



# 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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**FREE**

**WE MEANS COMMUNITY**

EDITION 50 JANUARY 8TH 2026

## Happy New Year Burnie style



# It's 2026

Composite photo made up of five images

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**My Office is open!**

**My Electorate Office is open to the Braddon community.**

If you need any assistance with Federal Government services or would like to request a special birthday or anniversary message, **please contact or visit my office Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm.**



**Anne Urquhart** MP

*Federal Member for Braddon*

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☎ (03) 6431 1333

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# 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  
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## Letters to the editor...

Here at the Western Echo we love a good debate. If you have a concern, grievance, pet hate or even wish to congratulate someone for doing the RIGHT thing, then this is the place for it. Please note though, that everyone has the right to reply to your letter and we at the Western Echo are under no obligation to publish if things look like they are getting out of hand. We do reserve the right to edit letters for reasons such as clarity and length. Other than that, feel free to have YOUR say. These views in this newspaper, political or otherwise, are not necessarily those held by the editor or anyone professionally associated with the Western Echo.

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

### From the Editor

I have heard a few of our readers are concerned that the Western Echo office is moving to the Northwest town of Wynyard and will forget where it all started. Nothing could be further from the truth, the 'Echo' will always be a West Coast newspaper, it's just now also a Northwest paper as well.

Another rumour has it that the name will change. Once again let me allay your fears. Whether it's Northwest, West or even Southwest, it is still WESTERN Tasmania and the Western Echo will not be changing its name, there is no need.

Alan



## PUBLIC MEETING

6PM, THURSDAY 8 JANUARY

Strahan Gym & Multi-Purpose Centre  
Gaffney Street, Strahan

### Short notice I know but an important meeting in Strahan

A petition in relation to the Strahan Waterfront Precinct Redevelopment was received at the December 2025 Council Meeting.

As the petition complied with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, a public meeting will be held to discuss the matters tabled in the petition.

The public meeting will be held at the Strahan Gym & Multi-Purpose Centre (1-3 Gaffney Street, Strahan) on Thursday 8th January 2026 commencing at 6pm.

The meeting will address: - 'The concrete wall and associated works within the Strahan Waterfront Precinct Project'.

## Animal Welfare Centre Inc update

Over the Christmas new year, AWCI volunteers were busy at work extending the op shop into a second room full of goodies.

We are pleased to announce that it is all complete now, and we are excited to hear what you think of the changes. Hours 10am till 2pm Tuesday to Saturday, outside of these times by appointment only.

### LIMITED OPPORTUNITY

Awci is offering ONLY 4 GROUPS of upto 4 people max, to come in for an out of hours sale!

\$50 pp 2 hours only.

You choose 10 pieces of brand new clothing, not consignment, \$100 min value, plus you get to bag as much of our op shop goods as you like in ONLY 2 HOURS!

Interested?

Book in as spaces are limited.



## Western Echo 'Wendy'

Hi there, I hope you all had a great Christmas, mine was a white one as you can see. I LOVE Christmas!

Ham, turkey, a little taste of pavlova (oooh yum) and all sort of treats, I got a new bed, new toys (this was one of them) and all manner of squeaky things. Even the cats got presents but I didn't really like sharing the ham bones with them.

I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe 2026 and look forward to bringing you more adventures and tails (oops... tales).

Have fun out there humans.



Woof to you all... Wendy

## the arty duck >>>>>



@theartyduck



...for that quacking good gift!

Arts, crafts, produce,  
handmade knits & crochet,  
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100% Tasmanian made

30 Smith Street  
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Open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm  
Sat 10am-1pm  
theartyduck@gmail.com



# Mount Lyell Strahan Picnic Day **Lamb chops for the new year?** Your West Coast Welcome

If you're new to the West Coast, there's one day that will tell you more about this place than any brochure ever could: Mount Lyell Strahan Picnic Day.

For 127 years, West Coasters have downed tools and headed "back to the beach" for a day that started as a rare break for Mount Lyell mine workers and has grown into the region's most loved tradition. In 1897, trains packed with families rattled out of smoky Queenstown, kids leaning out of open carriages, band playing, everyone chasing sea air and a day by the water.

Today, the transport has changed but the feeling hasn't. On Picnic Day, West Strahan Beach turns into one long, sandy meeting place. You'll see gazebos and beach tents lining the shore, smell barbecues and sausages, hear kids racing and laughing, and feel that salt air that first drew people here more than a century ago. It's part heritage, part holiday – a celebration of life on the wild West Coast.

The program is full-on from morning to late afternoon: sack races, three-legged chaos, tug-of-war, gumboot and horseshoe throwing, sandcastle building, treasure hunts and novelty events that would look familiar to the first picnickers. Kids still receive free fruit, sweets, drinks and ice creams – a long-standing promise that the day belongs to them.

You'll also see another side of the Coast: volunteers running stalls, local clubs feeding the crowd, and the West Coast Council citizenship ceremony and the West Coast Spirit Awards announced with the surf in the background.

If you've just arrived on the West Coast, Picnic Day is your invitation. Come and see, hear, taste and feel 127 years of history for yourself – and start writing your own West Coast story on the sand at West Strahan Beach.

**128th Mount Lyell Strahan Picnic**  
**Monday 26 January 2026**  
**Commencing at 10:00am**



Sunday the 4th of January saw Animal Welfare Centre Inc volunteers take Mary and Leia, two hand raised lambs to visit the aged care home in Queenstown's Lyell wing where the babies were cuddled, patted, loved, adored and even requested to be served up on a plate lol.

Thank you Lyell wing staff for your wonderful assistance and guidance. HAPPY NEW YEAR from all at AWCI.

*Kerrie*



## These are Tasmania's safest swimming spots

Tasmania's swimmers can dive in with confidence this summer, as two local aquatic venues have achieved record-breaking safety ratings. Belgravia Leisure-managed facilities – Smithton Wellbeing Indoor Recreation & Leisure (SWIRL) and Splash Devonport Aquatic and Leisure Centre – have retained their prestigious 5-Star Safety Accreditation in 2025 following rigorous Aquatic Facility Safety Assessments (AFSA).

The results speak volumes: SWIRL:

98.41% safety rating – a 5.41% improvement from last year. Splash Devonport: 98.44% safety rating. High-performing areas included aquatic programs and first aid, each scoring a perfect 100%.

The AFSA process benchmarks venues against state and national standards, ensuring world-class safety for every visitor. The Aquatic Safety team continues to innovate, maintaining safety standards for future assessments and swimmers in local communities.



## LOCALS FIRST, JOB READY PROGRAM

COMMENCING EARLY 2026 - LIMITED SPACES REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TODAY!

MAS National, in partnership with West North West Working, is bringing a free, supportive job-ready program to the West Coast in early 2026. Designed for community members wanting to gain confidence, skills, and practical tools for work or life.

[www.wnwworking.com.au/west-coast/](http://www.wnwworking.com.au/west-coast/)

LOOKING FOR MORE SUPPORT?

**REACH OUT TO DONNA**

Local Engagement Officer for West Coast  
0490 871 800 [donna@wnwworking.com.au](mailto:donna@wnwworking.com.au)



BOOK AN APPOINTMENT

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN THIS PROGRAM TODAY



**Why join this program?**

✓ **Build confidence and resilience:** Practical exercises that prepare you for real-world challenges.

✓ **Learn key workplace skills:** Communication, stress management, conflict resolution, and more.

✓ **Flexible options:** Choose to complete the full program or select a single course that interests you.

✓ **Supportive environment:** Friendly, hands-on training suitable for all levels of experience.





**Arrival time: 10am**

**10:30am**

**Children's bicycle race**

Children must bring their own bicycle and helmet

5-7 year girls

5-7 year boys

8-10 year girls

8-10 year boys

11-14 year girls

11-14 year boys

**11:00am**

**Tiny Tots Footrace**

Girls 4 years and under

Boys 4 years and under

5-7 year girls

5-7 year boys

**Treasure Hunt #1**

Children under 14 years only

**Ladies Gumboot Throwing**

(Adults only)

**Children's Footrace**

8-10 year girls

8-10 year boys

**Treasure Hunt #2**

Children under 14 years only

**Three-Legged Race – Adults**

Separate events for women and men

**Junior Footrace**

11-14 year girls

11-14 year boys

**Sack Race**

Separate event for girls and boys in each age group:

4 years and under

5-7 years

8-10 years

11-14 years

**Treasure Hunt #3**

Children under 14 years only

**Senior Children's Footrace**

Girls and boys

15-17 years



**Three-Legged Race – children**

Separate event for girls and boys in each age group:

5-7 years

8-10 years

11-14 years

**Wheelbarrow Race**

Separate event for girls and boys in each age group:

5-7 years

8-10 years

11-14 years

Women • Men

**Horseshoe Throwing**

Separate event for girls and boys in each age group:

4 years and under

5-7 years

8-10 years

11-14 years

Women • Men

**Over 50's Footrace**

Old Boilers (Women's)

Old Buffers (Men's)

**Egg & Spoon Race**

Separate event for girls and boys in each age group:

4 years and under

5-7 years

8-10 years

11-14 years

Women • Men

**Treasure Hunt #4**

Children under 14 years only

**1pm**

**Announcement of the West Coast Spirit Award recipients**

**Lunch Break & Sandcastle Building Competition**

**1:15pm**

Lunch time performance by Borys Zagrocki (Extreme Bicycle Stunts) \*sponsored by MMG

**2pm**

**Miss & Master Tiny Tots**

Girls and boys under 5 years



**Miss Picnic Girl Junior**

Girls 5-9 years

**Miss Picnic Girl Senior**

Girls 10 years and over

**Treasure Hunt #5**

Children under 14 years only

**Mount Lyell Strahan Picnic Gift**

Open Women's Footrace

Open Men's Footrace

*Sponsored by West Coast Council*

**Stepping the Chain**

Separate event for Women & Men.

The chain is a unit of length equal to 66 feet (22 yards). It is subdivided into 100 links or 4 rods. There are 10 chains in a furlong, and 80 chains in one statute mile. In metric terms, it is 20.1168m long. The chain also survives as the length of a cricket pitch, being the distance between the stumps.

• Teams of six  
• Must pre-register at canteen  
• Women's teams • Men's teams  
• No mixed teams

**Tug O' War**

• Teams of six  
• Must pre-register at canteen  
• Women's teams • Men's teams  
• No mixed teams

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- All times are approximate, and the order of events may change depending on operational needs. Please listen for announcements.
- We may limit the number of people per event (to comply with distancing requirements), run multiple heats (to allow everyone to participate but in smaller groups), or combine and split groups and races as necessary. Please listen to the announcements.
- West Strahan Beach is not patrolled. Keep children within arms reach at all time.
- Raffle tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5. EFTPOS available.

Scan the QR code to stay up to date, make a donation, or complete our post-event survey.



**PRESENTING PARTNERS**



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Ruth Forrest MLC  
Sally McGushin  
Setori Engineering  
Sibanye Stillwater – Mount Lyell  
Strahan Community Op-Shop  
Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing & Energy Council  
The Coffee Shack  
The Huon Pine Shop  
Trevor & Megs Norton  
West Coast Wilderness Railway  
Western Echo  
Williams Earthmoving  
World Heritage Cruises

Design donated by Soggy Brolly, Queenstown.  
Supported by Western Echo, Zeehan.

For up-to-date information, please visit [www.strahanpicnic.org](http://www.strahanpicnic.org)

# Working together to keep our forests and communities safe

As Tasmania enters another fire season, the message could not be clearer: preparation, partnership and early detection save lives, livelihoods and landscapes.

Forecasts point to warmer than usual summer temperatures with the Bureau of Meteorology predicting an increased chance of unusually high daytime and nighttime temperatures.

For those of us who live and work in Tasmania's forests, these are not abstract warnings. They are real and present risks that require coordinated action.

The forestry industry has long recognised the threat bushfires pose to our environment, regional communities and economy. We are custodians of working forests that underpin a \$1.2 billion sector and support more than 5,000 Tasmanian jobs.

Protecting those forests is not optional, it is fundamental to our businesses, our workforce and the communities that rely on us.

That is why the industry invests heavily in prevention, preparedness and rapid response.

Active forest management plays a critical role in reducing fire risk. Maintaining access tracks, managing vegetation and ensuring forests remain working landscapes all help lower fuel loads and improve the ability of firefighters to respond quickly and safely.

Just as importantly, forestry people and machinery are already in the landscape when fires ignite. Private forestry companies collectively operate some of the

largest, most coordinated firefighting resources in Tasmania. When a fire starts, our crews can move immediately to cut firebreaks, contain flare-ups and support emergency services on the ground.

Now, the technology we use is now becoming just as vital as the traditional boots and machinery.

For example, the Tasmanian Government's recent \$1.4 million investment in an integrated fire detection camera network is a welcome and important step forward. Early detection is one of the most powerful tools we have to prevent small ignitions becoming major fires, particularly in remote or difficult terrain.

Camera networks, when combined with rapid response capability, can dramatically reduce response times, often making the difference between a contained incident and a large-scale emergency. This investment recognises what firefighters and land managers already know: the earlier we see a fire, the faster and safer the response.

But fire does not recognise land tenure boundaries, and neither should our detection systems.

To truly maximise the value of this investment, Tasmania now needs a coor-

dinated workplan between government and industry to expand fire detection cameras across all land tenures including large private forestry estates and other significant landholders.

