

The Coastal VOICE

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**NW Tassie Steps Up for Relay For Life:
631 walkers take to the track in Penguin**

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BURNIE - PENGUIN - ULVERSTONE - DEVONPORT & BEYOND

Connecting the Coast: Achievements & What's Ahead



By Alicia van Ek

There's been a real buzz across the Coast over the past month, and it's been wonderful to be out and about soaking it all in. From the inspiring International Women's Day breakfasts to one especially close to my heart—Relay For Life—it's clear our community continues to show up, support one another, and create meaningful moments together.

I've been connecting with so many incredible people as we continue to grow The Coastal Voice into the Devonport and Burnie regions. There are so many stories to share, and I'm excited to keep shining a light on our community.

Amanda has also been visiting local schools, engaging the next generation of storytellers. It's been wonderful to see students share their "first day of Year 6" experiences.

This edition celebrates standout achievements—from volunteers at Leven Regional Arts to the legends at Toastmasters. There's also plenty of excitement around whether Ulverstone might become the next stage for Tones and I—we're all watching Yron's campaign closely!

As always, if you have a story to share, please reach out—we love bringing your stories to life. I'm also looking forward to EcoFest on 11–12 April at Camp Clayton. Come and say hi if you see me!



By David Robinson

Firstly, I must say a huge thank you to the team behind The Coastal Voice. The paper is going from strength to strength and looks amazing. Each month we improve a little more, with better stories, more community voices, and a paper that continues to grow in confidence and quality. That only happens because of the wonderful volunteers, writers, and supporters who give their time and energy to make it possible.

We would love to print even more copies and share them right across the North West Coast, but to do that we need more support from businesses and organisations in our region. If you work for a business, please consider leaving a copy of the paper in the lunch room, meeting room, or with the leadership team. Before each edition is printed, we look at the advertising support for the month, and that becomes our printing budget. Even a small business card advertisement can mean enough extra copies to reach another town, workplace, or community group.

Thank you to everyone who submits articles, supports us financially, and shares the paper. Most importantly, thank you, dear reader. This paper exists for you, and together we are creating a shared history and culture that connects us all.

Cover Image: Happy Feet team members Lorraine Enniss, Karen and John Wheatley walk for a cause at the Penguin Relay For Life. Photo: Richard Minch, 2026

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Lutruwita upon whose lands
we are on.

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Celebrations

Cancer Never Rests, So Nor Shall We: Relay For Life 2026

By Alicia van Ek

There's something pretty special about Relay For Life—but this year felt even more so.

I had the privilege of stepping in as a first-time team captain for Sacred Heart Primary School Ulverstone. We were a small but mighty team of 14 (with our youngest just 4 years old!) and together we raised \$2,268. Watching our kids take to the track with such pride and energy was something I won't forget in a hurry.

Across the North West, the community showed up in a big way—raising an incredible \$152,071 with 631 relayers across 49 teams. A huge achievement, and a true reflection of how deeply cancer touches all of us.

For me, one of the most moving parts was taking on the night shift. In those quiet early hours, when you might expect things to slow down, there were still so many people walking. Lap after lap. It really hit me just how powerful this movement is, and how many lives it impacts.



Relay is about celebrating survivorship, remembering loved ones during the Candlelight Ceremony, and fighting back together.

With live music, laughter, and even a few tired but smiling faces, the walking never stopped.

We were lucky with incredible hot weather on Saturday, and while the overnight dew made things a little damp underfoot, spirits never dipped.

Having been involved in Relay in different ways over the years, it was so special to simply be there—walking, watching, and taking it all in. I couldn't be prouder of our team.

If you haven't already, jump onto the Cancer Council Tasmania Facebook page—you'll see exactly what this community is all about. You can still donate at relayforlife.org.au

Images: Richard Minch, 2026

Life Membership for Dedicated Arts Volunteer

By Pauline Clayton, Leven Regional Arts

Secretary of Leven Regional Arts, Joy Watson, was recently awarded Life Membership in recognition of her 14 years of dedicated service to the organisation and the local arts community.

Joy received the honour at the group's Annual General Meeting, where she was congratulated by President Pene Day for her long-standing commitment and contribution to supporting arts initiatives in the region.

Leven Regional Arts operates Studio 2 at the Hive in Ulverstone, a thriving and welcoming community art space where people can reconnect with existing art practices or explore new creative pursuits. Most groups are free and open to the community.

For more information, contact Joy on 0400 105 943 or visit Studio 2, Hive, 50 Main Street, Ulverstone, open Monday to Friday, 10am–3pm.



URTS Receives Top Honours at the Annual Tasmanian Theatre Awards

By Troy Mainwaring, Ulverstone Repertory Theatre Society

Ulverstone Repertory Theatre Society are pleased to announce that our 2025 production "The Lieutenant of Inishmore" won two awards at the Tasmanian Theatre Awards held in Burnie.

In the Community Theatre category "The Lieutenant of Inishmore" was awarded Best Production and show director Geoff Dobson was also awarded Best Direction. Congratulations to all other nominees and winners.

Our next production is "The Lost Virginity Tour" by Cricket Daniels, to be performed at the Leven Theatre until April 11, starring Andrea Harding, Carina Cooper, Jane Inglis-Smith, and Maree Brodzinski.

This show follows four friends living in a senior's resort, who are also part of a baking society, until one day they decide to go on a one-of-a-kind road trip.

Tickets available from Trybooking. You don't want to miss this Australian premiere production.



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Celebrations

Local Toastmasters Shine in Area M20 Speech Contests

By Geoffrey Beck, Spirit of Devonport Toastmasters

The Spirit of Devonport Toastmasters Club was proudly represented at the Area M20 Speech Contests, held on February 2, 2025, at the Enterprize Centre in Hobart, by four of its talented members: Stephanie Richey, Bianca Johnston, Geoffrey Beck, and Samantha Duffield. The Area M20 contest included participants from all three Tasmanian Toastmasters clubs: Hobart, Launceston, and Spirit of Devonport.

Stephanie Richey, of Ulverstone and Geoffrey Beck, of Burnie, delivered exceptional performances, with Stephanie securing 1st place in the Evaluation Contest and 2nd place in the Humorous Speech Contest. Geoffrey earned 2nd place in the International Speech Contest. These impressive results have made both Stephanie and Geoffrey eligible to compete at the Metro Division Contests in Kew, Melbourne, on March 2 representing their club.

Geoffrey commented, "It was both an honour and a privilege to not only secure second place in the International Speech Contest but also to represent the Spirit of Devonport Toastmasters Club and the Area at the next level. It was a truly inspiring experience to speak before such an engaging audience." Geoffrey's speech focused on resilience and the transformative power of perseverance.

Looking ahead to the Metro Division, Geoffrey shared, "I am looking forward to the experience of competing at this level, but also to networking with other Toastmasters from around the country."

The Spirit of Devonport Toastmasters Club offers a fun and supportive environment where individuals can grow their public speaking and leadership skills. The club meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at the Mersey Yacht Club, 6 Anchor Drive, East Devonport, starting at 6:30 pm (with a 6:15 pm arrival).

For more information about joining the club, please visit <https://1093085.toastmastersclubs.org/> or follow the club on Facebook.

