



WESTERN ECHO

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



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WE MEANS COMMUNITY

EDITION 49 DECEMBER 11TH, 2025

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

from Alan, Wendy and the rest of the Western Echo family



Circular Head Show steams ahead

See pages 18 and 19 for more



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DURING THE CHRISTMAS
AND HOLIDAY SEASON, TAKE
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EVERYONE CAN MAKE IT
HOME SAFELY



**Anne
Urquhart MP**

Federal Member for Braddon

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

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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.

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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

Dear Editor,

Today marks the start of National Asbestos Awareness Week 2025 and in the wake of the recent scare of asbestos being identified in children's play sand, now more than ever, parents need to understand that with asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) remaining in 1-in-3 Aussie homes, if these materials are not managed safely, they can pose a significant health risk to families.

There's no doubting Australia's passion for renovating. We love the challenge! But what many don't know is that they could be risking their lives and the lives of their loved ones (including their children) if they fail to respect asbestos risks and ensure asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) are managed safely.

It's heartbreaking that around 4,000 Australians die needlessly every year from avoidable asbestos-related diseases - that's three times the national road toll. With 51% of current mesothelioma deaths directly linked to home renovations, the number of Australians who will lose their lives is predicted to rise if we don't get serious about asbestos awareness and how to manage this potentially deadly material safely.

To protect ourselves and our families,

it's vital that we stop playing renovation roulette and start playing it safe by ensuring we understand the risks, know the sorts of ACMs to look for and what to do to ensure this silent 'serial killer' is managed safely. What homeowners need to know is that asbestos wasn't only used in the manufacture of flat and corrugated sheeting materials. It was used in the manufacture of more than 3,000 building and decorator products that remain lurking in one third of homes including brick, weatherboard, clad homes and apartments. It was used everywhere!

ACMs were commonly used in wet areas such as bathrooms, kitchens and laundries but this potentially deadly fibre could be in places renovators might not expect. It could be lurking under carpets, linoleum, vinyl and ceramic floor and wall tiles, external and internal walls, ceilings, eaves, roofs and fences. Asbestos could be in any residential property, in any town or city across Australia if the home was built before 1990 and in any commercial property constructed before 2004.

Make no mistake, renovating, demolishing or maintaining properties that contains asbestos can be lethal if ACMs are disturbed and invisible asbestos fi-

bres become airborne and are inhaled. So before taking up tools, learn how to manage asbestos safely by visiting asbestosawareness.com.au to access a range of free information for tradies, rural and commercial property owners, and homeowners including checklists and the Asbestos in Homes: A Guide to Identification, Testing and Removal Video.

Visit asbestosawareness.com.au to learn how to identify, test and safely manage asbestos because it could save your life or the life of a loved one.

Remember, when it comes to asbestos, Don't cut it! Don't drill it! Don't drop it! Don't sand it! Don't saw it! Don't scrape

it! Don't scrub it! Don't dismantle it! Don't tip it! Don't waterblast it! Don't demolish it! Don't dump it! And whatever you do... DON'T remove it yourself! ONLY use licenced asbestos professionals because it's not worth the risk!

Media has the power, the means and the reach to deliver this potentially lifesaving message to help ensure no Aussie or a family member dies needlessly from a preventable asbestos-related death, like my grandfather did.

Cherie Barber

TV Personality, Australia's Renovation Queen™ and National Asbestos Awareness Ambassador



Dear Editor,

Hello, several years ago, parks and wildlife promised to clean this creek out, to no avail. Not once have they even attempted it. Pea soup creek should never be 6 to 8 meters wide, not should a storm water drain be 20 ft deep of water.

I'm informed you (WCC) are working on getting them to clean it out, I'd appreciate an update as I'm over being flooded in our Mulcahy Street yards.

Thank you. **Kerrie Laffer AWCI**
Reply from WCC

Our Operations team are still waiting on a response from Parks regarding this Creek & remedial works we have proposed. As soon as I have a response from them, I will be able to provide you with an update.



Western Echo 'Wendy'

I'm not quite sure what 'Christmas' is, but dad says I get lots of treats and presents so it must be pretty good. So I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year. May you be spoilt by your loved ones as well.



Woof to you all... Wendy



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Bluestone Mines joint venture



We are proud to share highlights from the 15th Annual Tasmanian Geoscience Forum, where Justin Resta and Brian Dalton represented Bluestone Mines Tasmania Joint Venture (BMTJV) in Queenstown.

The theme of Justin and Brian's presentation was "Building a Better Legacy" for Tasmania.

Two projects that exemplify that commitment are the Renison Tailings Retreatment Project (Rentails) and the Mount Bischoff closure.

Mining at Mount Bischoff dates back to 1875. The closure plan focuses on responsible management of the main pit and the Happy Valley Waste Rock Dump, aiming to address legacy environmental issues and ensure the site is left in a safe, stable condition for the future.

Rentails is a transformative proposal to reprocess historic tin tailings using advanced hydraulic mining and minerals processing technologies. This project is expected to produce around 7,000 tonnes of tin and 4,000 tonnes of copper annually. The combined tin production from Renison plus Rentails will represent about 5 per cent of global tin concentrate production. It delivers environmental benefits by addressing legacy issues and enabling the progressive rehabilitation of historic tailings dams.

With a focus on resource recovery, improved closure outcomes, and socio-economic benefits, BMTJV is proud to contribute to Tasmania's future – creating secure jobs, supporting communities, and setting new standards in sustainable mining.

TasNetworks and Variety light up Christmas for kids in need

TasNetworks has partnered with Variety – the Children's Charity Tasmania to bring a little extra warmth and joy to Tasmanian families this Christmas, supporting children facing hardship through a \$10,000 donation and volunteer efforts building children's bikes throughout December.

The donation, alongside TasNetworks' ongoing support of School Breakfast Clubs on the West Coast, will help Variety provide vital support to children living with disability, illness or disadvantage – including those experiencing financial pressure, social barriers or complex medical needs.

"Children deserve the chance to flourish – regardless of background, health or circumstances," TasNetworks Executive People and Stakeholder Renee Anderson said.

"At a time of year centred around connection and generosity, we know many Tasmanian families are doing it tough. We're proud that our contribution will help Variety deliver both practical support and moments of joy for kids this Christmas."

The funds will contribute to Variety's grants and programs, helping young people access mobility and communication equipment, educational support, and inclusive experiences.

"This year, Variety has supported nearly 27,000 children across Tasmania, almost twice as many as the year before. It reflects the increasing challenges fam-

ilies are facing in our communities," Variety Tasmania CEO Mohammad Aldergham said.

"We are deeply grateful for the funding provided by partners like TasNetworks, which helps us give every child the chance to live, laugh and learn."

In the lead-up to Christmas, TasNetworks teams across the state are dedicating their time to building children's bikes for Variety's Bikes4Kids program – creating gifts that

will soon spark big smiles on Christmas morning.

"These bikes will soon find their way to children who may never have had the chance to ride a bike of their own, making this Christmas extra special. A bike is more than a gift. It is confidence, independence and the joy of exploring the world on two

wheels," Mr Aldergham said.

Variety – the Children's Charity Tasmania supports children and young people aged 0–18 who are sick, disadvantaged or living with disability. Through grants, programs and experiences, Variety provides practical help where it's needed most – including mobility and communication equipment, medical and therapy services, educational support, and inclusive community events.

Variety Tasmania's work ensures children can gain independence, build confidence, and participate fully in school and community life. To donate, get involved or learn more, visit variety.org.au/TAS

Lyell House Christmas card exchange

It's that time of year again!

The residents at Lyell House are super excited to take part in the Great Christmas Card Exchange again this year!

They're looking forward to receiving lots of cards and festive cheer from near and far. If you're on holiday or living somewhere around the world, they'd love to know where you are — pop a little note inside your card telling them!

And If you'd like to receive a card

back, please include your name and address so the residents can send one in return.

Their last batch of Christmas Cards will be posted on December 19th

Merry Christmas everyone!

Address it to:
Activities coordinator
Lyell House
P.O Box 336
Queenstown
TAS 7467



the arty duck >>>>>

@theartyduck

**31 Smith Street
Smithton
Tasmania 7330**

**Open Mon-Fri 10am-4pm
Sat 10am-1pm**

theartyduck@gmail.com

Bluestone Mines joint venture heads to Mt Bischoff

Following a successful 15th Annual Tasmanian Geoscience Forum, Bluestone Mines Tasmania Joint Venture was pleased to host a site tour of the Mount Bischoff mine site.

Mount Bischoff is a place of great geological and historical significance as the first major mineral resource developed in Tasmania, producing around 62,000 tonnes of tin through its open pit and underground operations.

The mine was the first Australian industrial plant to be lit by hydroelectricity and in 1886 electricity was extended into Waratah, making it the first town in Australia to have streetlights.

As the modern custodians of this site, BMTJV is responsible for developing a

closure plan for the site to remediate and make-safe the old mine workings.

We hosted delegates for a tour of the site's significant geological and mining history, including a review of the construction of the Happy Valley Waste Rock Dump where Chris Allen provided research learnings from his PHD on the geophysical investigations completed.

Ralph Botteril from MRT gave a detailed review of the geological significance of Mount Bischoff, Chris Allen spoke to his geophysics work and Emma Trusz from Okane gave a detailed review of the closure design.

It's another example of our commitment to "Building a Better Legacy".



'Tis the season in Circular Head! Christmas in Smithton and Stanley

Here are the key dates and times for this year's community celebrations in Smithton and Stanley.

Bring the family, dress up in festive colours and enjoy the atmosphere!

Smithton Christmas Parade

Friday 12 December 2025

7:00 pm

Celebrate the start of the festive weekend as Smithton comes alive with floats, music and plenty of Christmas cheer.

Stanley Christmas Parade

Saturday 13 December 2025

11:00 am

A much-loved tradition in the heart of Stanley. Come early, find a spot, and enjoy the parade as it makes its way through town.

Community Christmas Carols

– Stanley (Carols @ Highfield)

Sunday 14 December 2025

Gates open 6:30 pm

Carols from 7:00 pm

Highfield House, Stanley

Bring a picnic rug or chair, and sing along to your favourites (BBQ/coffee/dessert vans on site).

Christmas Colouring-In Competition

Free to enter and open to children of all ages. Pick up a colouring sheet from Council reception, SWIRL, the Smithton Visitor Information Centre, Smithton Library, Giggles Early Learning or Stars Early Learning.

Entries due by 12:00 pm Friday 12 December 2025 (return to the Council Office).



Wishing readers a joyful Christmas and a happy and safe New Year

I look forward to continuing to work with and supporting the people of Murchison in 2026

Our office will be closed from Tuesday 23 December and will re-open 9am Wednesday January 14 2026

Contact: Office: 32 Goldie Street, Wynyard TAS 7325

Tel: (03) 6430 8400

Email: murchison@parliament.tas.gov.au



Hon.

Ruth Forrest MLC

Independent Member for Murchison

Merry Christmas from Anita

As another year comes to an end, I want to take this opportunity to thank our West Coast and Circular Head Communities for their contribution to the Tasmanian economy, and the Tasmanian way of life.

Whether it's through important local industries, including mining, agriculture, tourism or aquaculture – or the lifestyle and natural beauty of the region – there is a great deal of wealth that comes from our end of the state, and it is important to acknowledge this.

It's been another big year, and I wanted to extend my thanks to the people of Braddon for re-electing me at this year's state election in July.

Over the last eight years I have continued to work hard proudly representing the people of Braddon in our Parliament and across our community.

This year I've focused again on the state of our roads, particularly on the West Coast, and delays to major road projects including the road between Smithton and Marrawah.

Almost everyone I've spoken to knows someone who has had a bad experience with the condition of the roads in the region, and I will continue to apply pressure to see some real solutions.

Labor has worked closely with contractors to understand the issues and during the election we outlined a plan to build Tasmanian roads for Tasmanians conditions, which was about building them properly the first time, with local

materials so potholes don't open up every time it rains.

We stood with the local community and joined with other local members to fight for the last remaining bank on the West Coast to stay open, because we'll always advocate for good local services for regional Tasmanians.

I've also been proud to support the Smithton child and family centre proposal and continue to work with the community to progress this important project for families.

As a local MP, I'm lucky to see the best of our communities, and the power people have when they come together. This is why I will always proudly enjoy supporting local sporting clubs and feel privileged to attend community events.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Festive Season and hope you get a great break and some time to celebrate with family and or friends.

My door is always open and I'm keen to help however I can. Please contact our office on 64308440 for assistance and I look forward to seeing you all soon!



Theatre coming to Wynyard

Out of Avalon, a production company recently relocated to the west coast of Tasmania from the mainland, is currently planning a season of theatre shows based out of Wynyard for 2026. The shows include murder mysteries, kids shows (including free roving shows in the gardens), comedy-drama for adults, and a special show for Mental Health Week.

Details will be published in due course but the company is currently calling for interested actors and tech operators to get in touch and be put on our mailing list for opportunities, and also keen to let the community know that we are around!

Artistic director Sarah Gooda has been producing and directing as well as working in various other roles in theatre for

over 20yrs and has previously produced shows at festivals including Anywhere Theatre Festival, Short + Sweet, Brisbane and Adelaide Fringe.

She is also running a new choir, Harbour Sounds, in Strahan (rehearsals 7.30pm Wednesdays) which has already started performing around town, and is keen to find new members.

If you are interested in either opportunity or want to be kept informed of our activities as an audience member, please email sarah@out-of-avalon.com



Gregory North channels Banjo Paterson

Gregory North Three times Australian Poet of the Year recently visited Zeehan's Gaiety theatre following in the footsteps of Australia's Great Poet the late Banjo Paterson. What a great show a step back in time so much nostalgia and so much enjoyment a great experience for all those who attended. Gregory performed in front of the theatre stage where the great Banjo Paterson performed back in 1900 125 years to the day and he presented us with a great rendition of all the great man's poetry and he ensured us the audience that he was very proud to be there following in the footsteps of the

great poet a great afternoon enjoyed by all so many thanks to Gregory North.



WISHING YOU A SAFE & HAPPY Festive season

ANITA DOW MP



Authorised by Anita Dow MP, 15 Wilson St, Burnie TAS 7320

Well, this is a 'A Little Bit Fancy'



A recent celebration of art, charmingly titled 'A Little Bit Fancy', was heralded as a success on many levels in Rosebery, Tasmania. The students at St Joseph's Catholic School, Rosebery, had their art displayed beautifully in the MacKillop Hall Art Gallery. Everyone looked amazing in their very glamorous and wonderfully fancy outfits. There were smiles all around. The food sponsored by our P&F was enjoyed immensely.

The best surprise of the evening was the silent auction, which, combined with gold coin donations at the door, totalled a very generous \$1034.10. This will be donated to St Vincent de Paul to support their work assisting people in need.

The silent auction generated great interest and competitiveness with the young artists feeling excited and, in some cases, a little bit shocked at the final prices people paid to take home their art! The highest price paid was for Year 6 Artwork by Sophia - \$250

In the words of Principal Tracey Kidd, "Tonight is not just an exhibition of art. It is a reflection of the wonder God has placed in each child - their ability to think, design, imagine, and make meaning from the world around them. In the words of St. John Paul II, "Artistic talent is a gift from God and whoever discovers it in himself has a certain obligation: to know that he cannot waste this talent, but must develop it." (1999 Letter to Artists) This evening, we are witnessing the fruits of that development - hours of practice, exploration, and brave expression.

To our students: thank you. Thank you for your courage in creating something new and sharing it with us. Some of you have painted, others have sculpted, sketched, or blended different forms of

media. Every piece tells a story. Every piece is a gift we are privileged to see. Please join me in congratulating our young artists.

I would like to thank each member of our dedicated staff, who have guided, encouraged, and believed in the potential of each child. You have not only taught skills, but also inspired confidence. Every member of staff here at St Joseph's Catholic School, Rosebery, has contributed behind the scenes in their own way to the success of this evening, and I am genuinely thankful for each one of you.

Of course, one member of staff deserves a very special mention, our talented and visionary art teacher, Skye Robertson. When we first talked about having an art evening to celebrate our students' artworks, way back in term 1, I knew it would be good, but seeing your vision come to life has been absolutely inspiring. In almost 30 years of working in schools, I have never seen anything like this.

Skye, you put your heart into every lesson with our students. You make them feel safe to try new things, knowing you are there to walk the journey of discovery with them. Our beautiful school is truly blessed that you have found us and chosen to share your gifts so generously. From the bottom of all of our hearts, thank you.

To our parents and families—thank you for supporting these budding artists, for noticing their ideas, for celebrating their efforts at home, and especially for being here tonight. Particular thanks go to our Parents and Friends Association, who have supported the evening by sponsoring the delicious fancy food and promoting the event in the community. Thank you."

Screenprinting at pressWEST

PressWEST Queenstown has finished the 2025 year with a screen-printing workshop. Twenty artists from around the state were involved in creating colourful prints over the November 21/23 weekend with a community gathering focused on the accompanying exhibition on the Friday evening.

'Big Fish Eat Little Fish' was the title of the workshop and that line comes from an image by the 16th Century master printmaker/painter Pieter Bruegel the Elder. Kenneth Clarke, the English Art critic and author, said 'In Bruegel, man is no longer the measure of all things; he is

part of the landscape, governed by forces beyond his control'. The workshop was interested in the Queenstown environs, its people, landscape and imaginary prospects. Tutors Leigh Rigozzi, Tony Thorne and Luisa Romeo assisted by Raymond Arnold, Jenny Groves and Helena Demczuk made for a good outcome. PressWEST thanks its members and supporters across the state for their support during 2025 and in particular acknowledges the West Coast Council for their ongoing support of this community initiative.