Private forestry manages extensive areas of the landscape, often in high-risk regions. Integrating these estates into a single, connected detection network would strengthen coverage, close gaps and deliver a genuine whole-of-landscape solution. It would also leverage industry expertise, infrastructure and willingness to invest alongside the government whilst avoiding duplication and benefitting from strategic integration, coordination and shared responsibility.

Communication remains the lifeline of any fire response. The continued access provided to private forestry crews to the Tasmanian Government Radio Network (TasGRN) is another example of effective partnership in action. Secure, real-time communication improves safety, coordination and decision-making when minutes matter.

Together, these measures reflect a growing recognition that forestry is not only an economic contributor, but a frontline partner in protecting Tasmanian

communities from bushfire.

The lessons from previous devastating bushfires remain stark. Conditions can escalate rapidly, and success depends on skilled crews, early detection, clear communications and coordinated response. Tasmanian foresters played a significant role in those efforts, bringing heavy machinery, local knowledge and rapid deployment capability that helped protect lives and property.

This summer will test us again.

The forestry industry is ready, with trained people, specialised equipment, strong safety systems and a culture of prevention. What we now need is a clear, collaborative plan that brings together government, emergency services and major landholders to expand and integrate fire detection technology across the entire landscape.

Fire preparedness is strongest when it is shared.

If we work together across agencies, industries and land tenures we can better protect our forests, our communities and Tasmania's future.

**Nick Steel - CEO**

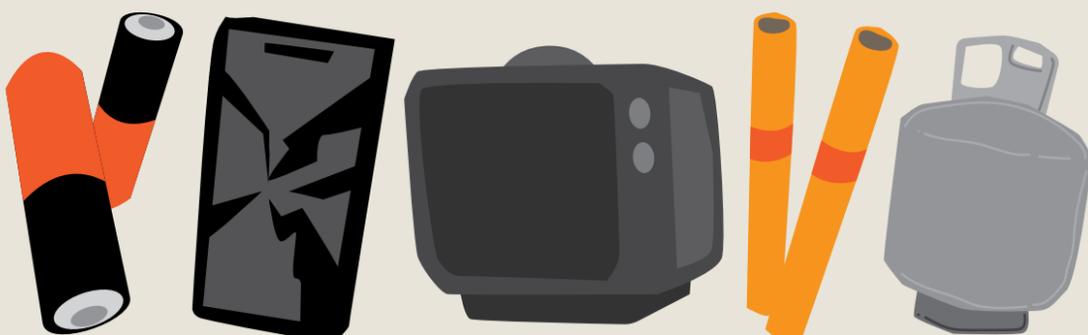
*Tasmanian Forest Products Assoc.*



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.



# Looking Ahead: A New Year of Impact & Opportunity

As we step into a new year, Soroptimist International of Circular Head is proud to reflect on the impact we created together throughout 2025—and energised for what's ahead in 2026.

Though small in number, our club continues to make a meaningful difference across Circular Head and beyond. This past year was filled with connection, collaboration, and community spirit that strengthened every project we undertook.

Our ongoing initiatives: Books for Babies, Unsung Heroines and the exciting start of our Borrow Boutique, made practical and heartfelt contributions in our region. The Borrow Boutique especially, has captured community support. With generous donations, we're building an inclusive formalwear collection to ensure every young person can attend formal events feeling confident, valued, and celebrated. Your encouragement has helped this project flourish.

We proudly continued to support a local woman through our Soroptimist Tertiary Scholarship, with our 2026 recipient to be announced soon. Education remains a core focus of our work, and helping women take their next step into further study is something we deeply value.

Our partnerships also extended globally. Through Dreambuilders and the Joy School in Wasswa, Uganda, we contributed to period dignity projects that help

keep girls in school. We are proud to stand alongside organisations working to improve lives far beyond our own borders.

Closer to home, our \$100 Project was a highlight, demonstrating how small contributions can create big change. These donations supported everything from subsidised driving lessons and food supplies for the Vinnies Soup Van, to period products for Share the Dignity and even wildlife rescue support. Whether

supporting kindness, creativity, or connection, these micro-projects showed that small amounts of support can spark significant community impact.

From celebrating creativity at Art of Words, to our energetic Trivia Night, to raising awareness through the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, our year was full of purpose, learning, and community connection.

Join Us in 2026

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 on by checking out Soroptimist International of Circular Head on Facebook.

Together, we can continue building a kinder, stronger, and more inclusive community for women and girls.



## Wonders of Wynyard Exhibition & Visitor Info Centre Celebrating 20 Years



Waratah-Wynyard Council today celebrated the 20th birthday of the Wonders of Wynyard (WOW) Exhibition & Visitor Information Centre, marking two decades of service to locals, visitors and the broader Tasmanian tourism community.

A morning tea was held at the WOW to recognise the milestone, attended by Roger Jaensch MP, Mrs Elayne Ransley, Mr Dale Elphinstone, WOW volunteers and centre staff.

Mayor Dr Mary Duniam said the WOW is a standout example of what a

regional community can achieve through collaboration and pride of place.

"For twenty years, the Wonders of Wynyard has been a shining example of what community passion, collaboration and regional pride can achieve.

This centre has welcomed visitors from across Australia and around the world, while showcasing the very best of our local heritage, culture and natural beauty.

I thank the volunteers, staff and supporters who have shaped the WOW into

an award-winning destination and a cornerstone of our community."

Wynyard's visitor services have evolved significantly since the first Visitor Information Centre operated from Gutteridge Gardens, before relocating to Jackson Street in 1995.

The current facility was officially opened on 13 December 2005 by then Premier Paul Lennon,

establishing a new gateway to Wynyard's natural beauty, cultural heritage and the acclaimed Ransley Veteran Car Collection.

The Ransley Veteran Car Collection is a standout feature of WOW, showcasing an exceptional range of early vehicles, including the 1903 Ford Model A, recognised as the equal oldest Ford in the world.

The collection was assembled and restored over many years by Wynyard

identity Francis Ransley OAM, who received the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1999 for his service to preserving vintage and veteran cars, as well as contributions to local government, power boat racing and the community.

In 2022, the collection was purchased by Dale Elphinstone, who has committed to keeping it in Wynyard for locals and visitors to continue enjoying.

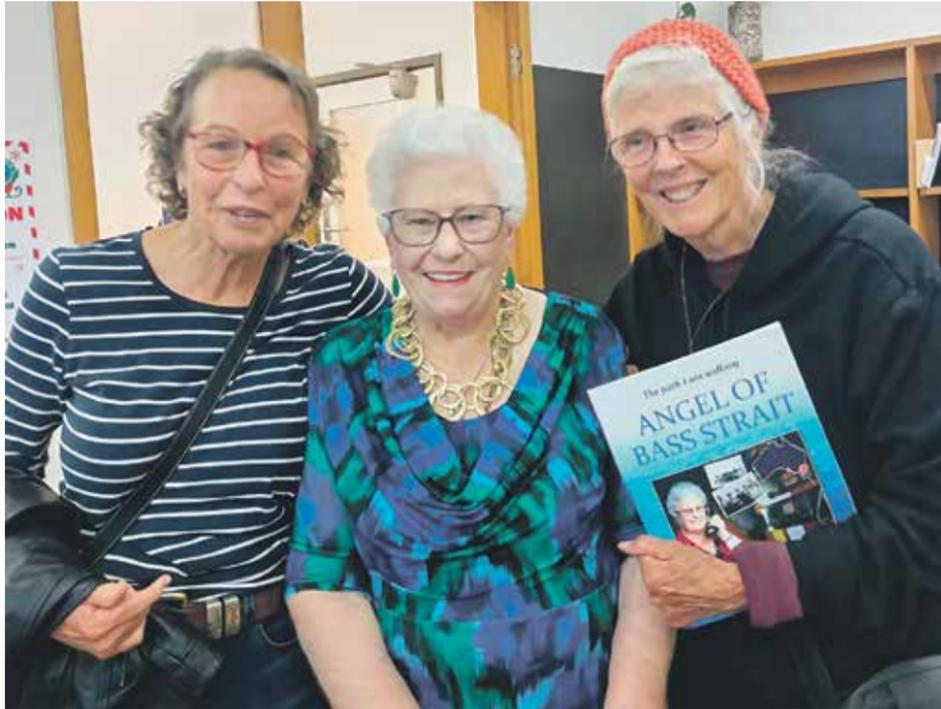
The WOW has earned a strong reputation for visitor information services, including induction into the Tasmanian Tourism Awards Hall of Fame (Visitor Information Services), with multiple awards across 2016–2021.

At the national level, WOW was awarded Gold in Visitor Information Services at the 2021 Australian Tourism Awards.

The WOW's success continues to be driven by its people. The Centre currently operates with 18 active volunteers and three staff, continuing the tradition of warm and genuine hospitality for which Wynyard is known.

As the WOW enters its third decade, Waratah-Wynyard Council said the Centre remains committed to delivering exceptional visitor experiences, promoting the region's heritage, and strengthening WOW's role in Tasmania's tourism story.

# 'Angel of Bass Strait'



Around 35 people gathered at the Smithton library recently for an engaging author talk with local writer Mary Kay, creating a warm and lively evening for book lovers in the community.

Mary Kay spoke about her writing journey, inspirations and creative process, offering insight into the stories behind her work and answering questions from an enthusiastic audience.

The evening sparked lively conversation and a real sense of connection, with people enjoying the chance to hear directly from the author in a relaxed, intimate setting.

The strong turnout showed just how much our community values local voices and sees the library as a welcoming place to come together over books and ideas.

### From the author:

Born in 1936 in Castleford, Yorkshire, England, this is a true story of the path I have walked so far. I was three years old when the Second World War began, and today only one per cent of the war's survivors remain to recount their stories.

We lived in a coal-mining town and received heavy bombing, which led to us moving to a small village on the moors before the war ended.

After the war, Dad enquired about coming to Australia to live, resulting in our journey by Sunderland flying boat.

The trip took ten days, flying across Europe and staying in a different country each night before finally reaching Australia.

Life in Australia saw us living on a farm, where I helped my father run two businesses.

I later married a farmer in Circular Head.

I have lived an extraordinary life, and for 27 years I managed a marine radio base after developing it, while gathering many true tales to share.

I also helped establish two radio repeaters—one on Three Hummock Island and another near Strahan on Tasmania's west coast.

I enjoy recording history, and this is the fifth book I have written.

My second book, Tin Can Heroes, which details the bombing of Darwin, is held as a historical document at the War Memorial in Canberra.

I have received many awards, including recognition in Who's Who of Australian Women, Tasmanian Local Hero at the 2015 Australia Day Awards, and inclusion on Tasmania's Honour Roll.

Ocean Racing Australia acknowledged my work with them over many years, and the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania honours me with a biennial trophy in my name.

I feel humble about the work I have done for my community. It has given me great pleasure over the years, and I hope you enjoy walking my path with me.

Books are available for purchase at the Smithton Newsagency for \$40.00.

# MyCare for West Coast people

MyCare Tasmania, an organisation created with the vision of "MyCare for West Coast people."

We are dedicated to supporting our community through both NDIS services and Aged Care programs, including the Support at Home Program.

Our team is made up of experienced support workers, registered nurses, contractors, and allied health professionals, all working together to provide compassionate, person-centred care.

We are excited to announce that we are officially open to the public in ROSEBURY. Our Open Day commenced on 8 December 2025, at our office in Rosebery (located right next to the chemist). It was a wonderful opportunity for the community to meet our team, learn more about our services, and see how we are working to empower and support local residents. We also offer free information program to the public whether its NDIS or My Aged Care.



## HOT WEATHER TIPS FOR YOUR DOG

PROVIDE OPEN ACCESS TO:	WHAT ELSE YOU CAN DO?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean and fresh water</li> <li>Shade and cool surfaces (not carpet)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exercise in the early morning and late evening</li> <li>Wet the paws, as this is a way for dogs to cool off</li> </ul>
TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTIONS	WHAT YOU SHOULD NOT DO!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher humidity means that it takes lower temperatures to get excessive heat exposure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Never walk during the mid-day, especially in open sun.</li> <li>Can trim longer haired dogs, but never shave their coats.</li> <li>Never EVER leave your pets in a parked car. Not even for a minute.</li> <li>Avoid sidewalks and pavement, even during the evening because it can still be hot.</li> <li>Don't rely on a fan, because they don't cool off pets as effectively as they do people.</li> </ul>
<p><b>OLDER, OBESE OR SHORT-NOSED DOGS ARE LESS TOLERANT OF HEAT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Pugs</li> <li>✓ Bulldogs</li> <li>✓ Boston Terriers</li> <li>✓ Pekingese</li> <li>✓ Boxers</li> <li>✓ Shih Tzus</li> <li>✓ French Bulldogs</li> </ul>	
<p><b>SIGNS OF HEAT EXPOSURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EXCESSIVE PANTING</li> <li>• DIFFICULTY BREATHING</li> <li>• INCREASED HEART RATE</li> <li>• DROOLING</li> <li>• BLOODY DIARRHEA</li> <li>• MILD WEAKNESS</li> <li>• STUPOR</li> <li>• COLLAPSE &amp; SEIZURES</li> <li>• VOMITING</li> </ul>	

www.TheLightofDog.com

## Opportunities for locals, right here and beyond



EMPLOYMENT. EDUCATION. TRAINING. LET'S START THE CONVERSATION.

Looking to take the next step in your career? Whether you're returning to work, starting fresh, or exploring new opportunities, WNOW is here to help you every step of the way!