Image: Vicki Travers (Devonport, Contestant), Bianca Johnston (Ulverstone, Toastmasters M20 Area Director), Geoffrey Beck (Burnie, Contestant) and Miriam Beswick (Ambleside, Contestant)



A Standout Success: Wild Acres Estate Continues to Shine

By Cheryle Laphorne

Wild Acres Estate is quietly building something remarkable, a business shaped by creativity, care, and a clear vision for what hospitality can be.

At the recent Tasmanian Wedding Industry Awards, that vision was recognised across four categories, with standout results including:

- 1st place for Wedding Caterer
- 1st place for Picnics, Graze Tables and Platters
- 2nd place in Wedding Venue – Farm & Country
- Top 5 for Wedding Venue Coordinator

Together, these achievements reflect not just one strength, but a business delivering across every touchpoint.

At the centre of it all is Katrina Templar, whose approach blends thoughtful detail with a genuine understanding of

what people are looking for when they gather to celebrate. What has been created at Wild Acres is more than a venue, it's a collection of experiences, carefully designed and consistently delivered.

From beautifully styled grazing tables to seamless event coordination and an inviting rural farm setting, each element works together to create something cohesive and beautiful. It's this ability to bring multiple offerings together under one vision that continues to set the business apart.

That same attention to quality is now seeing growing demand beyond weddings, with catering and end-of-year functions already booking quickly. It's a natural progression for a locally owned business that has built its reputation on trust, presentation, and experience.

Wild Acres Estate is not just collecting awards it's telling a story of steady growth, strong leadership, and a woman building something truly special within the region's hospitality landscape.

From One Idea to a Movement: Ulverstone Rallies for Tones and I

By Jyrone Flannery

What started as a simple idea has quickly turned into something pretty special for our community. On January 19, Tones and I put the call out for towns across Australia to rally support for a live show—and I thought, why not Ulverstone? So I kicked off a Facebook campaign, and honestly, I didn't expect it to take off the way it has.

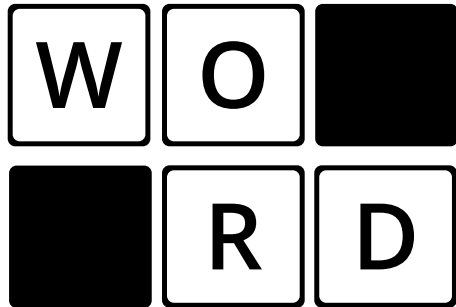
Since then, the response has been incredible. The page has grown to over 3,500 followers (and still climbing), with people sharing, commenting and getting right behind the idea. It's been amazing to see how many people want to see something like this happen here.

Tones and I is one of Australia's biggest artists, with her hit Dance Monkey holding number one for 24 weeks, so the chance to bring her to a town like ours would be huge. And thanks to the support from the Ulverstone community, we're now in a strong position to make that happen.

I just want to say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported, shared or encouraged this campaign. It really shows what can happen when a community gets behind something.

Let's keep the momentum going and put Ulverstone on the map!

Puzzles



Solve the Crozzle to be in the draw for:

A \$100 Voucher for
The Cove

March Crozzle Solution
PLACES IN OUR WORLD

Winner
Janice Cox
won a Burnie School of Irish
Dance Lesson Voucher!

How to enter: Email or message your name and phone number along with the Crozzle answer before the 21st of April to editor@thecoastalvoice.au The winner's name will be published in the May issue.

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R C N L A S T P O S T S N
I I A S D A W N T C T J A
L T V R I L A E I N O A R
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F R Y A D N U S A R R X R
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N T E A S E S I R N U S S

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|----------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|
| AirForce | Army | Easter | Jokes | Pact | Pranks | Sunrise |
| Ally | Battles | Fool | LastPost | Pain | RSL | Tease |
| Annual | Cenotaph | GoodFriday | March | Parades | Scare | Trick |
| ANZAC | Conflict | Hoaxes | Monuments | Play | Service | War |
| April | Dawn | Hymn | Navy | Practical | Sunday | |



HIDDEN PICTURE

Find the HIDDEN picture somewhere in the paper to be in this month's draw to win:

A Kids Holiday Pack
donated by Cheryle Virtual Helper



March Winner:
Britnay Carlyon
won a NVC Coaching
Session valued at \$100

How to enter: Email or message your name and phone number along with the page number before the 21st of April to editor@thecoastalvoice.au The winner's name will be published in May issue.



Crozzle Instructions: Each word will be straight, not bent, but may go in any direction — up, down, left, right, or diagonal. Most words are joined to another word by at least one letter, so any letter may be used in more than one word. Circle the words in the graph as you find them. When all the words in the list are circled, there will be letters left over. Starting from the top line, travel left to right on each line and write these unused letters on the underscores below to discover the solution.



2026
**Candlelight
VIGIL**

Gnomon Pavilion
Ulverstone Wharf
Wednesday, May 6th
6pm

On the National Family Violence Remembrance Day, a Candlelight Vigil is held across the nation to remember those who have lost their lives to family violence.



BONUS PUZZLE! CREATE WORDS

Find one Nine Letter Word PLUS words of four letters or more. Each word must include the Central Letter.

20+ Good 30+ Great 40+ Genius

R E L
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O N S

Next Council Meeting

April 20

Find out more www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au



Mayor's Message

By Mayor Cheryl Fuller

April means autumn and Anzac Day. Mild days, crisp nights and colourful landscapes can be found right across the Central Coast.

Our recognition of our community's war service can be seen in memorials and memorial parks, and in the strong and solemn attendance at services in Ulverstone, Penguin, Forth and North Motton.

It is fitting, then, that now on display at Hive is *What We Left Behind* by Dave Melhuish.

The First and Second World Wars saw thousands of troops and nurses leave Australia for service overseas. While much has been written about their experiences on the front lines, *What We Left Behind* explores a different side of the story – the people, families and communities who remained at home.

Through intimate historical accounts, the exhibit reflects on the realities of wartime life in Australia. Families were separated, communities prepared for the possibility of attacks on home soil, and everyday people stepped forward to support the war effort.

From the tragic story of young bride Amy Postlethwaite, whose husband was killed just months after their marriage, to the remarkable contribution of the Happy Flax Girls, who took on agricultural work traditionally done by men, the exhibit highlights both hardship and resilience.

What We Left Behind is on display in Hive's ground floor display cases until 3 May 2026. Take a moment to reflect on the stories of those who served, and those who waited at home. Hive, at 50 Main Street, will be open on Anzac Day afternoon (1pm–4pm), so why not visit after the Ulverstone morning service.

For Anzac Day service times across the Central Coast, visit Council's website.

Lest we forget.

Mayor Cheryl Fuller

YOU'RE INVITED TO A

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Got an idea, question or concern? Drop in for a chat with Councillors and staff.

- SPRENT**
Community Hall
Feb 26 | 10:00am
- TURNERS BEACH**
Bowls Club
Mar 25 | 6:00pm
- SOUTH RIANA**
Memorial Hall
May 28 | 10:00am
- ULVERSTONE**
Gnomon Pavillion
Jun 25 | 6:00pm
- PRESTON**
Community Centre
Jul 30 | 10:00am
- PENGUIN**
Surf Life Saving Club
Aug 27 | 6:00pm

Light refreshments provided. No bookings required.
www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au/conversations

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Mayor's Message - Devonport City Council

By Mayor Alison Jarman



As Mayor, I am delighted to reflect on the many moments that bring our community together—and recent weeks in Devonport have certainly delivered plenty to celebrate.