Granville Tramway help wanted

The Granville Tramway project consists of four kilometres of what remains of an old tramway. Traversing a large section of the Pine River gorge with spectacular views of the river and its surrounding native trees which include waratah and Huon pine, there are also several small waterfalls along the way.

The Tramway, just out from Zeehan, was built on white quartzite gravel, and the hardwood timber sleepers and bridge timbers were cut nearby on the big pine hill and in the Eight Mile forest near the Heemskirk river.

The tramway is unique because it was hand built in 1914, the quartzite gravel was used for ballast and on a sunny day sparkles in the sun. This is what makes it so special and unique to the west coast.

Friends of Tracks and Tramways have cleared one kilometre to date but still have three kilometres to go.

We need to unwrap this time capsule and preserve its Heritage / History.

To be able to complete this very interesting project the group will need to secure the use of a small excavator for a period of at least a month, so if there's anyone out there that can assist us in any way, please contact Grant Hodge on 0429114499.



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Local Engagement Officer for Waratah-Wynyard & Circular Head

0491 799 532 jacki@wnwworking.com.au



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



Swimming Pools are Open!

The Zeehan and Queenstown Swimming Pools are now open for the 2025–2026 season.

Due to temporary staff shortages, opening hours have been adjusted for the start of the season based on Lifeguard availability.

Council has promoted Lifeguard opportunities at both pools over recent months and continues to actively work to recruit sufficient Lifeguards to enable full operating hours at both facilities.

In November the community was invited to complete a survey regarding pool opening hours, with the view that understanding preferred times to use the swimming pools, and adjusting if able, could result in increased patronage of the facilities.

Council would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey, with 102 responses received and feedback will be considered in conjunction with staff availability. The survey summary document can be viewed on Council's website.

Council thanks the community for their patience whilst navigating the short-term staffing challenges. Ensuring safe, well-supervised swimming environments remains Council's priority.

Current opening hours are displayed at the pools, and are available from the Council office, Facebook page, and website.

Weather-related Swimming Pool Closures

Council has taken on board feedback received from the recent Opening Hours Community Survey and will no longer be closing swimming pools due to cold weather.

Pools will only be closed due to extreme, unsafe weather conditions. Extreme weather conditions may include storms, hail, lightning, and high winds. Pools will reopen once conditions are considered safe.

Where possible, pools will remain open for scheduled bookings and regular programs during periods of poor weather, following consultation with program coordinators.



Swimming Pool Entry Fees

Pool patrons can pay an entrance fee each visit to the pool, or purchase a season ticket. We recommend purchasing a season ticket if intending to visit the pool regularly.

Season tickets can be purchased at the Council Office and Zeehan Council Agency, located at the Zeehan Post Office. Seasons tickets can be used at both the Queenstown and Zeehan swimming pools.

Entry Fees:

- Toddler (under 5): FREE
- Child: \$4.50
- Adult: \$7 (\$4.50 concession)
- Family: \$15
- Spectator/Carer/Companion Card Holder: FREE

Season Tickets:

- Child: \$75
- Adult: \$125 (\$75 concession)
- Family: \$260 (\$225 concession)

Remember, safety first at the pools. Lifeguards are not babysitters, and children should always be supervised by an adult while in and around the pool.



West Coast Council Services Christmas–New Year 2025

COUNCIL OFFICE

- Closes at 12pm on Wednesday 24 December
- Reopens at 8.30am on Monday 5 January

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

QUEENSTOWN & ZEEHAN SWIMMING POOLS WILL BE CLOSED:

- Wednesday 24 December
- Thursday 25 December
- Friday 26 December
- Wednesday 31 December
- Thursday 1 January

Pools will be open other days during December–March dependent upon staffing availability.

GENERAL KERBSIDE COLLECTION

- Monday 22 December: Strahan, Zeehan, Gormanston & Linda
- Tuesday 23 December: Queenstown
- Wednesday 24 December: Rosebery & Tullah

No other changes to general kerbside collection (green wheelie bin).

WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS

- Closed Christmas Day
- Open all other public holidays over the Christmas period. No other changes to usual opening days.

RECYCLING COLLECTION

No changes to kerbside recycling collection (yellow-lid wheelie bin).



Dog Registrations

A review of Council's dog registration data has found that registered dog numbers are significantly lower compared to this time last year.

Dog owners are reminded that unless you have paid for Whole of Life registration, under state legislation dogs aged over six months must be registered by 1 July each year. Any dogs not currently registered are in breach of the Dog Control Act.

Council understands that sometimes tasks like this can slip through the cracks – however it is important that dogs are registered. If you

no longer have your dog, please let us know so we can remove it from the unregistered list.

Council will be following up unregistered dogs, including visiting properties. Dog owners are asked to please contact Council, or visit a Council agency, to complete registration as soon as possible to avoid receiving an infringement notice.



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.

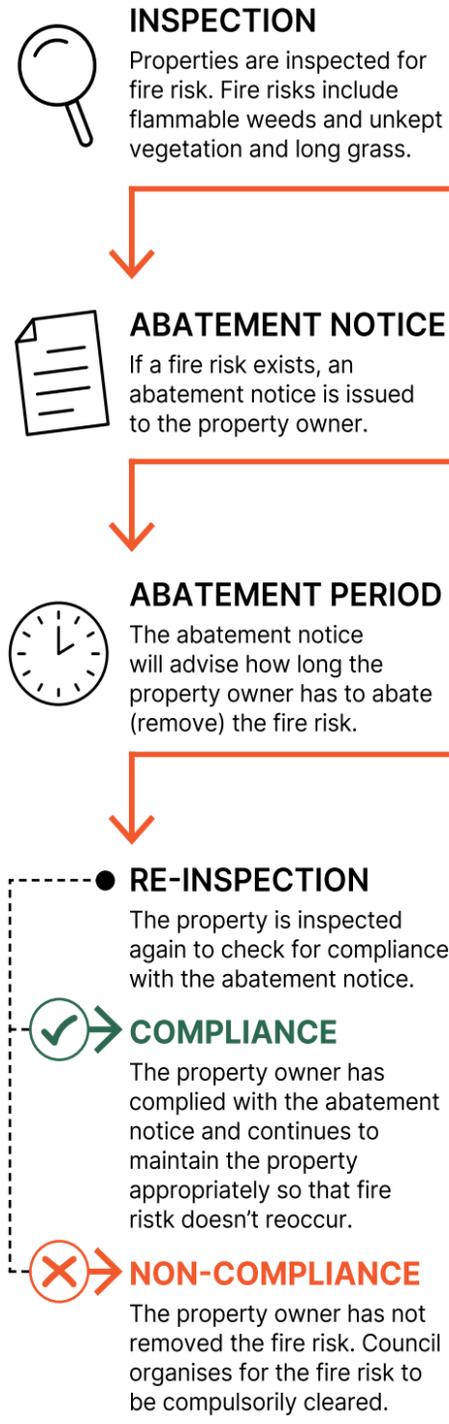
We understand it can sometimes be difficult to make payments – there is help available. Council can help you work out a payment arrangement that works with your budget. We find that many ratepayers are able to pay off their rates by the end of the financial year by making smaller, more regular payments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

FIRE ABATEMENT PROCESS



INSPECTION

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

ABATEMENT NOTICE

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

ABATEMENT PERIOD

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

RE-INSPECTION

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

COMPLIANCE

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

NON-COMPLIANCE

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

Rosebery, Strahan, Thureau Hills Campground, Trial Harbour, Tullah and Zeehan. This includes identifying and clearing fire risk on Council-owned land and working with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania to address fire risk on Crown land.

As part of regular patrols, Council staff authorised under the Local Government Act 1993 may enter properties to check for fire risks. Photographs are taken to record existing fire risks and to confirm when risks have been removed following the issue of an abatement notice. Council staff are carrying out this process to protect the community. Please treat them with respect as they perform this important work.

With this enhanced abatement process, Council is also calling on property owners to improve their efforts, encouraging owners and occupiers to be aware of fire risks on their properties and to take action to remove those risks before they reach the stage where an abatement notice may be issued. As a minimum, it is recommended to clear/abate fire risk before the start of the TFS Fire Permit Period and for the duration of that period.

Removing fire risks before the fire season will help keep our communities safe.

I've received an abatement notice, what do I do?

Please do not ignore an abatement notice – read through the notice carefully and review the information.

The notice will list the specific fire risks identified on your property and provide a deadline by which these risks must be removed.

Begin clearing the risks as soon as possible – mowing, trimming, removing rubbish, or cutting back vegetation. Please follow appropriate procedures to avoid spreading weeds. If you cannot complete the work yourself, you may need to consider hiring a contractor.

If you don't think you'll be able to clear the fire risk by the deadline, contact Council immediately to discuss options.

After the notice deadline, Council officers will reinspect the property. If the fire risk remains, Council will arrange for the fire risk to be compulsorily cleared. The costs will be charged to the property owner. The *Local Government Act 1993* imposes fines for failing to comply with an abatement notice.

Council recommends reading the Fire Abatement Frequently Asked Questions on the Council website. Residents are also encouraged to participate in the Tasmania Fire Service Bushfire Ready program. Anyone with questions about abatement notices or reducing fire risk can reach out to Council.

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, Councils can inspect properties for fire risks, and issue abatement notices to the property owner to remove fire risks.

Fire risk abatement:

- Helps people understand, identify and remove fire risk on their own property; and
- Helps to protect people from a fire risk which may come from neighbouring properties.

Council has spent considerable time reviewing its processes around fire risk abatement patrols and management of fire risks on Council-owned properties.

Council has stepped up its patrols for the 2025–2026 fire season, with increased patrol areas covering approximately 4,600 properties. The patrolled areas are Gormanston, Granville Harbour, Lake Burbury Camp Ground, Lettes Bay, Linda, Macquarie Heads Camp Ground, Pieman Heads, Queenstown,

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

REMINDERS

5 DECEMBER
recycling collection Queenstown, Gormanston/Linda & Strahan

12 DECEMBER
recycling collection Zeehan, Rosebery & Tullah

24 DECEMBER
Council office closure from 12pm, reopening on Monday, 5 January 2026

2 JANUARY
recycling collection Queenstown, Gormanston/Linda & Strahan

9 JANUARY
recycling collection Zeehan, Rosebery & Tullah

30 JANUARY
third rates instalment due

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!

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Wednesday 24 December:
10.30am–5.30pm

Thursday 25 December: Closed

Friday 26 December: Closed

Monday 29 December:
10.30am–5.30pm

Tuesday 30 December:
10.30am–5.30pm

Wednesday 31 December:
10.30am–5.30pm

Thursday 1 January: Closed

Friday 2 January: 10.30am–5.30pm

Closed weekends and public holidays.



WEST COAST TAS

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

westcoasttas.com
#westcoasttas

FOGO report card for Northwest - 587 tonnes saved from landfill

Congratulations to Burnie and Circular Head residents for the successful commencement of FOGO collections.

Overall, the communities in these two Councils, together with Waratah- Wynyard residents saved 587 tonnes of organic materials from going into landfill between July and October 2025. The table below shows how this compares to our recycling and waste tonnes and the overall saving to community that comes from diverting this material from landfill.

Want to find out how you compared to other Councils? You can check this out at:

<https://www.nwrrr.com.au/tracker>

With some more practice we can push our recovery rates up to our regional goal of 60% of all kerbside materials are re-processed and reused by 2028. So let's make 2025/26 a better outcome.

Getting more recovery relies on getting it right at home so please remember:

- Loose is lovely – NO plastic bags, even the compostable ones, in your

FOGO or Recycling bin;

- People sort material from these bins by hand, so don't add things you wouldn't touch like animal poo and kitty litter; and

- Some things are downright dangerous in your wheelie bin – batteries, electronics, flares, gas bottles and vapes can all be recycled if you drop them at the Waste Transfer Station or other local collection points at supermarkets and hardware stores, not in your wheelie bin!



How are we tracking now with the FOGO bin?

Council	Stream	Collected 2024/25 (Tonnes)	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sept-25	Oct-25	Collected to date (Tonnes)	Diversion from landfill (%)	Waste Levy saved (\$)
Central Coast	Waste	2443	184	189	219	195	786	63	\$59,825
	Recycling	1551	102	102	98	100	402		
	FOGO	2990	155	287	215	275	931		
	TOTAL	6894	452	577	532	569	2119		
Devonport	Waste	4141	121	363	412	360	1483	47	\$59,735
	Recycling	1735	111	176	117	117	527		
	FOGO	2706	133	191	210	261	804		
	TOTAL	8581	365	729	739	737	2813		
Kentish	Waste	563	43	66	44	45	198	46	\$7,585
	Recycling	259	16	16	17	16	65		
	FOGO	333	17	31	24	31	104		
	TOTAL	1155	77	114	85	93	368		
Latrobe	Waste	2114	210	157	159	162	688	46	\$26,030
	Recycling	903	59	59	59	59	236		
	FOGO	1177	51	99	82	112	344		
	TOTAL	4195	320	316	299	333	1268		
Wynyard	Waste	1869	182	151	146	147	626	45	\$22,934
	Recycling	705	43	44	43	44	174		
	FOGO	1143	55	102	74	107	337		
	TOTAL	3717	280	297	263	297	1137		
Burnie	Waste	5155	337	182	132	215	865	38	\$14,676
	Recycling	1013	69	104	71	84	327		
	FOGO	-	-	-	40	170	210		
	TOTAL	6168	406	286	243	468	1402		
Circular Head	Waste	2116	178	164	142	179	662	14	\$2,738
	Recycling	231	14	17	14	15	61		
	FOGO	-	-	-	11	28	39		
	TOTAL	2347	192	182	167	194	734		
Total for region under this contract	Waste	18401	1481	1272	1253	1302	5309	46	\$204,698
	Recycling	6397	421	519	418	434	1792		
	FOGO	8270	420	710	656	983	2769		
	TOTAL	33068	2323	2501	2327	2720	9869		



New year, new challenge?

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



Finding the right health service

Finding the right health service can be confusing. Many people in our community have said the same thing: "I just wish there was someone I could talk to when I don't know where to start."

The Access to Health Services (A2HS) Project is all about making it easier for people to get the help they need, when they need it. After listening to local voices, the project learned that community members often struggle to find clear information about doctors, health programs, or support services. Some don't know who to call. Others aren't sure what's available. Many simply want a friendly, trusted person to guide them.

That's where The Right Place approach comes in. This initiative focuses on "community supporting community" – making sure that help is never far away, and that people feel confident asking for it. As part of this approach, A2HS

worker Yvette will be available at set times each week to talk with anyone who needs support finding health services. She can point you in the right direction, explain what options you have, or help you take the next step.

Yvette will be available; Tuesdays from 10am to 1pm, Thursdays from 1pm to 3pm or by appointment if those times don't suit. Yvette can be found in the Smithton Library Hub, look for the Local Support Connector banners.

Whether you need help finding a GP, booking an appointment, understanding a health letter, or learning what local services can support you, this project is here for you.

It's a simple idea: when people have the right information, they can take better care of their health. And now, in our community, support is just a conversation away.



WEST COAST CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2025

A handy guide to all the festivities across the region!

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

10.00am-1.00pm: Tullah Progress Association Children's Christmas Party Tullah Town Hall

1.00pm: Tullah Progress Association Colour Run From Tullah Town Hall

3.45pm-4.00pm: Zeehan Christmas Parade. Assemble 3pm at Heemskirk Hotel. Progresses to Primary School

4.00pm-7.00pm: Kids Christmas Fun Day. Zeehan Primary School

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER

10.30am-1.30pm: Queenstown Community Market: Christmas Market + Santa. Queenstown Memorial Hall

SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER

1.00pm-4.00pm: Strahan Christmas Market. The Esplanade/Strahan Village

5.30pm-7.30pm: Christmas Family Night. Rides, music, \$5 showbags, BBQ + Santa. Strahan Golf Club

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER

11.00am-2.00pm: TXS-Queenstown Lions Ladies Children's Fun Day. Activities, BBQ, Rides, demonstrations + Santa Queenstown Recreation Ground

3.00-3.30pm: Rosebery Christmas Parade Agnes Street

3.30pm-8.00pm: Christmas in Rosebery - Fun for All: Market, live entertainment, fair games, rides, food vans, Christmas Carols & more Memorial Hall, Arthur Street & Plaza

WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER

7.00pm-7.30pm: TXS-Queenstown Lions Ladies Queenstown Christmas Parade. Assemble 6.30pm at the RSL. Progresses through CBD to Orr St.

5.00pm: Mass: St Joseph's Catholic Church, Rosebery

8.00pm: Mass: St Joseph's Catholic Church, Queenstown

8.00pm: Anglican Service: Holy Trinity Church, Strahan

THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER

9.30am: Mass: St Fursaeus' Catholic Church, Zeehan.

9.30am: Anglican Service: St Martin's Church, Queenstown

11.30am: Catholic Mass: Holy Trinity Church, Strahan.

THIS LIST WILL BE UPDATED AS REQUIRED. IF WE'VE MISSED YOUR EVENT, OR YOUR EVENT NEEDS UPDATING - LET US KNOW BY EMAILING tourism@westcoast.tas.gov.au OR CALL 0472 8800. Current as at 2 December 2025.

'More than a statistic' display

A powerful RACT road safety installation has been set up along Old Bass Highway near Nurses Retreat, Wynyard, as part of the "More than a Statistic" campaign. The installation features a crashed vehicle displayed within a large, secure container. A confronting but important reminder of the devastating impact of road trauma on Tasmanian families.

