad at Trial Harbour and William Holroyd at Heemskirk, to come into effect on the first day of the new year. The bench may not have been aware that the only policeman stationed in the district was twenty-five miles distant at Smith's Cove. On the 17th of December, the ss Amy arrived at Trial Harbour with a load of wines and spirits for Conrad's pub, ready for New Year's Day.

The correspondent for the Mercury describes, on the 29th of December, Christmas having passed off with none of the 'scenes and

sights' that often disgraced the more populous centres 'of every order' and added that they hoped the two pubs due to open would have no effect



in changing the nature of their little community. Had he waited a day or two his report would have been utterly different. A letter published in the Mercury written by Looker-On describes how the men remaining at Trial Harbour made a rush on the Conrad's pub and removed the grog.

There was some show of resistance made, the writer supposes, 'to take the down off' and alludes to the fact that it may have been a concerted

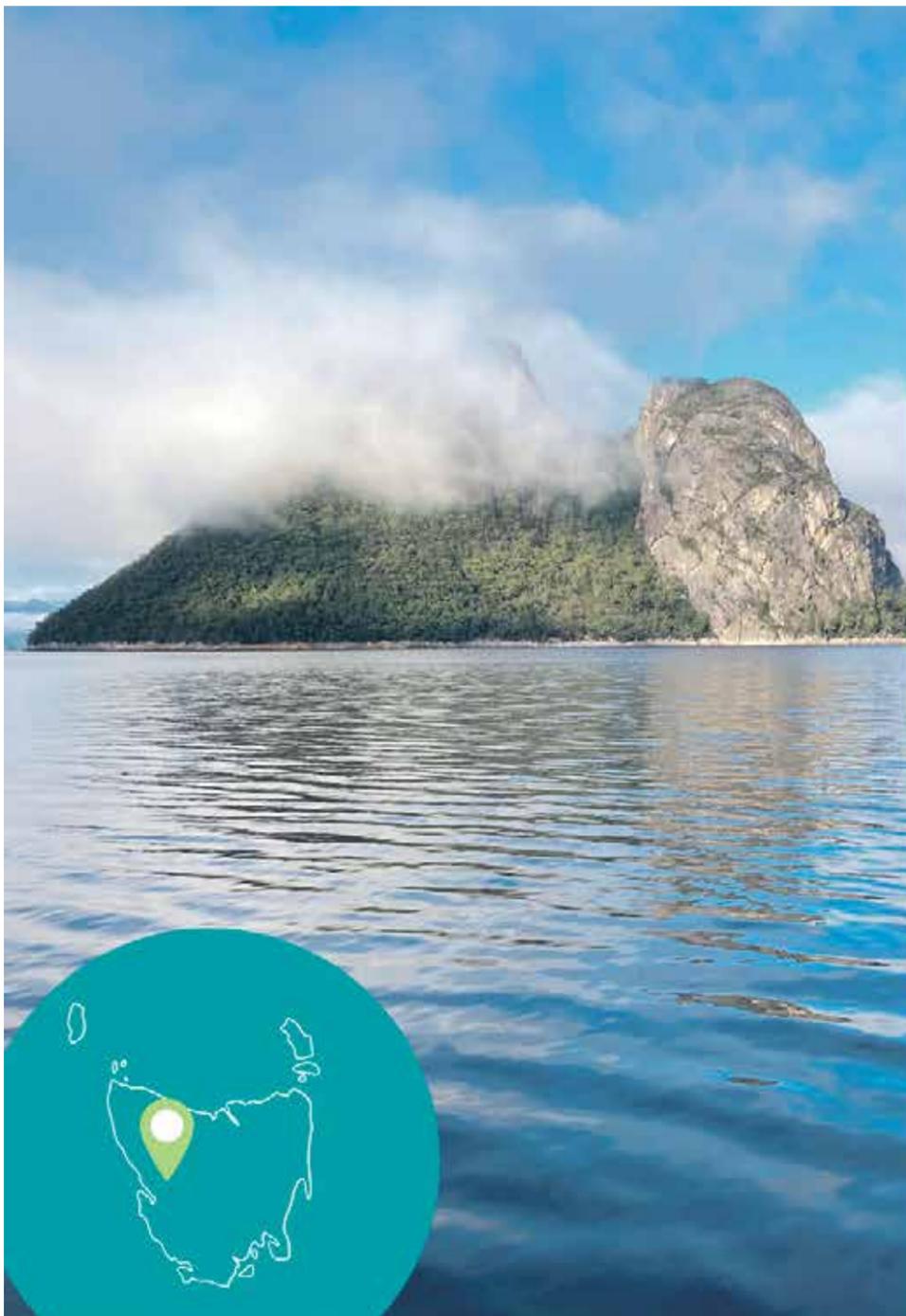
scenes in connection with a black women taking place openly. 'Language cannot describe the riot; the hell that existed', and those few not participating met with the 'most insulting language'.

Another letter, quoted in a Mercury editorial, from 'Law and Order' mentioned many of the same things adding an attempted stabbing having taken place. A Corinna correspondent quotes a gentleman through from Heemskirk describing the scenes as 'something horrible' and adding the requirement for a lock up and additional police.

It is interesting to note that at even a remove of fifteen years, only the tale of Black Bella survived, first appearing in 1896 as part of a series on West Coast history. No mention of the riot behind the tale has yet made it to mainstream history. It didn't reflect well on the government of the day, and many of them, being Hobart people would have had an interest in the tin fields succeeding. And then there's the litigation that may have ensued...

plan. There may be some truth in this as JP Conrad was no shrinking violet.

Looker-On also describes drunks nearly drowning in the surf, having to be rescued by the soberest amongst them. None were without black eyes or broken noses, and disgraceful

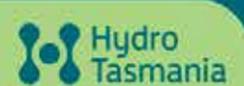


## Explore the mighty West Coast

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](http://hydro.com.au) to plan your trip!





## Australia Day on the Burnie Waterfront!

On 26 January 2026, Burnie City Council proudly supported the Australia Day Music and Beach Party on the Burnie Waterfront, organised in partnership with the Rotary Club of Burnie West.

This free, family-friendly event brought the community together to celebrate Burnie's spirit, diversity, and connection in a safe and welcoming space. Attendees enjoyed live music from local bands, face painting, children's games, a sandcastle competition, and a duck race raffle — providing fun for all ages.

Burnie City Council values events like this for building community connections, supporting local volunteers, and activating public spaces. Thank you to the Rotary Club, our partners, volunteers, and everyone who joined us for a fantastic Australia Day celebration! More photos on page 20



### Upcoming Burnie Port Cruise Ship arrivals

Norwegian Spirit  
11 February, 2026

Noordam  
12 February, 2026

Noordam  
18 February, 2026

Norwegian Spirit  
3 March, 2026

Coral Princess  
4 March, 2026

Norwegian Spirit  
7 March, 2026

Riviera - Inaugural visit  
19 March, 2026

Viking Orion  
27 March, 2026

Norwegian Spirit  
31 March, 2026

Norwegian Spirit  
20 April, 2026  
*Last Cruise Ship for the 2025-26 season*



The Makers Market will be set up in the Marine Plaza selling their Burnie-made products for each arrival, and our incredible team of volunteers will be ready with their renowned Burnie welcome!

## stARTs in March - 60 Community Events!

Burnie City Council is proud to be supporting stARTs North-West inaugural celebration of arts and culture with a month-long calendar of creative activities.

stARTs in March is all about lifting the profile of local artists and events.

On offer throughout the month long program are exhibitions, workshops, open studios, community activities and more. Many events are free or very low cost, thanks to the joint support of artists, vendors, sponsors and supporters.

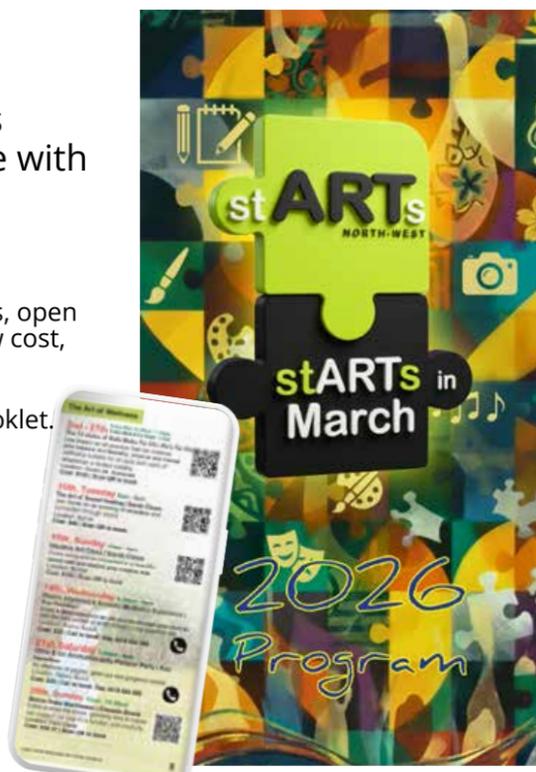
The stARTs in March program can be viewed online, as an interactive booklet. Flip through the pages and explore the nine themed sections.

Find something you like? Simply tap on the QR code to get more event details and booking links. Hard copies are available at the Council chambers and across participating locations.

There's something for everyone — all ages, all abilities, all art forms.

60 events - all in one month. What will you experience first?

For more information - [www.burnie.tas.gov.au/stARTS](http://www.burnie.tas.gov.au/stARTS)



## Exhibition Opening Night - Burnie Regional Gallery, Burnie Arts Centre

A large crowd gathered to celebrate the opening of Burnie Arts latest exhibitions.

With **Home** by Patrick Grieve and **Stone Tides Weeping Trees** by Troy Ruffels officially opening, the gallery was filled with thoughtful conversation, connection, and a strong appreciation for landscapes that resonate deeply with our sense of place.

It was particularly rewarding to see our community come together in such numbers to support local and Tasmanian artists, taking the time to engage closely with the works and share in local Burnie stories.

An amazing effort from the Burnie Arts team, the artists, and everyone who attended and contributed to such a successful opening night. The new gallery space fulfilled its purpose, bringing people together through art.

If you were unable to attend the opening, these exhibitions remain well worth a visit.