We were proud to host another highly successful Devonport Triathlon, once again showcasing our city on the global stage. I was thrilled to meet world champion Anu Francis (PT S2) and Olympian Luke Willian, who claimed this year's Oceania Triathlon title. Events like this provide lasting benefits—supporting local businesses, attracting visitors, and inspiring future athletes—while reinforcing Devonport's reputation as a premier destination for major sporting events.



Our city was also buzzing with energy as Tour de Cure Australia rolled through town. It was incredible to see our community unite in support of cancer research, creating a strong sense of purpose and connection. A personal highlight was meeting with Luke Jacobz, Mark Beretta, the Sunrise team, and Professor Richard Scolyer, bringing together local leadership and national voices for such an important cause.

Harmony Week provided another opportunity to celebrate what makes our community so special. Held at the Market Square Pavilion, the event brought people together for an evening of cultural performances, music, dance, and food from around the world, highlighting the diversity that strengthens our city.

I was also pleased to see strong community spirit during Clean Up Australia Day along Coles Beach Road. Alongside fellow councillors and dedicated volunteers, we worked together to care for our coastline, collecting significant amounts of litter and helping protect our environment.

Finally, I encourage everyone to visit the new "Harvest Moon" installation at Spreyton. Created by artist Alex Miles, these solar-powered lanterns celebrate our agricultural heritage while adding a warm and welcoming glow to Maidstone Park.

These moments reflect a connected, inclusive, and thriving Devonport.

Mayor Alison Jarman
Devonport City Council

Burnie City Council Mayor's Message

By Mayor Teeny Brumby



Living in a coastal city like Burnie means we experience change in a very tangible way. We see it in our parks, our streets, and most importantly in the voices of our community helping shape what comes next.

There are three pieces of work happening right now that perfectly capture that sense of momentum.

The first is the new Shorewell Park playground, which is tracking toward completion later this year. With a \$1.5 million investment supported by federal, state and council funding, this project is about far more than play equipment. It is about creating a welcoming space where families can gather, children can explore and communities can connect. Located beside Burnie Community House in a busy residential neighbourhood, the playground has been designed as a place where kids can ride bikes, climb, play and simply enjoy being outdoors together.

For me, playgrounds are one of the most powerful symbols of a healthy community. They are places where friendships begin, where parents meet each other, and where children build confidence and independence.

The second piece of work looks further into our city's future. As many people know, Burnie will mark its Bicentenary in 2027. Two hundred years of history deserves something special, and Council is inviting the community to help shape how we celebrate this milestone.

Over the coming weeks, we will be launching a community poll asking residents to share their ideas for what the

Bicentenary should look like. Whether it's events, projects, commemorations or creative ideas that capture Burnie's story, we want to hear from the people who live here.

Because if there's one thing I've learned as Mayor, it's that Burnie's greatest ideas rarely come from an office desk. They come from conversations in cafés, sports clubs, schools and community halls.

And finally, there is an exciting piece of work quietly taking shape that will influence how our city looks and feels for years to come.

Council has been developing a Burnie CBD Street and Public Realm Style Guide. In simple terms, it's about creating a consistent and thoughtful design language for our streets, seating, lighting, planting and public spaces so that our city centre feels cohesive, welcoming and distinctly "Burnie".

This work sits alongside the broader vision to revitalise the heart of the city, helping strengthen Burnie's identity while making the CBD more inviting, walkable and vibrant for residents, visitors and businesses alike.

When you put these three things together a playground for our youngest residents, a Bicentenary that celebrates our shared story, and a design framework for our future streets you begin to see a bigger picture.

Burnie is a city that honours its past, invests in its people, and is quietly but confidently shaping what the next chapter will look like. And the most exciting part of all? The community is helping write that story.

Mayor Teeny Brumby
Burnie City Council

Community

Grant Recipients Honour Service and Strengthen Support for Veterans

Four North West Tasmanian ex-service and community organisations will share more than \$100,000 in grants to support and honour the State's veteran community.

The funding comes through the Teddy Sheehan VC Memorial Grants Program, which pays tribute to Tasmanian sailor Edward "Teddy" Sheehan VC and the sacrifices made by Australia's service personnel. Liberal Member for Braddon, Roger Jaensch, highlighted that the program supports organisations in running welfare initiatives, maintaining memorials, and purchasing equipment to benefit veterans, their families, and the wider community.

"The Teddy Sheehan VC Memorial Grants Program ensures that the bravery and service of our veterans is recognised, while also helping local organisations provide practical support for those who have served," Mr Jaensch said.

In the North West, the successful recipients include:

- Forth Valley Lions Club: \$6,635 to upgrade the Forth Valley Cenotaph.
- South Riana Memorial Hall: \$6,264 to complete kitchen upgrades.
- Ulverstone RSL Sub-Branch: \$3,658 for a new decoration, campaign, and medal board.
- The Veterans' & Families' Centre: \$11,450 for equipment used in wellbeing programs for veterans and families.

These grants reflect the Government's ongoing commitment to supporting Tasmania's veteran community, ensuring their service is honoured and their wellbeing is prioritised.



Full Circle: How the Penguin Community Op Shop Keeps Giving Back

By Tracey Clark

What started with a handful of volunteers and a few donated racks has grown into something much bigger, and much more meaningful, for the Central Coast community.

At first glance, the Penguin Community Op Shop looks like any other: racks of clothes, shelves of second-hand treasures and the occasional bargain find. But behind the scenes, it's part of a powerful cycle, one where the community gives, and then receives right back.

Donations are the heart of it all. Every item dropped off is sold at low cost, and every dollar raised goes straight back into helping local people.

The support is often quiet and personal. A voucher for school shoes so a child doesn't have to explain why they're wearing sneakers. A contribution towards a school trip. Funding for local programs that build resilience in young people. It's not about big announcements, it's about meeting real needs, right when they arise.

What makes this op shop truly special is the sense of community that has grown around it. There are currently more than 40 volunteers involved, with even a waiting list of people wanting to help, something many organisations would envy.

Some come looking for a way to give back. Others are new to town and looking to connect. And some are people who were once supported by the shop themselves. They come back. They step behind the counter. They sort donations. They give their time. It's a full-circle moment that speaks volumes about the impact of the work being done.

Beyond the practical support, the shop has become a place where people gather. Friendships are formed over cups of tea. Conversations happen between sorting racks and stacking shelves. For some, it's a lifeline, a place to feel seen and be part of something. "We're a bit of a family," Op Shop Manager Lenny Wilson shared. And it shows.

There's no big funding stream behind it all, just a community backing itself through generosity, time and care. When asked how people can help, Lenny said it comes down to the basics: thoughtful donations and ongoing support. Good quality, clean items keep prices low, shelves full, and support flowing back into the community.

In a world that can sometimes feel disconnected, this little op shop is proof that community still matters. It reflects the spirit of small towns like Penguin, where people show up for each other and quietly do what they can to help. A reminder that community isn't just something we talk about, it's something we build every day.

Hydro Tasmania Hosts Community Paddle Day

Local families and community members enjoyed a fun-filled day on the River Forth on Sunday, 1 March, thanks to a partnership between Hydro Tasmania and Paddle Tasmania.