### Here's how we can help:

- Boost your confidence to re-enter or start your career journey.
- Revamp your resume to stand out.
- Learn the secrets to creating a standout cover letter.
- Discover how your existing skills can open doors in new industries.
- Explore paid and free training opportunities to level up.
- Get tips and guidance on acing your job interviews.

OFFICE CLOSED Thursday 25 Dec 2025 and will reopen on Monday 5 Jan 2026

## Reach out to Jacki

Local Engagement Officer for Waratah-Wynyard & Circular Head

0491 799 532 jacki@wnwworking.com.au



Book an appointment

Let's start the conversation

Regional Jobs Hub for Waratah-Wynyard & Circular Head



www.wnwworking.com.au





One of the more unique West Coast toilets – artwork at Hedley Faull Park public toilets.

## Rates Payments



The third instalment of rates is due by Friday, 30 January. Rates can be paid at the Council office, at any Post Office, online via Council's website and via direct debit.

We understand it can sometimes be difficult to make payments – there is help available. Council can help you work out a payment arrangement that works with your budget. We find that many ratepayers are able to pay off their rates by the end of the financial year by making smaller, more regular payments via Direct Debit – the form to set up this is available from the Council Office or the Council website.

A reminder also that ratepayers receiving government concessions may also be eligible for a discount. To check if you're eligible, please contact Council.

Please don't ignore the instalment due date – we would much rather ratepayers reach out about organising a payment arrangement than not hear from you at all.

## Opening Doors Across the West Coast

From Trial Harbour to Tullah, West Coast Council maintains public toilets across the region. Acknowledging their essential role in public infrastructure, Council is committed to delivering accessible, environmentally sustainable and quality public amenities.

In a move to enhance accessibility, several toilets now offer 24-hour access via the Council's **Unlock West Coast** smartphone app. The Unlock West Coast app grants residents and visitors easy access to facilities like toilets outside standard operating hours. The app is free to download.

To make it easier for residents and visitors to find public toilets, Council has updated its website with a comprehensive guide to public toilets across the region. The updated page includes photos, opening hours, and site-specific details to help you plan ahead. Visit [www.westcoast.tas.gov.au](http://www.westcoast.tas.gov.au) and search "public toilets" to explore the full list.

## Fire Abatement



As of mid-December, 4,789 properties have been inspected across the West Coast for fire risk. Council understands community concern regarding Crown and Council-owned land. This total inspection number includes the inspection of around 1,000 Crown Land properties and 107 Council properties.

Of the 614 Fire Abatement Notices issued to 17 December 2025, just under 130 fire have been issued to Crown Land. Where a fire risk is identified on Council property an internal Works Orders is raised. 62 of these orders have been raised to 17 December 2025 (noting that nature strips are managed under a separate program) with the Council crews working to clear the fire risk.

With weather warming up and the fire permit period in place, it is essential that all property owners and occupiers are aware of the fire risks on their properties. Take action to remove those risks and help us keep our community safe.

More details about the fire abatement program, including patrolled area maps, are available on Council's website.

	INITIAL INSPECTIONS			FIRE RISK ABATEMENT	
	Number of Properties	Number of Properties Inspected	Number of Inspections Remaining	Number of Fire Risk Abatement Notices Issued	Number of Properties Inspected – no fire risk
Gormanston & Linda	189	189	0	17	172
Queenstown	1660	1660	0	253	1407
Rosebery	788	788	0	25	763
Strahan & Lettes Bay	682	682	0	13	669
Tullah	280	280	0	25	255
Zeehan	1056	1056	0	279	777
Other Locations	134	131	3	2	129
<b>Total</b>	<b>4789</b>	<b>4786</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>4172</b>
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>99.94%</b>	<b>0.06%</b>		

Notes: this data includes State Government and Crown Land but excludes Council land and nature strips. The 3 remaining inspections are at Pieman Heads.

Notify Council about a fire risk:

- visit the Council office in Queenstown
- call 6471 4700
- online: [www.westcoast.tas.gov.au/make-a-request/](http://www.westcoast.tas.gov.au/make-a-request/)

Patrols are ongoing & abatement notices may already have been issued, and time must be given for owners to remove the fire risk.



## 2026 COUNCIL MEETINGS



Tuesday 27 January

Tuesday 24 February

Tuesday 24 March

Tuesday 28 April

Tuesday 26 May

Tuesday 23 June

Tuesday 28 July

Tuesday 25 August

Tuesday 22 September

Tuesday 27 October

Tuesday 24 November

Thursday 10 December  
(Annual General Meeting & Ordinary Council Meeting)



Meetings commence at 5pm, unless otherwise advertised, and are held in the Council Chambers at the West Coast Council Office, 11 Sticht Street Queenstown.

Unless otherwise closed to deal with confidential matters, the meetings are open to the public. Meetings are livestreamed via Council's YouTube page, with links on Council's website and Facebook page.

During each meeting, Council sets aside time in which members of the public may ask questions relating to the activities of Council.



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

## Public Question Time at Council Meetings

Public Question Time is run under Regulation 36 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2025, with at least 15 minutes made available for questions by members of the public.

If you have something you'd like to ask during Public Question Time, you can submit your question in writing prior to the meeting (a Question on Notice) or ask in person at the meeting (a Question Without Notice).

Responses to questions will usually be answered by the Mayor. However, some questions might be referred to the General Manager, Manager or a Councillor. In some instances, questions might also require further research by Council and be taken on notice. A written response will then be provided by the General Manager.

### Questions on Notice

Questions on Notice must be submitted to the General Manager at least 7 days before the date of the Council meeting. Your question will be published in the Agenda and Minutes of the Council Meeting. You do not need to be present at the meeting to ask your question.

### Questions Without Notice

Questions Without Notice are asked in person during Public Question Time or are received in writing within 7 days of the meeting (those received 7 days prior to the meeting are Questions on Notice).

For more information about getting involved in Council meetings, search "Council Meetings" on our website or contact the Council office.

## Australia Day Holiday Closure

The Council Office will close for the Australia Day public holiday at 5pm Friday 23 January and reopen at 8.30am on Tuesday 27 January.

Payments for Food Licence Registrations, Rates, Invoices, Building & Planning Applications, Fines & Infringements can be made via Council's website.

To report a Council-related emergency or serious safety concern during this time please call Council on (03) 6471 4700 to be directed to our after-hours team. Non-urgent requests can be submitted on our website by using the Make a Request online form.

### 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  
June to August: 9am-4:30pm  
September to May: 9am-5pm  
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

## Your Councillors



**Shane Pitt**, Mayor  
Phone 0419 899 667  
[spitt@westcoast.tas.gov.au](mailto:spitt@westcoast.tas.gov.au)



**Robert Butterfield**  
Deputy Mayor  
Phone 0428 822 062



**Kerry Graham**  
Phone 0488 199 529  
[kgraham@westcoast.tas.gov.au](mailto:kgraham@westcoast.tas.gov.au)



**Annie McKay**  
[AMcKay@westcoast.tas.gov.au](mailto:AMcKay@westcoast.tas.gov.au)



**Dwayne Jordan**  
Phone 0417349835  
[DJordan@westcoast.tas.gov.au](mailto:DJordan@westcoast.tas.gov.au)



**Vikki Iwanicki**  
[VIwanicki@westcoast.tas.gov.au](mailto:VIwanicki@westcoast.tas.gov.au)



**Scott Stringer**  
Phone 0408 109 502  
[ssstringer@westcoast.tas.gov.au](mailto:ssstringer@westcoast.tas.gov.au)



**Liz Hamer**  
[LHamer@westcoast.tas.gov.au](mailto:LHamer@westcoast.tas.gov.au)



**Lindsay Newman**  
0418 368 708  
[lnewman@westcoast.tas.gov.au](mailto:lnewman@westcoast.tas.gov.au)

## REMINDERS

### 9 JANUARY

Recycling collection Zeehan, Rosebery & Tullah

### 26 JANUARY

Australia Day Public Holiday (Council Office closed)

### 26 JANUARY

Mt Lyell Strahan Picnic, West Strahan Beach

### 30 JANUARY

Third rates instalment due

### 6 FEBRUARY

Recycling collection Queenstown, Gormanston/Linda & Strahan

### 13 FEBRUARY

Recycling collection Zeehan, Rosebery & Tullah

## NEW DIGS, SAME LOCAL KNOW-HOW



**ADVICE & BOOKINGS**

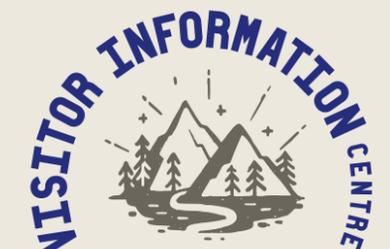


**WEST COAST MERCHANDISE**



**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](mailto:tourism@westcoast.gov.au)

[westcoasttas.com](http://westcoasttas.com)  
#westcoasttas

# THE WORLD OF WASTE: WHERE DO THE WEIRD THINGS GO?

We all have things we don't use lying around the house. If a new year means a clean up at yours, here are some ways to get the weird things out of your life!

- Old mobile phones – save the photos and drop them to the collection bins at the Waste Transfer Station or a mobile phone shop.

- Batteries don't belong in wheelie bins – both single use and rechargeable batteries go in special bins at the front of the Supermarket, Hardware Store or Waste Transfer Station.

- Flares – your last lot of flares are now out of date, and you are ready for summer fishing? Ask at the Waste Transfer Station and these can be collected and used safely by MAST for training.

- Gas bottles – ready to go camping and the gas bottle is empty and not able to be refilled? Dropping them to the Waste Transfer Station is a safe pathway to disposal.

- Broken household appliances – if it is rechargeable or has a cord to plug in, drop it to the waste transfer station and it will be pulled apart and recycled.

- Xrays and Film negatives – these are an interesting chemical cocktail and if you still have these at home they have been around a while. Dispose of them

safely and securely in the locked collection bins at the Waste Transfer Station.

- Pills and potions on medical script – when there is leftover medicine, you can take it for free to your local pharmacy. The team will then safely dispose of it. You will need to ask the helpful team behind the counter. This is a safer approach than flushing tablets or tossing them in the kerbside bin.

- Vapes – whether your vapes are on script or from a drawer at home before the law changed, you can drop them for free in a locked bin at the Waste Transfer Station. They will then be safely deconstructed so the battery in them doesn't cause a different kind of glow up!

- Old light bulbs and fluoro tubes – these are free to dispose of at the Waste Transfer Station. They contain gases and chemicals that can harm your health so pack them in a box to move without breaking and drop them in.

BEST OF ALL – THESE OPTIONS ARE LOW COST OR NO COST!!!

Got a question for us? Shoot it through to Cradle Coast Waste Services at [ccws@dulverton.com.au](mailto:ccws@dulverton.com.au) and we can let you know and include it in a future edition. If you don't know it is likely others don't either!

## Breakingthecycletassie

Get ready for our next adventure! Starting January 2nd, join us every Friday from 5 pm to 7 pm at Gutteridge Gardens in Wynyard! We'll be serving free BBQ with burgers (with the lot!) and sausages, plus free drinks.

We'll also have free items like clothing, sleeping bags, and small tents. Everything is FREE – it's all about community connection on the North West Coast of Tassie! We'll be coming to Burnie on Saturdays once we're settled down in wynyard.

We're looking for sponsors, donations, and volunteers to keep this going, so if you're local and want to make a difference, get in touch!

### 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.**

## New year, new challenge?

Lineworker opportunities available statewide! Scan the QR code to learn more and express your interest.

# Something magical is coming!

Join Council and 26Ten for a community painting day as we bring our Alphabet Caterpillar to life — part of Council's Learn for Life Plan and the Literacy Trail located along the East Esplanade.

Help us name the caterpillar — follow us on Circular Head 26Ten - Learn for Life






**26Ten**

More info: contact Kate 0498 746 605

## Bringing the alphabet caterpillar to life

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsor, McCain Foods Australia, something magical is coming to the East Esplanade in Smithton!

We invite families to join us and Circular Head 26Ten - Learn For Life for a community painting day as we bring our Alphabet Caterpillar to life — made possible through McCain Foods' valued sponsorship.

This colourful project forms part of Council's Learn for Life Plan and the Literacy Trail along the East Esplanade, celebrating our commitment to learning at every age and proudly reflecting our status as a UNESCO Learning City.

Join us to be part of this exciting milestone:

Thursday 8 January | 10:00am – 12:30pm

Saturday 10 January | 10:00am – 12:30pm

RSVP <https://events.humanitix.com/paint-the-caterpillar>

We'd love to see families come along and help create something special for our community and we sincerely thank McCain Foods for helping bring this project to life

**26Ten - Tasmania's campaign for adult literacy**



## 2026 has started with such positivity for football in Circular Head



Introducing our executive committee  
**President Shane Hine, Vice President Donovan Lockett, Treasurer and player hq Craig Porteus, Secretary and FB Andy Issom, Newspaper and media Stacy Monson**

Special mention to Shane, Vita, Stacy and Andy for an exceptional year in 2025. We truly appreciate your community support, at club level it's been inspiring the way we strive for the same goal. Together we are creating an outlet for everyone of any football experience to come along and have a kick.

Let's get excited, our community football is alive and kicking

## New Tarkine book now out!

You will soon be able to read a story with most of the facts regarding the Tarkine listed. They come in the form of a new book just out from the printer and available soon on the West Coast. Rex Blackwell has written 'Tarkine and other myths', a story about the Tarkine, including the logging in the Hellyer Gorge long before it was listed as being pristine, except for some areas.