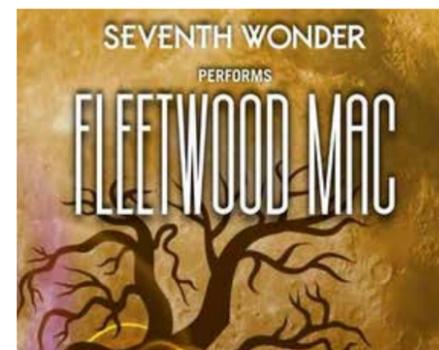
Both exhibitions will be on display at the Burnie Regional Gallery located within the Burnie Arts Centre from: 31 January - 14 March | 10am to 4pm | Mondays to Saturdays | [www.burniearts.net.au](http://www.burniearts.net.au)



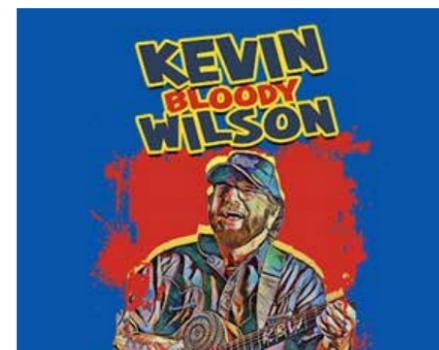
Burnie Arts is a cultural hub serving Burnie and NW Tasmania for performing arts, gallery, museum, events and functions.



Ireland: The Voyage  
12 February 2026  
7:30 pm to 9:20 pm



Seventh Wonder performs  
Fleetwood Mac  
26 February 2026  
7:30 pm to 9:30 pm



Kevin Bloody Wilson - Aussie Icon  
Tour  
12 March 2026  
7:30 pm to 10 pm

For information on these and more - [burniearts.net](http://burniearts.net)



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

Ridgley Community Market  
Ridgley Community Hall  
Saturday, 14 February 2026  
9 am to 1 pm

Gin and Jazz in the Garden  
Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden  
Saturday, 14 February 2026  
10 am to 3 pm

A Taste of Harmony  
Burnie Foreshore, Hilder Parade  
Friday, 20 February 2026  
4 pm to 7 pm

Food and Feedback - Free BBQ  
Burnie Foreshore, Hilder Parade  
Saturday, 21 February 2026  
9 am to 1 pm

Burnie City Council January Meeting  
Tuesday, 24 February 2026  
7pm

For more info - [burnie.tas.gov.au](http://burnie.tas.gov.au)

## SUMMERFEST 26

Burnie City Council were proud to support Pataway Collective's SUMMERFEST 26, held on Friday 30 January at Wiseman Street Reserve in Shorewell Park.

The event brought together community members of all ages for an afternoon of live music, art, food and family-friendly activities, celebrating local culture, creativity and connection. It was great to see the reserve activated and filled with people enjoying the relaxed summer atmosphere and supporting local talent.

Council is pleased to sponsor events like SUMMERFEST that strengthen community connections, encourage participation, and showcase the vibrant culture within Burnie's community's.

The strong turnout and positive energy throughout the day reflected the importance of accessible, inclusive community celebrations.

Thank you to Pataway Collective, event partners, performers, volunteers and everyone who attended and helped make SUMMERFEST 26 such a successful and enjoyable event.



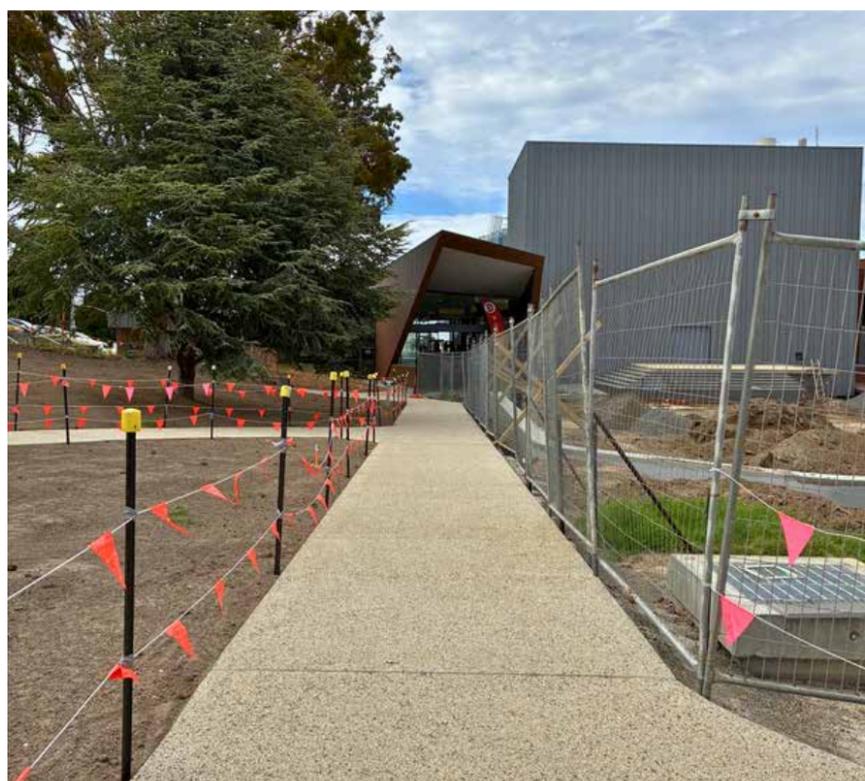
## Burnie Arts Civic Plaza Project Update

Things are coming together on site!

Pathways, building access from car parks, the external stage, landscaped zones, tiered seating, and paving areas are all taking shape.

The redeveloped Civic Plaza and landscaped areas will provide places for entertainment and relaxation. Through initiatives in the Urban Plan, it will also have better connections to the waterfront and shopping areas.

Works are expected to be completed by June 2026.

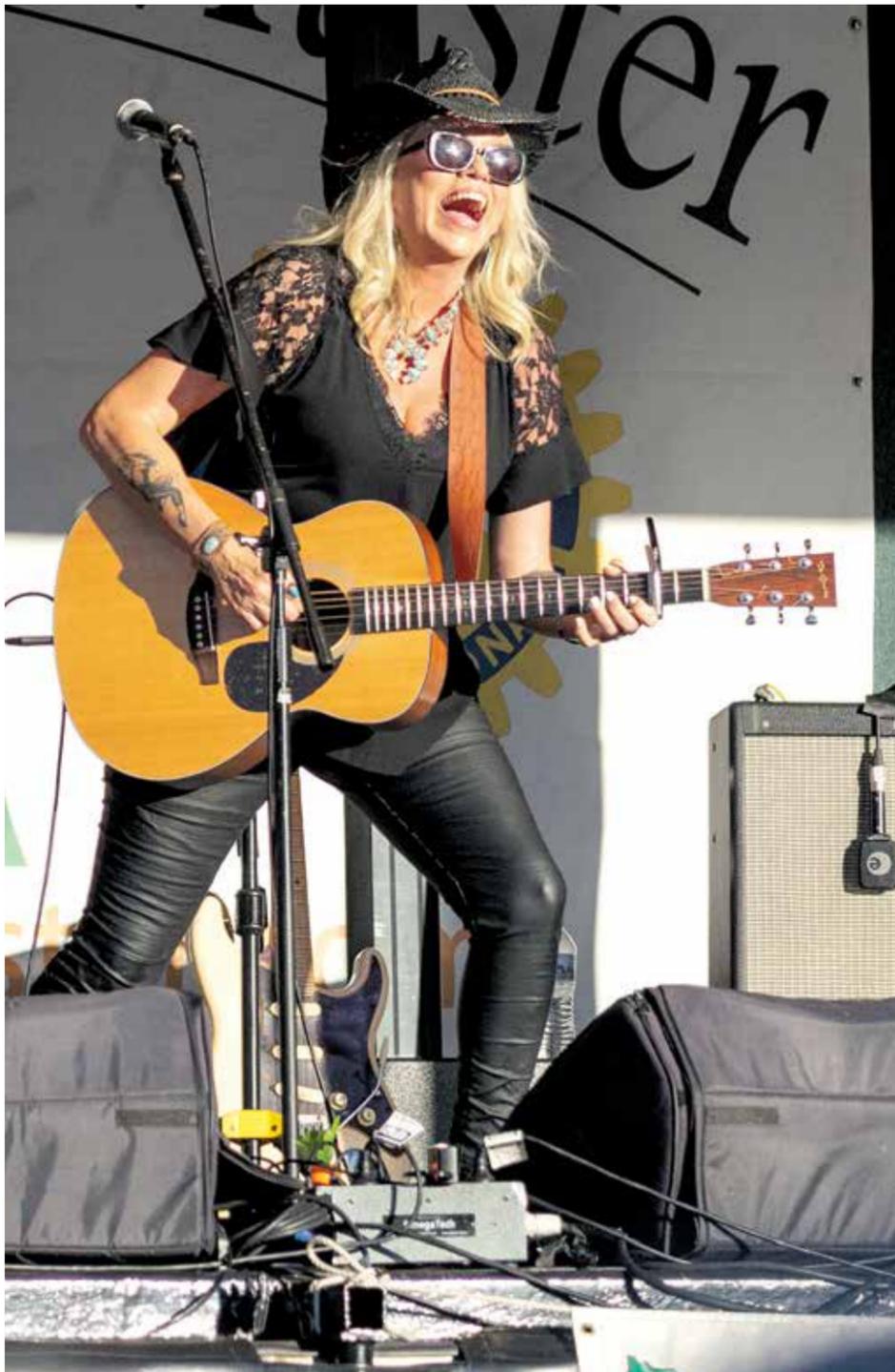


Web: [burnie.tas.gov.au](http://burnie.tas.gov.au) - Phone: 03 6430 5700  
Email: [burnie@burnie.tas.gov.au](mailto:burnie@burnie.tas.gov.au) - PO BOX 973 80 Wilson St, Burnie, 7320

# DEVIL COUNTRY MUSTER

Photos by Alan Jennison

## 13TH DEVIL COUNTRY MUSTER HOSTED RECORD CROWDS



Kicking off on Wednesday 4th February, was the annual talent quest with an open genre style of talent performed.

The only junior entrant Bobby Chook performed acapella. Bobby was awarded the junior winners Tim Guest Mechanical trophy and \$200 cash.

Launceston's Jo Nevin was the eventual senior winner with her performance of Don't Worry Be Happy in the heat and a great rendition of Could I Have This Dance in the grand final.

Jo accompanied by her ukelele, took out top place winning \$500 cash and a glass plaque for her efforts sponsored by the Rotary Club of Smithton.

Runner-up was Kelly Bray who won \$200 cash.

Thursday night saw popular Circular Head duo, Chris and Viv Boys entertain everyone with their style of traditional country music

Friday night's Band Bonanza was a brilliant night of fun, music, dancing, and entertainment.

Kicking off the band bonanza was Hobart based duo, The Goodfella's who are so versatile in what they do.

Devonport's, The Heartbeats, continued the great vibe already set, with the dance area packed. Brad, Paul and Jarrod who are The Heartbeats are a muster favourite.