Over 20 participants took part in two 1.5-hour beginner sessions, guided by experienced instructors from the Tasmanian Canoe Club. The event aimed to introduce people of all ages to paddling and showcase the region's beautiful waterways, encouraging families to explore and enjoy the local river environment.

After a safety induction and paddling basics, participants set out on the water, learning new skills while having fun. Following their time on the river, everyone enjoyed a complimentary barbecue lunch.

Cousins Noah Hampton, 8, and Riley New, 9, described their experience as "mostly awesome" and encouraged others to "definitely try paddling."

Hydro Tasmania, as the State's largest water manager, supports accessible recreational spaces and manages water

releases from the Mersey-Forth Hydropower Scheme to ensure ideal paddling conditions.

"Tasmania's lakes and rivers are here for everyone to enjoy," said Hydro Tasmania Executive General Manager Ruth Groom.

Paddle Tasmania Executive Officer Marisol Miró Quesada said it was wonderful to see newcomers discovering paddling and hoped the day would inspire more people to join local clubs like the Tasmanian Canoe Club, fostering community connection and enjoyment of Tasmania's waterways.



Community

Melrose Ranch Sorting Goes Blue for Dolly's Dream

Melrose Ranch Sorting Fun Days is rallying the community this May with a special "Do it for Dolly's Day" event, raising funds and awareness for Dolly's Dream — a charity dedicated to ending bullying.

The group, which meets monthly at the Melrose Equestrian Centre in Lower Barrington, brings people together for the unique and enjoyable sport of cattle sorting. This time, they're combining their passion with purpose, encouraging participants to "go blue" on 3 May in support of the cause.

To help raise funds, all proceeds from a community raffle — featuring generously donated prizes — will go directly to Dolly's Dream. The raffle will be drawn on the day of the event.

In the lead-up, a car boot sale will also be held at Kindred Hall on Saturday 26 April, giving locals another opportunity to get involved and support the fundraiser. The Melrose Ranch Sorting group welcomes the community to come along, get involved and help make a difference.

CAR BOOT SALE
26th April 2026

Need to have a clean out
Why not grab a spot, make some cash
And support a worthy cause

10am - 2pm
\$10 a Spot
All money raised goes to
Dolly's Dream

Phone: 0456158361
To reserve a spot

All items welcome
Kindred Hall
735 Kindred Road
Kindred

WE'RE GOING BLUE TO END BULLYING!

By Alison McArd



The mind and body communicate constantly. What you think, feel, and believe affects your body, and how your body feels affects your mind.

This is why our weekly exercise classes have been so beneficial – we have all come away feeling quite uplifted & ready to face the world for another week.

April is also full of more interesting sessions. Those with a literary bent will have the opportunity to exercise it in a series of four Story Writing sessions.

We will learn the real story of the Wesley Vale Export Kraft Pulp Mill & look back on the last Global Financial Crisis & consider whether it could happen again – certainly something to consider in the light of world events at the moment.

Central Coast U3A update

How proficient are you at taking photos? What do you know about Alessandro Volto di Como, an electricity pioneer or Hugh Miller, a Scottish pioneer in geology? And who were the Barbarians who played a part in bringing down the Roman Empire?

Those of you who have some family heirlooms, or newly discovered treasures, will be bringing them to the Antiques Roadshow to find out more about them.

For \$40 a year you can attend as many sessions as you like & it's never too late to join. There's always a cuppa & the opportunity to meet people & make new friends.

For more information about U3A, visit our website <https://tascentralcoast.u3anet.org.au> or give us a call on 0457 411 585 for a chat.

Furniture Design Masterclass at Hive

A unique opportunity for aspiring and experienced makers alike, a five-week Furniture Design Masterclass will be held at Hive, led by highly regarded designer and educator James Bradley.

Running every Friday from 8 May to 5 June, the course will guide participants through the full design process, from initial concept through to refined, scaled drawings.

Along the way, participants will build skills in sketching, explore materials and construction techniques, and gain insight into the relationship between furniture design and architecture.

The program also encourages participants to develop their own design style and creative voice.

James Bradley brings nearly five decades of experience in design and manufacturing. A graduate of the London College of Furniture, he has previously lectured at Sydney College of the Arts and UTAS, and is a founding member of Anibou and past president of the Decorative Wood Veneer Association.

Cost: \$875. For enrolments or more information, contact James Bradley on 0477 533 404 or jambrad@bigpond.net.au. This program is supported by Hive.

Women Having Plenty of Fun at Canoe Club

By Russell Horton Tasmanian Canoe Club

Women of all ages celebrated their paddling success at the Forth Slalom Course on International Women's Day.

Women from 10-60 years competed in kayak, canoe and canoe double as part of the Tasmanian Age and Masters Slalom Championships.

The local canoe club at Forth celebrated Peggy Folder and Akiera Martin coming first and second in the U14 division,

with southern paddlers dominating other divisions. Fastest women's slalom time was by Fin Stephenson in 117 seconds with a clean run on the 18 gate course. During the weekend women competed in wildwater, freestyle and kayak cross.



Community Connection Highlighted at CTST Luncheon

By Cheryle Laphorne

Community connection and the value of volunteering were highlighted at a luncheon held in Ulverstone on Wednesday 11th March, hosted by Community Transport Services Tasmania.

The event brought together volunteers, community members and supporters to recognise the important role the organisation plays across regional Tasmania. CTST provides essential services including transport to appointments, light home maintenance and social companionship, helping people maintain independence while staying connected to their community.

Guests also heard from Volunteering Tasmania, who spoke about the broader value of volunteering and the important contribution volunteers make in strengthening communities across the state.

A highlight of the luncheon was hearing from CTST volunteer driver Fiona, who shared her lived experience supporting participants through the program. Fiona spoke about the

sense of purpose volunteers gain through the role and the meaningful connections that can form when supporting people in the community.

She also acknowledged that volunteering can come with practical challenges, including navigating unfamiliar locations and adapting to new technology. However, Fiona said the support volunteers receive and the time spent learning together helps build confidence and ensures volunteers feel prepared in their role.

For many people accessing the service, a trip with a volunteer driver offers more than just transport. It provides an opportunity for conversation, connection and community engagement, particularly for individuals who may otherwise experience isolation.

With demand for services continuing to grow, CTST is encouraging more people to consider volunteering and becoming part of a network helping keep communities connected.

Cycling Without Age Central Coast Keeping Our Community Moving

By Cheryle Laphorne

Cycling Without Age Central Coast continues to bring connection, fresh air, and shared experiences to our local community, with our trio bikes out on the path in Ulverstone, leaving from the Pier at 10:30am every Tuesday and Thursday.

On Tuesdays, our rides proudly connect with the Connect Café in Ulverstone a supportive, dementia-friendly social group held from 10:00am to 12:00pm at the Gnomon Room, Wharf Precinct. This partnership helps create meaningful opportunities for connection, inclusion, and shared community experiences.



We are incredibly grateful for the recent financial support received from UBC Trade, Penguin Op Shop, and the Tas Keno Community Fund. These generous contributions go directly toward our maintenance fund, helping ensure our three bikes remain safe, reliable, and ready to ride for everyone who enjoys the program.

Our rides are more than just a trip along the Esplanade or past the community garden, they create inclusion, conversation, and meaningful moments for people of all ages and abilities. We are operating across Easter and would love for you to join us.