It is full of photos, maps, both old and new, including towns that have almost been forgotten. It lists the gem fossicking sites, gold mining history and is a great read for anyone who is really interested in the West Coast.



You can purchase the book from Rex's home at 175 Mount Street, Burnie, which is right next door to the Car Wash opposite to Woollies.

### STUDY CENTRE

**CIRCULAR HEAD**  
 Email - [students@studycentrech.com.au](mailto:students@studycentrech.com.au)  
 Phone - 0499 173 118

### STUDY KING ISLAND

Email - [learn@studyki.com.au](mailto:learn@studyki.com.au)  
 Phone - 0439 735 957

### STUDY HUB WEST COAST

Email - [info@studyhubwestcoast.com.au](mailto:info@studyhubwestcoast.com.au)  
 Phone - 0491 205 400

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



**"We asked for help."**

Without the help of Carer Gateway, life would be really difficult.  
**Taya & Kathryn, Carers**

Kathryn and her daughter Taya are both carers for Kye, their son and brother who has autism.

Through Carer Gateway's support they were able to go on a retreat to connect with other carers in a supportive environment and take a break.

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

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

Support is free, inclusive, and confidential.

Call 1800 422 737 (press 1) or visit [carergateway.gov.au](http://carergateway.gov.au)





Rosebery Mine

# Community Newsletter

January 2026



Image: Rosebery Mine 1948

## Celebrating 90 years of continuous operation of Rosebery Mine in 2026

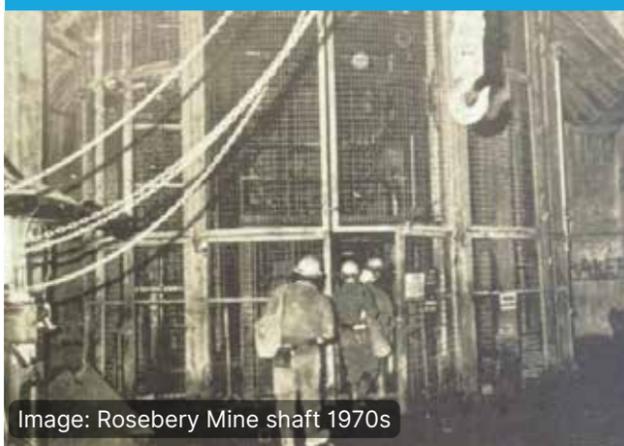


Image: Rosebery Mine shaft 1970s

MMG Rosebery achieves a rare milestone in the Australian mining industry next month, marking 90 years of continuous operation.

While mining of the Rosebery deposit commenced soon after its discovery by Tom McDonald in 1893, operations were periodically disrupted due to economic downturns over the next three decades.

After four years of construction – interrupted by the Great Depression – operation of the new Rosebery mill began in February 1936.

At the time, Rosebery’s mill capacity was 20 tonnes of ore per hour. Today, following the introduction of mechanisation in the underground mine, plant upgrades and productivity improvements, mill capacity is approximately six times greater.

The mine’s longevity is due as much to its mineral deposit as it is to the resilience and skill of the many employees who have worked there over its already long life, and the strength of the support it receives from communities across the West Coast.



Image: Trucking using horses, Hercules Mine



Image: Locomotive hauling ore

### SHAFT SIGNAL CODE

NUMBER OF KNOCKS OR RINGS	SIGNIFIES
1	"STOP" when in motion.
2	"HOLDFAST" when stationary.
3	LOWER HOIST.
4	MEN ON.
5	THROW IN OR OUT OF GEAR.
6	RELEASE SIGNAL (All clear).
7	FIRING SIGNAL.
12	ACCIDENT. (To be followed by the signal for the level).
2 pause 3	No. 8 Level
" " 4	No. 9 Level
2 " 5	No. 10 Level
1 " 6	No. 10 Load Station
3 " 1	No. 11 Level
3 " 2	No. 12 Level
2 " 7	No. 12 Load Station
3 " 3	No. 13 Level
3 " 4	No. 14 Level
2 " 8	No. 14 Load Station

**SIGNALS**  
A signal that is given from level to level or from 8 Level to a level indicates that men are being raised or lowered and the engine driver shall drive accordingly.

**NOTE:** The signal 4 pause 3 SIGNIFIES "MEN ON" hoist to 8 Level.

**FIRING SIGNALS WHEN WINDING**  
By means of main auxiliary winding engine from the bottom of the shaft directly to the top thereof or to a station underground.  
Or by means of a winch or other auxiliary from the bottom of a winze.

THE CODE OF FIRING SIGNALS SPECIFIED IN THE TABLE TO THIS SUB-SECTION SHALL BE USED. THAT IS TO SAY:



Image: Mess House 1928

1800 767 664

ROSCOMMUNITY@MMG.COM

MMG.COM/HOME/ROSEBERYFUTURE

MMG.COM/CAREERS

# Under The Horizontal *with Tewkesbury Wharf*

Continuing the tale of 'Black Bella'. In our last we followed the trail of Messiah's nefarious activities through Tasmania. In this instalment we add some detail to the character of Isabella James, better known to history as Black Bella, the victim of Messiah's stabbing. That she was only injured is, perhaps, why this tale comes down to us as is. A murder would have changed everything we know of that time.

Unless you were rich, life for a woman in colonial Tasmania was about making the best of the hand you were dealt, which wouldn't have been much, and for a black woman it would have been considerably less.

My original search for the trail of Isabella began and ended with court appearances. From petty larceny, drunkenness, obscene language, even wounding with a knife, her life appeared to be mostly documented by the records of Tasmania's justice system.

I knew this was the women from the tale of 'Black Bella', as that epithet was always mentioned alongside several other appellations used

in her various court appearances. However, all these appearances were after the fact, and none of them on the West Coast. It wasn't a satisfying



Trial Harbour 1950s

outcome as it seemed that her appearance in the West was but a fleeting visit. There was no evidence that placed Isabella on, or near, the West Coast other than the tale itself, even though the trail definitely led from Trial Harbour.

Only recently was the gold struck. Isabella had, indeed returned to the West Coast and had been a fixture in Queenstown for some time. In one

court report she was described as 'a lady of the Piggeries'. In another appearance before the beak in Queenstown she objected to the prosecution using her sobriquet, 'Black Bella' and shamed him into an apology. Despite her disadvantages in life, she appeared

to be quite capable and fiercely independent. One article states that she was of Bengali origin.

There is much more to her tale, but the clinching piece of the puzzle came unexpectedly from an article published on Christmas day, 1929. In this article, Bill Hammersley relates a Christmas Eve gathering at the Montagu hut nearly fifty years previous. He postulates that it was 1880, but couldn't be certain given the lapsing of time. It was almost certainly 1881.

Hammersley states that the men were having a right old time singing, dancing and committing tomfoolery in the warmth and comfort of the hut. Outside, the rain pelted down, the wind blew and the rollers hit the coast like 'ten thousand cannon'. In an instant their revelling was brought to a sudden, frightening end as a sudden burst of wind blew into the hut and extinguished the lights.

There in the doorway, wind and rain blowing into the hut, and lit only by the embers of the fire, stood Black Bella. She was bedraggled, sodden and barely clad, her trek through the scrub having torn her garments to shreds. *To be continued*

## Christmas decorations - Marrawah style

Visitors to Marrawah may have done a double take when they saw these Christmas decorations made primarily from hay bales.

The photos were taken by Jocelyn Flint who always seems to have a camera ready to capture the beautiful, or in this case, the unusual



**NEED A SPARKY? Contact Frank at DILLON ELECTRICAL HEAT PUMPS!**

Heat pump systems require regular maintenance to ensure optimal performance. Let us help you with our servicing and cleaning solutions. We can also supply and install heat pumps to suit your requirements.

Call us to arrange a clean and service or quote for a new unit. 0417 310 028

**Dillon Electrical**  
Ph. 0417 310 028

ECL 946095

We service the West Coast of Tasmania and will be happy to help you with all your electrical needs



# A Night on the Terrace

## Hello 2026!

A brilliant festive, family-friendly atmosphere was enjoyed by thousands at Burnie City Councils - *A Night on the Terrace* - NYE event on the Burnie Foreshore.

Three firework displays in two locations lit up the skies, with thanks to the talents of Tasmania's Spark Fireworks and sponsored by the Burnie New Year Athletic Carnival, Beach Hotel Burnie, and SeaFM Burnie.

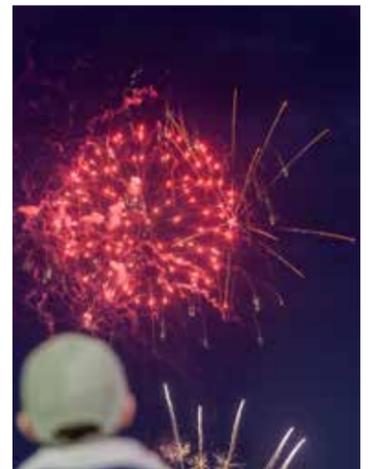
The beach bonfire was the backdrop to it all.

Music echoed from Maggie Laycock and Laila Jones from Hump Entertainment, with the Clinton Hutton Band and the Ringmasters bringing in the new year with style.

Samora Squid thrilled the crowd with his unique blend of contortion and sword-swallowing, while kids both big and small took to the rides.

A big thank you to everyone who helped bring back the good 'ol days with Councils A Night on the Terrace.

This event marks the beginning of Councils return of community development, tourism and events functions to Council.



Did you celebrate NYE at Councils - A Night on The Terrace event?

Yes?

We would greatly appreciate your feedback by filling in a short survey. Your input will help us improve future Council run events.

[www.burnie.tas.gov.au/PostNYE](http://www.burnie.tas.gov.au/PostNYE)



## Burnie to welcome Targa Tasmania Targafest 2026!

Targa Tasmania is one of the world's last iconic motoring events, held each November over five days on our beautiful and remote island, Tasmania.

On Saturday 22 November 2026, Burnie will once again welcome Targa cars *overnight*, with Targafest lighting up the city with visitors filling our hotels, cafes and streets.

Targa CEO, Mark Perry said, "Targa Tasmania has an incredibly successful relationship with Burnie, holding some of it's largest Targafest events in the coastal city going back to 1992. Thanks to the support of Burnie City Council, we are looking forward to returning on 22 November".

And this is just the beginning. Positive discussions are already underway for an even bigger future with Targa beyond 2026.

Want to get involved? Entries are now open for Targa Tasmania 2026.

The 2026 Targa Tasmania will run from Wednesday 18 to Sunday 22 November 2026, with a full-day Targa Academy taking place on Tuesday 17 November.

**For more information on how to enter - head to [targa.com.au](http://targa.com.au)**

## SNAP, SEND, SOLVE

Connect with Council and let us know about any issues in Burnie, including graffiti, fallen tree branches, blocked drains and more.

You can use the Snap Send Solve app on Apple iPhone, Android Smart Phone, web app or the form on our website.

Simply let us know where, take a photo and we'll take care of it. Find out more at: [snapsendsolve.com](http://snapsendsolve.com)

*Being a community legend has never been easier.*



## Upcoming Cruise Ship arrivals



Norwegian Spirit  
15 January, 2026

Seven Seas Explorer  
23 January, 2026

Seven Seas Navigator  
26 January, 2026

Viking Orion  
27 January, 2026

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!

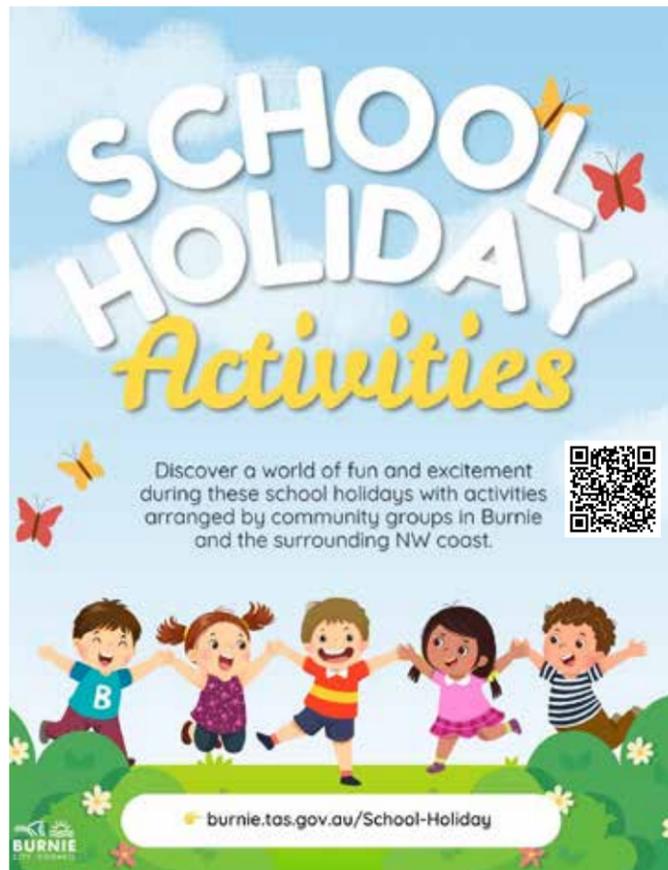


### SummerFest 26 in Pataway/Burnie

Stalls, showcases, live music, culture, art, food, and opportunities to connect with community, SUMMERFEST 26 is a fantastic event that celebrates local talent, embraces cultural diversity, and strengthens our amazing Pataway community.