Saturday arrived and it was Muster, Muster, Muster.

Our biggest crowd since the COVID-19 Pandemic ceased ALL live music. Event Manager, Gina Timms said, "Each year we have etched away at rebuilding the annual muster since the devastation of the pandemic, and it's thanks to everyone who bought tickets to ensure the annual Devil Country Muster is here to stay"!

Australia's top female country artist Beccy Cole was the headline act.

First time muster performers, the Hussey Hicks, Jamie Lindsay, Matt Scullion and WA's Connie Kis Andersen all offered a variety of styles of country music and our local Tasmanian Artists, Chris and Viv Boys, Montana Rose, Gina Timms and Zac Weeks entertained the audience with some great country covers and original songs.

An award recognising excellence in country music is awarded each year at the Muster.

The John 'Doc' Turnbull award was presented to northern Tasmania's Garry Smith. Garry who has been playing guitar since he was 14, has for years backed hundreds of local and mainland artists as well as having 14 albums of his own released.

The Sunday Gospel Show still went ahead despite the rain. The gospel show moved to Riverbend's chapel, which was a perfect place for all the beautiful hymns and country gospel songs to be performed.

Following a sweet melody by Alison Dhu on her Tin Whistle, Connie Kis Andersen opened the vocal part of the gospel followed by Montana Rose who performed some gorgeous old-time hymns, then followed Chris and Viv Boys who are always crowd favourites who introduced a very special guest, Shirl Brown who was a welcome addition to the show. Unfortunately, Shirl's health hasn't been the best lately, so to have her join us, was very moving.

Closing the show was Gina Timms who has not missed a Devil Country Muster.

The dates for the 2027 Muster will be, camping opens from Monday 8th February, with live music commencing on the Wednesday night right through to Sunday 14th February 2027.



# DEVIL COUNTRY MUSTER

Photos by Alan Jennison



## Community Spirit on Show at Our Australia Day Celebrations



Waratah-Wynyard's Australia Day celebrations were a chance to recognise the people who make our community strong, while also welcoming new faces to the municipality. Mayor Mary Duniam officially welcomed 10 new Australian citizens (including two children), marking an important milestone for each recipient and their families. Council also congratulates the 2026 Australia Day Award recipients for their contributions and achievements.

Citizen of the Year, Jonathan "Jono" Vincent, was recognised for his long-standing volunteering and leadership across the community. Young Citizen of the Year, Belle Lohrey, was acknowledged for her outstanding achievements and leadership in cheerleading (Belle was unable to attend on the day). Community Event of the Year, Permission to Trespass (Business Northwest), was recognised for bringing people together through creative winter events across Wynyard and Table Cape.



**Wonders of Wynyard**  
Exhibition & Visitor Information Centre

8 Exhibition Link, Wynyard  
wondersofwynyard.com  
03 6443 8330

**NAOMI BOVILL**  
PRESIDENT

**LANDSCAPES IN PASTELS**

The Wonders of Wynyard  
8 Exhibition Link  
Wynyard

**FEBRUARY 2026**

**Open Daily**  
10am to 4pm

Information, Brochures and Maps · National Parks Passes · Free Wi-Fi and Phone Charging · Giftware and Souvenirs · Veteran Car Collection · Exhibition Centre



### Inglis River Walking Track works continue

Following the completion of Project 2 on the Esplanade at the end of last year, works have now commenced on Project 5 of the Inglis River Walking Track along Golf Links Road (Wynyard). Works began early this month and are expected to be completed in April. Residents can expect construction activity along Golf Links Road, with minor traffic delays at times when critical works require a short part road closure. The existing walking track will remain open for use for as long as possible, with a changeover to the new alignment at the end of works.

There may be a short period with no track access during the changeover or where required to ensure safe operations. As part of this stage, the track is being realigned closer to the road to improve safety, accessibility and long-term resilience in areas affected by flooding and erosion. Council is also working with local community groups, including Wynyard Landcare, to rehabilitate riverbanks and natural spaces, with further infill and additional plantings planned at the Project 2 and Project 5 sites during winter 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.

## Community Conversations return to Yolla

### Yolla, Tasmania

Yolla locals are being encouraged to drop in for a casual evening of conversation with Waratah-Wynyard Councillors and the Council Executive Team, as Community Conversations return to the region.

Set in an informal, come-and-go format, the session is designed for residents to ask questions, share ideas, raise local priorities and hear what's happening across the municipality. And in true community spirit, free pizza will be on offer.

Council says the Community Conversations program is part of its commitment to meaningful engagement, helping ensure smaller communities like Yolla have a direct voice in shaping local decisions, services and future projects.

#### Key Details

- **When:** Monday 9 FEB 2026
- **Time:** 6:00–7:00pm
- **Where:** Yolla Tavern  
1610 Murchison Hwy



**Community Conversations**

**YOLLA TAVERN | 9 FEB | 6PM**  
 COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY

## Aus Day brings the Athenaeum Hall to life

### Waratah, Tasmania

Waratah's Athenaeum Hall was opened on Australia Day (Monday 26 January 2026) during a community sausage sizzle and gathering organised by the Waratah Activity Group Inc. Organisers estimate at least 80 people attended throughout the day, including local residents, visitors passing through Waratah, and people staying at the caravan park.

Many took the opportunity to view the exhibition inside the Hall, with positive feedback about the welcoming atmosphere and the town's appeal. The event is a good example of how community-led activities can help activate the Hall over summer and support both local connection and the visitor experience. The Hall is staffed on weekends through the busy holiday period, 10am-4pm Saturday and Sunday until the end of March.



# GONE NUTS 2026

## PRE-EVENT WELCOME HUB

Wynyard Yacht Club  
2A Old Bass Hwy

**FRI 27 FEB  
12 - 7PM**

Open to everyone

**COLLECT YOUR BIB  
BROWSE LOCAL PRODUCE  
GRAB A BITE  
KICK BACK WITH A DRINK  
LIVE MUSIC 5 - 7 PM**

- Bag Drop and Bib Collection
- Tassie Tourism Info
- Local Tassie Produce Stalls

**GET RACE READY & EXPLORE LOCAL!**

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**  
 Book in for a **FREE** Stretch & Meditation session  
 Two classes to choose from: 1 - 2pm OR 2:30 - 3:30pm  
 For bookings email: [bwolk@warwyn.tas.gov.au](mailto:bwolk@warwyn.tas.gov.au)

# GONE NUTS 2026

## RACE DAY - WHERE THE RACE ENDS & THE FUN BEGINS

**SAT 28 FEB  
10:30AM - 9PM**

Wynyard Yacht Club  
2A Old Bass Hwy

**Cheer on the athletes at the finish line!**

Drinks  
Food Vans  
Lawn Games  
Facepainting (1-4pm)

**Live Music 5-7pm**

For more information contact Council 6443 8333

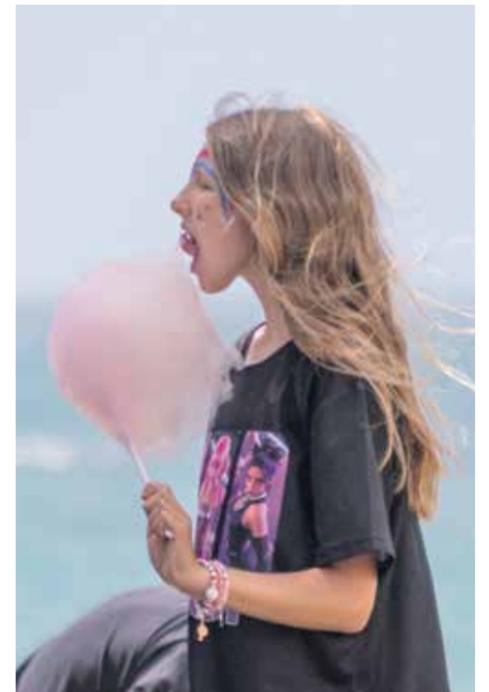


Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy at the time of publication; any errors will be corrected by notice on the Council website. Articles by Waratah-Wynyard Council, 21 Saunders St (PO Box 168), Wynyard TAS 7325, with office hours from 8:30am to 5pm Mon–Fri (after-hours calls are taken on call). 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](mailto:council@warwyn.tas.gov.au).

# AUSTRALIA DAY - BURNIE STYLE

Photos by Alan Jennison

Such a great day out in Burnie for Australia Day, I had to add a few more photos of the festivities. From 'duck racing' in the ocean to food, wine and fairy floss this was a day that Burnie and all Australians can be proud of.



# 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 13th February until 13th March 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.



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



'Be Creative' has 5% off N scale model trains



Steph at 'Love me two times' has 5% off jewellery



Glenda has four hairbands for just \$10



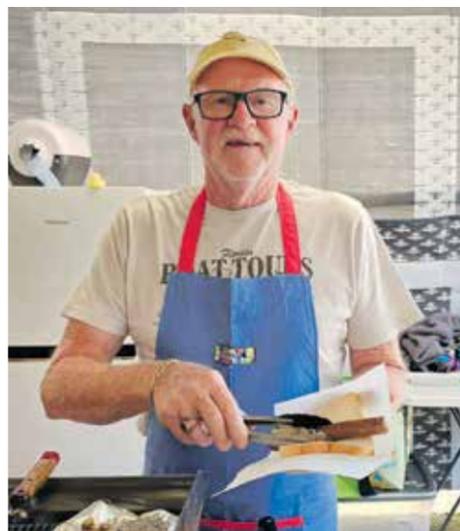
Daniella at 'Blankslate.Co' is offering 10% off all stock



Suzanne is offering 20% off all jewellery in black cabinet



'Beryl's Crafts' has 10% off stuffed and crocheted animals



'Pete's Snags' - Half price snags



Rick has 10% off Everything!



Buy three bags of dog treats and get a fourth one free from Lynette at 'Bone Zone'



Get 10% OFF concrete figurines at 'Anjay Creations'



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



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



# CIRCULAR HEAD Community News

## Congratulations to our 2026 Australia Day Award recipients!

Circular Head Council celebrated outstanding local contributions at its Australia Day Awards in Stanley. The Town Hall was full and brought people together over cups of tea and conversation and also included a citizenship ceremony, where Council proudly welcomed three new Australian citizens to the Circular Head community.

**Lee-Anne Walters (Sgt)** was named Citizen of the Year in recognition of more than 40 years of service with Tasmania Police, including over 25 years as Senior Officer at the Smithton Police Station. Widely respected for her integrity, leadership and compassion, Lee-Anne has supported the community through countless challenges while mentoring new officers and building strong local relationships.