Please be aware that while the display carries an important message about road

safety, some people may find the imagery distressing.

For more information about the campaign and its purpose, visit ract.com.au/community/more-than-a-statistic

Thank you for your understanding as we help raise awareness and encourage safer roads for everyone.

If you or someone you know needs support, please reach out to Lifeline on 13 11 14



Zeehan RSL Sub-Branch

We wish to advise that the RSL will be closing on 20th December and re-opening 19th February 2026.

We warmly invite all volunteers, committee members, and financial members to join us for our Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, 20th December at 1:00pm.

Enjoy an afternoon filled with music, karaoke, plenty of laughs, and the exciting draw of our Christmas Stocking Raffle.

We hope to celebrate with you!

Thank you to everyone for their continuous support & we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Wishing everyone a very Merry & Safe Christmas.



"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



Community Newsletter

December 2025



Image: MMG Rosebery's Ben Murach with university students

Students learn about mining

MMG Rosebery welcomed university students from the AusIMM Tasmanian Student Chapter, as part of a broader tour of mining operations in Tasmania.

Wiaan Kapp, Senior Exploration Geologist and Jessie Cooke, Superintendent, Mine Engineering presented the students with a background on mining operations at Rosebery.

They were also taken on a tour of our underground operations, core processing facilities and surface diamond drill rigs.

MMG Rosebery is a platinum sponsor of the AusIMM Tasmania Student Chapter.

Mining careers on show

We supported the Careers and Education Expo at Study Hub West Coast in Zeehan.

Superintendent of Mine Engineering Jessie Cooke, Graduate Metallurgist Pauline Paul, Talent and HR Advisor Sharryn Salkild, and Community Liaison Coordinator Jill Richardson attended the event.

More than 120 students from schools across the West Coast of Tasmania participated.

MMG provided students with opportunities to explore mining through engaging digital experiences and fun, hands-on activities.



Image: MMG's Pauline Paul at Study Hub



Christmas message

As the festive season approaches, MMG Rosebery extends our thanks to the local community for your ongoing support throughout the year.

We're proud to be celebrating 90 years of continuous operation in 2026 — a milestone made possible by you.

This summer, whether you're relaxing at home, heading out on the road, or spending time on the water, please stay safe and look out for one another.

From all of us at MMG Rosebery, we wish you a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Here's to a safe and celebratory season — and to the next chapter in our shared story.

Steve Scott
General Manager - Rosebery Mine

Golf day winner crowned

Congratulations to Paul Martin on winning the MMG Rosebery sponsored annual golf day at the Rosebery Golf Course.



Image: Paul Martin & Robert Corbett

Mining safety takes centre stage at emergency response comp



When it comes to mining, safety isn't just a priority, it's a culture that runs deep through the industry.

That ethos was on full display last weekend when Bluestone Mines Tasmania Joint Venture hosted the 2025 Tasmanian Minerals Emergency Response Competition (TMERC) at its Renison Bell operation, bringing together emergency response teams from across the state's mines and major industrial sites.

The annual event provides crews with the opportunity to test their skills under pressure in the closest thing possible to a real-world emergency, with teams competing across disciplines including first aid, fire fighting, rope rescue, and under-

ground search and rescue.

Bluestone's emergency response team demonstrated why they're among the state's best, taking out the overall competition title along with first place in both fire fighting and team skills. Team member Josh Baldwin was also recognised as Best First Aider.

Cornwall Coal proved formidable competition, claiming runner-up honours while dominating the technical events with wins in rope rescue and both surface and underground search and rescue. The team's captain, Anthony Woods, was named Best Captain of the competition.

Other standout performances came from MMG Rosebery, who took first

in first aid, while Grange Resources claimed the theory component and Cornwall Coal received the Overall Team Safety Award.

Emergency response teams train year-round for incidents they hope never happen –from underground rescues and vehicle extractions to first aid and fire response.

While simulated, the competition provided a rare chance to test that readiness in real-time conditions.

The event highlighted the collaborative spirit that defines the Tasmanian mining sector.

Mutual-aid arrangements across mining and industrial sites exist to keep everyone safer. It means that if disaster

strikes, there is always help on hand, including responding to emergencies in the general community.

As Tasmania's mining industry continues to grow and evolve, with new projects and expansions on the horizon across the state, events like TMERC ensure that safety and preparedness remain at the forefront of operations.

For the teams at mine sites across Tasmania, the commitment remains simple: ensuring everyone comes to work and goes home safely.

The skills tested and honed through competitions like TMERC are vital in insurance policies that crews hope never to use but stand ready to deploy at a moment's notice.



End of year community sessions

As the year comes to a close, West North West Working is inviting community members across Circular Head and Waratah-Wynyard to join Local Engagement Officer Jacki for a series of end of year community sessions.

These sessions provide a friendly, relaxed space for anyone looking for guidance around employment, education or training to drop in, ask questions, and explore available support.

"I love seeing people take that first step toward something new," Jacki said. "These sessions are a chance to chat, reset and get ready for the opportunities ahead in 2026."

She added, "You do not need to have everything figured out. If you are thinking about work, study or training, I am here to support you and help you explore your options."

Tony, Manager of Study Centre Circular Head, said, "Jacki's sessions are a fantastic opportunity for our community to connect with someone who really understands local needs. These sessions help people feel supported and confident about taking the next step, whether that's study, training or employment."

Looking Ahead to 2026 West North West Working has a long-standing re-

lationship with local communities, and seeing people thrive is at the heart of their work. Jacki and the team are looking forward to new opportunities in 2026, continuing to support job seekers, learners, and local businesses across the region.

Session Dates and Locations

Monday, 1 December – Wynyard Library, 11:00am–11:45am

Wednesday, 3 December – Rural Health Tasmania, 68 Emmett Street, Smithton, 10:30am–11:30am

Wednesday, 3 December – Study Centre Circular Head, 12 Nelson Street, Smithton, 1:30pm–2:30pm

Thursday, 4 December – Smithton Library, 134–140 Nelson Street, Smithton, 1:30pm–2:30pm

Tuesday, 9 December* – Larapi Child and Family Learning Center, 18 Gibbons Street, Wynyard, 10:30am–11:30am

All sessions are free and open to the public. *As a child-safe space, CFLC welcomes families with children aged 0–5.

Holiday Closure

West North West Working will be closed for the holidays from Thursday 25 December and will reopen on Monday 5 January.



Gymnastics Club celebrates in style



The Circular Head Gymnastics Club celebrated in style on Friday, November 28, with an incredible end-of-year display that showcased the talent and dedication of its athletes. The event, held at the Cornerstone Community Church Hall, drew a crowd so large it was standing room only, as families and friends gathered to cheer on the performers.

A total of 110 gymnasts took to the floor, performing across 16 routines that highlighted a range of skills and teamwork. From energetic group performances to graceful individual displays, the night was a true celebration of gymnastics and community spirit.

The evening also featured the presentation of awards, recognizing outstanding effort and achievement throughout the year:

Encouragement Awards

Maci Thomas, Stevie Izzo, Amber van Norden, Zara Pilkington, Frankie Coates,

Avayah Brown, Alice Bruce, Elizabeth Waller, Chloe Bellinger, Sienna Korpershoek

Coaches' Awards

GymFun: Elise Wright

GymSkills: Avah Monson

GymSkills Advanced: Larni Russell

MAG: Fletcher Kingston

Mini Development: Lexi Sharmon

WAG Level 1: Ella Burley

WAG Level 2: Nova Humphrey

WAG Level 3: Celeste Korpershoek

WAG Level 4: Ruby Medwin

Tramp Junior: Aisha Hodgetts

Tramp Senior: Ady Nicholson

The night was a great success, noting the overwhelming support from families and the enthusiasm of the gymnasts. The event reflected the growing popularity of gymnastics in the Circular Head region.

Congratulations to all the coaches, gymnasts, families and volunteers who made the night possible!



International Day of People with Disability

What a fantastic afternoon we had at the International Day of People with Disability event at Marine Plaza in Burnie on December 4.

A huge congratulations and heartfelt thank you to the organisers Speak Out Association of Tasmania for creating such a vibrant, welcoming and joy filled celebration for our community.

The atmosphere was incredible.

The community enjoyed beautiful market stalls showcasing talented makers and creators with disability, live music, activities for all ages and abilities, and a free sausage sizzle - thanks once again to the West Burnie Rotary Club.

Events like this remind us of the importance of visibility, inclusion, and celebrating the abilities and contributions of every person in our community.

Burnie City Council is proud to support days like these.

Thank you to everyone who came along and made it such a special afternoon.



Christmas Parade Road Closures

To ensure the smooth running of the Burnie Christmas Parade on Friday, 12 December 2025, several streets will be temporarily closed to local traffic.

From 4:30 pm to 8 pm, the following roads will be closed:

- Spring Street (from Wilson Street to Marine Terrace)
- Marine Terrace (from Spring Street to Cattley Street)

From 5:30 pm to 8 pm, the closures will extend to:

- Wilmot Street (from Alexander Street to Columnar Court)
- Wilson Street (from North Terrace to Cattley Street)
- Cattley Street (from Mount Street to Wilson Street)
- Ladbrooke Street (from Wilson Street to Marine Terrace)
- Mount Street (from Cattley Street to North Terrace)
- North Terrace (from Alexander Street to Wilson Street)
- Marine Terrace (from Multi Storey Car Park to Wilmot Street) — exiting traffic will be allowed along a designated route until marshalling into the parade route begins.

We thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we celebrate this magical community event.

The 2025 Parade is set to have the most floats yet!!

We look forward to seeing you there!



He's here.... SANTA!!

The Plaza Arcade in Burnie's CBD has undergone a very Christmassy transformation and will be hosting photos with Santa and Mrs Claus.



Santa and Mrs Claus will be visiting to hear all of the children's Christmas wishes on the following days between 11 am and 1 pm:

December the 12th, 13th, 14th, 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd.

When you arrive, you can write your name and the child's/children's names on the sheet provided. Once the 5 sheets are full, they will not be taking anymore as they are also very busy.

An amazing thank you to Debbie King, who has spent countless hours creating this new Christmas Winterland Wonderland Grotto for the children and local families to enjoy.

It is such a gift to our community that Council tree-mendously adores supporting each year.

Burnie Christmas Carols by Candlelight

It's that time again Burnie ..

Time to get out your picnic rugs, put on that summer beanie, and light up a candle! Carols by Candlelight 2025 is here!!

When: Sunday, 21 December
Time: Pre-carol entertainment at 6:30 pm
Where: Burnie Park

So dust off those vocals cords and light up the night with glee,

This Burnie family friendly event is free!

Hosted by the Combined Churches of Burnie, and merrily supported by Burnie City Council.

Please be aware that this is a smoke-free event.



BURNIE CITY MARKET



Christmas Parade Market

Friday 12 December
3pm to 8:30pm

Fun Christmas Shopping

Saturday 20 December
10am to 2pm

Support local this Christmas

Burnie Aquatic Centre to receive a \$1.8 Million dollar upgrade!

Burnie City Council has been successful in obtaining \$1.8M through the Albanese Government Community Energy Upgrades Fund, to electrify the Burnie Aquatic Centre heating systems. Replacing gas with electric heat pumps!

Shifting our Aquatic Centre to electric heat pumps reduces emissions and will substantially reduce costs, allowing Council to reinvest more into community services.

This upgrade positions Burnie to take advantage of the cleaner, more efficient technologies shaping Australia's future.



The Burnie Athletics Club has NYE covered with the **Burnie New Year's Eve Carnival** at West Park Oval.

The carnival on 31 December will include running, cycling, woodchopping, junior athletics carnival, Tree felling plus handicap chopping events and family entertainment from 11:00am to 9:00pm

- Family Fun Includes:
- Ferret Racing
- Kid's Activities
- Food Vans Galore
- Coffee Vans

Proudly supported each year by Burnie City Council.

Burnie City Council is beyond thrilled to be bringing back Night on the Terrace this New Year's Eve



on the stunning Burnie foreshore!!

Experience spectacular firework shows, a vibrant mix of live entertainment, and a feast of flavours from local food vendors.

Bring the whole family for a night of fun, excitement, and community spirit.

Gold coin entry that goes to support our local organisations.

Romaine Reserve Bridge and Boardwalk replacement works update

With the new steel bridge being bolted down in early November, the decking began.

The team installed FRP decking. This decking is made from a composite material that is resistant to corrosion, rot, UV degradation, and moisture.

In mid November, Councils civil team began preparing the foundation for the cement footpaths that lead up to the bridge.

The building crew followed and poured the 30 metres of concrete to connect to the bridge.



Burnie Cruise Ship Season 2025-26



It's back again!

Twenty cruise vessels are scheduled to visit the Port of Burnie between December 2026 and April 2026.

TasPorts CEO Anthony Donald said the Port was bucking the national trend with strong visitation to the regional port.

"Australia-wide has have seen a downturn in cruise ships visiting regional ports, but the Port of Burnie has held its position on the international itinerary."

"We know from positive passenger feedback that cruise ships love visiting Burnie for the warm welcome they get from our local volunteers, the council, and local tourism industry."

Over the season, the Port of Burnie will welcome around 32,000 passengers and 16,000 crew, supporting local jobs and businesses.

According to the Australian Cruise Association 2024-25 Economic Impact Assessment report, the Tasmanian cruise industry generated approximately \$149 million in economic benefit to the state last year, supporting 453 jobs.

The Makers Market will be set up in the Marine Plaza selling their Burnie-made products during each cruise ship visit, and Burnie's incredible team of volunteers will be ready with their renowned Burnie welcome!

Council warmly welcomes back all the cruise visitors to the stunning north-west coast of Tasmania.

New Speed Limit



In 2023-24 Council was approached by several residents of West Mooreville Road and Three Mile Line Road stating that they felt traffic had increased a lot and requested that the speed limit be lowered.

Since 2015, 40 accidents (including 2 fatal and 2 serious)

have been reported to police on the sections of West Mooreville Road and Three Mile Line Road (west of Mooreville Road).

In December 2025, the Tasmanian State Government approved Councils request to lower the speed limit from 100km/h to 80km/h.

With the lowered speed limit, it is estimated to increase travel time from Ridgley to Burnie by approximately 1 minute.

Council will be begin installing the new signage prior before the end of the year.

For more information, head to burnie.tas.gov.au

Burnie City Council Christmas Closures

Burnie City Council Offices and Burnie Arts Centre will be closed from Midday, Wednesday, 24 December 2025, and re-open Monday, 5 January 2026, as we take time to celebrate the festive season with our loved ones.

Burnie Arts Museum will close 24 December 2025, and re-open on 7 January, 2026.

Burnie Waste Management Centre will be closed Christmas day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.

Web: burnie.tas.gov.au - **Phone:** 03 6430 5700
Email: burnie@burnie.tas.gov.au - PO BOX 973 80 Wilson St, Burnie, 7320

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.



Queen Forever!
Greatest Hits Tour
30 January 2026
7:30pm to 9:40pm



Jersey Forever
6 February, 2026
8pm to 9:30pm

For information and tickets - burniearts.net



Burnie City Council wishes everyone in our community a joyful and safe festive season, filled with love, laughter, and special moments with family and friends.

Here's to a magical Christmas and an exciting year ahead for Burnie in 2026!

BREAKING NEWS: Santa has been spotted... in Wynyard!



Wynyard, Tasmania

A big thank you to our Community Activation and Depot teams for installing this fully photogenic, totally approachable and 100% selfie-ready Christmas display!

Located at Apex Park, you'll find Santa sitting in his big red chair alongside a beautiful Christmas tree.

We invite everyone to come check it out, snap a pic, give Santa your Christmas list and tag us on socials so we can share the festive fun!

Located at:
Apex Park
Near CoastFM
2A Inglis St, Wynyard



No one does Christmas like our Wynyard community! This Christmas Eve, there's plenty to see and celebrate:

Wynyard Christmas Parade — 7PM
Goldie Street, Wynyard.

Christmas Carols — Approx. 8PM
Gutteridge Gardens

(hosted by the Churches of Wynyard)

Make the night even more magical by exploring the incredible Christmas decorations around town. (Stay tuned, Council will soon announce the winners of this year's Christmas Light Competition on our website & socials!)

For more information on the Christmas parade, you can contact the Lions Club of Wynyard on 0402 869 350.



New Mural at East Wynyard Foreshore

Wynyard, Tasmania

There's so much to love about our East Wynyard Foreshore!

It's wonderful to see this area buzzing with life — a vibrant recreational space enjoyed by both locals and visitors. One of the newest additions delivered under the East Wynyard Foreshore Masterplan is the public art mural on the toilet block. With the first wall now complete, it's already looking fantastic!

(Artwork by Tammy Martin — @SpiritedTalesFineArt)

The mural, along with the nearby sensory garden, will be finished soon.



Happy Holidays!

Wynyard, Tasmania

As 2025 comes to a close, Mayor Mary Duniam and CEO Vanessa Adams reflect on some of the highlights for Waratah-Wynyard this year.

We start with a fantastic achievement for both our region and state: taking the first-place title at the 2025 Australasian Management Challenge, a first for Tasmania! This reflects our commitment to being a forward-thinking and innovative Council for our community.

The Tulip Festival, always a favourite, kept us on our toes with heavy rains and winds this year. But thanks to the hard work of our staff and community, it was another fantastic success.

Other notable achievements for our municipality include:

- Commencing the Inglis River Track upgrade
- Completion of key projects from the East Wynyard Foreshore Masterplan, including the already popular Sensory Garden
- Completion of the new Sisters Beach playground and outdoor gym equipment
- Adoption of the Waratah Community Plan ... and much more!