Summerfest is a collaboration between Connected Beginnings Lutruwita, Pataway Collective, Material Institute Lutruwita/Tasmania, Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre, and Burnie City Council.

Wiseman Street Reserve, Shorewell Park (next to the Burnie Community House)  
Friday 30 January, 2026  
2pm to 7pm  
It's free!



## What's on at Burnie Arts

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

### Upcoming Exhibitions



#### Patrick Grieve - HOME

Patrick Grieve is one of Tasmania's most notable landscape painters, renowned for his richly coloured renditions of the North-West Coast.



#### Troy Ruffels - Stone Tides Weeping Trees

Stone Tides Weeping Trees is a visual and poetic meditation on the Miena Cider Gums of Tasmania's central highland plateau.

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  
Monday to Saturday

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



Burnie City Market - Marine Plaza  
First and third Saturday of each month

Burnie Harness Racing - Burnie Cup  
Sunday 18 January, 2026  
1pm to 6pm

Australia Day Music and Beach Party  
Burnie Foreshore, West Beach  
Monday 26 January, 2026  
11am to 7pm

Burnie City Council City Offices  
and Burnie Arts closed  
Monday 26 January, 2026

Burnie City Council January Meeting  
Tuesday 27 January, 2026  
7pm

Third installment of rates due  
30 January, 2025  
Check you rates anytime at -  
[burnie.tas.gov.au/Living/Rates](http://burnie.tas.gov.au/Living/Rates)

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



### After more than 41 years of dedicated service, we farewell Michael Freeman as he heads into retirement.

What was meant to be a three-month role turned into a long and valued career with Burnie City Council. From capital works in Romaine Reserve, to maintaining parks and reserves across the municipality, and most notably his instrumental role at West Park Oval and our eight other sportsgrounds.

Michael's contribution has been exceptional.

Under his care, our grounds have seen major improvements and have always been maintained to the highest standard.

Just as importantly, Michael will be missed for the positive impact he's had on his colleagues.

Thank you, Michael, for your outstanding service.

We wish you all the very best in your retirement.

### AUS DAY Music and Beach Party 2026

Burnie City Council is excited to once again be sponsoring the Rotary Club of Burnie West Australia Day Celebrations, but this year - we're building sandcastles!

The Australia Day Music and Beach Party will be held at the Foreshore, West Beach on 26 January 2026.

Gold coin donation

### Romaine Reserve bridge and boardwalk replacement completed!

Marking the end of a long wait and the beginning of safe and enjoyable use for park and nature enthusiasts, the previously closed bridge at Romaine Reserve is now officially reopened!

Originally identified for replacement in the 2024-25 financial year, mother nature had other plans, forcing a premature closure in September 2024 when strong winds damaged the old timber bridge and boardwalk.

The new 18m long steel bridge now in place represents the first of many planned bridge replacements under future Capital Works Programs.

You can check out the project timeline at - [burnie.tas.gov.au/RomaineBridge](http://burnie.tas.gov.au/RomaineBridge)



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

## Wynyard to host national Mirror sailing championships in January 2026



Left: Mayor Dr. Mary Duniam, Wynyard Yacht Club Commodore Chris Symonds and Director Karla Dutton. Picture: Waratah-Wynyard Council. Right: Wynyard Yacht Club members Jess Andrewartha and Michael Hughes training near the Wynyard Foreshore. Picture: Wynyard Yacht Club.

### Wynyard, Tasmania

If you have noticed a few striking red sailboats skimming across the water now that warmer weather has arrived, you are seeing local crews stepping up preparations for a major national event.

Wynyard Yacht Club hosted the 58th International Mirror Class Australian Championships in Wynyard from Saturday 3 January to Wednesday 7 January 2026, in partnership with the International Mirror Class Association of Australia.

A five-member sub-committee has been meeting regularly since November 2024 after a successful bid secured the regatta for the north-west coast. The championships attracted 25 to 30 crews from Tasmania and interstate, bringing competitors, families and supporters to the region across the five-day program.

Photos supplied by the club show Wynyard Yacht Club members Jess Andrewartha and Michael Hughes training on the local waters.

Event information is available on the Wynyard Yacht Club website:

<https://www.wynyard.org>



Intersection of Simpson/Raglan Street, Somerset.

### Works to Commence on Roundabout in Somerset

Works will commence on a new roundabout at the intersection of Simpson and Raglan Street in St. Please note that access to Simpson St from Raglan St will be closed with detours in place. Please contact Council or visit our website for more place till the end of May 2026, weather information and project updates. This project has been funded through Black Spot Funding, supported by the Australian Government.



Morning Tea Celebration held 15 December 2025.

## 20 Years of the Wonders of Wynyard!

### Wynyard, Tasmania

Waratah-Wynyard Council has celebrated a special milestone for the Wonders of Wynyard Exhibition & Visitor Information Centre (WOW), marking 20 years of welcoming locals and visitors to Wynyard.

At a morning tea held at the centre, we were joined by Roger Jaensch MP, Mrs Elayne Ransley, Dale Elphinstone, along with WOW volunteers and centre staff to recognise the occasion.

The centre was officially opened on Tuesday 13 December 2005 and has grown into an award-winning destination showcasing Wynyard's stories, heritage and hospitality, including the much-loved Ransley Veteran Car Collection.

A huge thank you to the incredible Wonders of Wynyard team, consisting of 18 active volunteers and three staff, who continue to provide the warm welcome Wynyard is known for.

Drop in and celebrate this local icon with us next time you're in town!



8 Exhibition Link, Wynyard  
 wondersofwynyard.com  
 03 6443 8330



Australian Tourism Awards  
 2022 & 2023

Australian Tourism Awards  
 2021 & 2022

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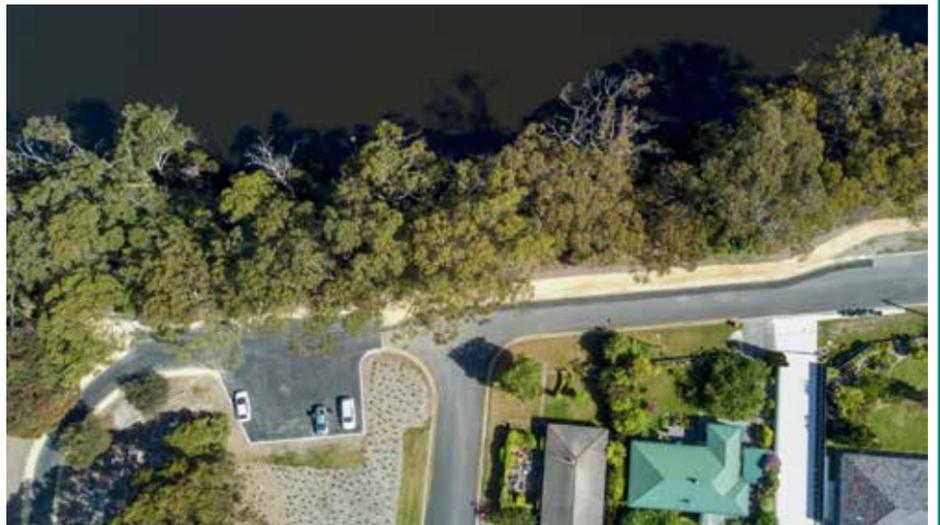
Gutteridge Gardens | 26 January | 8am - 11am



BREAKFAST & AWARD CEREMONY  
**AUSTRALIA DAY**

Australia Day | WARATAH WYNYARD

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).



## Another milestone on the Inglis River Walking Track Upgrade!

### Wynyard, Tasmania

The car park at the corner of the Cemetery and Esplanade is now complete (bollards are to be installed) as part of our ongoing walking track improvements.

This popular track is loved by both community members and visitors, and it's great to see these upgrades already making a difference.

from the new car park to the completed footpath near the Inglis River Bridge, improving pedestrian access and strengthening connections along the track.

There's still more to come! Stay with us on this journey as we continue enhancing this beloved walking track. Learn more here:

[www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/projects/inglis-river-walking-track](http://www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/projects/inglis-river-walking-track)



## In the spotlight: Community Activation Grants back local clubs

### Wynyard, Tasmania

Waratah-Wynyard Council's Community Activation Grant program has backed a wide range of local initiatives in Round One, supporting practical upgrades, community events and projects that bring people together across the municipality.

Three successful recipients are highlighted this month.

New Life Church has been awarded \$2,000 on behalf of the Combined Churches of Wynyard to support Carols in the Gardens at Gutteridge Gardens on Christmas Eve, following the Wynyard Christmas Parade.

Wynyard Football Club has received \$2,000 towards a new electronic scoreboard at the recreation grounds, supporting game days and the many community groups that use the facility.

Wynyard/Somerset Tennis Club has been awarded \$1,750 to install windbreakers at the Somerset courts, improving playing conditions by reducing wind and sun glare on the coastal courts.

Round One attracted a record response, with 22 eligible applications received requesting a total of \$39,382.07.

More information is available at:

[warwyn.tas.gov.au/get-involved/community-grants/](http://warwyn.tas.gov.au/get-involved/community-grants/)

Foreshore

**MARKET**  
WYNYARD

**Wynyard Foreshore Market**  
East Wynyard Foreshore

## UPCOMING DATES

2026

4TH & 18TH	<b>January</b>
1ST & 15TH	<b>February</b>
1ST & 15TH	<b>March</b>
5TH & 19TH	<b>April</b>
	<b>8am-2pm</b> <small>Weather Permitting</small>

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# Wynyard Christmas Parade - wow!

Photos by Alan Jennison

This was my first Christmas parade in Wynyard and wow! What a turnout, thousands of people lining the streets and a procession that I thought was going to continue forever. So many happy, smiling faces. Just check out the photos.





**Burnie**

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# Wynyard Christmas Parade - wow!

Photos by Alan Jennison





## Alphabet Caterpillar Brings Learning to Life on the East Esplanade

### Smithton, Tasmania

Circular Head Council was proud to deliver another high-impact community learning initiative along the East Esplanade, made possible through the valued sponsorship of McCain Foods Australia.

Delivered in partnership with Circular Head 26Ten – Learn For Life, the new Alphabet Caterpillar installation formed part of Council’s Learn for Life Plan and the broader Literacy Trail. The project demonstrated Council’s ongoing investment in place-based learning, inclusive public spaces and lifelong education outcomes for the community.

The initiative also reinforced Circular Head’s status as a UNESCO Learning City, showcasing how strong partnerships with industry and community organisations can translate policy into practical, visible infrastructure that supports literacy at every stage of life.

Following installation, the project moved into its next phase with community painting sessions held on Thursday 8 January and Saturday 10 January, inviting locals to help bring the piece to life and take ownership of a new learning-focused feature in a prominent public space. Council extended its sincere appreciation to McCain Foods Australia for its continued support in delivering initiatives that strengthen learning, community wellbeing and regional identity.



## 2025 Highlights from Circular Head Council

As 2025 came to a close, Mayor Gerard Blizzard shares some of the highlights that made the year special for our community.

We welcomed our new General Manager, Paul Gardner, who has already made a big impact with several initiatives, including key working groups:

- Smithton Chamber of Commerce
- Dark Skies Coordinating Committee
- Building Advisory Group

A standout for our community was the CHArts Festival with nearly 3,000 people in attendance, across 51 events over five weeks, celebrating our community, culture and rich heritage.

The Science Gig during National Science Week was another highlight, with 450 people enjoying fun and interactive science activities.

Council also proudly adopted the Community Wellbeing Plan, guiding our future efforts to strengthen health, inclusion, connection and resilience across Circular Head.

2025 has been a year of growth, creativity, and collaboration. Thank you to our community groups and residents for making Circular Head such a vibrant and thriving place to live.

Wishing everyone a safe, happy, and healthy 2026!

**MCCAIN FOODS**

**DAY ON THE DUCK**  
SUMMER CELEBRATION

LIVE MUSIC - FOOD - FREE KIDS ENTERTAINMENT

WEST ESPLANADE, SMITHTON

**SATURDAY JAN 24 2026. 12PM TO 7PM**

McCain Circular Head Council

DUCK RACE AT APPROX. 6.00PM

**Mayor Gerard Blizzard**  
invites

*the Community of Circular Head*

to the

**Circular Head Australia Day Awards 2026 & Citizenship Ceremony**

**Monday 26 January 2026**  
10.00am - 12.00pm

**Australia Day**  
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate

Stanley Town Hall  
10 Church Street, Stanley

Dress - smart casual

RSVP Wednesday 21 January, 2026

Amber 6452 4864  
apower@circularhead.tas.gov.au  
<https://events.humanitix.com/2026-circular-head-australia-day-awards>

\* Please advise of any dietary requirements

## Council Fees & Charges Update

Council’s fee and charges apply to a range of everyday services and facilities across the municipality. This includes things like animal control, building, plumbing and planning approvals, health and environmental services, fire risk abatement, waste and landfill services, community and recreation facilities such as Swirl, Smithton Wharf berthing, cemeteries, road and engineering permits, vehicle and traffic permits, and other service-related activities.

All fees and charges are reviewed as part of Council’s financial planning to make sure they are up to date and reflect the cost of providing these services. This review also helps inform Council’s Long Term Financial Plan and supports the ongoing delivery of services. Following this review, Council adopted changes to some fees and charges at its 18 December Council Meeting. Not all fees have changed. Updated fees take effect from 1 January 2026.