**Noelene O'Halloran** received the Senior Citizen of the Year Award for her many years of quiet, dedicated volunteering

across Circular Head. A member of the Circular Head State Emergency Service for more than 15 years, Noelene has supported the community during emergencies and continues to assist with events and administration. She also volunteers with a wide range of organisations including St Vincent de Paul, Wyndarra Centre, Cancer Council Transport to Treatment, the Community Road Safety Program and the Community Christmas Lunch. Known for her kindness and reliability, Noelene consistently steps in to help wherever there is a need.

**The Circular Head Football Association Mental Health Round** was recognised as Community Event of the Year for bringing local football clubs and the wider community together to raise awareness and support mental health. Initiated by the Scotchtown and Redpa Football Clubs, the event united all four Circular Head clubs at the Smithton Recreation Ground and involved a range of support organisations. A

powerful on-field moment saw players, umpires and community members pledge to look out for one another, highlighting the role sport plays in connection, inclusion and wellbeing.



### SMITHTON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

DUCK RIVER PAVILIONS

**A VISITOR CENTRE WITH A DIFFERENCE!**

Open Daily 9 am - 5 pm  
Sat, Sun, Public Holidays 10 am - 2 pm

- Free Information, Brochures, Maps
- Accommodation & Tour Bookings
- Robotic Dairy Tours
- Milk Sales, Cheese Tastings & Sales
- National Parks Passes
- Free WIFI & Computer Usage
- Giftware & Souvenirs
- Theatrette, Cafe, & Museum

Our back paddock

Museum Kids under 15 FREE

Cheese, Honey tastings and sales. Milk fresh from the dairy

Pavilions Cafe Milkshakes and treats

See the cows being milked by robots

CONTACT US: 03 64 135 333  
12 Nelson Street, Smithton, Tasmania  
[www.stanleyandtarkine.com.au](http://www.stanleyandtarkine.com.au)  
[www.discoverthetarkine.com.au](http://www.discoverthetarkine.com.au)

### WORLD PLUMBING DAY ART COMPETITION

Show us your creativity inspired by plumbing.

Create artwork that is either about plumbing or made using plumbing materials (pipes, fittings, tools valves etc.)

All art styles welcome: painting, sculpture, drawings, photos and more!

Turn pipes into masterpieces and plumbing into art!

Please drop all entries to the Circular Head Council Reception before close of business 6<sup>th</sup> March.

Winners announced on World Plumbing Day, March 11!

Prizes to be won!

World Plumbing Day 11 March

For more information contact Kylie Monson, [kmonson@circularhead.tas.gov.au](mailto:kmonson@circularhead.tas.gov.au)

## Got a Great Community Project in Mind?

Circular Head Council's Community Small Grants Program – Round Two 2025/26 is now open!

Local not-for-profit groups can apply for funding to support projects that:

- bring people together
- improve health and wellbeing
- celebrate our culture
- support community life in Circular Head

### Grants available:

Major Grants – up to \$3,000

Minor Grants – up to \$1,000

Funding is available across areas like community development, events, facilities, culture, sport and healthy living. Applications close 1 March 2026. Find guidelines and apply here:



## Save the Date



### Community Catch Ups

#### Forest

Date: Tuesday 3rd March 2026

Time: 10:30am

Location: Forest General Store

#### Marawah

Date: Friday 10th April 2026

Time: 1pm

Location: Marawah Inn

#### Rocky Cape

Date: Tuesday 12th May 2026

Time: 2:30pm

Location: Rocky Cape Tavern

#### Smithton

Date: Friday 12th June 2026

Time: 10:30am

Location: Hugo's Brew N Chew



Pictured: Abigail Croft, Nevaeh Tuxworth and Gabrielle Radford-Bryan

## Supporting Students through a Celebration of Education

The Circular Head community came together to celebrate learning, opportunity and achievement at the annual Celebration of Education event.

The event recognised the important role education plays across all stages of life and included the presentation of three valued scholarships, made possible through the strong support of local organisations and Council.

Scholarships were awarded to:

- Abigail Croft, recipient of the Soroptimists International of Circular Head Scholarship.
- Nevaeh Tuxworth, recipient of the Rotary Club of Smithton Bursary.

- Gabrielle Radford-Bryan, recipient of the Circular Head Council Mayor's Education Fund Bursary.

Established in 2002, the Mayor's Education Fund supports Circular Head residents to engage in further study by helping to offset education-related costs. One \$5,000 bursary is awarded each year to applicants who demonstrate that access to further education would be difficult without financial support.

Mayor Gerard Blizzard said "this year we received a record number of applications, which made the panel's decision particularly challenging. It is encouraging to see so many people in

our community taking up opportunities to continue their education."

The Mayor's Education Fund is a long-standing example of Council's commitment to the goals of Circular Head Vision 2050. By supporting residents to access further education when financial barriers may otherwise prevent it, the Fund helps build a stronger, more inclusive community and a skilled local workforce. The increasing number of applications reflects a growing demand for education and training opportunities and highlights the importance of continued investment in learning.

## New Community Groups to Strengthen Local Voices

Council is improving how we listen to, talk with, and work alongside our community.

To do this we are setting up two new community groups. The groups are a practical way for community members and Council to have regular, constructive conversations and to work through ideas together.

Check our website for more information and to find out how to get involved.



## Community Brings 'Collins' the Caterpillar to Life

Say hello to Collins the Caterpillar, the newest colourful character on the East Esplanade, Smithton.

The colourful 26Ten Learn for Life A-Z Caterpillar was named by popular vote, with more than 200 community members choosing "Collins", a name created by local entrant Pippa. Collins stands for Creating Original Learning and Literacy In New Spaces.

Follow the butterflies along the footpath to sing the alphabet, spot the insects on the Walking Words Literacy Trail, and meet Collins for yourself.



## Feel Good February

Feel Good February is back for its second year with a packed calendar of events encouraging residents of all ages to move more, connect more and try something new – all close to home. Most events are free, but you do need to book for some. Download the Feel Good February Activities Calendar and plan your month.



# Tales from Emmerton Park - meet the residents

## My Story – Marlene Burgess



I was born at the old Smithton Hospital in 1939, weighing just 5 pounds 4 ounces. I was the eldest of four children, with one sister and two brothers. In the early days we lived at Forest. Dad worked on a farm where a house was supplied, and Mum worked full time keeping us kids clothed, fed, and watered.

We had many adventures and got up to mischief growing up in Forest. We were always up to something. We would knock on doors, throw rocks onto roofs, and sometimes we'd find an old chicken nest and throw rotten eggs in front of passing cars or pedestrians, then run off just for fun. We also spent many hours mushrooming and picking blackberries.

We always came home with blackberry juice all over our faces and down our shirts.

I remember one day my brother blindfolded me and led me around for fun. He jumped over the copper stand, but I didn't, and I tore my knee open badly. Mum wrapped it up, but looking back it really should have been stitched. I still look at that scar and remember that day.

My school years were mostly fun. I went to Forest Area School, when I was in Grade Six most of the school burnt down. It wasn't me, I promise! Unfortunately, my classroom block was untouched, so I still had to go to school. I wasn't very happy about that. I think that was also the year it snowed in Forest. There was enough snow for us to build a snowman, which was very exciting.

After Grade Seven I went to Smithton High School. I learned typing and shorthand, although I could never read the shorthand back. I also worked after school at the phone exchange and the Never Shut Shop at Forest. I didn't really like school and was always getting into trouble for talking, I'm not sure why, but I got there in the end.

I loved sport and played the Forest tennis roster. We played mostly doubles and mixed doubles and travelled every Saturday to Irishtown, Smithton, or Stanley. We often came home with a win. In winter we played badminton, with teams from Forest, Stanley, Mawbanna, and Edith Creek. I even played hockey for a few years. I ended up with a big scar

from that as well.

I joined Junior Farmers, which kept me busy raising money for the club by organising euchre tournaments, field days and dances. I used to prepare the dance floors by spreading kerosene and sawdust, then finishing with boracic acid to make them nice and slippery.

I always seemed to end up as the treasurer or on a committee of some sort. I don't know why, but that became a bit of a theme throughout my life.

I left school at 17 and worked for five years as a secretary clerk at an accounting firm in Smithton. During that time, I met my future husband, Stan. He was a hard worker and did whatever work he could find. Before we married, we moved to Werribee in Victoria. I stayed with my aunt, while Stan lived with his father. I'd only been there a few days when I found a job in the accounting department at Wines and Spirits.

On weekends Stan and I would dress up in our finest clothes. I made sure my coat, dress, handbag, and shoes all matched, and off to the races we would go. We attended all the big race days, the Melbourne Cup, Caulfield Cup, and races at Moonee Valley and Sandown.

When we decided to marry, we of course went back home. We were married at the Presbyterian Church in Stanley, with fifty guests made up of family and close friends. Afterward, we returned to Werribee, and nine months later our first child, Amanda, was born. Ricky followed two years later.

We stayed in Werribee for a few more years, but when Amanda turned seven, we realised Circular Head was the best place in the world to raise a family. We didn't want our kids turning into city slickers. So we moved to Mella. Stan always found work, and I stayed home to care for the children. Stan and I always found time to attend the balls and dances around the district with the Bellinger's, sometimes travelling as far as Devonport.

I was always involved in something. Amanda was a member of the Pony Club for seven years, and I served on the committee, helping wherever I could. When Amanda joined the Girl Guides, I became a leader there as well.

Ricky went on to serve in the army for forty years and was presented with the Long Service Star by Princess Anne. A very proud moment for our whole family.

Later in life, I joined the Senior Citizens, and once again found myself as Treasurer. I was even President of Senior Citizens Northwest for a year. When I moved into the Emmerton Park units, I joined the entertainment committee, helping organise BBQs and afternoon teas at the clubhouse. I also took up indoor bowls and enjoyed travelling to competitions.

Now I am a resident at Emmerton Park. I finally get to have a bit of a rest, but I'm always up for a good chat.

## Convocation Ceremony at St. Joseph's Catholic Schools

On 15th December 2025 at 1.00 pm, St. Joseph's Catholic School at Queenstown began the Graduation Ceremony at the Parish Church with the Holy Mass. Fr. Arokia, the celebrant gave thanks to the Lord for the Year 2025 and welcomed everyone to the milestone-achievement ceremony. The message for the graduates was very significant from Isaiah 58:11 "The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs... and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail."

Fr. Arokia emphasised that graduating is one of those life-changing moments, a time to look back at all the hard work, and the achievements. Education is the key to unlocking the world, a passport to freedom.