While we take a moment to celebrate these successes, we're already looking ahead to 2026 and the new plans to keep our municipality on track for continued growth and success.

We wish everyone in our community a happy and safe holiday over this break! 🎄🌟

Wonders of Wynyard
Exhibition & Visitor Information Centre

8 Exhibition Link, Wynyard
wondersofwynyard.com
03 6443 8330

Open Daily 10am to 5pm

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

Closures over Xmas 2025

Council Office - Wynyard

The Council office will be closed from 2pm Monday, 22 December 2025, and will re-open at 8:30am on Monday, 5 January 2026.

Council & Post Office - Waratah

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day. Open as per normal all other week days.

Waste Transfer Station Wynyard

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day. Open 10am to 4pm all other days.

Wonders of Wynyard Visitor Information and Exhibition Centre

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day. Open 9am to 4pm all other days.

Kerbside Waste Collection

Collections on Thursday 25th December have been moved to Wednesday 24th December 2025. Please place your bins out the night prior (i.e. Tuesday Night).

No changes on Boxing Day or New Years.

Other Facilities

Check Council website and socials for more information.

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.

Table Cape Project Receives Commendation



Table Cape Lookout, Artists Impression.

Wynyard, Tasmania

We're proud to share that Council's Table Cape Visitor Experience Plan and Visitor's Centre project has received a Commendation in the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) Tasmanian Awards for Planning Excellence 2025.

The awards were presented on Friday 5 December 2025 at the Moonah Arts Centre and recognise the achievements of planners and the planning profession across Tasmania.

Our project was recognised in the Performance and Innovation in Development category. The PIA noted the Table Cape Visitor's Centre is located on a prominent, highly visible site recognised as a regional landmark, requiring a distinctive and thoughtful design approach.

The project also responded to a clear need for practical amenities that support both visitors and the local community.

The commendation reflects the strength of consultation and the way the design was shaped by meaningful engagement with the broader community, including Aboriginal groups and managing authorities. This helped ensure the proposal respects the site's environmental significance and its role in shaping people's experiences of Table Cape.

A sincere congratulations and thank you to our Infrastructure and Development team, including our project management, planning, engineering and tourism teams, along with Heliotrope Studio and Equilibrium Town Planning for the collaborative work behind this outcome.

Friendly Reminder: Sharing Our Beaches with Little Penguins

Wynyard, Tasmania

We're lucky to live alongside Little Penguins who nest along parts of our Waratah-Wynyard coastline and are quite active at this time of the year. These tiny seabirds spend most of their day far out on the water, returning to shore late in the evening to feed their chicks, and heading back out again early at dawn.

These twilight hours are when penguins are most vulnerable and when we need to be mindful about having minimal disruption to their activities.

We know our community cares deeply about our wildlife.

So it's a timely reminder to ensure dogs are always kept under effective control on our beaches, particularly at dawn and dusk near known nesting habitat.

In an off-lead area, a dog is considered under effective control when:

- It stays close to you
- It remains in your sight at all times
- It responds immediately to your commands

These simple actions make a world of difference - helping protect our penguins while keeping our beaches safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Thank you for doing your part, staying mindful, and helping us care for the remarkable wildlife that shares our coastline.

Community Activation Grant Spotlight



Waratah-Wynyard Councillor Kevin Hyland with Debbie Dale (Centre Manager) and Kelly Milikins (President) of Live Well Tasmania. Photo: Waratah-Wynyard Council.

Wynyard, Tasmania

We, alongside Cr Kevin Hyland, are pleased to share that one of Council's Community Activation Grant recipients is Live Well Tasmania Inc.!

For nearly 10 years, Live Well has been an instrumental part of connecting people across our municipality.

Until now, the not-for-profit has relied on wood fire heating

But thanks to this funding, they've been able to install two new heat pumps, improving volunteer efficiency and creating a more comfortable, usable space for community groups who hire their venue.

Photographed with Cr Kevin Hyland are Debbie Dale, Centre Manager, and Kelly Milikins, President of Live Well. If you're looking to connect, learn, or get involved, follow Live Well Tasmania Inc. on Facebook.



Australia Day | **WARATAH WYNYARD**

BREAKFAST & AWARD CEREMONY
AUSTRALIA DAY

CAT DESEXING ONLY \$50

INCLUDES FREE MICROCHIP
For eligible low-income residents of Waratah-Wynyard.

WARATAH WYNYARD COUNCIL

NDN National Desexing Network | **1300 368 992** Call today — limited vouchers

Foreshore MARKET WYNYARD

Christmas

December Markets

7th, 14th & 21st
8am-2pm weather permitting

Market held on East Wynyard Foreshore. See Council website for more information.

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Circular Head Show steams ahead

Photos by Alan Jennison

As regular readers of the Western Echo will know, I love a good agricultural show and the recent Circular Head Show ranks up with the best of them that I have visited.

The show was very professionally run, well presented and had something for everyone of any age.

From the cattle judging to the dog high jump, the animal nursery to the sheaf tossing this was a true 'Ag Show' and others around the state could take lessons from Circular Head. As usual, I will let the photos tell the story but would like to say thank you all for putting up with this crazy photographer just trying to get the best shots for you.





Western Echo
photos and more

Photos on these pages, and many more that didn't make it into print are available on our new website. Simply scan the QR code





Photo from the inaugural Smithton Chamber of Commerce meeting at the Study Centre.

Smithton Chamber of Commerce Launches!

Smithton, Tasmania

The Smithton Chamber of Commerce was officially launched on Tuesday 18 November 2025, marking the beginning of a new, community-led initiative designed to bring local businesses together and strengthen collaboration, advocacy and economic development across the Circular Head district.

Supported by Council, the inaugural meeting at the Study Centre set the early direction for how the Chamber will operate, including how local businesses, community representatives and Council can work together, share ideas, identify common challenges and build momentum on practical opportunities for growth.

Attendees discussed the value of having a dedicated forum to support local enterprise, encourage stronger business networks and provide a collective voice on matters that affect the local economy.

The establishment of the Chamber is one of the actions identified in Council's Vision 2050 plan and aligns with the broader goal of supporting a strong, confident and connected business community. Council said the launch reflects the positive outcomes that can be achieved when the community and Council work side by side, with local leadership helping to shape priorities and drive action at a district level.

2025 Christmas Parades and Carols in Circular Head!



Smithton Christmas Parade

Friday 12 December 2025, 7.00 pm

Kick off the weekend as Smithton comes alive with floats, music and plenty of Christmas spirit. Gather the family, find a spot along the route, and enjoy an evening parade under the lights.

Stanley Christmas Parade

Saturday 13 December 2025, 11.00 am

A much-loved Stanley tradition returns. Come early, bring your camera, and enjoy the parade atmosphere as it makes its way through town.

Community Christmas Carols

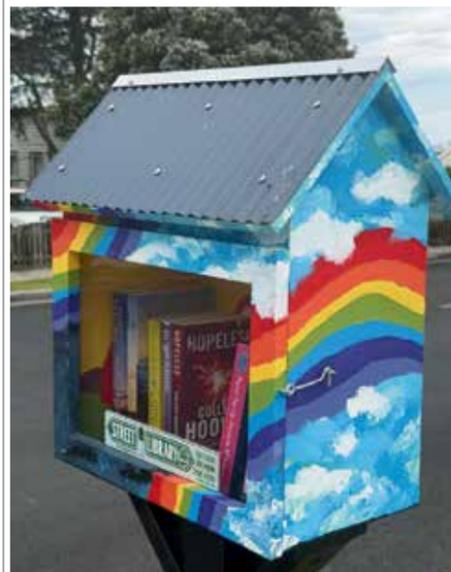
Highfield House, Stanley

Sunday 14 December 2025

Gates open 6.30 pm, carols start 7.00 pm

Round out the weekend with community carols in a beautiful outdoor setting at Highfield House. Bring a picnic, chairs or a rug and settle in for a classic carols program.

There will be BBQ, coffee and dessert vans on site, and candles will be available to purchase on the night.



Street Libraries Take Place!

Exciting News! For those who have been following the journey (and for those just joining) we're thrilled to share an update on the 11 Street Libraries being installed across our municipality! Our community has beautifully decorated each of the 11 vibrant Street Libraries to celebrate literacy, reading and the joy of sharing books.

So far, around 8 libraries have been installed, with more popping up over the next few weeks!

You can already find them at:

- Giggles Early Learning
- Stars Early Learning
- Montagu Fire Station

... and many more locations coming soon!

This initiative is collaboration between Council, 26Ten and Street Library Australia. Stay tuned, we'll be sharing all registered locations shortly!



Congratulations Cr John Oldaker

Council extends its warm congratulations to Cr John Oldaker, who was recently recognised for 26 years of service as an elected member.

Cr Oldaker was presented with his Recognition of Service Award by LGAT President Mick Turner on Thursday 20 November at the LGAT Annual Conference in Hobart.

First elected in March 1999, Cr Oldaker has been a long-standing representative of our community, including serving as Deputy Mayor from 2011–2014. A proud farmer from Togari, John has contributed decades of commitment to local government, community advocacy and the region he and his family call home.

Please join us in acknowledging and thanking John for his remarkable service to the Circular Head community.

Closures over Xmas 2025

Council Office

The Council office will be closed from 12pm Tuesday, 23 December 2025, and will re-open at 9am on Monday, 5 January 2026.

Waste Transfer Station Smithton

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day. Open 10AM to 4PM all other days.

Kerbside Collections

General Waste - Collections will be moved. Please check Facebook and Website closer to Xmas.

Recycling and FOGO - No changes; collected as per normal schedule.

Other Facilities

Check Council website and socials for more information.

Duck Race sales are officially LIVE!

Council's annual Day on the Duck – Duck Race is fast approaching! 600 ducks are now up for grabs: **Yellow Ducks (450 available) – \$2.00**

- 1st Prize: \$500 • 2nd Prize: \$200

Pink Ducks (150 available) – \$5.00

- 1st Prize: \$700 • 2nd Prize: \$300

You will be able to watch your duck race down the Duck River. First across the line wins! The race will be held at 6:00pm during Day on the Duck. Buy online now for discounted prices before 24 Jan 2026. Search us on Facebook. You can also grab your duck at the front of Hugo's Brew and Chew at the following dates/times:

- Friday 12 December 2025 – 12pm to 2pm
- Friday 16 January 2026 – 12pm to 2pm

Get in early, pick your lucky duck, and join in on the fun!



MCCAIN FOODS

DAY ON THE DUCK

SUMMER CELEBRATION

LIVE MUSIC - FOOD - FREE KIDS ENTERTAINMENT

WEST ESPLANADE, SMITHTON

SATURDAY JAN 24 2026, 12PM TO 7PM

DUCK RACE AT APPROX. 5.00PM

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 Circular Head Council, 33 Goldie St (PO Box 348), Smithton TAS 7330, with office hours from 8:15am 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@circularhead.tas.gov.au.



CIRCULAR HEAD CORNER

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



CIRCULAR HEAD COUNCIL

(03) 6452 4800

council@circularhead.tas.gov.au

www.circularhead.tas.gov.au

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

Stanley
AND
TARKINE
TASMANIA



A DAY IN SMITHTON, TASMANIA! TOP TIPS FROM THE VISITOR CENTRE

SMITHTON LIES IN TASMANIA'S FAR NORTHWEST, PERCHED ON THE DUCK RIVER AND SURROUNDED BY SOME OF AUSTRALIA'S FINEST FARMLAND. THE REGION IS RENOWNED FOR ITS RICH DAIRY PRODUCTS, PREMIUM OYSTERS, AND HIGH-QUALITY BEEF, MAKING IT A TRUE HAVEN FOR INDULGENT LOCAL PRODUCE.



STOP #1

DUCK RIVER MEADOWS DAIRY

12 NELSON ST

EXPLORE THE DUCK RIVER MEADOWS ROBOTIC DAIRY AND SEE THEIR INNOVATIVE ROBOTIC MILKING SYSTEM IN ACTION AND LA CANTARA ARTISAN CHEESE FACTORY TO SEE WHERE THEIR AWARD-WINNING CHEESES ARE MADE. AFTER THE TOUR, TRY A SELECTION OF LA CANTARA ARTISAN CHEESES AND CHOOSE A FEW FAVOURITES TO TAKE WITH YOU FOR A RIVERSIDE PICNIC LATER IN THE DAY.

NEXT STOP AT THE SMITHTON VISITOR CENTRE, TASMANIA'S 2025 GOLD WINNING CENTRE, AND ENJOY A GLASS OF FRESH NON HOMOGENISED MILK OR GRAB A BOTTLE TO TAKE HOME. WHILE YOU ARE THERE, CHAT WITH THE LOCAL FRIENDLY STAFF FOR INSIDER TIPS ON EXPLORING THE NORTHWEST AND BROWSE THE RANGE OF TASMANIAN RETAIL PRODUCTS. ALSO LOCATED WITHIN THE PAVILIONS, THE CIRCULAR HEAD HERITAGE CENTRE DIVE INTO THE RICH HISTORY OF THE REGION. DON'T MISS THE SHORT FILMS SHOWN IN THE THEATRETTE, THEY OFFER A WONDERFUL INSIGHT INTO THE PEOPLE AND STORIES THAT SHAPE CIRCULAR HEAD. THE SCENES IN THE CAFE ARE EXCELLENT FOR A SWEET TREAT.



STOP #2

DUCK RIVER PAVILIONS

12 NELSON ST

STOP #3

TARKINE FRESH OYSTERS

21/25 WEST
ESPLANADE



CONTINUE YOUR TASTING JOURNEY AT TARKINE FRESH OYSTERS, WHERE YOU CAN ENJOY A DELICIOUS PLATE OF FRESHLY SHUCKED OYSTERS IN THE CAFE OR PICK UP A TAKEAWAY SELECTION FOR YOUR PICNIC.

STOP #4

PERRYS QUALITY MEATS

12 SMITH ST



JUST A SHORT DRIVE AWAY, VISIT PERRYS QUALITY MEATS TO BROWSE THEIR RANGE OF LOCALLY SOURCED CUTS-PERFECT FOR A BBQ BY THE RIVER. RIGHT NEXT DOOR, DROP INTO COTTAGE KITCHEN BAKEHOUSE TO GRAB A FRESH LOAF OF BREAD OR A FEW PASTRIES TO ROUND OUT YOUR PICNIC SPREAD. WITH YOUR GOURMET GOODIES IN HAND, MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE WEST ESPLANADE AND ENJOY A RELAXING BBQ PICNIC BY THE BEAUTIFUL DUCK RIVER. AFTER LUNCH, TAKE A GENTLE STROLL ALONG THE RIVERBANK AND THEN DRIVE UP TO TIER HILL LOOKOUT FOR A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON THE RIVER AND SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE.

STOP #5

SMITHTON'S CHARMING LOCAL SHOPS

SMITHTON CBD

BEFORE YOU LEAVE TOWN, BE SURE TO EXPLORE SMITHTON'S CHARMING LOCAL SHOPS - PERFECT FOR PICKING UP CHRISTMAS GIFTS OR TREATING YOURSELF TO SOMETHING SPECIAL.

SO MUCH MORE TO SEE AND DO IN THE AREA. STAY A BIT LONGER AND TAKE A TOUR OF THE TARKINE WITH TALL TIMBERS TOURS, TAKE A CRUISE ALONG THE ARTHUR RIVER WITH ARTHUR RIVER CRUISES OR HEAD OUT TO WOOLNORTH AND EXPERIENCE CAPE GRIM.

SMITHTON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE



A VISITOR CENTRE WITH A DIFFERENCE!

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

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



Our back paddock



Museum
Kids under 15
FREE



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



Pavilions Cafe
Milkshakes
and treats



See the cows
being milked by
robots

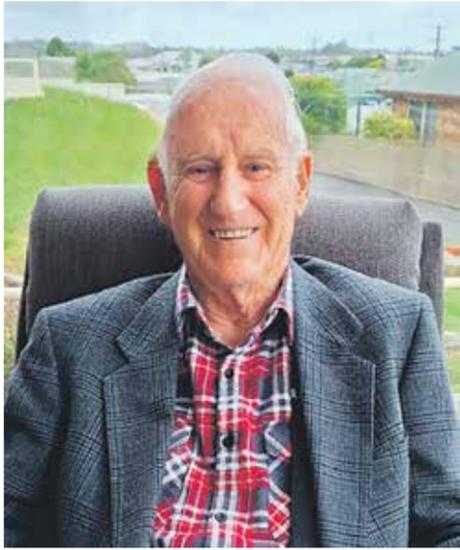


CONTACT US: 03 64 135 333
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www.stanleyandtarkine.com.au
www.discoverthetarkine.com.au



Tales from Emmerton Park - meet the residents

My Story – Aubrey Stone



I was born at Trowutta in 1929. Over the years I lived in many places across the west, but Trowutta is where it all began. Dad was a farm labourer and worked wherever he could to keep the family going. I remember him saying he earned 2 pounds 10 shillings a week. Mum always did her best with what we had, keeping me, my three brothers, and my two sisters fed and “watered.”

We didn't have power, a car, or even a horse and cart. Dad got around on a push bike. Luckily, we had wonderful neighbours who would give us a lift into Smithton when we needed to go.

Our neighbours and our family attended Sunday Brethren Church services in Irishtown. I still see the early misty mornings in my mind, with all the horses

and carts hitched to the split-rail fence. When cars first made their way into the district, the horses didn't like them much at all.