As we continue to grow, we are currently seeking community members to join our committee and friendly pilot team. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of a supportive, local initiative that makes a real difference in people's lives.

If you're interested in getting involved, or would simply like to join a free ride, we welcome you. Come along, enjoy the coastline, and be part of something special.

Rides: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Time: From 10:30am

Departure: Ulverstone Pier

Enquiries: cruisinthecoasttas.com

Latest Information see our Facebook page: [cycling withoutage central coast](https://www.facebook.com/cyclingwithoutagecentralcoast)

New Attractions for Weindorfer Day

Wilmot will be buzzing on Sunday 3 May with a host of new attractions out in Pioneer Park and the Wilmot Hall throughout the day. You will find stalls with information on caring for the environment, feral cat management, North West Land Care, live blacksmithing demonstrations and market stalls including:

- native bush products and skin care using kunzea and pepperberry,
- textile art from nature
- art from recycled bush timbers
- geology of the Cradle Mountain area
- pioneering photos, bush walking artifacts and memorabilia

Live music will engage you as you choose your food and drinks from ethnic or Australian vendors and play Games from Yesteryear on the tennis court. Choose your favourite

art works in the Children's Art competition under the Laburnum Arch. Find fine books and collectibles and people to chat with. The Cradle Trail Bus tour will leave Wilmot at 12:30 for the guided tour to Waldheim Chalet and the turning of the Fagus forest walk. Book your seat through Eventbrite. Here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/5hydkfe2>

The morning Weindorfer service commences promptly at 10:00. It commemorates the legacy of Kate and Gustav Weindorfer in their pioneering efforts in conservation and hospitality at Cradle Mountain in the early 1900's, assisted by nature enthusiasts and fellow scientists. Vibrant presentations, poetry, live music, film and art will delight your senses.

Book your FREE tickets for Weindorfer Day now through Eventbrite. Here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/mwtbf68d>

North West Coast Candlelight Vigil

The North West Coast Candlelight Vigil will once again be held at Ulverstone's Wharf Precinct on Wednesday 6 May, from 6–6.30pm to mark National Family Violence Remembrance Day.

National Family Violence Remembrance Day is part of Domestic Violence Prevention Month. honours those who have lost their lives to family violence. Candlelight vigils take place across the country on the first Wednesday in May.

For every life lost, many more women and children live with the impacts of abuse. One in three Australian women have

experienced physical or sexual violence from someone they know.

The community is warmly invited to attend and show support. Guest speakers from Advocates for Change will share messages, attendees are encouraged to wear purple, and candles will be available.

This is a joint community event hosted by Zonta Clubs of Devonport and Cradle Coast, Soroptimist Devonport, Engender Equality, Tasmania Police, Family Violence Counselling and Support Service, and Central Coast Council.

Penguin Probus Celebrates its First AGM

By Jenny Rowden

Members gathered to celebrate a successful start to this new Penguin Probus club and elect the leadership team ready to steer the club through 2026. It is in capable hands with the election of the new Office Bearers.

- President: Leonie Bramich
- Vice-President: John Lamb
- Secretary: Kerry O'Reilly
- Treasurer: Jenny Newland

Supporting this team are dedicated committee members - Karen O'Reilly, Barb Croft, Jan Nilssen, Doug Manning, Gail Drury and Jenny Rowden, who have stepped into other vital roles. Special thanks to outgoing committee members who made valuable contributions since the club's inception - Maria Rossiter, Libby Burton and Ian Chalk.

True to the Probus tradition of "Friendship, Fellowship, and Fun," the meeting featured two speakers. Jim Cavaye

provided an update on the Penguin Makeover Community Group, sharing plans for our local township to be recognised. The atmosphere shifted from local issues to fiscal fascination as John Lamb led a discussion on currency and legal tender. Heads were turning as we learned about the staggering secondary market values of certain coins. Who knew that a 2012 Red Poppy \$2 coin could now fetch \$895 at Downies, or that a \$200 coin holds a bullion value of \$2,450? It certainly had many of us resolving to check our spare change more closely!

Beyond our diverse social outings such as the recent trip to see Bob's Beautiful Begonias at Gawler Paradise Nursery, we are actively planning several small interest groups, including a walking group and Canasta and Mah Jong for those who enjoy a strategic challenge.

Our next meeting is at 10 am at the Penguin Railway Station on 16th April. Phone: #0457 071 166. All welcome!

Unleash Your Creativity: Introducing 'CRAFTERNOON' in Ulverstone

By Jenny Rowden, CWA



Do you love the idea of the Country Women's Association (CWA) but find that your 9-to-5 makes attending traditional meetings impossible? If you've been craving a creative outlet and a supportive community but can't find the time,

your wait is over. Introducing CRAFTERNOON—a brand-new initiative designed specifically for women who need a little more flexibility and a lot more "me time."

Starting Saturday April 11, we are accessing APEX House (located on Gollan Street, right near the Coles car park) changing it into a hub of needles, thread, and laughter. From 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, the kettle will be on, and the creative energy will be flowing.

Why Join Us? It's simple: Chat, cuppa, craft what more could you want?

Your Projects: Bring along that half-finished item just waiting to be finished OR work on

Our Projects: Want to give back? Join us in working on community-focused craft projects. We provide all the materials for these; you just provide the hands!

Inclusivity First: We welcome women of all ages and backgrounds. Whether you are a total beginner or a seasoned pro, there is a seat at the table for you.

The Details

Cost: Just a gold coin donation.

The Vibe: Relaxed, friendly, and totally low-pressure. Come on your own or bring a friend! This is not a meeting and there will be no agendas.

Don't let a busy schedule keep you from the community you deserve. For more information, contact Jenny at 0457 071 166 or email us at cwaulverstone@gmail.com.

Carrot Festival is Back for its 7th Year!

By Tamara Grey

Our much-loved Carrot Festival is back for its 7th year on 11th April at 10AM, and we're ready to welcome the community once again to a fun, relaxed day out in Forth!

This free family event has become a local favourite, packed with plenty to keep everyone smiling. Little ones can dive into face painting, balloons, temporary carrot tattoos, sample bags and the always-popular carrot digging. Meanwhile, the big kids can enjoy guided factory tours, a classic sausage sizzle, tractors and farm machinery on display, or simply kick back on a hay bale with a coffee and a slice of carrot cake.

New this year, we'll also have fresh vegetable packs for sale, so you can take a bit of the paddock home with you. As well as a golden carrot hiding in our digging field, find it and you get a free tractor ride! And yes, the famous carrot ice-cream is back, and it's still a crowd-pleaser for all ages! Well-behaved furry friends are welcome too (just make sure they're on a leash).

Harvest Moon has been growing and packing vegetables in Tasmania for over 45 years, and our free narrated tours of the washing, sorting and packaging facilities are always a highlight, but they do book out quickly, so arrive early to secure your spot. Fresh air, good food, and a whole lot of carrot-powered fun. We can't wait to see you there!

Sunsets and Scale: Creativity on Display at Hive

By Joy Watson, Secretary, Leven Regional Arts

As the seasons shift on Tasmania's North West Coast, Leven Regional Arts Studio 2 at Hive presents its latest exhibition, "Sunsets," on display until 13 May 2026—a vibrant reflection of our changing coastal light.