A special prayer was offered for the graduates: Cruz Becker, Bentley Chilcott, Evalyn Clarke, Tarrant Elkin, Jayden Latham, Clay Morgan, Alisha-Jai Taylor, Amalie Ward, Ollie Williams. Principal Teresa McLeod, began the Award Ceremony after the Holy Mass with her message and invited the guests

to present the awards. The program ended with the great wishes by teachers, parents and well-wishers.

St. Joseph's Catholic School, Rosebery had their Convocation day for Grade 6 on 16th December 2025 at 10 am with the Holy Mass in the presence of the whole school, teachers, parents and well-wishers.

During the mass Fr. Arokia highlighted the importance of learning particularly the values of integrity, resilience, and empathy as they venture into the unknown.

The Rosebery Grade 6 students : Aaliyah Snowball, Harley Brookes, Jaxx Armstrong, Mekhi Wheldon, Melody McGowan, Sophia Meciar, were bestowed with special blessings at the end of the Mass.

Principal Tracey Kidd welcomed the gathering with her message and invited the guests to the award presentation; followed by photo presentation as memories which was greatly appreciated. Finally, a little sprinkle of humour and good luck wishes, to help them in the days to come saying CONGRATS!!!



# THE 2026 BURNIE CUP

Photos by Alan Jennison

The Burnie Cup is a premier Tasmanian harness racing event held annually in January at the Wivenhoe harness racing facility, and serving as a cornerstone of the summer racing calendar for over 70 years.

Originally held by the Emu Bay Racing Club (1919–1924), the modern event was later revived by the Burnie Trotting Club.

Since we haven't had horse racing in the Western Echo before I thought it was time to rectify that.

It was a great day of racing, high fashion and lots more for everyone to enjoy.





## ANNOUNCEMENT

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**Blackley Pipelines & Irrigation are proud to announce we have been appointed exclusive distributors for the PumpEng range of underground mine dewatering pumps.**

**PumpEng are Australia's leading designer & manufacturer of underground mine dewatering pumps that are engineered for performance & built to last.**

**Blackley Pipelines & Irrigation now offer the complete range of PumpEng mine dewatering pumps, with local backup & service.**



**For more information call  
Darren Lord  
0457 525 646**

# Feel Good February returns to Circular Head

The Circular Head community is set to feel good this February, with a vibrant monthlong program designed to bring people together, boost wellbeing and showcase the many activities already happening across the region.

Feel Good February, delivered by Circular Head Council, is back for its second year with a packed calendar of events encouraging residents of all ages to move more, connect more and try something new – all close to home.

Mayor Gerard Blizzard said the initiative is about celebrating community and making it easy for people to get involved.

“Feel Good February is all about showing people what’s already on offer here in Circular Head and giving them the confidence to come along and give it a go,” Mayor Blizzard said.

“Last year we launched the Circular Head Community Connections Guide through this program, and the response was so positive that we knew it had to come back.”

The program offers something for everyone, from gentle and social activities to creative, practical and skill-building sessions. Residents can enjoy walking and running groups, book chats, Sconversations, digital skills workshops, yoga, craft sessions, BBQs, games nights, and a free pool and inflatable sessions at Smithton Wellbeing Indoor Recreation & Leisure (SWIRL).

Feel Good February kicks off in style with the Rotary Club of Smithton Devil Country Muster, Tasmania’s premier country music festival, running from 2 to 8 February, adding even more energy to the month.

Mayor Blizzard said the initiative also supports Council’s long-term vision for the region. “The Circular Head Vision 2050 is our roadmap for the future, and one of its key outcomes is improving access to health and wellbeing opportunities and increasing the use of community facilities,” he said.

“Feel Good February helps us take real steps toward that goal by strengthening health, inclusion, connection and resilience across our community.”

Most events are free, with some needing bookings. Residents are encouraged to visit Council’s website [www.circularhead.tas.gov.au](http://www.circularhead.tas.gov.au) to download the Feel Good February Activities Calendar and plan their month.



# Be ‘snake aware’ this summer



In Tasmania we have three species of snake, the Tiger snake, The Low-lands Copperhead and The White-Lipped Whip snake and they are all venomous.

Now is the time to clean up our yards.

Clear away rubbish piles, keep lawns mowed, be careful when you grab wood from wood piles. When gardening just be aware that snakes are out and about.

Snakes are part of our Australian summer and it is important to educate our children on snake safety and what they can do if they come across a snake or lizard. This general information is for adults and children.

What to do if you see a snake or lizard!

**NEVER TOUCH OR TRY TO PICK UP A SNAKE OR A LIZARD.**

They can get very grumpy and can be dangerous.

**DON'T BE AFRAID IF YOU SEE A SNAKE OR LIZARD.**

They don't want to bite us. We are much bigger than they are. Snakes and lizards just want to be left alone.

If you see a snake or lizard close to you, stop! Stand very still. Stay calm.

Keep standing very still until the snake or lizard moves away from you. Be patient. When the snake or lizard has moved well away from you, calmly walk away.

Children should seek a grown up like a parent or teacher straight away and tell the grown up what happened then show them where you saw the snake or lizard.

If you see a snake well ahead of you, do not panic. Stand still and, slowly but very calmly back away out of harm's way...

**Don't panic... Snakes react to movement.**

Children can also call out to their caregiver/parents “SNAKE”! whilst still fol-

lowing the above general advice.

Get all people and pets out of harm's way.

Call your local Snake Catcher. From a safe distance, keep an eye on where the snake is until the Snake Catcher arrives.

Never touch or provoke a snake.

Never attempt to capture or handle a snake. Do not kill a snake as they are a protected species by Law. Never touch a dead snake. Venom may still be in the snake's fangs and can remain there for a long time. When going camping, bushwalking or heading out into the great outdoors, be sure to have your snake bite kit with you. First aid courses cover what to do for a snakebite and operate all over the State through many different organisations. If a snake is in a room in your house/workplace, make sure every person and all pets are out of harm's way.

Close the door to that room and wrap a towel up and jam it under the gap of the door.

Call your local Snake Catcher. Keep an eye on the door until the Snake Catcher gets there. If the snake is outside, from a safe distance, keep an eye on where the snake is until the Snake Catcher gets there. If you keep an eye on the snake until the Snake Catcher gets there then, the Snake Catcher has a better chance of finding the snake and removing and relocating the snake. Please keep your dogs restrained whilst the Snake Catcher is trying to catch the snake.

If you suspect you or someone you

know has been bitten by a snake, call 000 immediately. If your pet has had an encounter with a snake, call the vet immediately. Please pay attention to your pets. If your dog is barking or constantly sniffing at a particular area, please go check it out, there may be a snake or lizard around. The same applies to your birds.

This year we have 3 Snake Catchers who are happy to serve the West Coast Community with catching and relocating problem snakes.

**WEST COAST SNAKE CATCHER'S  
Amanda Norris - 0459825241**

**Warren Donnelly - 0400559527**

**Angie Capan-phone - 0409164394**

**NORTHWEST SNAKE CATCHERS  
- 0488929761**

Amanda Norris, Warren Donnelly, from Queenstown and Angie Capan, work cooperatively with each other, helping people with problem snakes, educating, catching and relocating snakes, across the West Coast.

There are others on the West Coast who have been trained and have their Snake Catching permits who also may be willing to help.

If you are interested in becoming a Snake Catcher, REPTILE RESCUE teaches quality snake handling and snake education courses all around the State.

Hope you all have a great summer and please stay snake safe.

Written by ANGIE CAPAN, supported by AMANDA NORRIS, WARREN DONNELLY, NORTHWEST SNAKE CATCHERS & CHRIS DALY from REPTILE RESCUE 0499116690

# WESTERN ECHO PUZZLE PAGE

## SWAMP



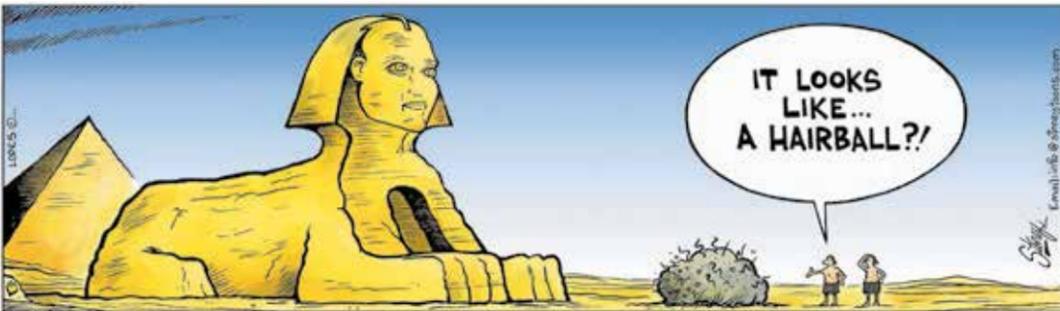
## BEYOND THE BLACK STUMP



## CLANCY



## INSANITY STREAK



## AGAINST THE GRAIN



## JUMBLE No. 696

T	O	E
N	H	U
C	R	N

**TODAY'S TARGET**  
 16 Words **Good**  
 20 Words **Very Good**  
 24 Words **Excellent**  
 28 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. 017

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

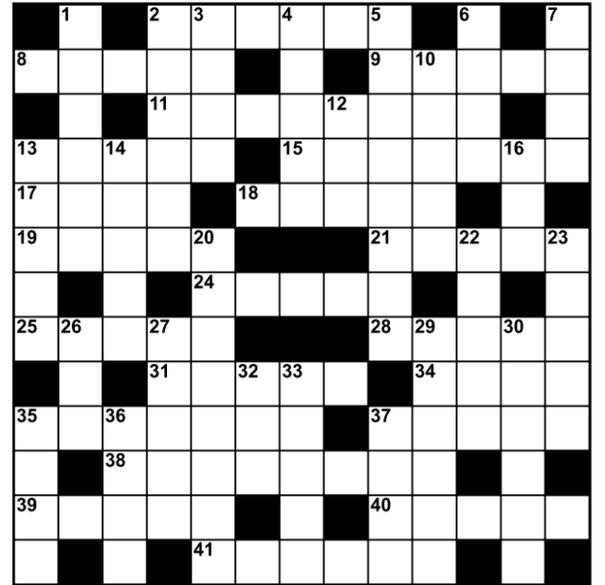
## CROSSWORD No. 10865

### ACROSS

- 2 Social events
- 8 Intimidated
- 9 Punctuation mark
- 11 Float in the air
- 13 Started
- 15 Missives
- 17 Dry
- 18 Review unsparingly
- 19 Headwear
- 21 Upright
- 24 Exterior
- 25 Unlucky contestant
- 28 Saloon car
- 31 Boundary
- 34 Roman emperor
- 35 Those granted leases
- 37 Snake
- 38 Legendary wife of Odysseus
- 39 Wild dance
- 40 Summer dish
- 41 Boil gently