That's where I met my friend Russell Ling. When I was four, Russell and I used to take turns climbing into a big old tyre and rolling each other down the hill. The barbed-wire fence at the bottom usually stopped us. We survived and so did our friendship. Ninety-two years and still going strong.

I went to Trowutta School for a while. I remember getting the cane a few times, though I can't recall what for. We moved often because Dad had to follow the work. Every small town had its own school, which was good, since we still didn't have a car. We lived in Edith Creek, Nabageena, Alcomie, and Forest. At one point we even moved to Devonport for 18 months before returning to Forest to share farm.

In 1940, Dad finally made enough money to buy our own farm at Marawah. We owned the land across the road from the pub down to Green Point. I had to milk six cows before and after school—though I always figured I was lucky, because my brother had to milk ten.

I left school at 14, not by choice. One Sunday afternoon my mate Glen Green and I found a detonator in a quarry and took it home. I tried to light the fuse, but

I couldn't hold it steady, so I stuck it into the end of a cap. Big mistake!

There was a huge bang. We ran outside with Mum close behind, trying to figure out what had happened. We all stood there in shock. Mum asked where all the blood was coming from. I looked down and realised I had lost part of my thumb and my first finger up to the knuckle. The cap had gone through my hand and broken a bone in there as well.

The schoolteacher drove me to the bush nurse, who sent for an ambulance. It took eight hours to get there from Wynyard. Back then, the only sealed road was between Smithton and Stanley, everything else was gravel.

My first job was building houses with Dave Lovegrove. Later I worked in Rosebery as a painter for two years. We painted just about everything down there, even the EZ Company mill.

I met Zona Denby in Rosebery. She was a schoolteacher and engaged to my mate, but I really took a shine to her. Not long after, I moved back to Circular Head, and Zona transferred to Forest Area School. I'd give her a lift into town here and there. Shortly after, Zona broke off the engagement, my mate's downfall became my reward.

We married in 1954 and had two wonderful children, Ian and Karen. In the early years we lived in a caravan, but I eventually built us a house in my spare

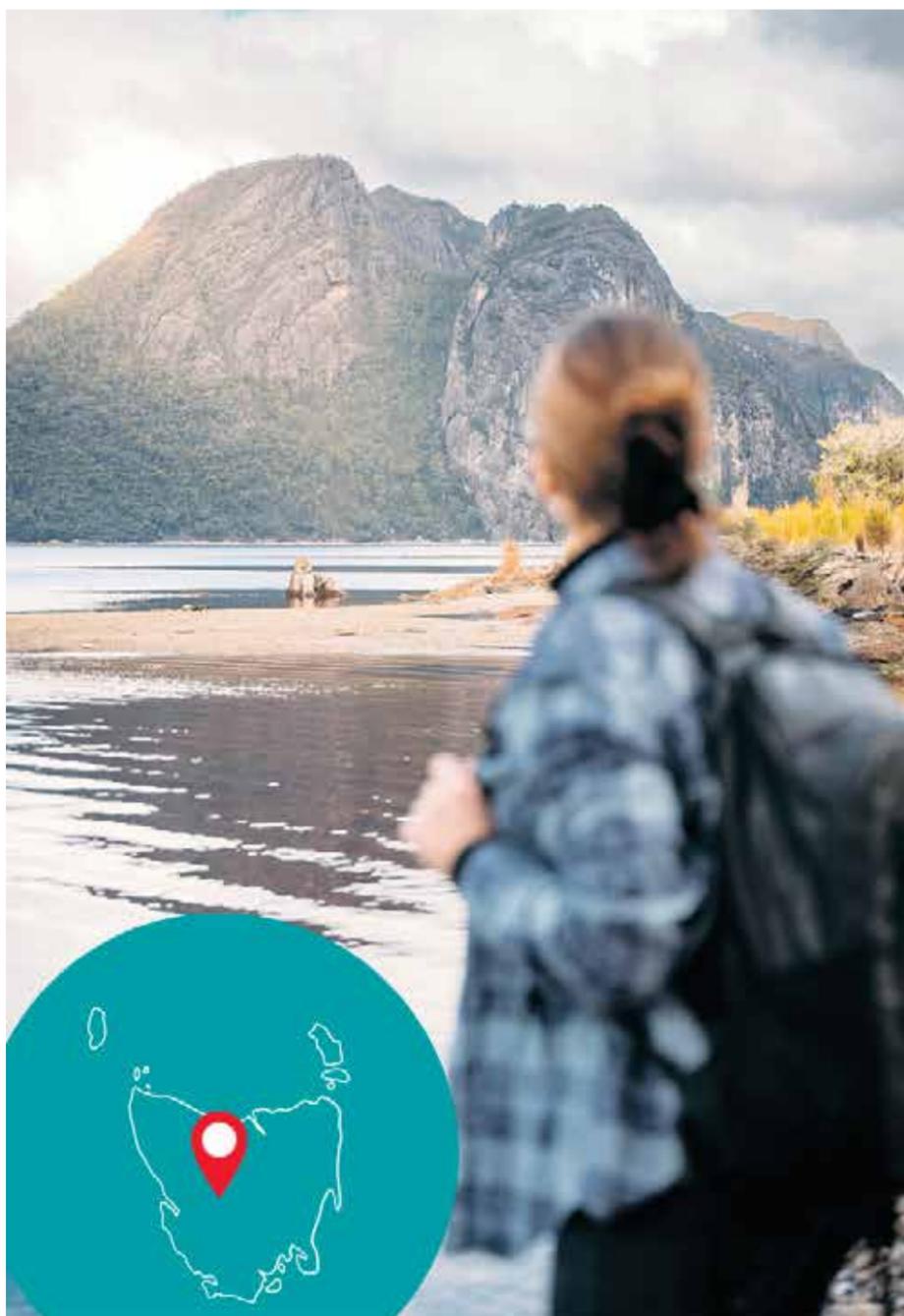
time, just across the road from the Catholic Church in Smithton.

In 1956 I started my own business, Stone Home Builders. I employed five men, and together we built forty homes across Circular Head and eight in Trowutta. I also built the extension on the IGA in Smithton. I always loved Arthur River, the peace and quiet, the fishing was good to. I built our shack down there using timber we milled at Roger River.

I recall one day I was putting a roof on a house with Jim Blake. Jim was the local undertaker and would help me out when business was slow. A fine mist came over and the tin became slick. I slipped and started sliding head-first toward the concrete below. At the last moment Jim grabbed my ankle and hauled me back. Then he said, “What did I do that for? I've just done myself out of business!” We laughed about that for years.

After twenty years in building, I moved into the heating trade, where I worked for the next thirty-two years. I installed wood, gas, and oil heaters in homes all over. When heat pumps came in, I decided it was time to retire. Even then, I kept busy fixing small engines, lawnmowers, and water pumps — turned it into a bit of a hobby, really.

Looking back, it's been a full life, hard work, good mates, family, and plenty of stories worth telling. I wouldn't have done it anywhere else.



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 to plan your trip!



Ghostly Encounters at the Gaiety

On Saturday, 6 December 2024, Tasmania's Most Haunted hosted a two-hour paranormal investigation at the iconic Gaiety Theatre in Zeehan, drawing a full group of 12 enthusiastic participants — including a dedicated family of four who travelled all the way from Victoria specifically to join the event.

The evening began with a detailed briefing on the history of the theatre and the region and hands-on training session, allowing guests to familiarise themselves with an array of specialised paranormal equipment.

Once prepared, the group entered the main auditorium, where the night's activity quickly unfolded.

Investigators experienced a series of intelligent responses from the music box, which repeatedly activated in direct reaction to questions. The music box activates also by movement. The Flux device lit up as it detected movement on both sides, signalling directional responses, while the dead bell rang without

any physical interaction. On the stage, the trip wire and Para-Rem alarmed simultaneously, adding to an already charged atmosphere. A sensor light ball placed atop a vintage coin purse activated unexpectedly, further fuelling speculation of unseen company.

The group then moved into the small theatre, where equipment was placed along the hallway known as the Fenerey. Here, the music box and dead bell again responded, with a group of three guests receiving what appeared to be communicative, instruction-based activations.

The night ended with an Estes Experiment, producing several intriguing responses. When asked, "Where are you now?", the reply came through clearly: "Heaven... then dead." Guests also experimented throughout the night with handheld EMF detectors and divining rods, experiencing fluctuations and movements throughout the night.

It was, by all accounts, an exceptionally active investigation.

Tasmania's Most Haunted extends sincere thanks to everyone who attended and supported the event, and a special thank-you to Alan from Western Echo for joining us, capturing remarkable im-

ages, and sharing the experience with the community.

We look forward to returning to the Gaiety Theatre in 2026 for more unforgettable nights of history and mystery.



Tales from a Zeehan graveyard

ELDERLY RECLUSE DIES IN FALL DOWN EMBANKMENT

John Mackrill was born in Launceston on the 30th January, 1849, and died on Thursday the 22nd of May, 1919 at the Five-Mile settlement near Zeehan. Alternatively known as Nickel Junction, this tiny settlement was situated about nine kilometres north east of Zeehan near Melba Flats.

Mackrill had led the life of a hermit for about twenty years, and was apparently a strange, melancholy man, who appeared at times to be carrying a load of sorrow, which caused him to be pre-occupied, and to live as if in a world of his own. It was not known whether he had any relatives in Tasmania, or anywhere else for that matter.

He had a great fondness of cats, and this led to him being given the nickname of "Catty Jack," by which he was better known. At one stage of his life it was thought he lived with about eighty felines, but at the time of his death this number had decreased to about twenty. They were his only companions during the long period he lived at the Five Mile. It was said that there was a peculiar understanding between him and cats, and when his body was brought into Zeehan by train, cats in the vicinity of the railway station came meowing around his body.

A coronial enquiry was held at the Zeehan District Hospital during the afternoon of Saturday 24th

May before the Strahan coroner, Mr A.G. Prater, as the Zeehan coroner, Captain W. Fisher was away.

The first witness called was Doctor A.J. Kerr, who said he was a locum for Dr. Panting. He had examined the body and found it to be extremely emaciated from starvation, but there were no marks of external violence. There was no frac-



The Five Mile showing the Madam Melba Hotel

ture of the skull or any disease of the brain. The heart had a form of chronic valvular disease. There were no diseases in any of the other organs. He had found a fracture of the third cervical vertebrae, and considered that this had caused Mackrill's death. It could have happened by a fall down a bank, owing to the generally poor state of the deceased's health.

The next witness, Sub-Inspector Pemberton, said he had received a telephone call from Mr V. Harris, Zeehan stationmaster, at about 5:45

p.m. that afternoon informing him of the death. He then proceeded to the Five-Mile in an engine and van belonging to the Emu Bay Company. He found the deceased's body lying alongside the railway line at the bottom of a bank, about [one metre] high. From the appearance of the clothes, deceased had evidently fallen down the bank on his

previous Thursday she was standing while waiting for a train on the Emu Bay line, from about 4:12 p.m. till 5:05 p.m. After she heard the train whistle she heard deceased call out "George." She asked him where he was, and went to the top of the cutting where the sound had come from. She did not see him, and again asked where he was, and deceased said he was in the cutting. He had evidently fallen into the cutting while she was walking to the top. He asked her to help him up, so she helped him into a sitting position. When he sat up he said he would soon be alright, and made no complaints about anybody interfering with him. He died a few minutes later. He had been ill for the last few days. He told her he was carrying some wood.

After hearing all of the evidence, Coroner Prater returned a verdict of accidental death caused by fracture of the third cervical vertebrae, apparently caused by a fall, and that there was no violence or foul play.

The date and time of his funeral is unknown, but Mackrill was most likely laid to rest the day after the Coronial Enquiry. He was interred in the Presbyterian section (nearest to the current day entrance) but the exact location is not known.

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

head. There were no suspicious circumstances, and no external marks of violence on the body, except a slight scratch on one of the ears. He had been told that deceased had been carrying wood at the time, and there was a piece of wood near the body. He had the body placed in the mortuary at Zeehan at about 7:30 p.m. He had searched the clothing and found [1 shilling and 1 penny] in cash as well as other various bits and pieces.

Margaret Kleim, postmistress at the Five-Mile, stated that on the



ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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

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



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

Spooky happenings in Rosebery

Halloween brought plenty of excitement to Rosebery this October, with a couple of new community events creating a fun and festive atmosphere for families, children, and residents of all ages. To kick things off, the Rosebery District School hosted the first of its annual Halloween Fair on school grounds. The event proved to be a wonderful success, offering a variety of activities that kept everyone entertained. Students, parents, and community members came together to enjoy games, treats and lots of laughter, making it a memorable start to the Halloween season.

Adding to the spooky celebrations, the Rosebery Spirit Group partnered with the Rosebery Lions Club to revive the much-loved Haunted House at the Rosebery Memorial Hall. Volunteers worked hard to prepare scary decorations, costumes, and scares, bringing the attraction back to life. The Haunted House delivered plenty of thrills delighting both the young and the young at heart. Thanks to the community, the group successfully raised \$185. These funds will go directly toward the upcoming Community Christmas Party in December. The Rosebery Spirit Group extends a massive thankyou to the West Coast Council and the Rosebery Lions Club for their assistance. Their help with setting up and delivering the frightful fun played a huge role in making the Haunted House such a hit. With this year's

success, the group is promising that next year's Haunted House will be "bigger and scarier".

Looking ahead, Rosebery is preparing for its second annual Community Christmas Party, scheduled for Sunday, 14 December. The event will feature a Christmas Parade, community markets, food stalls, entertainment, and a variety of festive activities for families. Everyone is encouraged to mark their calendars and join in the celebration!



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– Dr Matthew Fielding, Pathway program graduate

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Scan the QR to learn more or go to utas.edu.au/pathways

Community Rallies behind three-day run for cancer awareness

Tasmania's North-West Coast was the scene of an inspiring three-day run led by Sari-Elle Kraemer, President of the Coogee Lions Club, to raise funds and awareness for the fledgling Lions Tasmania Skin Cancer Foundation.

Covering over 160 kilometers from Smithton to Port Sorell, the event brought together local Lions clubs, the Tasmanian Tractor Trekkers and supporters in a collective effort to raise funds for the Foundation's new mobile skin cancer awareness vehicle, due to begin operation early in 2026.

The Launch

The week began on Tuesday 4th November with an evening launch event at the Smithton Big Club, where Sari-Elle was welcomed by Mayor Gerard Blizzard. The function was attended by Lions Club members from the Rocky Cape and Smithton Circular Head, the local Rotary Club, councillors and community members. Sari-Elle spoke about the importance of skin cancer awareness and of her experiences raising funds for Lions through marathons and run events. The evening raised \$1000 towards the project.

Day 1: Smithton to Boat Harbour (57km)

Despite the threat of wet weather, spirits were high as Sari-Elle set off from the Smithton Recreation Centre. The Tasmanian Tracker Trekkers Club provided an escort, while Foundation Chairperson, Richard Cochrane followed closely behind. The Rocky Cape Lions Club hosted a lunch at the Rocky

Cape Tavern, with a special presentation from Lion Ron Prior, whose book sales support the Foundation. After lunch, Sari-Elle was joined by local restaurant owner TJ Lanigan for the remainder of the run to Boat Harbour.

The run through the Sister's Hills proved challenging, with the heavy rain



causing the runners to be saturated by the wash of passing trucks and navigating the hills, TJ and Sari-Elle enjoyed a welcome half-way stop at the café Muddy Boots. That evening, Wynard Lions served what Kraemer described as "the best tasting sausage sizzle I've ever had", indulging in six sausages!

Day 2: Boat Harbour to Penguin (48km)

The convoy grew with seven tractors leading the way, showcasing strong support from the farming community.

Lunch was provided by the Burnie Emu Bay Lions Club, and coverage from The Advocate newspaper helped spread the message. Kraemer stopped at the Penguin Surf Life Saving Club to speak with the Silver Salties, sharing stories that highlighted the urgent need for better skin cancer screening in regional areas.

The day concluded with a BBQ hosted by Penguin Lions at the Big Penguin, and a live radio cross from Kelli Coast FM.

Day 3: Penguin to Port Sorell (44km)

Rain persisted, but the enthusiasm never waned. The Lions Club of Devonport Mersey braved the weather to serve a final

BBQ, and a surprise delivery of Lions Christmas cakes from the Bicheno Lions Club provided a much-needed sugar boost for the last 10 kilometres. The run concluded with a speech at the Tasmanian Lions District Convention, where donations from clubs and the public helped raise around \$5,500 for the Foundation. There was a surprise donation from the President of the Port Sorell CWA, who had heard about the run on the radio and whose personal experience with skin cancer led her to urge her club

to donate to the cause.

Lasting Impact

"This week showed the power of community," Kraemer said. She also thanked the Smithton Circular Head, Rocky Cape, Wynyard, Burnie Emu Bay, Penguin and Devonport Mersey Lions Clubs for hosting events and making the time to support her and her team. "Running and Lions are my passion, and this week the Lions clubs showed me why I am proud to be a Lion," she said.

Kraemer plans to return to Tasmania in 2026 to enter the Gone Nuts run in February and the Burnie 10 with a Tassie Lions team in October. Funds raised will help launch the Lions Tasmania Skin Cancer Foundation's mobile van into operation in 2026, bringing vital skin checks and skin cancer awareness to the more rural and remote communities across Tasmania who don't have easy access to skin cancer clinics. Kraemer encouraged continued support, with donations still being accepted online <https://www.givenow.com.au/run4lions> and a video snapshot of the run available for viewing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEzcFY-Dxze8>.