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# CIRCULAR HEAD CORNER

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

CIRCULAR HEAD COUNCIL  
(03) 6452 4800  
council@circularhead.tas.gov.au  
www.circularhead.tas.gov.au

## Dog registration reminder 🐾

A friendly reminder to local dog owners that dog registrations need to be kept up to date. Register or renew now to stay compliant and avoid a possible fine. Over the coming months, Council will be carrying out dog registration audits across the municipality. To avoid any issues (and potential fines), please take a moment to check that your dog's registration is current.

For more information or to register, visit the Circular Head Council website or contact Council during business hours.  
[circularhead.tas.gov.au/council-services/animal-control/dog-registrations](http://circularhead.tas.gov.au/council-services/animal-control/dog-registrations)

**Learning CPR is one of the most important actions you can take**

Keep your family and friends safe around water and enrol in a course today.

**Be Pool Safe** [www.drowningprevention.org.au/bepoolsafe](http://www.drowningprevention.org.au/bepoolsafe)

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**Museum Kids under 15 FREE**

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[www.discoverthetarkine.com.au](http://www.discoverthetarkine.com.au)

## WHAT'S ON... SUMMER 2026!

TOP TIPS FROM THE VISITOR CENTRE

**10 JAN**

**A DAY IN THE ORCHARD**

FT TALENTED LOCAL ELOISE WALTER  
BLUE HILLS HONEY – MAMBANNA  
SATURDAY JAN 10<sup>TH</sup> AT 11AM

**24 JAN**

**A DAY ON THE DUCK**

LIVE MUSIC – FOOD – FREE KIDS ENTERTAINMENT  
SATURDAY JAN 24<sup>TH</sup> 2026 12 PM TO 7 PM  
DUCK RACE AT APPROX. 6 PM

**SUNDAYS**

**THE COFFEE RUN STANLEY**

SUNDAY MORNINGS 8:30 AM (40 MINS DURATION)  
MEET AT TOWN HALL  
RUN, WALK, SCOOT, SKATE OR RIDE  
CONTACT: FACEBOOK THE COFFEE RUN

**FEB'26**

**DEVIL COUNTRY MUSTER SMITHTON**

2<sup>ND</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026. RIVERBEND YOUTH COMPLEX  
TICKET SALES: [WWW.DEVICOUNTRYMUSTER.COM/TICKETS-ENTRY](http://WWW.DEVICOUNTRYMUSTER.COM/TICKETS-ENTRY)

**FEEL GOOD FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS**

A COUNCIL EVENTS INITIATIVE PROMOTING COMMUNITY HEALTH WELLNESS.  
CONTACT KYLIE MONSON, [KMONSON@CIRCULARHEAD.TAS.GOV.AU](mailto:KMONSON@CIRCULARHEAD.TAS.GOV.AU)

**9 JAN**

**BBQ AT JULIUS RIVER**

RELAX, UNWIND AND EXPLORE WITH CHAC  
9 JAN 2025 10AM-3PM  
COST: FREE (BYO LUNCH)  
BOOKINGS: 6452 1287 SPEND TIME UNWINDING IN THE BEAUTIFUL TARKINE FOREST. EXPLORE THE WONDERS JULIUS RIVER HAS TO OFFER.

**21 JAN**

**CULTURAL WALK**

JOIN CHAC FOR A CULTURAL WALK ALONG THE BEAUTIFUL COASTLINE FROM SISTERS BEACH TO ROCKY CAPE.  
BUS LEAVES SMITHTON AT 8:30AM, STOPPING AT LANIGANS VINEYARD ON THE WAY HOME. COST: FREE. BOOKINGS: EMAIL US.

**22 JAN**

**LIVE MUSIC**

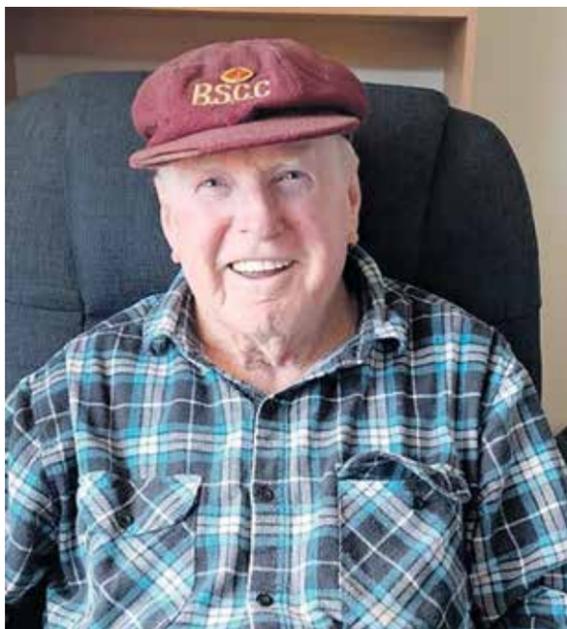
SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY SESSION - SUMMER EDITION.  
3PM-5PM GODFREY'S BEACH STANLEY.  
JOIN US FOR A SUMMER AFTERNOON WITH LIVE MUSIC. BRING A PICNIC OR FIRE UP THE BBQ AND MAKE A DAY OF IT!

© GREEN POINT BEACH, MARRAWAH

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# Tales from Emmerton Park - meet the residents

## My Story – Robbie (Nugget) Innes



I was born in Smithton in 1943, the fifth of nine children five boys and three girls. Dad worked in the bush wherever he could find work, mostly around the Salmon River area, Mum did a remarkable job raising all of us. We were a close-knit family, and looking back, I realise just how lucky we were.

We grew up on a 50-acre farmlet at Christmas Hills. We grew all our own vegetables and milked 12 cows by hand. Every morning and night, before and after school, I milked three cows. One cow, Brindle, never wanted to come into the dairy, and more than once she and I had a proper tussle. We separated the cream

from the milk, fed the milk to our pigs usually about a dozen of them and sent the cream off to the Duck River Butter Factory in Smithton. Their truck would come and collect it.

All of us kids went to school by bus, first to Smithton Primary and then to Smithton High School. We always behaved ourselves because Mr Bert Jackson was around, and you never wanted to be on the wrong side of him. I only crossed that line once, and that was enough. There were no mobile phones or modern conveniences back then, and we didn't even have a car until I was 16. Sport filled most of our spare time mainly football and cricket. I was never a star player, but I loved every minute of it.

One of my fondest memories is New Year's Day. All the local kids, along with my brothers and sisters, would pile onto the back of an old Commer truck and head to the beach with a picnic. We'd run around all day without a care in the world. It always seemed like the weather was perfect back then.

When I was about 13, Dad was pulling logs in the bush with a horse when one swung around and hit him in the leg. He ended up with gangrene and lost the leg. Even so, he didn't sit still for long.

Before we knew it, he had a wooden leg and was back working in the bush on the dozer. All us boys pitched in around the farm to help out.

I left school at 16 and went working at Togari and Montagu Swamp, picking up roots after Dad's dozer went through. At 17, I started working for Britton Brothers at Britton Swamp, where I tried my hand at most of the jobs going. After a couple of years, I returned to bush contracting with Dad, pulling logs.

At 21, I got itchy feet and moved to the mainland with my brother Kevin. We worked at Kauri Timber and spent weekends going to AFL matches. We came home whenever we could it was hard being away from family and the place we loved. Flying from Essendon Airport into Smithton Aerodrome, I loved looking down over the green paddocks and seeing the Duck River winding its way to the sea. We would always look towards our farm at Christmas Hills just in case we could see it.

After a few years in Melbourne, we moved back to Circular Head. Not long after, I met my future wife, Diane, at a dance at the Mella Hall, and we were married 12 months later. We had four wonderful children Jason, Kelli, Teresa and Melinda and continued living and working on the family farm.

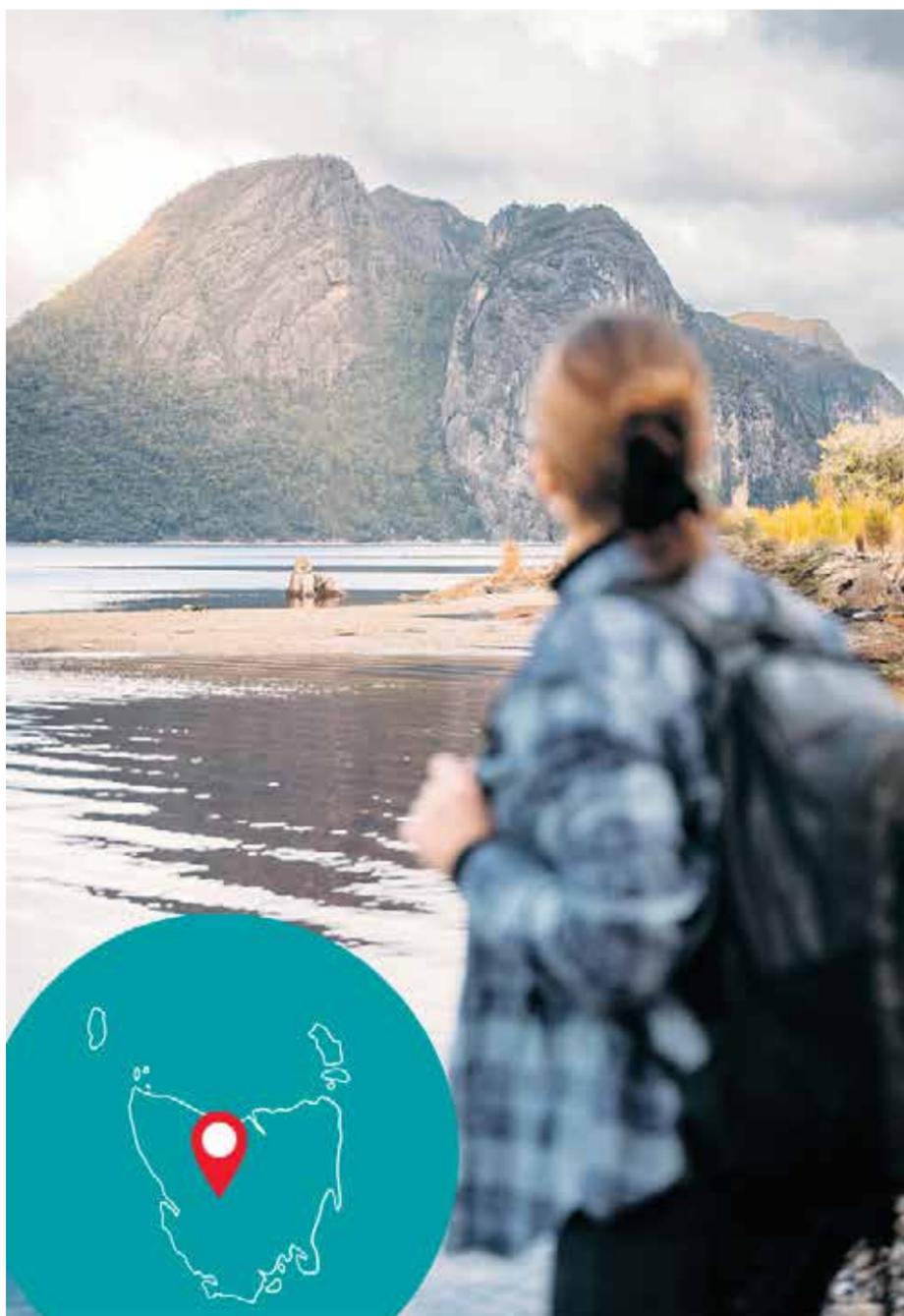
Sport remained a big part of my life. I played cricket for Britton Swamp, I was

an all-rounder. I remember one year the team went on a trip to King Island most of the boys had too much to drink, we all had a bit of fun. In my photo I'm wearing my Britton Swamp Cricket Club hat. I am always smiling. I played football for the Scotchtown Football Club in the back pocket. Games could get rough at times, especially against Trowutta they'd play in rain, hail, shine, or on cut glass. Diane and the kids were always there cheering me on. Diane also helped behind the scenes, working on the committee, preparing food, and running the kiosk.

When I stopped playing football, I couldn't walk away from the club. The friendships and community meant too much to me and my family. I became a life member of both the Scotchtown Football Club and the Circular Head Football Association. I served on the committee and spent many days on the gate, welcoming people as they arrived for the games.

I now live at Emmerton Park in Smithton. I still go to the football and cheer my team on. My family come in often and visit with my little dog Millie, she is great company and part of the family.

Sadly, I lost my dear wife Diane to MS in 2015 we will never forget her, she will live in our hearts forever.



## Explore the North-West Coast

Explore Tasmania's wild west! Just minutes from Tullah, Lake Mackintosh offers peaceful lakeside camping, boating and great trout fishing - all surrounded by stunning forest and mountain views.

Visit [www.hydro.com.au/things-to-do](http://www.hydro.com.au/things-to-do) to plan your trip!



# Tales from a Zeehan graveyard

## TWO MEN AT BOTTOM OF MINE SHAFT CRUSHED

An appalling tragedy occurred about 7 o'clock on Wednesday evening, 1 November 1893, at the Fahl Ore Mine about 2.5 kilometres south west of Williamsford, when two men aged in their twenties, George Smith and William Rodgers, were killed after a mining bucket full of water fell on them, the spliced wire rope bringing the bucket up the shaft having come apart. An inquest was held two days later at Hart's Junction Hotel at Leslie Junction, with Coroner E.L. Hall presiding, and lawyers present for each of the parties.