### DOWN

- 1 Stick together
- 2 Deceive



- 3 Middle East port
- 4 Sensation of cold
- 5 Disperses
- 6 Run away
- 7 Burden
- 10 Aquatic furred mammal
- 12 Beverage
- 13 Scene of noise and confusion
- 14 Lasses
- 16 Fabled monstrous bird
- 20 Annoys excessively
- 22 Finished
- 23 Singer
- 26 Be indebted
- 27 Comforts
- 29 Make beloved
- 30 Fields of conflict
- 32 Insect
- 33 Muslim religion
- 35 Old stringed instrument
- 36 Whirl
- 37 Church recess

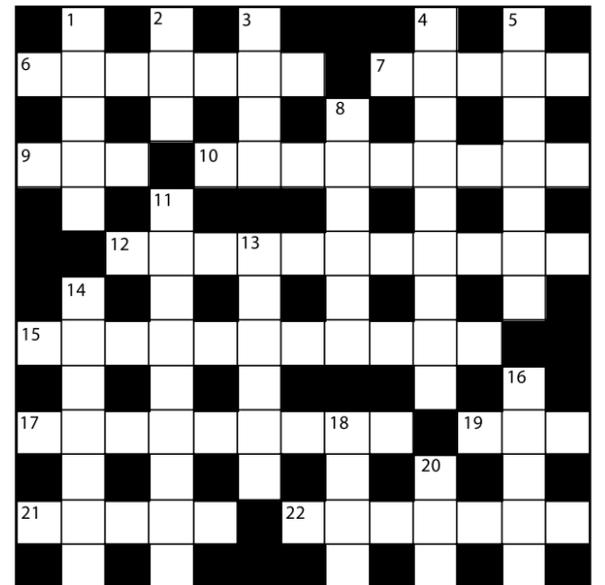
## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD No. 16516

### ACROSS

- 6 He foresees support before the reform (7)
- 7 Land races, perhaps (5)
- 9 Encountered the London police (3)
- 10 Possibly the steps made in headlong rushes (9)
- 12 Pocket money? (5,6)
- 15 The boss's office? (11)
- 17 Policeman examines a piece of furniture (9)
- 19 Cross at being recalled for duty (3)
- 21 Fearless Native American (5)
- 22 Rival bird is not on time (7)

### DOWN

- 1 Inexperienced but concerned about the environment (5)
- 8 Hits vessels (6)



- 2 See a secret agent (3)
- 3 It's not right to be abandoned (4)
- 4 Diagrammatic form of catechism? (9)
- 5 Retaliation even Reg is involved in (7)
- 11 I am not active, but calm (9)
- 13 Room for manoeuvre on the sheltered side of the street (6)
- 14 Approves of indications of support (7)
- 16 Class system moulded on the Orient (5)
- 18 Having trouble moving the fabric? (4)
- 20 Type of milkman? (3)

## PREVIOUS ANSWERS

### Crossword No. 10864

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

### Sudoku No. 016

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

### Cryptic No. 16515

**Across:** 7 Shooting party; 8 Twilight; 9 Lark; 10 Hatred; 12 Medusa; 14 Bear up; 16 Rising; 18 Slum; 20 Rational; 22 Unarmed combat.  
**Down:** 1 Show-case; 2 Poplar; 3 Ring; 4 Egg timer; 5 Ballad; 6 Stir; 11 Departed; 13 Send away; 15 Remark; 17 Stormy; 19 Land; 21 Tick.

### Jumble 695

akin amino amnion anion anon damn danio dank dawn domain down kaon kina kind kiono know known koan main mankind mind mink minnow moan mona monad monk mown noma nomad oink wain wand wind wink woman WOMANKIND

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WEST

## "DOING IT FOR THE ANIMALS" FUNDRAISER BBQ

28th March 2026 Join Animal Welfare Centre inc. for a community family friendly day out, BBQ with Live music, and much more!

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SLIDE INTO THE FREEZE FOR MND!

**JUNE 20TH, 2026**  
AT THE ZEEHAN GOLF CLUB

DONATE

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Tuesday 10th & Wednesday 11th of March

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10am - 2pm

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Zeehan Neighbourhood Centre

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COMEDY MUSIC TOURS  
COLOUR RUN FIREWORKS  
LANTERN PARADE

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Hon. Ruth Forrest MLC

## International Women's Day Breakfast

Friday 6 March  
Breakfast from 7am

Tall Timbers Tasmania, Scotchtown Road, Smithton

**\$10 PER PERSON**  
Includes full buffet breakfast, guest speakers, lucky door prize

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**KRISTEN WYLIE**  
TASMANIA LEGAL AID, DIRECTOR

GUEST SPEAKER  
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Let's **BALANCE THE SCALES**

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE NORTHWEST



**2026**  
 CHFA Executive  
 President: Shane Hine  
 Vice President: Donovan Lockett  
 Treasurer: Craig Porteus  
 Social Media: Stacy Monson  
 Email: chfootbassoc@gmail.com

<b>Round 1 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b> Scotchtown V Irishtown Forest/Stanley V Redpa	<b>Round 5 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026</b> Forest/Stanley V Scotchtown Redpa V Irishtown	<b>Round 10 4<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b> Irishtown V Scotchtown Forest/Stanley V Redpa
<b>Round 2 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b> Forest/Stanley V Irishtown Redpa V Scotchtown	<b>Round 6 30<sup>rd</sup> May 2026</b> Scotchtown V Redpa Irishtown V Forest/Stanley	<b>Round 11 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b> Scotchtown V Forest/Stanley Redpa V Irishtown
<b>25<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b> <b>ANZAC DAY</b> BYE	<b>6<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b> <b>King's Birthday</b> BYE	<b>18<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b> <b>School Holiday</b> Bye
<b>Round 3 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026</b> Irishtown V Redpa Scotchtown V Forest/Stanley	<b>Round 7 13<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b> Scotchtown V Irishtown Redpa V Forest/Stanley	<b>Round 12 25<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b> Forest/Stanley V Irishtown Redpa V Scotchtown
<b>9<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b> <b>AGFEST</b> BYE	<b>Round 8 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b> Forest/Stanley V Scotchtown Irishtown V Redpa	<b>01<sup>st</sup> August 2026</b> <b>Prelim</b> <b>Final</b>
<b>Round 4 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b> Redpa V Forest/Stanley Irishtown V Scotchtown	<b>Round 9 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b> Scotchtown V Redpa Irishtown V Forest/Stanley	<b>8<sup>th</sup> August 2026</b> <b>Grand</b> <b>Final</b>

**Circular Head Landcare Group will be conducting their contractor spraying program of Ricegrass on the Duck River coastline from Sunday 22 February to Saturday 28th February 2026 using the grass specific herbicide Fusilade Forte. For any enquiries call 0429 337 204**

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 YOUNG FRANCO - SNEAKY SOUND SYSTEM - DRAPHT - WAFIA  
 DICE - RUM JUNGLE - ART VS SCIENCE - KIM CHURCHILL - PLAYLUNCH  
 LETTERS TO LIONS - ADAM NEWLING - KIRA PURU - DIZZY DAYS - JOEL LEGGETT - BIG WHEELS  
 GRXCE - FUR BLOSSOM - THE SUNDIALS - エミエミ (EMI EMI) - BABY LEMUR - LASCA DRY - BONSAI - NICE HOUSE  
 CAPTAIN O'BRIENS CRAIC - BACKYARD BUSINESS - JAMESLANE\$ - KATE RIGBY - GLASS MEDIA - RIVIERRA  
 SAM MCMEEKIN - MIA BARRON - PANNED TO THE LEFT - AIVA - HIPPOPOTAMUS LABOTOMIST - CREST  
 + ART WORKSHOPS - GARETH THE MAGICIAN - INKARTS POPUP TATTOO STUDIO - SLIPSTREAM CIRCUS - MINI RHYTHMS  
 MINDFUL WILD STEPS - CARO'S CREATIVE CREW FACE PAINTING - BELLA THE BOOKWORM - BURNIE BRASS BAND

PATAWAY/BURNIE, LUTRUWITA/TASMANIA  
 ALL AGES MUSIC, ARTS & CAMPING FESTIVAL

# ULVERSTONE TWILIGHT RODEO

Photos by Alan Jennison

Like em or not, rodeos have always been a big part of life for those on the land and the recent Ulverstone twilight rodeo proved just how popular this event is.

Thousands of people crowded in to Batten Park in Ulverstone to watch the barrel racing, calf roping, bronc and bull riding,

and all that a great rodeo has to offer. The Western Echo doesn't normally cover the Ulverstone region but I knew that a lot of people from the Northwest and West Coast would be attending so I thought I would bring you the action in the 'Echo'.



# ULVERSTONE TWILIGHT RODEO

Photos by Alan Jennison



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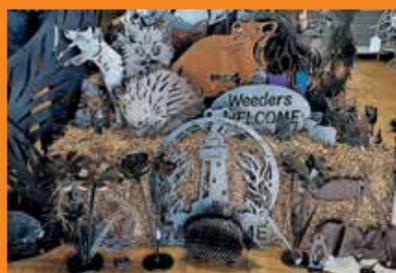
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# DAY ON THE DUCK

Photos by Alan Jennison

600 yellow and pink ducks were recently seen floating across the Duck River in Smithton as part of the Australia Day weekend celebrations. All ducks were numbered and the winners were of course the first ducks to make it to the other shore. Normally this would have been a downriver swim for the ducks but the wind decided other-

wise, hence the cross the river course. It may have been windy but that didn't stop hundreds of people from enjoying the festivities.

From Ducks to slinkies and gumboots to ferris wheels the day was a huge success. Put this one on your calendar for next year. (even if my duck didn't win)



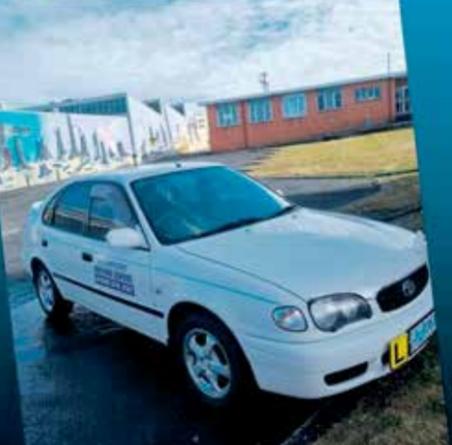
# DAY ON THE DUCK

Photos by Alan Jennison



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# Waratah-Wynyard Council Australia Day Award Recipients 2026

Waratah-Wynyard's Australia Day celebrations have again recognised the people who go above and beyond for our community, with Council announcing the recipients of the 2026 Australia Day Awards. The awards were presented at Council's Australia Day Breakfast and Awards Ceremony at Gutteridge Gardens, alongside a Citizenship Ceremony welcoming new citizens.