In the foyer, the Leven Regional Arts Scale Model (Construction) Group showcases an impressive collection including Book Nooks, Music Boxes, VW Camper Buses, Motorcycles, and Star Wars and Marvel characters, alongside iconic structures like the Taj Mahal, St Paul's Cathedral and Notre-Dame.

The group meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am in Studio 2 and warmly welcomes new members.

Interestingly, scale models played a role in early Tasmanian architecture, with designs by Augustus Pugin used to construct churches such as St Paul's in Oatlands and St John's in Richmond.

Come along, explore, and be inspired.



Image: Sunset on the Dial Range, by Janice Stanfield

Launch of the New Life Woodcraft Exhibition

By Jill Ball

The North West Woodcraft Guild was founded in home workshops in 1990, progressing to a shed on the Central Coast Council owned lot. In November 2021 it was incorporated into Hive – the Visitor Information Centre and Cultural Hub in Ulverstone, Tasmania.

Since the Guild's inception two exhibitions have been held by members – most recently, in 2024, in the great public Art Gallery on Level 1 of Hive.

The 2026 exhibition showing from February 2026 till May 2026 is called "New Life" – celebrating the transformation of old wood. Members have contributed their most recent works to the exhibition in an amazing array of forms, and inspirational shapes.

The Guild aims to improve woodworking skills of all members. A gathering place for like-minded enthusiasts to share knowledge, skills, and ideas, the use of machinery, hand tools and crafting wood.

The workshop welcomes new members. Benefits include being in close proximity to Tasmanian timbers and using wood working skills which take patience and time to produce works of art.

Take a look at the presentation "A Compelling Story" telling of the history of King Billy Pine on the Hive Gallery website written during a guitar making workshop.

Visit the Woodcraft workshop (Hive Ground Level) where members gather, to see fine workmanship on show in the workshop gallery and talk woodcraft. Members have a lifetime of collective knowledge of the age old craft of wood focused materials, especially the Tasmanian timbers.

Quotes from the "New Life" NWWG Exhibition Launch 2026:

"Through New Life, the Northwest Woodcraft Guild demonstrates what renewal truly means, honouring timber grown in this place and skills passed down through generations, while creating work that reflects deep mastery of craft. When community gathers around making and storytelling, we create not just beautiful objects, but belonging." *Jessie Pangas, Manager Arts and Culture, Central Coast Council*

"We bring new life to old wood – appreciating its age, its imperfections, its beauty and its story by making something interesting - creative or functional. When you look at the exhibition you will see the diversity of thought within the Guild and how the title of "NEW LIFE" was interpreted by the Guild members." *Leanne Midgley, President NWWG, craftworker*

Young Performers Wanted for Oliver! Jr. in Devonport

Devonport Choral Society is inviting young performers aged 12–18 to audition for its 2026 youth production of Oliver! Jr.

Teens who enjoy singing, acting or dancing — or who are keen to try something new — are encouraged to get involved. The production will also offer opportunities for young people to take on creative roles, with mentoring from experienced team members.

Auditions will take place from 17–19 April, with rehearsals beginning Saturday 2 May. Performances are scheduled for 21–29 August.

Young people of all experience levels are encouraged to come along and be part of this classic musical. For more information, contact Devonport Choral Society at dev_choral@hotmail.com.

Sound in Space returns to Hive

Experience a sonic odyssey as live music and moving images combine beneath the dome of the Ulverstone Planetarium at Hive. Sound and visuals merge to create an unforgettable cosmic journey.

From mountain harp to psychedelic rock to groove-based jazz, each performance transforms the planetarium into its own artistic universe. The series features six extraordinary shows every third Sunday from May to October.

Watch creative alchemy unfold as musicians and visual artists respond to each other in real time beneath the stars. No two Sound in Space performances are ever the same. Limited seating. Book early.

The full program detail and tickets will be available at www.hivetasmania.com.au
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2026 Program dates

May 17 Alluvium
June 21 Golden Sunbird
July 19 Majik Carpet
Aug 16 Slime Moulds & Mountain Harp
Sept 20 Cary Lewincamp
Oct 18 TL;DR

Image: Alluvium, Paul Corfiatis and Aaron Hopper. Photographer Hannah Gooley 2025



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Our Tassie Footy!

By Bethany Fielding, Riana Primary School



This week AFL TAS came to Riana Primary School.

The lesson was filled with fun activities like 'tag football' and 'top of the table' that all students enjoyed.

Firstly, the female AFL lead, Asher picked three people to catch the others, the rest had to run around with their footy trying to stay free. This was enjoyed by all.

Next, Logan the male AFL lead, taught us how to handball he told us to have our writing hand 'punch the ball' then your non dominant hand to hold the ball. I found this activity easier than it sounds!

Then we played 'top of the table', we had to handball to our partner, but if you dropped the ball you had to move back to the 'bottom of the table'.

There was a catch though, Logan and Asher would run through the middle of the table to try and make you drop the ball, which made it even harder.

The lesson ended off with great feedback from students including one student saying, "everyone was cheerful and happy, and the adults didn't fail to help when needed".

Building Strength, Connection and Community at Bootcamps Tasmania

Bootcamps Tasmania is helping locals feel stronger, healthier and more connected — and for many, it's become far more than just a workout.

For Jemima, it's the unique combination of environment and community that stands out.

"There's nothing quite like an early morning session at the Devonport Bluff... watching the sun rise over the ocean while powering through a set of lunges," she said. "Everyone is incredibly welcoming and inclusive."

Members say it's the supportive atmosphere that keeps them coming back. Prue shared that joining boot camp has been "one of the best decisions" she's made.

"It gave me permission to prioritise my own health... and helped me become a more balanced, present version of myself."

The impact goes beyond fitness. "Bootcamp has literally changed my life," said Mel, while Dave added he loves "the chance to meet new people and encourage each other." Brian reflected, "It feels good to feel good."

Bootcamps Tasmania have sessions in Devonport, Port Sorell and now also in Turners Beach. If you are an early riser or prefer an evening session — the options are endless. Want to learn more?

Check out bootcampstasmania.com.au

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📱 @senator.josh 📱 Senator Josh Dolega

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

The Cove: Redefining Coastal Luxury

By Cheryle Laphorne

While Cheviot Dale's legacy is deeply rooted in generations past, its future is being redefined by the Robinson family through a vision centred on luxury, experience and connection.

What began as a modest concept for glamping quickly evolved into something far more ambitious. Recognising the uniqueness of the coastline and the opportunity to create a truly elevated destination, the Robinson family have carefully developed The Cove in stages each one raising the standard of what visitors can expect.

Today, guests are offered a curated selection of premium accommodation options, featuring Cliffside Chalets with ensuites, Cheviot A-Frame cabins, Hillside Hardtop glamping cabins, and the luxurious 5-star Villa Two Five Six. Each stay has been thoughtfully designed to combine architectural detail with comfort, privacy and uninterrupted coastal views.

At the heart of the experience is the Alexander Centre a refined communal space that anchors The Cove's luxury offering. Designed for both relaxation and connection, it brings together shared facilities that enhance every stay, from wellness experiences and quiet retreat spaces to beautifully appointed areas that invite guests to slow down and immerse themselves in their surroundings.

This sense of considered luxury extends across the entire property. Two on-site dining experiences provide guests with the opportunity to enjoy high-quality food in a setting that reflects the landscape, while additional wellness experiences can be arranged through reception for those seeking rest and rejuvenation.