The enquiry heard that six men - Frank Dolan, James Burrows, Elijah Stott, John Hallam and the two deceased were working a contract sinking the shaft [15 metres] at 5 pounds [per 30cm].

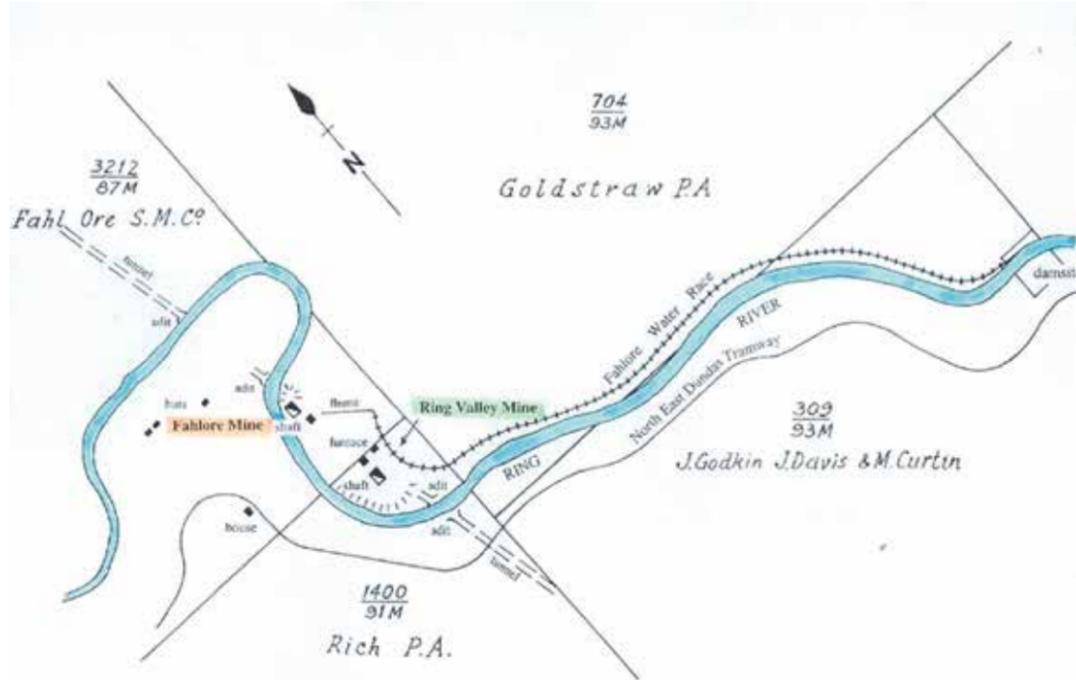
Under the terms of the contract the company was to supply all the appliances and tools, except explosives and candles, but all the equipment had to be maintained by the contractors. The wire rope in question had been in use less than a week. It had been ordered by the mine manager Mr G. Webb, from a Launceston ironmonger.

The first of seven witnesses called was Frank Dolan, who deposed that as he was looking down the shaft ready to land the bucket full of water, he saw the splicing fail, and called out, "Look out below." He heard the bucket strike the bottom and called out again, but got no reply. It was soon discovered that both men were dead. Smith had suffered massive head injuries, but Rodgers must have been standing directly under the bucket and was crushed to a shapeless mass. The bucket weighed about [350kg.]

Dolan had mentioned to his mates that if he was working under the rope, he would cut the binding off

and look at the splice.

He remembered Hallam telling him the strands of the rope were cutting his hand, and he saw two or three of the strands had broken, and they were sticking out through the binding. That was at 4 p.m. on the afternoon of the accident and Mr Webb had already gone home. He did not think the contractors could alter the splicing without Mr



Webb's consent.

James Burrows deposed Dolan had called his attention to the rope on several occasions, saying he should take the binding off and see how the rope was spliced.

On the day of the accident, he had asked Mr Webb if he thought that the splice was sound. Mr Webb said he thought it was, as he had it spliced in town. He noticed that the thimble (a metal insert placed in the spliced eye of the rope) was loose, but he did not tell Mr Webb. He did not think the contractors had the right to alter the rope.

Stott told him Mr Webb had ordered the ladderway and the centres (horizontal cross pieces of timber on the outside of the shaft) to be taken out of the shaft, so that the

only way to travel up and down the shaft was in the bucket. Both these measures made bailing water out easier, and the men had been agreeable.

George Gibson stated he was not a contractor, but on wages. When Dolan relieved him on the Wednesday; he heard someone say that the thimble was loose, and he replied it was loose when it came. Witness

should have been tested by the manager unless he had proof it had been done in Launceston. Four of the witnesses testified that the rope had not been tested prior to its first use.

After hearing all the evidence, the coroner directed the jury's attention to the relevant legislation which stated that any new rope or chain, etc., should be tested with twice the weight it had to bear.

Had that test been made? If not, who was the person responsible? If they found that the responsible person had not used sufficient precaution, then he must be guilty of manslaughter.

The coroner added that although the Act did not specifically state by whom a new rope shall be tested, he thought the person who gives authority for that rope being used, should be responsible. The chief question the jury had to answer was Who was responsible for the test not being made?

After two hours' deliberation the jury concluded the faulty splice had caused the deaths, and if the splice had been inspected its defectiveness would have been obvious, and then it would have been tested.

They considered that the person who ordered the rope was guilty of noncompliance with the Act in not having the rope tested. They added a rider strongly condemning working in such shafts without centres or ladder ways.

The funeral of William Rodgers commenced at 11 a.m. on the following Saturday. It is not known when George Smith was buried. Both of their burial sites are unknown today.

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

lived in the same hut with Mr Webb. John Hallam deposed Rogers and Smith had relieved himself and his mate at 4 p.m. When witness came up the shaft one of the wires of the rope stuck in his hand, and he had told Dolan that he did not like the look of the rope.

Two other witnesses, William White and Elijah Stott, gave corroborative evidence.

Interestingly Mr Webb was not called to give evidence but had supplied a written report to the next witness, Inspector of Mines James Harrison. In it Mr Webb wrote that he had removed the centres and ladderway, with the consent of the miners, even though he knew the regulations required a ladderway.

Mr Harrison thought the rope

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

## ANNOUNCEMENT

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**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**

## A bike kitchen on the menu for Smithton?

I was approached at the Circular Head Resale Shop by a bike enthusiast who wishes to help us get a bike kitchen off the ground...if we can get enough community support for one. If we get enough "yes" votes i will go to council and see if are interested in helping too.

A bike kitchen (or community bike workshop) is a community-run space providing tools, parts, and shared knowledge for people to learn how to repair and maintain their own bicycles, promoting cycling, sustainability, and community building. They operate on principles of reuse, skill-sharing, and inclusion, often run by volunteers, and focus on making cycling accessible and affordable by offering affordable used bikes and parts, and teaching DIY repair skills.

### **Key features of a bike kitchen:**

**DIY Repair:** Patrons fix their own bikes with guidance from volunteers,

learning valuable mechanical skills.

**Shared Resources:** Access to tools, work stands, and donated bike parts, often at low or no cost.

**Community Focus:** Welcoming, inclusive spaces that build community through shared activities, social rides, and events.

**Sustainability:** Emphasize reusing bikes and parts, minimizing waste, and extending the life of bicycles.

**Volunteer-Driven:** Often non-profits or social enterprises powered by dedicated volunteers and donations.

**Affordable Cycling:** Provide affordable refurbished bikes and parts, making cycling accessible to more people.

In essence, a bike kitchen empowers individuals to be self-sufficient cyclists while fostering a vibrant, sustainable cycling culture. Please let us know if interested.

**Elisha - Circular Head Resale Shop**



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# WESTERN ECHO PUZZLE PAGE

## SWAMP



## BEYOND THE BLACK STUMP



## CLANCY



## INSANITY STREAK



## AGAINST THE GRAIN



## JUMBLE No. 695

I	W	N
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 13 Words **Good**  
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 20 Words **Excellent**  
 24 Words **Genius**

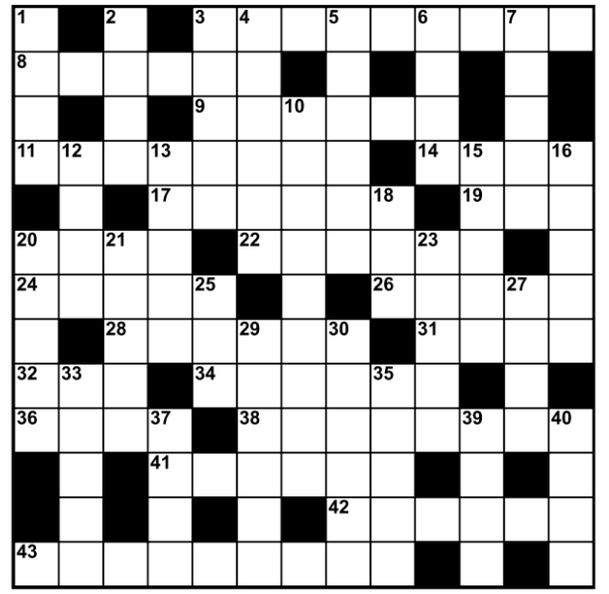
**THE RULES:** How many words of 4 letters or more can you make from these 9 letters? In making a word each letter may be used only once, and the centre letter must be included. There must be at least one 9-letter word. No slang, foreign words, plurals, hyphens or apostrophes.

## SUDOKU No. 016

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

## CROSSWORD No. 10864

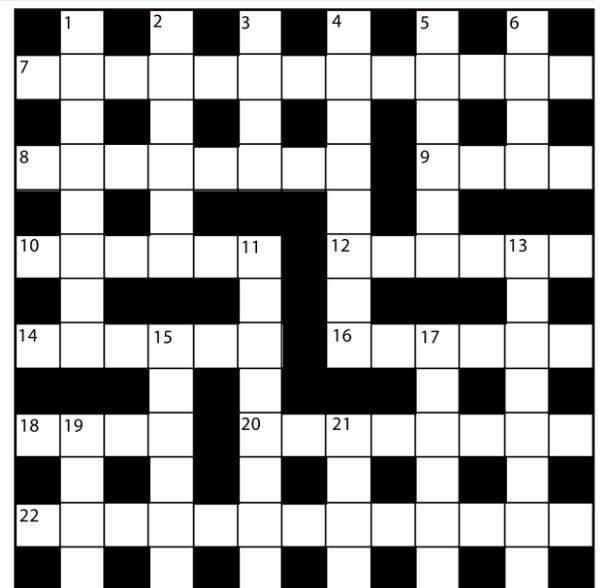
- ACROSS**
- 3 Lives a dull life
  - 8 Oppressively hot
  - 9 Long angry speech
  - 11 Persons of distinction
  - 14 Snow vehicle
  - 17 Cricket team
  - 19 Anger
  - 20 Arab sailing vessel
  - 22 Barren place
  - 24 Drive back
  - 26 Freight boat
  - 28 Gets up
  - 31 Be afraid
  - 32 Everyone
  - 34 Occupant
  - 36 Soft pulpy mass
  - 38 Means of approach
  - 41 Proprietors
  - 42 Moral principles
  - 43 Upper parts of heads
- DOWN**
- 1 Slender support



- 2 Narcotic
- 3 Essential
- 4 Revised and corrected
- 5 Rubs out
- 6 Monkeys
- 7 Live coal
- 10 Veneration
- 12 Prolonged pain
- 13 Fresher
- 15 Unit of capacity
- 16 Postpone
- 18 Beak
- 20 Vision
- 21 Gems
- 23 Floating structures
- 25 Illuminated
- 27 Strong wind
- 29 Spiritualists meeting
- 30 Holy
- 33 Mustering rope
- 35 Cosy retreats
- 37 Cavity
- 39 Earth
- 40 Waistband

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD No. 16515

- ACROSS**
- 7 Political group always ready to resort to arms? (8,5)
  - 8 Almost sunset with gilt blurred (8)
  - 9 This bird's a joke! (4)
  - 10 Dearth engenders strong dislike (6)
  - 12 Gorgon amused improperly (6)
  - 14 Keep cheerful even when wild animal has risen (4,2)
  - 16 Rebellion not put down (6)
  - 18 District of squalid houses, 50 in total (4)
  - 20 Not a liar capable of reasoning ... (8)
  - 22 ... but a commander fighting without weapons (7,6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Chose saw to go into display cabinet (4,4)



- 2 Tree liked by many people non-U (6)
- 3 Telephone is lost by 16 (4)
- 4 It is set to make a boiler suit (3,5)
- 5 Everything included in poor simple song (6)
- 6 Commotion in prison? (4)
- 11 Indeed not the whole left (8)
- 13 Dispatch as new day breaks (4,4)
- 15 Comment causes examiner to assess again? (6)
- 17 1000 in the tale become violent (6)
- 19 Come to a down-to-earth conclusion (4)
- 21 The watch's mark of correctness? (4)

## PREVIOUS ANSWERS

Crossword No. 10863

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

Sudoku No. 015

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

Cryptic No. 16514

**Across:** 1 Ball; 8 At a stretch; 9 Standing; 10 Rare; 12 Wended; 14 Sleigh; 15 Fencer; 17 Nudity; 18 Etna; 19 Sustains; 21 School year; 22 Sned.