The morning was hosted by Dr Mary Duniam, Mayor of Waratah-Wynyard, with Council's Australia Day Ambassador Mrs Clair Harris, the 2024 Tasmanian Local Hero and founder and CEO of Tassie Mums, which has supported more than 10,000 children across Tasmania.

Mayor Dr Duniam congratulated the recipients and thanked them for their service to the community.

"Our Australia Day Awards shine a light on the people and initiatives that make Waratah-Wynyard such a strong, connected and caring place to live," Mayor Dr Duniam said.

"This year's recipients have given their time, energy and leadership to support others, create opportunities for young people, and bring our community together. On behalf of Council and residents, I warmly congratulate them and thank them for the positive impact they continue to make across our region."

## Citizen of the Year – Jonathan Vincent

Jonathan "Jono" Vincent is an outstanding role model and source of inspiration for young people in the community. He volunteers countless hours each

week teaching and mentoring children through the Boat Harbour Surf Life Saving Club, where he promotes vital water safety skills and encourages healthy, active lifestyles.

Jono played a pivotal role in securing grant funding for the Sisters Beach Skate Park project, ensuring local youth had a safe and welcoming place to gather. Importantly, he actively consulted with young people throughout the design process, making sure their voices were genuinely heard and reflected in the final outcome.

A former President of the Sisters Beach Community Association, Jono's leadership, dedication and community spirit have made a lasting and meaningful impact on the region.

## Young Citizen of the Year – Belle Lohrey

Belle Lohrey's contribution to the cheerleading community, particularly within the region, is exceptional and far beyond what is expected of someone her age. Just two weeks before her 18th birthday, Wynyard local Belle coached her youth novice cheer team, the Wynyard Wildcatz, to become Tasmanian State Champions, earning a bid to compete at The Finals in Orlando, Florida. Belle choreographed the routine herself and volunteered countless hours preparing the athletes for this opportunity. Under her leadership, the team went on to become International Champions, winning the Youth Novice division.

Now 19 years old, Belle is head coach at Burnie Tigers Cheerleading, oversee-

ing six competitive teams. She is also planning to take the club to Hawaii to compete at the Global Games, expanding opportunities for young athletes in the region. Belle continues to excel as an elite athlete, having been selected for the Australian Cheerleading Team to compete at the Cheerleading World Championships.

## Community Event of the Year – Permission to Trespass

Permission to Trespass (PTT) is a program of community-driven winter events across Wynyard and Table Cape that celebrates connection, creativity, and local culture. Developed by six local business owners, PTT was designed to bring people together during the off-season, encouraging residents and visitors to engage with the region in meaningful ways.

At its core, PTT is about community participation and storytelling. Local farmers, artists, producers, retailers, and community groups open their doors to share spaces, skills, and stories through small-scale, personal experiences. The Moonlight Stories lighthouse projection served as a free hero event, drawing the community together and providing a memorable focal point. Complementing this, the opening Gather and Glow Main Street Market activated local businesses with quirky offerings, boosted winter trade, and highlighted the region's creativity and character. Over three years, PTT transformed winter into a season of community celebration, creating a sustainable, scalable model that unites people, supports local enterprise, activates spaces, and showcases the unique character of Wynyard and Table Cape.



## Cat rescue appeals for emergency funding to complete new facility

A Tasmanian cat rescue organisation has issued an urgent public appeal for donations after construction costs for its long-planned surrender facility exceeded expectations.

Rachel, founder of the rescue behind the upcoming Just Cats Surrender Facility, said the group was devastated to announce it now needs to raise an additional \$70,000 to complete the project, which is nearing its final stages.

The facility, designed to serve cats and kittens across Tasmania's North West Coast and West Coast, was partially funded through a Tasmanian State Government grant. According to Rachel, the organisation worked rigorously to remain within its original budget.

"We cut back wherever we could, made difficult decisions, and stretched every dollar," she said. "Our commitment was always to our supporters and, most importantly, to the cats we help." However, rising construction and material costs ultimately pushed the project beyond what the charity could absorb.

Despite describing the appeal as one they never wanted to make, the rescue says the funding gap now threatens its ability to open the centre — a space

it believes is critical to responding to growing numbers of surrendered and crisis-case animals in the region.

Without the new facility, the organisation warns it will be unable to assist many cats and kittens in urgent need, particularly those with nowhere else to go.

Supporters are being asked to donate whatever they can, with Rachel noting that even small contributions could make a meaningful difference. "Five dollars from each person would bring us closer to opening the doors," she said. "It's the cost of a coffee, but to us it could mean saved lives."

The rescue has also encouraged members of the community to share the appeal widely to increase its reach, saying the coming weeks will be critical to the project's survival.

"We are so close, yet so vulnerable right now," Rachel said. "We want to honour this project and open the doors for the cats, the community and their future."

Those wishing to contribute can donate through the organisation's online fundraising page.

Rachel would like to thank support-

ers for their continued compassion. and for standing with us," she said. "From the bottom of our hearts, <https://just-cats-tasmania.mygiveeasy.com/.../donatenow...> thank you for reading, for caring,



# Tales from a Zeehan graveyard

YOUNG MAN DIES SUDDENLY AT THE ROSEBERY HOTEL.

A terrible sudden death occurred at Connolly's Hotel in Rosebery at about 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 8, 1898, when Arthur Wroe died after having a few drinks and playing around with his mates.

Originally from Colebrook, Wroe was 29 and single. One of his brothers, Herbert, lived at Zeehan. He was a miner, but for the past few weeks he had been prospecting near the Pieman River. He was a big man with a very jovial disposition and popular with everyone who knew him.

Following his demise, a mounted man was sent to the police at Ringville, and Constable Wright arrived at 2 a.m. on Sunday to take charge of the body. Subsequently at 3:30 p.m. a party of about thirty miners carried the body to Hart's Union Hotel at Ringville, completing the journey of approximately 11km in two hours and ten minutes.

A Coronial Enquiry was held at the same hotel the next evening before Commissioner Hall, Sub-Inspector Paice, and a jury, with James Fulton as foreman.

The first witness called was Horace Moore, who stated he had last seen Wroe alive at about 8:15 p.m. He had spent the day with deceased. At about 6 p.m. deceased had complained of pains in the stomach, and he had gone out for about a quarter of an hour before returning to the bar, where he remained until about 8 p.m. A man named Plummer started reciting at the bar, and deceased heckled him. As a consequence,

the two started playfully sparring at each other. The sparring was all open handed, and he did not think deceased received any blows at all. There was no bad blood between the two, and they were not angry. They sat down again for about ten minutes, and deceased made no complaint about pain. Witness went outside on to the verandah and met deceased who must have left about the same time through another door and then walked around to where he was. There wasn't enough time for any further horseplay between when he left, and when Wroe must have left prior to their meeting on the verandah.

He noticed something wrong with

Deceased complained that he was rubbing too hard. He also said, "It's all right; set me down quietly." Some brandy was brought out, and a little poured down deceased's throat, and he was then carried into the hotel, where hot flannels were applied to his stomach. Deceased, however, gave no further sign of life.

Thomas Tew, the next witness, of Rosebery, said Wroe had complained of bad health on Friday night. They slept in the same room, and Wroe had asked him late on Friday night to see that he was not disturbed on the Saturday morning, as he did not feel well. He next saw deceased at the hotel about

gans studded with hydatid cysts, varying in size from a hazelnut to as big as a man's fist. The largest of these was connected to the spleen, and that connection had been ruptured, filling the abdomen with a large quantity of blood. The skylarking in the bar would be sufficient to cause the rupture. It would not require a blow to be struck in the region of the stomach to do it.

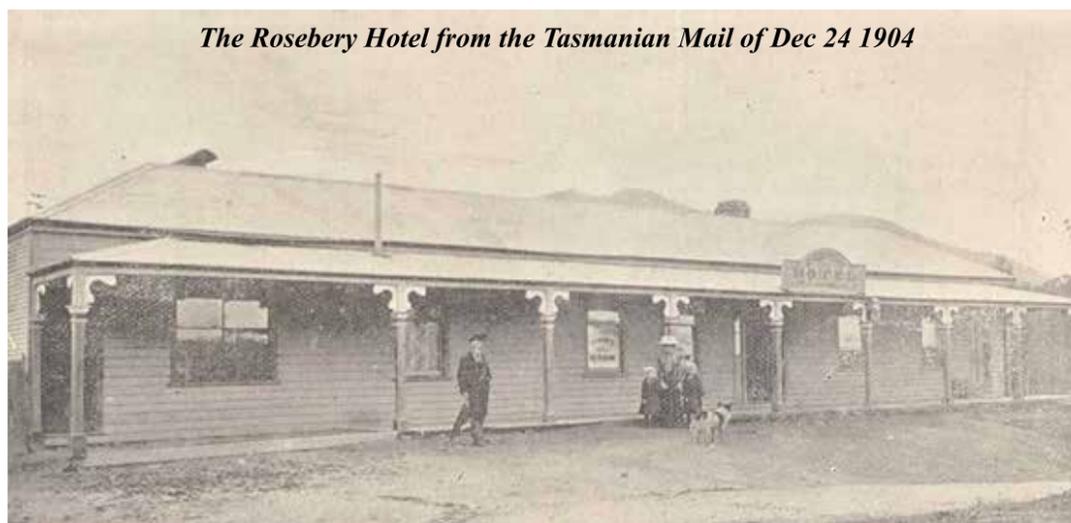
The condition of T. (or F) Plummer precluded him from giving a coherent account of what had happened to the Enquiry, but as the jury were satisfied that no blame was attachable to anyone, without retiring they gave a verdict of "Death from Misadventure."

The body of the deceased was subsequently brought into Zeehan, where it was met by the Secretary of the Amalgamated Miners' Association (Mr J.C. Whitelaw) and a large number of friends.

Arthur Wroe's remains were taken from the A.M.A. Hall in Zeehan at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 11 January to the cemetery where Reverend F.G. Copeland conducted the Church of England burial service. A large crowd of mourners attended with the Independent Order of Oddfellows, of which the deceased was

a member, strongly represented. It is known where he was buried but no physical trace remains today.

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



The Rosebery Hotel from the Tasmanian Mail of Dec 24 1904

Wroe and asked him what the matter was. Deceased answered he didn't know. He fell down, then sat up, and removed his coat and waistcoat. Witness held him up, but at deceased's request put him down again. Wroe complained of stomach pain, and witness, thinking he had a cramp, rubbed his stomach.