Looking ahead, plans are underway for an exciting new wellness space known as Stillness, set to feature a sauna, cold water plunge and hot tub. This next stage of development is expected to commence before June, continuing The Cove's commitment to thoughtful, experience-led design.

Through vision, innovation and respect for the land, the Robinson family have created more than accommodation they have created a destination defined by detail, intention and experience.

This is more than a place to stay, it's a place to arrive, unwind, and experience the coast in a whole new way.

Note: Sir Alexander Lillico received his Knighthood in 1962 not 1965 as printed in the march publication.



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Ulverstone Real Estate

By Craig Heppell, Ulverstone Real Estate

With fuel, food and prices in general rising, and an interest rate hike of 0.25% in early March, how might this affect property markets here and nationwide?

Let's head to the Nation's property engine room, Sydney - and a week is a long time in ANY market. On the weekend of the 7th/8th of March, I reported that the property Auction clearance rate in Sydney was around 75% - pretty healthy.

However, the next weekend, the 14th/15th of March - it was just over 50% clearance rate. Down 25%!



Buyer confidence in Sydney has taken a hit and they are no longer willing to chase prices.

As of late March, here in the Northwest of Tassie, our deep, day to day involvement in the market shows that buyers are still quite active, and stock levels, the number of properties for sale, remains steady.

A sharp increase in stock levels with a softening of buyer activity indicates that fear could be creeping into the market, but that is not the case, here - for now.

In mid-March, I spoke with several local building inspectors, property lawyers and an experienced mortgage brokers and all (but one) indicated continued activity from buyers, contracts across the desk and loan applications.

A sobering takeaway from Mid to Late March came from Louis Christopher of SMQ research, a prominent property forecaster. In January, Louis had predicted property price growth across Australia for 2026 to be in the 6-10% range. He's now revised that number to 3%.

The cost of Government pressures may start to bite as the year progresses. I am keeping a close eye on all market activity and fluctuations to ensure my clients and all of you reading this can make good decisions in an uncertain time.

Women in Business Summit Inspires Connection and Confidence

By Alicia van Ek

The Devonport Chamber of Commerce International Women's Day Breakfast - Women in Business Summit was a standout event on the North-West calendar, bringing together 160 attendees in a room filled with energy, ambition and genuine connection.

It was fantastic to catch up with so many local businesswomen and leaders, all united by a shared drive to grow, support one another and make a positive impact in our region. The atmosphere was incredibly uplifting, with conversations flowing and new connections forming throughout the morning.

A key highlight was the powerful and passionate message from Anneke van den Broek, who spoke about the strength of determination and how it can carry us further than we often expect. Her story was both motivating and a timely reminder of what's possible with focus and resilience.

Robyn Moore AM was, as always, a standout. Her heartfelt reflections on the power of words left a lasting impression. If you ever see her on a program and haven't had the chance to hear her speak—do yourself a favour and go. She is truly remarkable.

With strong contributions from all speakers and thoughtful panel discussions, the Summit showcased the depth of leadership across the North-West and reinforced the importance of connection, confidence and community.

Do you know someone who is a real standout in our community, or an event that deserves a spotlight? Reach out to editor@thecoastalvoice.au to share your story.



Central Coast Chamber of Commerce Update

By Craig Heppell, President CCCC

Wow! Blink and you'll miss it. March saw event after event that kept us on our toes. From Iran kicking off, to fuel spikes, inflation inflating, an interest rate rise to political hi jinx - the news cycle was on turbo. Fuel price hikes added to the cost of Government debacle, putting further pressure on household budgets and, in turn, businesses.

The next few months will reveal the true capabilities of our political leaders and whether they are up to the task of managing our economy. Locally, The Chamber has been actively instilling confidence and supporting local business.

Our March 'Meeting on the Move' was held at Camp Clayton - a wonderful, long running, facility supporting our

youth and community. Another 'Meeting on the Move' was held at IPrint/Ricoh in late 2025 - Karen and Ken showcasing their fantastic business. And the launch of the CC Council's much anticipated 'Make it Central' initiative drew over 60 business and community leaders to Hive - an impressive event.

Chamber members continue to win awards for their efforts in Business and serving the community: Wild Acres, A Bark Above and Ulverstone Real Estate all picking up 'Gongs'. Congratulations!

Please let us know at The Chamber if your business has been recognised in any way - we want to share the news! Email us: admin@centralcoastcci.com

Influenza (Flu)

By Alec Azar, Priceline Pharmacy

The flu is a highly contagious viral infection that may cause severe illness and life threatening complications, including pneumonia. The flu is spread by contact with fluids, such as coughs and colds, and the flu contributes to over 3000 Australian deaths per annum.

The most common symptoms of the flu include a sudden appearance of a high fever, a dry cough, body aches (especially in the head, lower back and legs), feeling extremely weak and tired (and not wanting to get out of bed). Symptoms of the flu hit very quickly and may last for several weeks.

Some people are at higher risk of severe complications associated with the flu. They include pregnant women, people aged over 65, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, all children younger than five years of age and people with chronic medical conditions. Anyone in these at-risk groups with flu-like symptoms should see their doctor as soon as possible.

Annual immunisation against the flu is recommended for all people from six months of age. The vaccine is not 100 percent effective, but it does provide a high level of protection and can reduce symptoms in those still getting sick.

Most (otherwise healthy) adults will be able to infect other people up to seven days after becoming sick, so the best way to avoid spreading the flu is to stay home while you are unwell. In particular, avoid going to work or school, or visiting busy public places. Avoid sharing linen, eating utensils and dishes.

Perform good cough etiquette at all times. This includes coughing into a tissue and disposing of it immediately, or coughing into your sleeve. Good hand hygiene is also important. Wash your hands regularly using soap and water, particularly if you cough into your hands.

The flu is a viral infection so antibiotics won't help at all and should not be taken. Decongestants and simple pain relievers can help you feel better while your immune system fights off the infection.

The best things you can do to look after yourself when you have the flu are:

- Rest – you will probably feel very weak and tired until your temperature returns to normal
- Stay at home – stay away from work or school and avoid contact with others as much as possible while the infection is contagious (usually around 3–5 days from when first symptoms appear)
- Drink plenty of fluids – extra fluids are needed to replace those lost because of the fever.

Other useful flu recovery tips include taking pain relieving medication such as paracetamol or ibuprofen, as directed on the packet, to ease muscle pain and bring you're your fever (unless your doctor says otherwise). Antibiotics are not effective against the flu because the flu is a virus, and antibiotics fight bacteria.

However, your doctor may prescribe them if you develop a bacterial infection on top of your flu. Gargle with a glass of warm water to ease a sore throat. Sucking on sugar-free lollies or lozenges also helps.

Remember, if you buy medicine at the pharmacy to treat your symptoms (over-the-counter medications), check with the pharmacist to see if it is the best one for you. Mention if you have a chronic illness or are taking any other medication.



HARVEST MOON

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The poster features a dark blue background with a yellow sun icon at the top. It includes three photographs: a large field of carrots, two young girls sitting on a bench eating carrots, and a group of people at a festival stall. There are also illustrations of carrots and a QR code in the bottom left corner.