Foundation Chairman, Richard Cochrane, is calling for anyone with a nursing or medical background to apply to be a volunteer dermascopists. Volunteers will only be called to assist in their area and in times that don't conflict with work commitments. Please call Richard on 0455500314 for more information and to register your interest.

Under The Horizontal *with Tewkesbury Wharf*

One of the most intriguing anecdotes of early West Coast history is a tale entitled 'Black Bella'. It details a kangaroo court held in Trial Harbour after the second female arrival on the tin field was stabbed and injured. The perpetrator, a man named Messiah, was held to account, tried and found guilty by a court of his peers presided over by Ted Peavor. He was sentenced to banishment from the West Coast, given half hour head start and released. Messiah was never seen again on the coast.

It is a curious tale of frontier justice worthy of the Wild West, yet there are no further details. Who was Messiah? The official histories are silent on the matter, yet there are answers if one is prepared to dig through the archives and risk brain and eye strain.

Messiah, for his part was a Mauritian cook on the barque, Araunah, that arrived Launceston on the 14th of February, 1881. He then absented himself upon the ship's departure and his desertion may have come to light after he appeared as a witness in The Band of Hope gold salting case. Whatever the circumstances he was duly arrested and given a sentence of six weeks hard labour.

Messiah next appearance is from a prospector on his way to Mount Heemskirk, and we get Messiah's full name, Albert Frederick Augustus Plantagenet Messiah. Although, the author mistakes Albert for Arthur.



According to the report, Messiah had been a missionary in Africa and the West Indies, a correspondent and reporter, a lawyer's clerk, a ship's cook,

a chef de cuisine, and a charcoal burner at Mount Bischoff before setting off for the West Coast. Later we learn he failed to discover any lodes and was last seen resuming his charcoal burning at Mount Heemskirk.

His next appearance, which is definitively after the event of the kangaroo court, is once again before the beak in the Hobart Police Court. It was

alleged that Messiah had borrowed money and purchased wines from a Mr Brown of the Nautilus Hotel, and in payment offered Mr Brown scrip for five shares in the Scottish Chief Tim Mining Company. Later he offered a further twenty shares in said company for a trifling fifteen shillings.

After hearing that Messiah was about to join Burton's Circus as a 'bounding Ethiopian of the desert', Brown smelled a rat, informed the police and approached Messiah, who assured Brown that he possessed the land and a company would be quickly floated. Brown did not press the charge, but when confiding friends, who also had scrip from Messiah came looking for him. It was learned he had quit the circus and had signed on as a cook on the Wagoola, sailing that day. Messiah made the mistake of going ashore and the police arrested him.

He served 12 months with hard labour, after which he appears to have left Tasmania.

In my next we explore what is known about Isabella James aka Black Bella

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WEST

WEST COAST CATHOLIC PARISH

Christmas Mass Times 2025

Wednesday 24th Dec 2025: Christmas Eve

St. Joseph's, Rosebery at 5 pm
St. Joseph's, Queenstown at 8 pm

Thursday 25th Dec 2024: Christmas day

St. Fursaeus' Zeehan at 9.30 am
Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Strahan at 11.30 am

Special Mass at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Strahan for all the VISITORS at 11.30 am on the 2nd Sunday and 4th

Sunday of the Month from January to March 2026.

11.01.2026 - 2nd Sunday at 11.30 am
25.01.2026 - 4th Sunday at 11.30 am
08.02.2026 - 2nd Sunday at 11.30 am
22.02.2026 - 4th Sunday at 11.30 am
08.03.2026 - 2nd Sunday at 11.30 am
22.03.2026 - 4th Sunday at 11.30 am

All are welcome!!!

CONTACT

Fr.Arokia Aruldas
Administrator
2 Pontifex Street
PO Box 272, Queenstown, TAS 7467
Phone: 03 64711731
Email: westcoast@aohtas.org.au

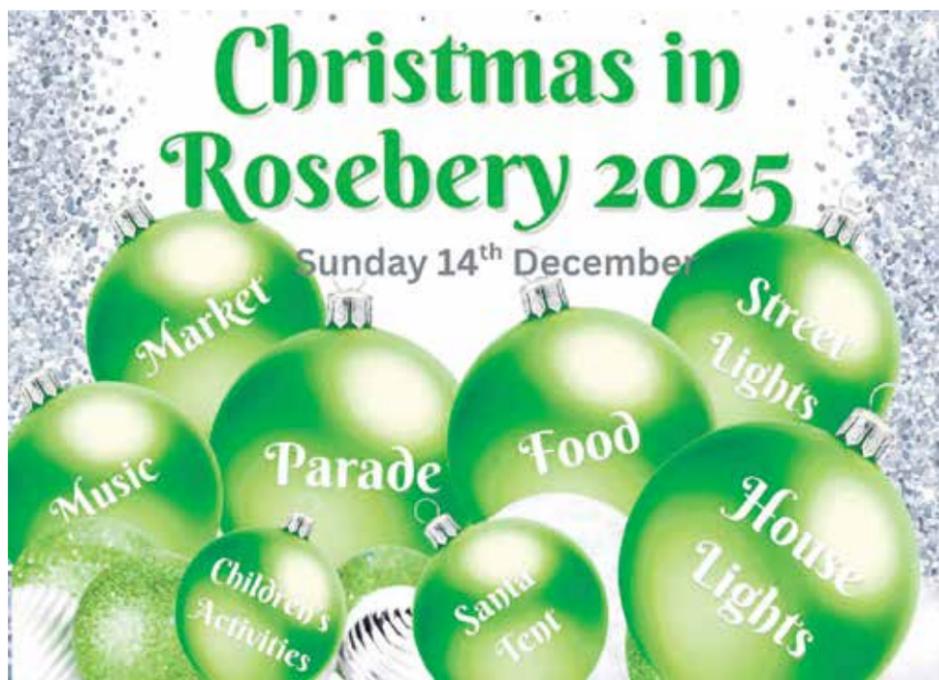
Rosebery Writer's Club

For anyone who has an interest in writing songs, poems, short stories or books.

- Everyone is welcome, whether you are just getting interested in writing, or you're a published author.
- We aim to bring people together in a supportive atmosphere to learn, discuss and share ideas about writing.
- Interested in writing, but don't know where or how to start?
- Done some writing before, but not satisfied with how it turned out?
- Want to share your writing with others and get supportive, constructive feedback?
- The Rosebery Writer's Club is about getting together with other writers, socializing, having fun and learning how to be the best writer you can be.

I am testing the waters to find out how many may be interested in meeting weekly to learn, share our works and give supportive advice on how to improve on our writing. I have a venue for us to get together, but dates and times will be worked out after discussing with people who are interested.

For more information, call Buck on 0466 011 913



Delicious food at the Big Z

Drop into the BIG Z cafe and restaurant for great coffee, wonderful food and friendly service from Mal and the team.
Tuesday to Saturday 8.00 am to 3.00 pm
Sunday 8.30 am to 3.30 pm
Closed Mondays
in Zeehan's main street.



We would like to wish all our loving diners a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year 2026





ZEEHAN NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE



CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR CLOSURE

Closed
Friday 19th December 2024

Reopen
Monday 5th January 2025

The Management Committee, staff and volunteers would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year






CAR SHOW

ROSEBERY ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2025

ROSEBERY PARK OVAL

CAR OF THE DAY (JUDGES CHOICE) \$200.00
CAR OF THE DAY (PEOPLES CHOICE) \$200.00
BEST WORK HORSE (JUDGES CHOICE) \$150.00
ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD (JUDGES CHOICE) \$100.00

- * All vehicles must be registered & roadworthy
- * Arrive before 9.30 am at Rosebery Park Oval
- * Pay a Carnival entry fee.(keep your ticket)

- SMS to register: (text message only) **0493785006** for each entry -
- YOUR NAME
- CATEGORY YOU'RE ENTERING
- REGO NUMBER
- VEHICLE TYPE

Come and join a fun family event, and contribute to the Athletics Carnival - **10 am to 4 pm**

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, REV UP YOUR ENGINES"

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WEST

Trial Harbour Progress Association Inc.
P.O. Box 74, Zeehan, Tasmania, 7469
trialharbourpa@gmail.com



2025 Trial Harbour Sports Day

Join us for the annual THPA Sports Day at the Community Shed and Sports Green.
Races for all ages - even the fur-babies!



Races start:
12.00pm

Wednesday
31
December 2025

Evening start:
9.00pm
bring a plate and
your dancing shoes

Enjoy a saveloy in bread
Super 66 board running - \$5 per number



Wee Georgie Wood Steam Railway

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

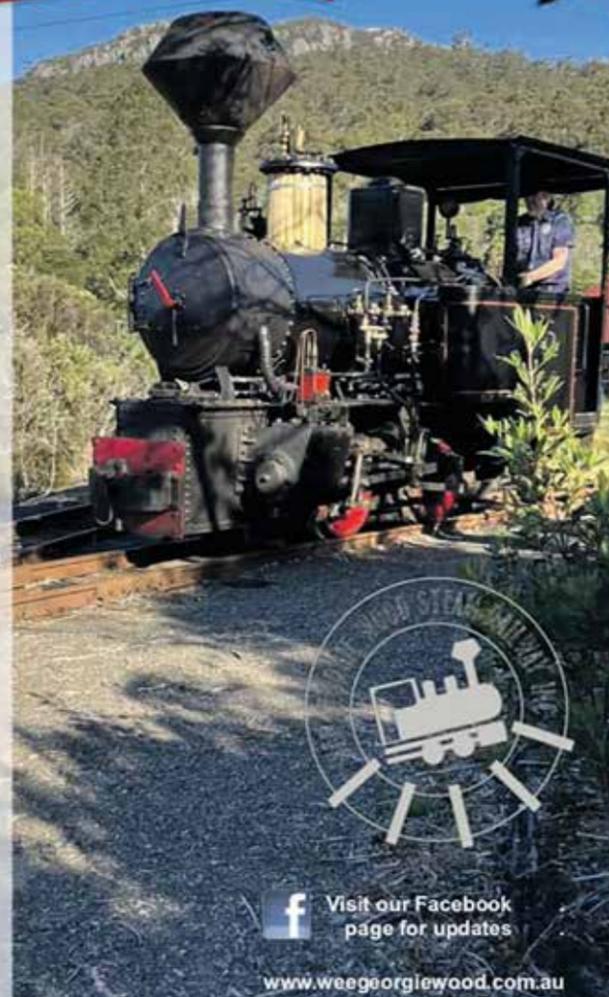
January 10 & 11
Australia Day Weekend
January 24 & 25 & 26

February 7 & 8
February 21 & 22

March 14 & 15
March 28 & 29

Easter Weekend
April 4 & 5 & 6

ANZAC Weekend
April 25 & 26 & 27



Visit our Facebook page for updates

www.weegeorgiewood.com.au

ROSEBERY ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2025



AT ROSEBERY PARK OVAL | 10 am

BOOK THE DATE



Meet Jesus at Christmas!



Anglicans of the Western Wilds

Traditional Carols & stories celebrating the birth of Jesus.

23 Harvey St Strahan at 8pm, Dec 24.

41 Driffield St Queenstown at 9.30 Christmas day.

Never been to church? Great!
Just come as you are.
Families very welcome.



Questions?
Call Pastor Dave Williams
0493 422 547



ROSEBERY BINGO NIGHT IS BACK



DOORS OPEN AT: 06:00PM
EYES DOWN: 06:30PM

3 week Trial

Mondays

Starts 1st December 2025.



Rosebery Toorak Football Clubrooms
6 Primrose Street, Rosebery.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE NORTHWEST

Christmas in Circular Head

Mon 8 Dec	7:00 pm	Community Prayer Meeting at Dreambuilders Church
Fri 12 Dec	7:00 pm	Smithton Christmas Parade Harvest Church open for hot chocolates during the Smithton Christmas Parade
	7:45 pm	Christmas Movie Night at Cornerstone (come at 6 pm for dinner)
Sat 13 Dec	11:00 am	Stanley Christmas Parade
Sun 14 Dec	6:30 pm	Circular Head Community Christmas Carols @ Highfield House, Stanley
Sat 20 Dec	2:00 pm	Carols at Montagu Community Church followed by afternoon tea
Sun 21 Dec	10:00 am	Christmas Breakfast at Harvest Church
	10:00 am	Carols at Cornerstone followed by a light lunch
	10:30 am	Christmas Celebration Service at Rocky Cape Family Church
Tues 23 Dec	7:00 pm	Carols at Harvest Church
Wed 24 Dec	5:00 pm	Carols at Smithton Catholic Church followed by Christmas Mass
	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve BBQ for Everyone at Circular Head Anglican followed by Carols
	7:00 pm	Carols at Dreambuilders Church
Thurs 25 Dec	8:30 am	Christmas Mass at Stanley Catholic Church
	9:00 am	Carols and Communion at Circular Head Anglican
	10:00 am	Carols at Smithton Catholic Church followed by Christmas Mass
Sun 28 Dec	11:30 am	Fellowship Lunch at Cornerstone



Presented by the churches of Circular Head

Circular Head Anglican Church
94a Emmett Street, Smithton

Harvest Church Circular Head
51 Havelock Street, Smithton

Rocky Cape Family Church
19074 Bass Highway

Cornerstone Community Church
126-128 Nelson Street, Smithton

Montagu Community Church
8 Wilsons Road, Montagu

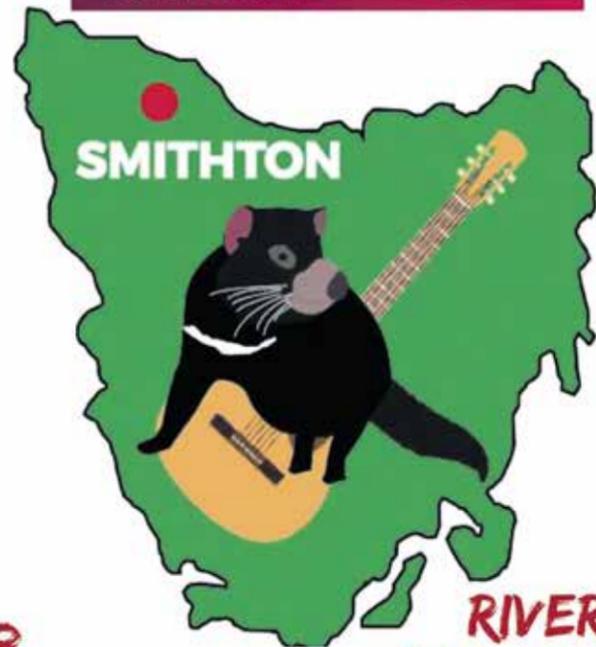
St Peter Chanel Catholic Church
1 Sampson Avenue, Smithton

Dreambuilders Church
31 Brittons Road, Smithton

Our Star of the Sea Catholic Church
8 Marshall Street, Stanley

DEVIL COUNTRY MUSTER 2026 13TH ANNUAL

Community Bank
Smithton &
Districts Bendigo Bank



FEB.
4-8

Rotary
Club of Smithton



RIVERBEND
YOUTH
CENTRE

30 Prizes to be WON!

\$5.00 per ticket **RAFFLE**



Circular Head
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY INC.

TEMMA FARM
EST 1871

JOINT RAFFLE BETWEEN THE CIRCULAR HEAD SHOW SOCIETY, ROCKY CAPE AND SMITHTON LIONS' CLUB AND CIRCULAR HEAD SAINTS FOOTBALL CLUB

sponsored by **Temma Farm** in conjunction with **Greenham Tas** and **Perry's Quality Meats**

1st Prize: 6kg Strip Loin Robbins Island Wagyu Beef / Greenham Tas donated by the Hammond Family (Value \$1200)

- 2nd Declomax Fire Pll donated by Elders (Value \$650)
- 3rd Pieman River Cruise and Overnight Accommodation for Two donated by Pieman River Cruises (Value \$559)
- 4th Domestic - Cool Ice C170 Icebox donated by Yolla Co-op (Value \$485)
- 5th Kinchrome Portable Tool Kit donated by Ag Warehouse, Smithton (Value \$419)
- 6th Arthur River Cruise (Red Boat) & Accommodation for Two donated by Arthur River Cabin Park & Cruises (Value \$400)
- 7th Gordon River Cruise for Two People donated by World Heritage Cruises, Strahan (Value \$310)
- 8th \$300 Voucher donated by Muirs Smithton
- 9th Accommodation & Continental Breakfast for Two donated by Noah's Stanley Luxury Bed & Breakfast (Value \$298)
- 10th Vouchers donated by All Wheel Services, Smithton (Value \$250)
- 11th Services donated by Glynn's Lawyers - Legal Consultation for One person's Will (Conditions Apply) (Value \$250)
- 12th Hamper Gift Pack donated by Grumpy Goal Co, Smithton (Value \$210)
- 13th - 17th Cape Grim Beef - 1x3.5 kg Scotch Fillet donated by Temma Farm in conjunction with Greenham Tas (Value \$200 each)
- 18th - 19th Side of Black River Lamb donated by Phillip & Fiona Medwin, Gateforth Farm (Value \$190)
- 20th Approx 2 Metres of Split Wood donated by the Bergman Family (Value \$180) Or Circular Head Gift Card to the value of \$150
- 21st Crayfish (Approx 2kg) donated by Graham Airey (Value \$170)
- 22nd COB Ham (Approx 6kg) donated by Perry's Quality Meats (value \$150)
- 23rd Safety Power Block with 1.8m Lead donated by Ag Warehouse (Value \$145)
- 24th \$100 Fuel Voucher donated by Fuel on Goldie
- 25th \$100 Voucher donated by Circular Head Motorcycles
- 26th \$100 Meal Voucher donated by Lanigan's, Rocky Cape
- 27th \$100 Meal Voucher donated by Rocky Cape Tavern
- 28th \$100 Voucher donated by Smithton Bella Home Living
- 29th Outdoor 2.95m Umbrella donated by Armour Millie 10 (Value \$99)
- 30th \$50 Fuel Voucher Fuel on Goldie donated by Cheryl Lardner

Thank you to all donors of the above prizes. Raffle will be drawn at December Stanley Harvest Market 20th December. Tickets available at various local outlets and on-line by contacting chagsociety@gmail.com or inbox the Circular Head Show Facebook page.