**Down:** 2 All the best; 3 Lawn; 4 Varied; 5 Stages; 6 Befriend; 7 Shoe; 11 Right angle; 13 Dictator; 16 Result; 17 Nasser; 18 East; 20 Airs.

Jumble 694  
 alley allure ally aryl earful earl early eyra fall faller fare farl fear fearful FEARFULLY feral flare flay flea flyleaf fray laurel layer leaf leafy raffie rate rally real really relay urea yare year

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WEST

**Wee Georgie Wood**  
Steam Railway

Murphyson Highway  
TUTU  
TASMANIA

**New Season Starting**

**2025**

September 27 & 28

October 11 & 12  
October 25 & 26

November 8 & 9  
November 22 & 23

December 6 & 7  
December 13 & 14

**2026**

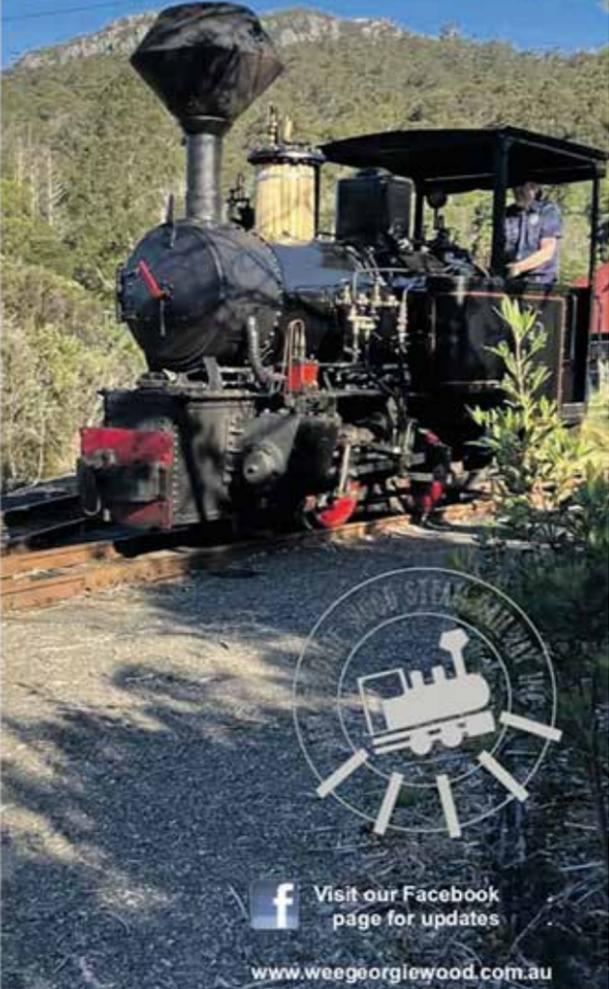
January 10 & 11  
Australia Day Weekend  
January 24 & 25 & 26

February 7 & 8  
February 21 & 22

March 14 & 15  
March 28 & 29

Easter Weekend  
April 4 & 5 & 6

ANZAC Weekend  
April 25 & 26 & 27



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Rosebery Junior Hawks Football

**HAWKS**




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---

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*Team 1* we need 9 players.

---

**Boys Grades 4 - 6**  
*Team 2* **Girls Grades 4 - 7**  
we need 15 players.

---

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**20th ~ 21st February 2026**

**rosebery festival**



**Join us for January Open Hall!**

Kick off the new year with an evening of connection and creativity at The Unconformity Hall. Meet our new Executive Producer, Jacqueline Dortmans, and enjoy a special reading from an upcoming Moonland publication.

Wednesday, 21 January 2026 6-8pm

The Unconformity Hall, 35 Cutten Street, Queenstown

Catering provided. All are welcome—RSVP essential: [frankie@theunconformity.com.au](mailto:frankie@theunconformity.com.au)

Open Halls will be held on the third Thursday of each month at The Unconformity Hall.

*The Unconformity offices will be closed from 5pm on the 19 December reopening at 9am on Monday 12 January 2026*

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9 Dodgin Street, Wynyard  
Sunday 4th - 9.30 a.m.  
Sunday 11th - 9.30 a.m.

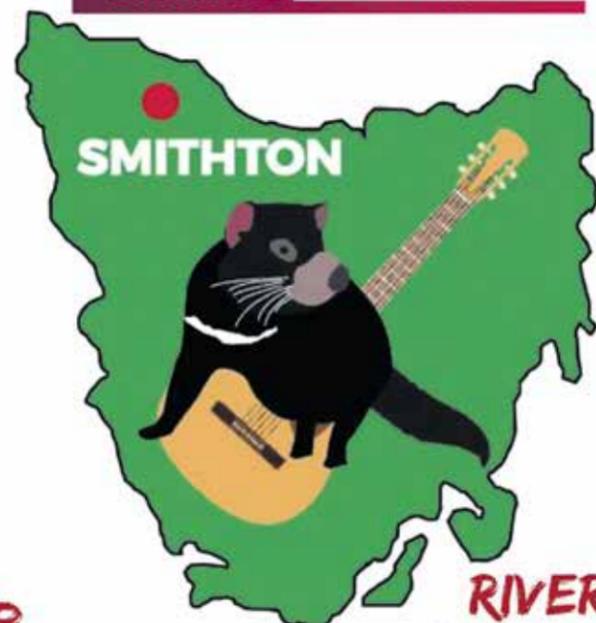
### CAMRISE

3 Wragg Street, Somerset  
Sunday 18th - 10.00 a.m.  
Sunday 25th - 10.00 a.m.

*All Welcome*

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**4-8**

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CENTRE**



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## GT KARTING

### SUNDAY 1ST FEB

Gates open 7.00am  
Racing starts 8.15am

Social karting Saturday 31st  
January 10am to 4pm

# Good Gumnuts

Festival 26

6th - 7th - 8th March 2026

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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

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# ROSEBERY ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Photos by Alan Jennison

Athletics carnivals are certainly part of the fabric in Tasmania and I love photographing them. This was the December carnival in Rosebery, the only one in the state that has rock-drilling as an event. These are athletes at the top of their game and whether running, riding, chopping or drilling they certainly don't disappoint



# ROSEBERY ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Photos by Alan Jennison





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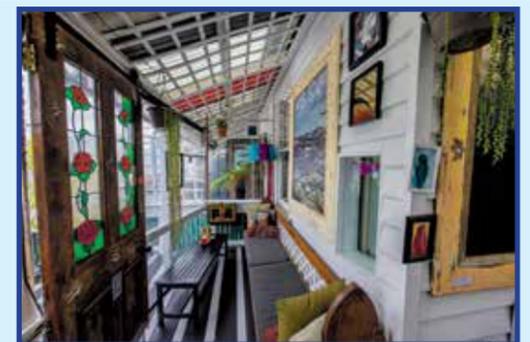
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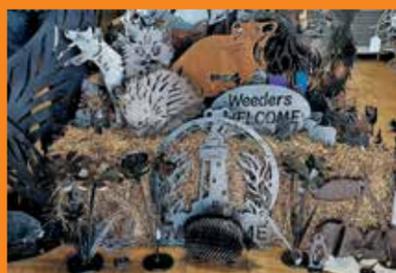
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# BURNIE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Photos by Alan Jennison

Two of Burnie's most promising young sprinters turned in eye catching performances at the annual Burnie New Year's Eve Carnival at West Park on December 31.

Fifteen-year-old Nash Hammond won the 70 m Maiden Handicap and Jaylan Olm became one of the youngest ever Women's Gift finalists at 14.

Nash – in his first season competing in open company - backed up a strong heat run with an impressive final outing covering the distance in 8.34 seconds, 0.3 secs faster than his heat time.

The teenager only had about 30 minutes between his heat run and the final, admitting that allowed him not to become too overawed by the occasion.

Nash said it was "amazing" to win his first professional event on his home track.

"I have always loved running at West Park," he said.

While Jaylan finished fifth, it was still an excellent performance against a quality field and capped off a solid first carnival series which included a dead heat for

first in the Rosebery Gift on December 20. Jaylan finished only 0.32 secs behind the Gift winner.

Other notable performances by local runners were: Piper Sharman (first in the Women's 800m), Darcy Kennelly (second in the 70m Maiden), Ellie Rayner (second in the Women's 400m and James Frankcombe (second in the Tasmanian Mile).

More than 1500 spectators were treated to some world-class running, cycling and woodchopping across the 10-hour carnival program which concluded with a fireworks display timed to run in unison with the 9.30 p.m. fireworks from Burnie's port.

The highlight of the day was United States cyclist Graeme Frislie's devastating final two laps from scratch to claim a fourth consecutive Burnie Wheel, something no other rider has achieved in the long and storied history of the event.

While he did not have much chance to reflect on the win, particularly straight after the race, Frislie understood the significance of the occasion.

"Over the years I have watched so many videos of old wheel races out here and to be able to do it once was super special and I know the (competitors') numbers are nowhere near what they used to be back in the day but to deliver another one is still very special," Frislie said.

To add another first to the event, Frislie's win came only about 30 minutes after his partner, South Australian Sports Institute rider Odette Lynch, claimed the Women's Wheel - by holding off a determined Amalia Langham - making them the first couple to claim the Wheels in the same year.

Newcastle hurdler Ebony Newton took out the Women's Gift with Hamish Lindstrom successful in the men's event.

In the chopping arena the blue ribband 300 mm Open Standing Handicap was won by Bill Purton for the second straight year with Deloraine's Daniel Gurr claiming another A Grade tree felling title, which was held on the main arena in front of an appreciative crowd. *Nigel Tapp*



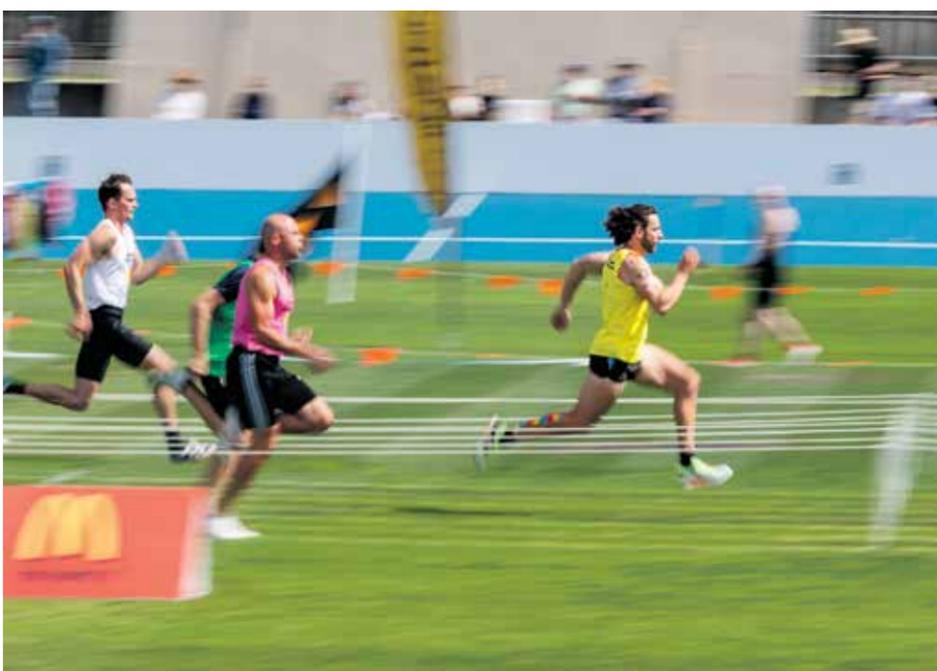
# BURNIE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Photos by Alan Jennison



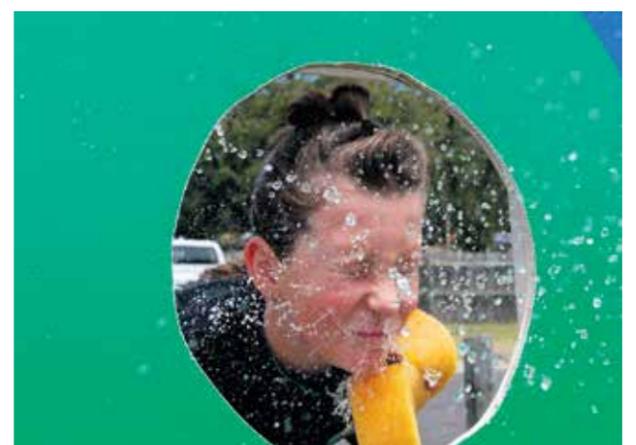
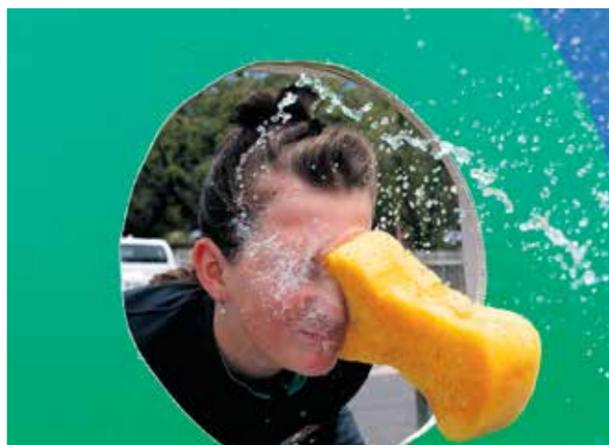
# BURNIE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Photos by Alan Jennison



# BURNIE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Photos by Alan Jennison



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