5:30p.m. on Saturday evening as he went home to tea. Later on he saw deceased skylarking with Plummer. From here his evidence was a corroboration of that of Moore.

Doctor John Thomas Borthwick deposed that he had conducted a postmortem examination. He found the surfaces of various or-

## Tasmanian Pickleball Championship a smash hit for Wynyard!

What an incredible weekend at the Tasmanian Pickleball Championships!

Our Wynyard crew absolutely smashed it, bringing home an impressive 22 medals with 22 players competing.

What a fantastic event full of excitement, new faces, and friendly vibes!

Some of the standout moments included:

- Matty and Shane taking GOLD in the Hybrid Coed Doubles!
- Matty grabbing three medals in his very first tournament – what a debut!
- Mal, Tessa, and Carol jumping in as a family trio, all playing in their first-ever tournament and having a blast mixing it up together.

Huge congrats to everyone who competed, especially those stepping onto the court for the first time. Moments like these make pickleball so special!





The 2026 CHFA season kicks off on the 11th of April 2026 with Scotchtown and Forest/Stanley hosting the opening games. The CHFA has held its AGM with Shane Hine taking the reigns for a 3rd and final year, with Vice President Donovan Lockett and Treasurer/PlayHQ Craig Porteous, with Leigh Pinner acting as independent delegate. Stacy Monson continues her role as media coordinator. The CHFA is looking for the correct candidate to fulfil the Secretary Role if you feel this position is for you, please email your details to [chfootballassociation@gmail.com](mailto:chfootballassociation@gmail.com) or phone Shane Hine 0428 280 034. All Clubs have commenced preseason training and are gearing up for a good season, Forest/Stanley has a Training Session with Essendon great Zach Merrett on the 21st of February 1000 for under 12's. 11am for Under 16's at the Stanley Recreation Ground, with photo and Autograph opportunities, for all enquires please contact President Martin Hardy 0418 142 985

Scotchtown and Redpa hosted the inaugural CHFA Mental Health round in 2025 and was nominated for Australia Day community event of the year and

they won the award. Redpa President Michael Booth accepted the Award on behalf of both clubs with the following words "I am so proud to receive this award on behalf of the Redpa Football Club and in conjunction with the Scotchtown Football Club. I would like to thank Roger Jaensch MP for the nomination and recognition. We stood together in solidarity as a footballing community to highlight some of the incredible organisations available to provide support against mental health.

These events require a lot of work, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few individuals and organisations for their work on the day and behind the scenes.

- Scotchtown Football Club & all their incredible volunteers
- Redpa football club and all our incredible volunteers
- Stuart Gale, Josh Smith, Andy Issom (power of work)
- Kade Jenkins, Penny king (canteen)
- Circular Head Football Association
- McCains
- STICH
- Black Dog Ride



-RAW  
-Speak up Stay Chatty  
Along with Micheal were represen-

tatives from Scotchtown, Robert Flint, Mitchell Scolyer, Ian "Scobie" Monson and Stacy Monson.

## The stories behind our umpires



For the first fifty years of football in circular Head the umpiring was carried out by volunteers. Some of whom who were attached to a team other available or willing to umpire any game. Goal umpires and boundary umpires were founded by the clubs. On a basis of one boundary and one goal umpire per game, this continued up until the Mid to late 1960's when the C.H.F.A encouraged all the field goal and boundary umpires at that time to come together as an independent body.

The CHFA at this time engage a coach for the umpires. One of them was Mr. Maurie O'Boerne the headmaster at Edith Creek School, another one Mr. Ray Baker. At this time local field umpires controlled mainly seconds and U17 games. While Goal and Boundary umpires covered all grade. Senior games were controlled by umpires who were supplied by the N.W.F.U umpires.

This continued up till 1976 when the C.H.F.A with President Mick Burke took the forward-thinking decision to employ one of Tasmania's leading umpires of the time, Mr. Graeme Alderson as Coach.

He brought more professional approach to training including regular lec-

tures on rules, interpretations and feedback to umpires on their performance. Particular attention to fitness and control, that year 1975 for the first time all senior games were controlled by local umpires.

Some of those who benefitted from Alderson's influence were Michel Johnson, Chris wells, Brian Crisp, John Williams and Dudley Billing. After Alderson two Coastal umpires were engaged as coaches, Danny O'Mahoney and Graham up until formation of Smithton Saints F/C.

That year saw local umpire Coach Control a CHFA Grand Final and the coach for the umpires was Mr. G Boag, this having been done for some years by a VFL Umpire. Circular Head umpires have been headers in running a country umpire's association.

Many other associations around the state have had to rely heavily on senior bodies to supply field umpires.

Umpires who began their careers in Circular Head have gone on to higher levels umpiring N.T.F.L and state League Grand finals, E.G David Templeton, Greg Dwyer and Phillip McCulloch.

Good administration has helped behind the scenes. People like Ernie Williams, Otley French, Graham Horne, Paul Jenkins, Bill Birtwistle (President for 13 years), Chris wells and Ian "Scobie" Monson served 10 years as president and served a handful of years a Vice President before hanging up his flags in 2023 after 25 years of service, Scobie also received the 2022 AFL National umpiring Service Award-Tas.

Scobie brought along with him a son

who has 10 years of service, His Daughter Stacy who has 20 years of service and she currently still umpires and hold the Secretary position, Scobie's Youngest Daughter Marree took on the Secretary role after Stacy went to the CHFA and has 12 years of Service.

Wife Monica has helped behind the scenes for several years but spent 3 years as a reserve goal umpire.

The CHFUA welcome all family members on tea nights and in the sheds after the game giving a family friendly Atmosphere. We have had many families join over the years in a variety of combinations.

The Umpire's association has quite a few Merit certificate holders and 13 life members, with 6 of these obtaining C.H.F.A. life membership at the end of the 2025 Season the umpires inducted their first Female Life Membership Stacy Monson. Umpiring in this district has given a lot of people opportunities, with many boys over the years excelling in school running carnivals and cross-country events.

One Young Boundary Josh Enniss went on to Umpire at State League matches and caught the eye of AFL scouts and went and done the camp and tryouts, only to miss the time trial due to illness.

Women have made inroads into umpiring fraternity in the last 50yrs. The first couple were goal umpires, but over the period many have progressed and taken on the role of the whistle, as boundary umpires, with 2 female centrals with one holding a Coaching Role.

The CHFUA are currently seeking retired players to enter a central umpire role, with younger people encouraged to take up a role along the boundary and if you don't fit either category then being a goal umpire could be for you.

Training commences March 4th at the Umpire Club rooms at the Smithton Rec with Andrew Dunlop appointed Coach for the 2026 season for all enquires please contact Andrew on 0484 600 338.

*As told to Marree Monson by Dudley Billing and Graeme Horne in 2010. Updated by Stacy Monson in 2026*

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Contact the Hub in your area for support and training  
Learn and Study Local

# Rosebery Toorak Football club is ready for the new season

Rosebery Football Club is proud to announce Duncan Murfett as our Senior Coach for the 2026 season and welcomes Scott Hay as our Reserves Coach for the season.

## DUNCAN MURFETT

Duncan's journey with Rosebery Toorak began in 1993, after moving to Rosebery for work. What's kept him involved ever since is the mateship, the people, and his strong belief that football clubs are vital to the strength and survival of small communities.

With 40 years in football, Duncan has played with Latrobe, North Launceston, Hillwood, and Rosebery Toorak, and has coached both juniors and seniors at RTFC for many years. His passion lies in

## SCOTT HAY

Rosebery Football Club is proud to welcome Scott Hay as our Reserves Coach for the 2026 season.

Scotty brings 26 years involved in football and a wealth of experience to the role. His playing career includes three years with the Channel Saints and 21 years with the Ridgley Saints. He also has coaching experience, having coached junior football in Hobart, with a strong focus on player development and mentoring.

Scotty joined Rosebery last season, playing half a season in 2025 where he was awarded Reserves Best and Fairest, highlighting his leadership and impact at the club. Heading into 2026, his focus is on building a competitive reserves side,

helping young players develop and supporting the club whenever it's needed.

As a coach, Duncan focuses on effort, preparation, and a team-first mindset. He believes success isn't measured by wins alone, but by whether players can walk off knowing they've given their best. He values leadership at all levels and creating an environment where everyone feels equal and respected.

Looking ahead to 2026, Duncan is excited to build competitiveness, support the club's young talent, and continue the strong culture of commitment and respect that defines RTFC.

Thanks for continuing to give so much to the club, Duncan. We're excited to see what 2026 has in store.

developing depth across the list, and laying strong foundations for long-term success.

He was drawn to Rosebery by the club's welcoming, family-oriented culture and is excited to bring fresh ideas, experience, and a new perspective to the playing group.

Off the field, Scotty enjoys spending time with his partner Amy, his kids Ruby and Lincoln, and their fur baby Luna. He also loves getting outdoors, including fishing, four-wheel driving, and exploring the West Coast.

Thanks for coming back and stepping up into a coaching position, Scott. We're excited to see what 2026 has in store for us.

## SENIOR COACH 2026

DUNCAN MURFETT



## RESERVES COACH 2026

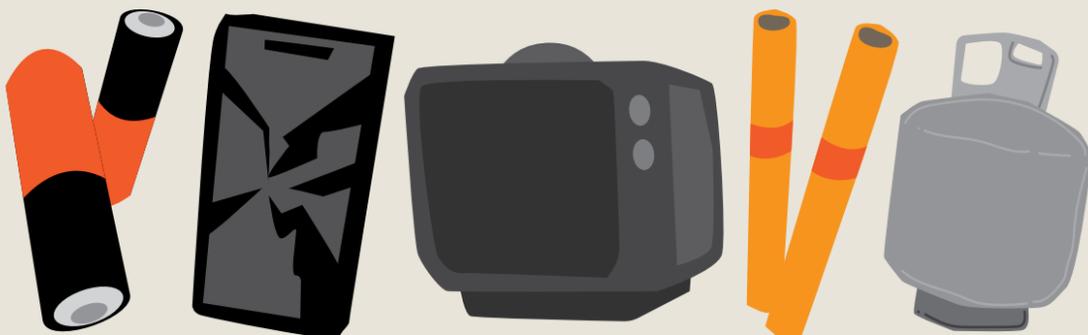
SCOTT HAY



Help us ALL breathe a little easier in 2026...

**IF YOU DON'T put old batteries, electronic waste, flares, gas bottles and vapes in the wheelie bin, WE WON'T START A FIRE!**

Instead take them to the Waste Transfer Station or check out Recycle Mate on the web or with the App and dispose of these items safely for all our sakes.



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