STANLEY HARVEST

PRODUCE & PANTRY

Twilight Christmas Market

QUALITY MAKERS & PRODUCERS
LIVE MUSIC ft. Jerome Hillier
FOOD VANS
BAR & MORE

Saturday 20th December
3:00pm - 8:00pm
Stanley Exhibition Hall & Grounds
NO BYO

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE NORTHWEST

Scholarship applications
now open

Soroptimist International of Circular Head

Applications are now open!

Soroptimist International of Circular Head is excited to offer our 2025 Tertiary Scholarship, supporting a local woman beginning tertiary education.

If you're studying next year - this scholarship could help lighten the load with costs like books, travel, accommodation or fees.

We believe in empowering local women to achieve their goals, and we're proud to invest in your future.

Applications close: Midnight, 19 December 2024

Message our page if you have any questions.

Application link: <https://www.circularhead.tas.gov.au/.../educ.../scholarships>



RIDGLEY 2 Parker Crt

COMMUNITY MARKET

13 December 9-1



Good Gumnuts Festival 26

6th - 7th - 8th March 2026

DOPE LEMON - THE JUNGLE GIANTS

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

PATAWAY/BURNIE, LUTRUWITA/TASMANIA

ALL AGES MUSIC, ARTS & CAMPING FESTIVAL



Merry Christmas!
& happy new year

Circular Head Council
33 Goldie St, Smithton TAS 7330
03 6452 4800
circularhead.tas.gov.au

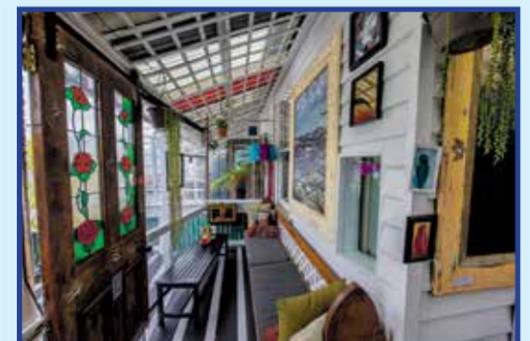
ABN: 43 826 151 424
PO Box 348, Smithton TAS 7330
Open to the public 9am to 4pm

Circular Head Council office will close from 12pm on 23 December 2025
& will re-open at 9am on 5 January 2026



Little Bird - Tarkine

Located in the central Smithton CBD
Booking.com or Airbnb.com.au



Private front half of heritage home
Huge private verandah and art gallery

Top 1% of Airbnb homes

Email: littlebirdsmithton@outlook.com 0450 911 955



Make it home for Christmas

The 12 Safety Checks of Christmas

A message from the Circular Head Community Road Safety Partnerships (CRSP) committee

Get your car road-ready before the holidays, we're encouraging you to check your car.

12-Point Safety Checklist:

- Tyres: Check pressure, tread depth, and look for wear or damage
- Lights: Test headlights, brake lights, indicators, and reverse lights
- Wipers & Washer Fluid: Ensure blades are clean and replace if streaky
- Brakes: Listen for unusual noises; braking should feel smooth
- Battery: Check charge and terminals for corrosion
- Oil Levels: Top up engine oil if needed
- Coolant: Confirm levels are correct and leak-free
- Windscreen: Inspect for chips or cracks
- Seatbelts: Ensure all belts click in properly and aren't frayed
- Emergency Kit: Include jumper leads, first aid, torch, and water
- Registration & Insurance: Confirm they're current
- Load Safety: Secure gifts, luggage, or caravans properly - Don't overload!



The music sounds better in Braddon

The Albanese Labor Government is delivering on its commitment to support our live music industry to keep venues open and festivals entertaining fans across the country.

Through the Revive Live program, the Albanese Labor Government will provide support to 105 organisations across Australia, including in Braddon.

The funding ensures music venues and festivals remain open and accessible to all audiences.

Among those receiving funding are:

• Good Gumnuts Festival, Tasmania: the much-loved local music initiative will receive \$70,000 to support Australian artist fees, professional development, production and accessibility costs

Good Gumnuts festival aims to foster community, connection, and unforgettable memories in a picturesque setting, supporting a diverse range of Australian music.

Member for Braddon, Anne Urquhart, said the funding is a win for the region.

"Good Gumnuts is a fantastic example of how live music brings people together and strengthens our community. This support means local artists can keep performing and audiences can keep enjoying the music we love."

Harry Baldock, Festival Organiser welcomed the announcement:

"When Charlotte and I got the call from Anne to say our application was successful, it honestly blew us away. What we do at Good Gumnuts is all about spreading the joy of music, arts, and culture, and bringing people to the northwest coast of

Tassie. Receiving this funding means we can focus even more on delivering what we set out to achieve."

"The music industry is tough right now, so support like this is absolutely incredible. We're genuinely grateful to the Albanese Labor Government for backing us, supporting our dream, and helping us bring an event of this scale to the northwest coast."

Established in the 2024-25 Budget, Revive Live aligns with the Albanese Labor Government's National Cultural Policy, Revive, which recognises the Australian music sector as a vibrant part of our arts and cultural landscape.

Through Revive, the Government last year established Music Australia within Creative Australia, with new funding of more than \$69 million to support and promote the Australian contemporary music industry to increase discoverability and develop markets and audiences.



Bring your **HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS** for **FREE & SAFE DISPOSAL**

OVER 2.4 Tonnes collected in 2024

For safety reasons no early or late drop offs will be accepted

Dispose of old and unwanted household and garden chemicals from your home

- Solvents and household cleaners
- Floor care products
- Ammonia-based cleaners
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Poisons
- Pool chemicals
- Hobby chemicals
- Acids and alkalis
- Vapes

NOT permitted are: motor oil, asbestos, pharmaceuticals, farm vet chemicals, fire extinguishers, ammunition and explosives, and chemicals from commercial businesses.

Proudly supported by:

**Smithton Council
Chambers Carpark**

**Wynyard Waste
Transfer Station**

9am to 12pm

1pm to 4pm

Friday 28 November

Friday 28 November

West Coast Council

**South Burnie
Car Park**

**Bookings required, to
arrange collection:**

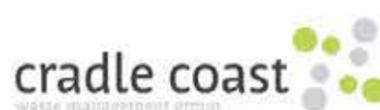
10am to 2pm

**Email: admin@dulverton.com.au
or Call: (03) 6424 7344**

Saturday 29 November

Bookings close 14th November

These dates don't suit you? Scan here for more dates and locations:



WESTERN ECHO PUZZLE PAGE

SWAMP



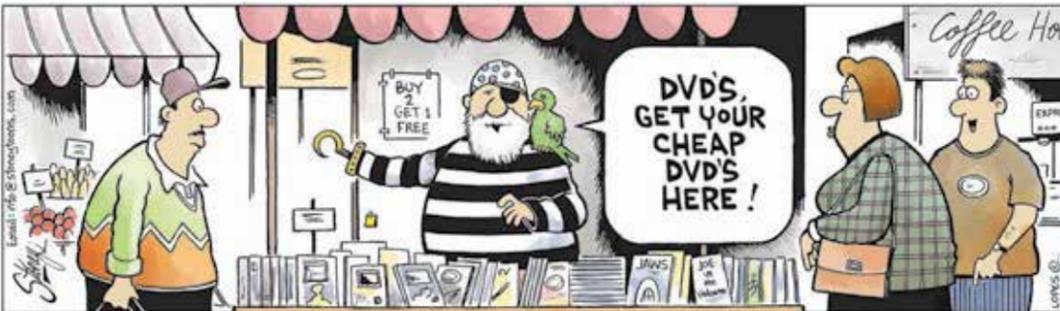
BEYOND THE BLACK STUMP



CLANCY



INSANITY STREAK



AGAINST THE GRAIN



JUMBLE No. 694

U	L	F
Y	A	F
R	E	L

TODAY'S TARGET
 14 Words **Good**
 17 Words **Very Good**
 21 Words **Excellent**
 25 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.

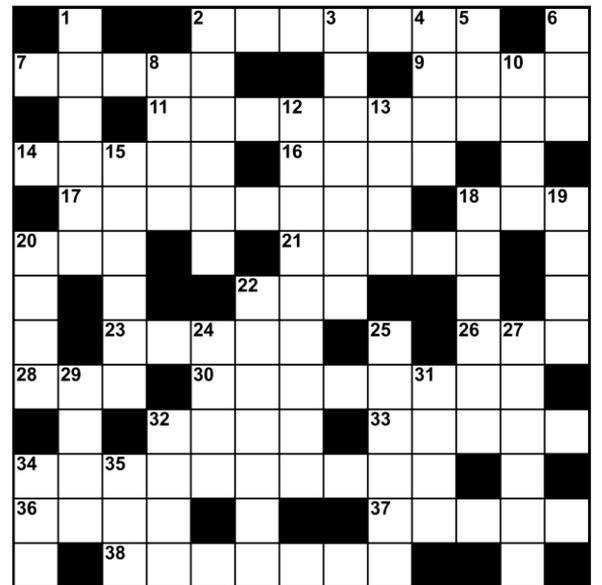
SUDOKU No. 015

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

CROSSWORD No. 10863

ACROSS

- 2 Hairy
- 7 Weird
- 9 Comfort
- 11 Strictly disciplined
- 14 Fanatical
- 16 Pinches
- 17 Re-establish
- 18 Wager
- 20 Sheltered side
- 21 Bailiff
- 22 Public transport
- 23 Intermixed drinks
- 26 Golf mound
- 28 Definite article
- 30 Recluses
- 32 German river
- 33 Great arterial trunk
- 34 Causing to diminish
- 36 Drug-yielding plant
- 37 Exuded
- 38 Bony



DOWN

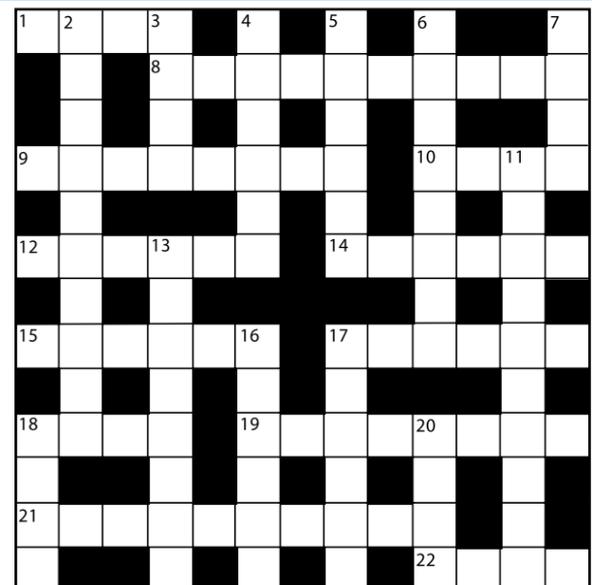
- 1 Be careful
- 2 Paid attention

- 3 Figures of speech expressing resemblance
- 4 Perfect scores
- 5 Consume
- 6 Snake-like fish
- 8 Flower
- 10 Wise man
- 12 Unwelcome visitors
- 13 Duelling sword
- 15 Insect
- 18 Preferable
- 19 Faithful
- 20 Plunder
- 22 Make desolate through loss
- 24 Surrender
- 25 Keyboard instruments
- 27 High regard
- 29 Part of a shoe
- 31 African republic
- 32 Metal-bearing rocks
- 34 Water storage
- 35 Dove's call

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD No. 16514

ACROSS

- 1 Said to cry at the dance (4)
- 8 With some difficulty on part of the racecourse (2,1,7)
- 9 Remaining status (8)
- 10 Uncommon in better areas (4)
- 12 Made his way to get married without purpose (6)
- 14 Said to kill with a snow vehicle (6)
- 15 Swordsman putting up railings (6)
- 17 Sounds like an original song concerning nakedness (6)
- 18 Volcano featuring in some street names (4)
- 19 Keeps up with America in blemishes (8)
- 21 Its terms may well be instructive (6,4)
- 22 Get rid of the lean-to (4)



DOWN

- 2 Friendly greetings as a winner can't be chosen (3,3,4)
- 3 Fabric that should be green (4)
- 4 A drive turned out to be different (6)
- 5 Clearly marked steps for acting? (6)
- 6 Assist to stoke up the fire in the corner (8)
- 7 The girl holds nothing but a footwear item (4)
- 11 The correct viewpoint at a corner of the square (5,5)
- 13 A tyrant in office? (8)
- 16 The outcome of changes in Ulster (6)
- 17 Possibly snares a former Egyptian leader (6)
- 18 Point out a seat (4)
- 20 Snobbish tunes? (4)

PREVIOUS ANSWERS

Crossword No. 10862

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

Sudoku No. 014

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

Cryptic No. 16513

Across: 7 Aryan; 8 Lookout; 9 Tiny tot; 10 Lines; 12 Tear-stains; 15 Treble clef; 18 Debar; 19 Altered; 21 Servers; 22 Mason.

Down: 1 Maltreated; 2 Lying; 3 Unit; 4 Slater; 5 Roulette; 6 Toenail; 11 Suspending; 13 Enlarger; 14 Members; 16 Chaise; 17 Crash; 20 Time.

Jumble 693

equip etui inept inlet lent lien lieu line lune lupine lute lutein pelt pent penult pile pine pintle pique piquet pie pule pulque quiet QUINTUPLE quite tile tine tune tuque unique unite unquiet untie utile

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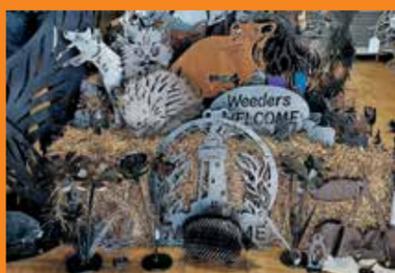
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Macquarie Harbour community clean-up

A belated but huge thank you to everyone who joined in the 2025 Macquarie Harbour community clean-up!

What an amazing day. We're so grateful to every volunteer involved - whether you collected rubbish, helped sort materials, transported bags, cooked lunch or supported behind the scenes. Your effort, enthusiasm, and willingness to lend a hand showcased the West Coast spirit.

It's always inspiring to see people of all ages working side by side, looking after our shared environment and strengthening our sense of community pride.

A big shout-out to all the local businesses and community groups involved. In no particular order, a massive thank you to:

Strahan Primary School
Whitmore's Wild
West Coast Kayaking

Tassal - Our Community
Petuna
Huon
Parents and Friends of Strahan Primary
Huon Pine Shop & Gallery
Gordon River Cruises
Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service
Strahan Aquaculture Community Forum

Mt. Lyell Strahan Picnic Committee

We'd also like to highlight the tremendous individual achievement of community member Trevor Norton. This one-man army spent 21 days over the past year quietly collecting 11 boxes worth of rubbish from the deepest corners of Macquarie Harbour, largely in the World Heritage Area (map included in photos). Trevor never seeks recognition for his hard work, but he certainly deserves it!

The Healthy Harbour Project



Share the dignity bags a wrap

And that's (almost*) a wrap for the 2025 Share The Dignity bags!

Thank you so much to the circular head community for coming together for this, especially so last minute. We managed to pack and donate over forty dignity bags for women and girls in need this Christmas. I say over forty because we had some leftover items which didn't quite make up full bags, but will be used to top up any bags missing anything, or given to the charities as extras.

A huge thank you in particular to

- Grumpy Goat Co
- Country Womens Association (CWA) Smithton
- Wells Wragg Alliance Pharmacy
- Aus Post Smithton
- Treasure Chest/Cornerstone
- Kelly Williams
- Tanya Dawson
- Sharon Johnson
- Frances Archer
- Glenda Maher
- Lynette Jenkins
- Hannah Bruce
- Linda Guest
- and the many people who donated

whilst my mum and I were away - we unfortunately didn't get your names but your donations are so so appreciated!

*Donations (at Bunnings) close on Sunday the 30th for anyone with some last minute weekend shopping ☺



Circular Head CWA update

It has been a busy few weeks for our Circular Head members of the Country Women's Association. We have been gathering goodies for our raffle hampers and creating items for sale and some members created entries for the show. Thanks must go to President Tricia Florent who did such a marvellous job organising and completing our hampers with a lovely Christmas theme.

Our stall at the Stanley Family Show was quite successful with the sale of some craft goods and the raffle with three prizes this year. A large food hamper, a picnic wine hamper and a children's Bluey package.

There was also some success for a couple of our members Janine Marthick and Karen Turner winning prizes for craft entries and Karen was awarded 'Most Successful Exhibitor' for her knitted items. Well done, ladies.

The show is our main fundraising effort and allows us to donate to local charities.

Christmas time is a joyous time for many of us, but it can be a lonely time for others, and we are committed to doing whatever we can to help out, however small.

This year we were able to donate \$200 to the Community Christmas lunch and 14 handbags containing personal hygiene products and other small items for women in need. These were handed in at the local post office collection point.

We will be holding our Christmas lunch next week with a small Secret Santa gift to wind up our activities for this year.

There will be no meeting in January, and our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th February 2026. New members would be most welcome and would increase our capacity to contribute to our local community.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and happy New Year.

Refund Point Expansion - Smithton Club

We have now completed the installation of a second Recycle Rewards Reverse Vending Machine in the carpark of the Smithton Club

This site is now open to the public

Thank you for your patience and cooperation

For further information please contact TOMRA Cleanaway on 1800 237 827

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TasNetworks wins dual honours at the Australian Training Awards

TasNetworks is celebrating two national honours at the 2025 Australian Training Awards, winning Large Employer of the Year and seeing Holly Frankcombe winning silver in the Apprentice of the Year.

The recognition reflects TasNetworks' strong learning and development culture, embedded in policies and leadership approaches, ensuring employees are skilled for today and adaptable for the future. Through its peer-led delivery model and investment in psychosocial safety, equity, mentoring and regional delivery, TasNetworks is turning emerging talent into long-term leaders.

TasNetworks CEO Seán Mc Goldrick said the wins reflect years of investment in apprenticeships, technical development, leadership training and safety programs. "For TasNetworks and Holly to both be recognised at the Australian Training Awards is an extraordinary honour. These awards reflect the strength of our training programs, the dedication of our people and our commitment to building the skilled workforce needed for Tasmania's energy future," Dr Mc Goldrick said.

Holly completed her Certificate III in ESI – Distribution Overhead through TasNetworks' Enterprise RTO, building on her Electrotechnology and Mechanical Engineering qualifications.

"I chose this pathway because it offered meaningful, practical development while contributing to the safety, reliability, and resilience of Tasmania's network," Holly said.

TasNetworks provides a range of ca-

reer opportunities including apprenticeships, traineeships, graduate programs and internships, with ongoing development for all employees.

Its Enterprise RTO, operating since 2003, delivers nationally recognised training for field staff, contractors and industry personnel, with a purpose-built Training Centre in Mornington providing qualifications unique in Tasmania.

The dual honours follows TasNetworks' success at the 2025 Tasmanian Training Awards, where it also won Large Employer of the Year and Holly was named Tasmanian Apprentice of the Year. The Australian Training Awards are the peak national awards that showcase best practice in vocational education and training (VET).

The Australian Training Awards were held in Darwin on 5 December 2025, with Kylie Cashion, Leader Talent and Early Careers, accepting on behalf of TasNetworks. TasNetworks congratulates all finalists and winners for their contribution to vocational training excellence.

Find out how you can have a meaningful career at TasNetworks by heading to www.TasNetworks.com.au/Careers.



Strengthening our community's resilience

Great news for our municipality! With support from the DPAC Resilient and Recovery Grants, Circular Head Council have been able to invest in new equipment to help run evacuation and recovery centres. The grant funds allowed us to purchase a fit-for-purpose trailer, generator, Starlink for communications, heaters, first aid kits, sleeping gear, kids' entertainment packs, portacots, pet pens and more.

This equipment complements the resources we already have and will help us better support the community during emergencies such as storms, floods and fires.

With bushfire season upon us, we also encourage everyone to be prepared by downloading the latest Bushfire Safety Guide: www.homefiresafety.tas.gov.au

Follow TasALERT for reliable and up-to-date information



Heads up, Circular Head

It's a busy period in our beautiful parks and reserves

It's that time of year when many community groups come together to celebrate and several of our popular parks and reserves will be hosting large group bookings over the next few days.

If you're planning a visit, please be aware that these areas may be busier than usual during the times listed below:

Green Point Beach, Marrawah

Tuesday 16 December, approximately 10:00am – 2:00pm

King Park, Godfreys Beach, Stanley
Tuesday 16 December, approximately 10:00am – 2:30pm

Wednesday 17 December, approximately 9:00am – 2:00pm

These are public spaces, and while everyone is welcome, we want to ensure our community is informed so you can plan your visit comfortably.

Thank you for your understanding and for helping keep our shared spaces enjoyable for all



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PEONIES IN THE Paddock

Photos by Alan Jennison

Seven generations see Gateforth Farm (Est 1841) and the Medwin family as the eighth longest continually run business in Tasmania. The current sixth generation, Phil, Fiona & Ruby Medwin, now live and work this wonderful piece of land.

First generation William, his wife Elizabeth and their eight children, arrived from England in 1841 and soon settled with a land grant at Black River far NW Tasmania. Most of the early years were spent clearing land, dealing with bushrangers and trying to establish themselves on their newly found wild habitat.

The farm has been passed through the generations and has seen many changes through the cultivation of a diverse range of crops and livestock to meet the needs of an evolving young nation.

An opportunity to grow on our knowledge in Horticulture presented itself and here we are twenty years later engrossed in our new passion for growing peonies. This passion is spreading as we slowly branch out into other cut flower varieties to extend our season and to keep engaged with the current market.

ONE of Tasmania's most picturesque farms, once again opened its gates to the public as peony flowering season got into full swing.

The Medwin family at Gateforth Farm near Black River hosted their annual Open Day 'Peonies in the Paddock'.

Visitors to the farm had the opportunity to stroll through the largest collection of peonies in the country.

Phil and Fiona Medwin run the mixed farming operation, which has been in the family for six generations.

In recent years they have gradually been expanding the peony side of the business which now covers about 9ha.

Mr Medwin said they are digging about 2ha a year for the nursery trade

and they expect to dig another 3ha for that same purpose next year.

They also produce blooms for the cut flower market.

"We're identifying some really nice varieties for the cut flower market just from importing and the nursery side so we're growing some more for cut flowers," he said.

They send flowers to retail outlets around the state, the Sydney flower market and are even selling some to Perth, WA.

The peony season is short and generally lasts between six to eight weeks.

Mr Medwin said they imported new varieties every couple of years and then saw how they performed in local conditions.

"The number of different varieties is an eye opener for anyone, they saw a lot of names they probably haven't heard before.

"You get on the bandwagon supplying new varieties every year and you kind of have to because the business revolves around that now."

The Medwins have invited visitors to the farm regularly in recent years.

"We just wanted to give people the opportunity to have a day out, similar to the open weeks they have at the tulip farm, when they can just come and wander and have a look," Mr Medwin said.

"If we can get 6-800 through over the day it's good. It's not too crowded and not too busy for us."

The continual wet and cold Spring has made the season very late this year which means that people potentially will be able to have peonies on the xmas table!

As well as managing the peonies the family have also been planting potatoes, spraying poppies and having sheep shorn.

The open day ran from 10am to 4pm and was an absolute success!



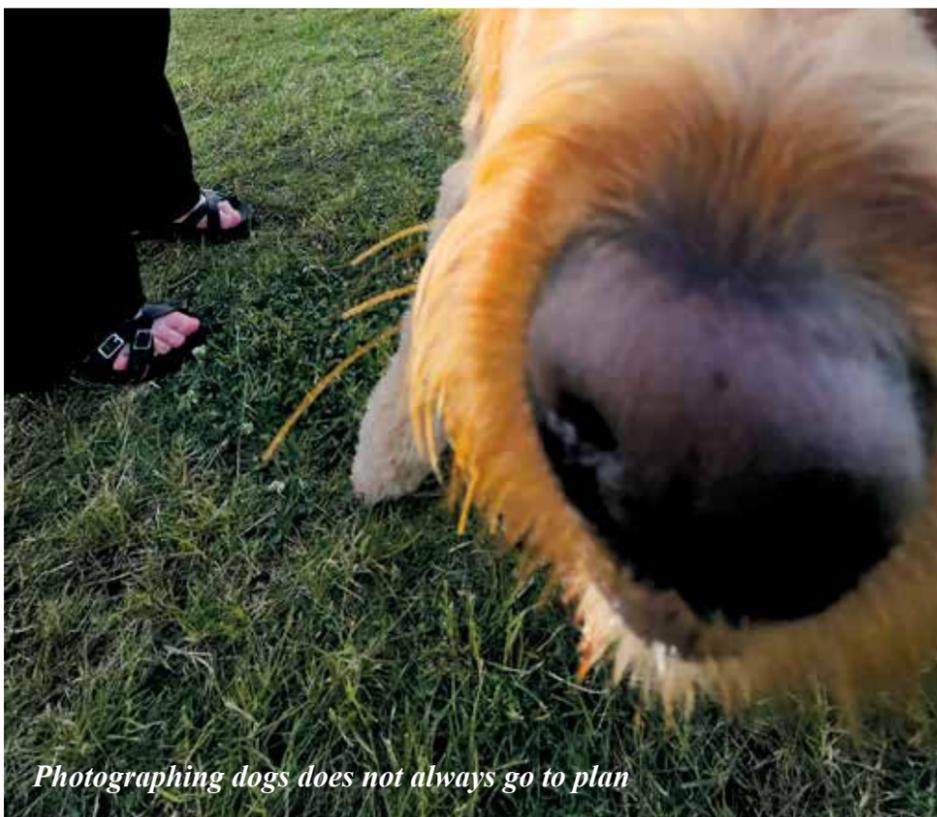
MARKET HAS GONE TO THE DOGS

Photos by Alan Jennison

I dropped into the twilight market at Wynyard recently and was amazed by the amount of people with their dogs.

As a dog lover myself I just had to stop and pat them all and take a few photos of these canine market goers. Well done Wynyard for having such a great dog-friendly space. I will have to bring Western Echo Wendy up for a visit.

Alan - Ed



Photographing dogs does not always go to plan



**Announcing
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Theme : 'Fragility'

Entry closes 9 January 2026

Exhibition opens: Saturday 21 February 2026 at 3.00pm
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For further information email: mountrolandartprize@gmail.com
6 Pioneer Cr, Sheffield, 7306 - Tel: 0475 810 981
workingartspacesheffield.org.au

Background image courtesy Lindsay Gardiner

Study Hubs end of year update

SICH encourages reflection

Study Hub West Coast

November was full steam ahead at the Study Hub West Coast.

On 7 November, we hosted our Career and Education Expo — a fantastic success thanks to the support of West Coast schools and local businesses. We're already planning next year's event and will keep you posted.

Creativity was in the spotlight at our second Paint and Sip afternoon, this time with a festive Christmas theme. The talent in our community is inspiring, and we're exploring more art and craft sessions for 2026. Follow us on Facebook for updates.

Our snake-handling workshop was postponed, but we're working with the trainer to reschedule for January.

Looking ahead, our 2026 training calendar is taking shape, starting with G1, G8 and G9 two-day courses in January and Working at Heights in February.

If you'd like help exploring study options or finding resources, visit us at the Hub on Frederick Street, Zeehan.

To receive course updates by email, contact info@studyhubwestcoast.com.au — or keep an eye on our social media for the latest news.

Circular Head News
As the year wraps up, Study Centre Circular Head celebrates a milestone: more

than 400 participants completed training in 2025. We're working to bring additional Registered Training Organisations to Circular Head in 2026, creating even more opportunities for local learners. In November, we welcomed Woolnorth Renewables for High Voltage training and Greenham Tasmania for Breathing Apparatus training.

To finish the year, ProMED will deliver a First Aid course on 8 December, and Justine from the University of Tasmania will visit on 18 December (3-6pm) to assist with navigating UTAS applications, enrolments, and scholarships.

Our UTAS Regional Learning Officer was proud to support local students from Circular Head and the West Coast at Children's University graduations across Burnie and Devonport in November — congratulations graduates!

A reminder: six-monthly Study Centre student registrations will be emailed in January and February 2026. Please re-enrol to keep enjoying our great free facilities.

Stay connected with us on social media to hear about more upcoming training and events, or contact us at students@studycentrech.com.au

May your holiday be full of rest and inspiration — we look forward to exploring new ideas with you in the year ahead.

As we enter the holiday season and the year draws to a close, Soroptimist International of Circular Head (SICH) is encouraging our community to pause, reflect, and reconnect with the values that truly define us: compassion, kindness, and generosity.

While Christmas often brings joy, celebration, and togetherness, it can also be a difficult time for those facing hardship, loneliness, and uncertainty. This season, we encourage everyone in Circular Head to join us in lifting each other up and spreading kindness where it is needed most.

In a world that moves quickly, it is easy to forget the power of small acts of support. Whether you are checking in on a neighbour, offering a friendly smile to a stranger, sharing a meal, or giving your time to someone who needs it, these simple gestures can make an enormous difference, especially during a season that can feel overwhelming for many. SICH encourages residents to look around their neighbourhoods, workplaces, and social circles and notice those who may be struggling quietly. Compassion costs nothing, but its value is immeasurable.

This time of year also provides an opportunity to reflect on what we have and to be thankful. Gratitude reminds

us of the privileges we sometimes overlook. Things like the comfort of a safe home, the support of friends and family, steady employment, or simply good health. With gratitude comes generosity, and sharing what we can, no matter how big or small, creates a ripple of positivity that strengthens the community as a whole.

For those who are able, this season is a wonderful time to give back. Every contribution, big or small, helps build a kinder and more connected community. Opportunities are everywhere, and it's people like you whose support and generosity makes all the difference. Consider donating to local charities and community groups that support those in need or volunteering your time. When we lift each other, we rise together.

As we close out 2025, SICH extends heartfelt thank you to the people of Circular Head for their continued support, warmth, and community spirit throughout the year. Your kindness inspires the work we do and fuels our hope for a brighter, more compassionate future.

From all members of Soroptimist International of Circular Head, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your holiday season be filled with peace, joy, and generosity.

Golfing in Stanley raising funds for cancer council

Members of Stanley Golf Club have raised over \$8,000.00 towards the Cancer Council's Longest Day fundraising event. A dedicated group of keen golfers played a range of rounds from 18 holes to 36 holes, with two players playing a massive 72 holes. Chris Brown and Patrick Stein managed the 72 holes in an epic 11 hour stint, raising a majority of the money for their efforts.





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Wyndarra happenings



Christmas Hampers

Wyndarra will once again be organising Christmas Hampers.

The hampers are made possible due to the generous support and donations from the Community, Business' and Organisations. You can still donate non-perishable goods by contacting Tammy @ Wyndarra OR Calling Wyndarra on 64522722.

Wyndarra Support Services

The Support Services participants and staff have also had a busy year. A great year full of fun and friendship.

They have participated in a variety of activities, outings to Emmerton Park and the Men's Shed, movie days and Halloween as well as preparations for entries into the Stanley Show.

Participants have looked forward to the monthly edition of the Western Echo to view their stories and photos.

It's been a big year at Wyndarra across all programs, fundraising efforts and the SDA build. Wyndarra would like to thank the Circular Head Community, local and State business who have contributed in any way to Wyndarra this year. Your support and generosity has been truly appreciated. Keep an eye out for our articles in the 2026 editions of the Western Echo.

Wyndarra will be closing on Wednesday the 24th December at 12.30 pm and reopening Monday the 5th January at 9 am.



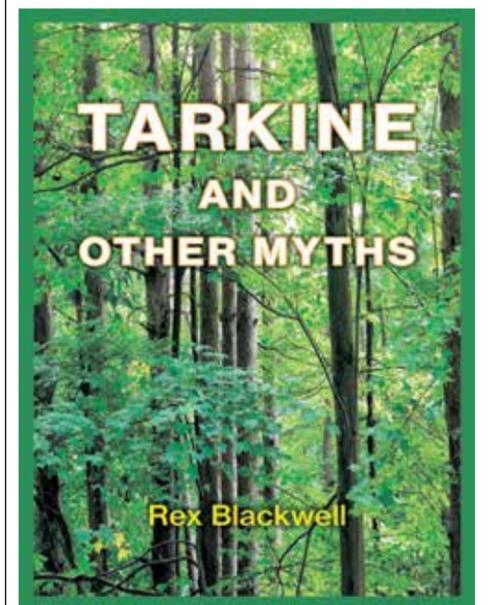
New Tarkine book out soon

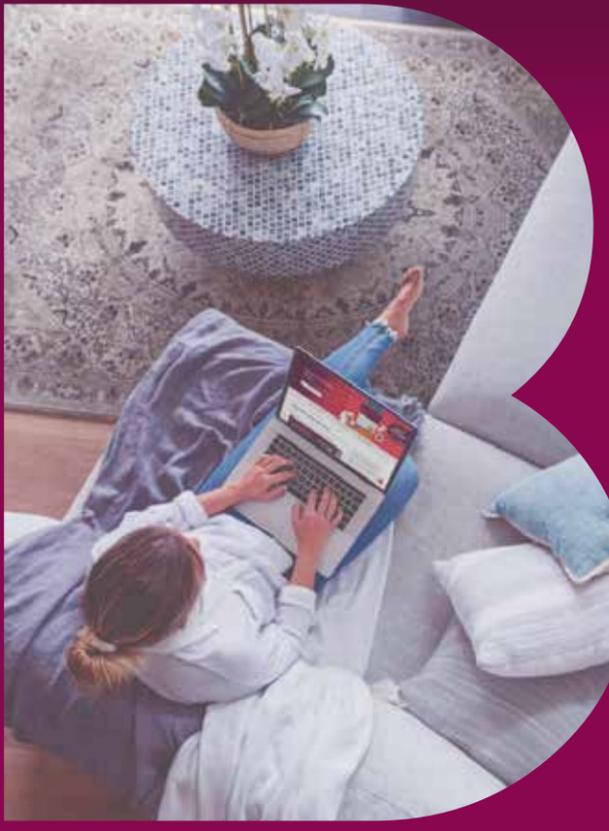
You will soon be able to read a story with most of the facts regarding the Tarkine listed. They come in the form of a new book just out from the printer and available soon on the West Coast.

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 will be able to buy it from his home at 175 Mount Street, Burnie, which is right next door to the Car Wash opposite to Woollies.





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