Weindorfer Day 2026

- Community Family Festival
- Weindorfer Service (9:45 AM)
- Presentations, History, Ecology, Geology
- Live Music, Poetry, Art, Film
- Artisan Stalls
- Games of Yesteryear
- Great food & Coffee
- Cradle Mountain/Cradle Trail Bus Tour*

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026
from 9:45 AM

Wilmot

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The poster features a scenic background of mountains and a sunset. It lists various activities and services available at the event. There are two QR codes for booking and a list of local sponsors at the bottom.

Understanding Grief: A Community Seminar to Help Navigate Loss

Kelly Dernehl, CEO of New Mornings



Grief is something every person will encounter at some point in life, yet many of us feel unprepared when it arrives. Whether it follows the loss of a loved one, a relationship, health, or a significant life change, grief can leave people feeling overwhelmed, isolated, and unsure how to move forward.

To help address this, Ulverstone-based community mental health organisation New Mornings are hosting an "Understanding Grief" seminar on Saturday 18 April from 9:30am to 3:00pm at Life Church Centre in Ulverstone.

The seminar has been designed as a practical and supportive day for both community members experiencing loss and those who work alongside people affected by grief. Attendees will hear from a team of experienced presenters who bring together clinical expertise, professional practice, and lived experience. Speakers include retired psychiatrist Dr Jo Lammersma, clinical psychologist Caroline Macleod, grief and loss specialist Tanya Stephenson, and chaplain and youth worker Andrew Blake. Together, they will explore the many ways grief affects our emotional wellbeing and provide practical tools to help people navigate the journey through loss.

One of the key focuses of the day will be helping people understand what is happening in the brain and body during grief. Many people are surprised to learn that grief is not only emotional but also neurological and physiological. Changes in sleep, concentration, appetite, and mood are all common responses to loss, and understanding these reactions can help people respond to themselves and others with greater compassion.

The seminar will also offer practical coping strategies that support emotional regulation and healing. Participants will gain insight into healthy ways of processing grief, building resilience, and supporting others who may be struggling.

Importantly, the event will include the sharing of lived experiences. Hearing personal stories of loss and healing often helps people feel less alone in their own journey and can open the door to meaningful conversations about grief, something that is often avoided in everyday life.

New Mornings has been providing mental health support to the Northwest community for many years through programs including grief support groups, mentoring for young people, and community wellbeing initiatives. Our grief support work recognises that loss affects everyone differently, and that healing often happens best in community.

Events like this seminar play an important role in building understanding and reducing the isolation that many people experience after loss. By creating safe spaces to learn, reflect, and connect, we hope to equip individuals and professionals alike with tools that foster hope and resilience.

Tickets for the seminar can be booked via Humanitix by scanning the QR code below, or by contacting the New Mornings office on 6411 6212.

Anyone who has experienced loss, supports others through grief, or simply wants to better understand the grieving process is warmly encouraged to attend. Sometimes the most powerful step in healing begins with understanding.

New Mornings not-for-profit mental health organisation presents...

Understanding Grief... Seminar

SATURDAY
18TH APRIL 2026
9:30AM-3:00PM
LIFE CHURCH CENTRE
22 ALLAMBIE CRESCENT
ULVERSTONE

Suitable for both community members and those working with people affected by grief.

Our experienced team of speakers will lead you in:

- Identifying effective coping strategies for grief that support emotional regulation and healing
- Their personal lived experiences of grief
- How to understand grief processes including how our brain interprets what we are going through

Our Seminar Speakers...



DR. JO LAMMERSMA
RETIRED
PSYCHIATRIST



CAROLINE MACLEOD
CLINICAL
PSYCHOLOGIST



TANYA STEPHENSON
GRIEF & LOSS
SPECIALIST



ANDREW BLAKE
CHAPLAIN & YOUTH
WORKER

Tickets from:

- humanitix - scan QR code
 - New Mornings office ph: 6411 6212
- www.newmornings.org.au



The Lounge drop in service for women
Grief Support Services
IMPACT Student Mentoring
New Hope Garden
Mental Health First Aid Training
Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

A not-for-profit mental health organisation supporting adults and children in the community, where mental health, wellbeing and resilience thrive.

Contact us today to discuss how we can best support you or your loved ones.



(03) 6411 6212

admin@newmornings.org.au
www.newmornings.org.au



Where Stopping Crime Starts

By David Daniels OAM, Chair Crime Stoppers Tasmania



Community tips via Crime Stoppers have reached a record high in 2025, with more people stepping up to help create a safer Tasmania.

In 2025, information provided through Crime Stoppers Tasmania contributed to 35% of the intelligence holdings of Tasmania Police - a 4% increase from the previous year.

Daily engagement also reached record levels, with over 10,000 community contacts received; an average of 30 contacts per day, up 24% on 2024. The quality and value of information received improved, resulting in a 22% increase in Police information Reports. This growth reflects the community engagement with targeted campaigns and programs.

On par with previous years, 71% of tips were submitted anonymously and 59% of contacts converted to actionable police reports. These outcomes underscore the increasing trust and relevance of Crime Stoppers Tasmania as a vital partner in the State's public safety network.

Digital accessibility continues to drive community participation. 84% of reports were submitted through the online portal, powered by Motorola Solutions - a clear indicator of Tasmania's shift toward online, mobile-first engagement. 24% of digital tips contained images or video, providing important supporting information and evidence for police.

Crime Stoppers gets tips about a wide range of crimes and community safety concerns. 2025 saw the breadth of reports continue to expand.

Illicit drugs remain the most commonly reported crime at 35%, followed by dangerous driving (19%), wanted persons (8%) and stealing (5%). The community has been

responding to our call to action for information relating to a broad range of community crime issues.

Crime Stoppers 2025 quick stats:

- 35% contribution to Tasmania Police intelligence
- 30 people make contact each day
- 71% of tips are given anonymously
- 84% of tips are done via crimestopperstas.com.au
- 24% of digital tips contained images or video

Community information provided to Crime Stoppers in 2025 directly helped identify offenders, recover stolen property, disrupt drug networks, seize firearms, and solve violent crimes. Every success reinforces our message that even the smallest piece of information can make a big difference. Highlights include:

- **Murder** - a video, submitted through Crime Stoppers, provided critical evidence. The video of the incident, which occurred in a public space, was key in a major murder investigation, leading to multiple arrests and charges laid.
- **Stolen Property** - an anonymous tip led to the recovery of \$140,000 in stolen goods. Extensive media reach was achieved in a successful call out to the tipster to come forward and claim a reward.
- **Animal Cruelty** - a tip with video evidence led to a conviction for killing a protected species. The offender was jailed and fined; and the tipster received a reward.
- **Dangerous Driving** - a tip of repeated hooning resulted in police surveillance. Charges were laid for dangerous driving and the possession of stolen plates.

Crime Stoppers Tasmania empowers the community to play an active role in solving, preventing and reducing crime - safely and anonymously. We act as a trusted conduit between the public and law enforcement, giving Tasmanians the confidence to share what they know without fear of identification or involvement.

To everyone who has made an anonymous tip - thank you! And to anyone who knows something about crime that could make our communities safer - please make a tip. It's safe, anonymous and secure.

Make a tip. Make a difference!

To report information anonymously:
crimestopperstas.com.au or 1800 333 000

For police assistance: call 131 444
In an emergency: call 000

"I asked for help."

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

Grace is a carer for her mum Rita, who has dementia. With Carer Gateway's support, Grace was able to access free coaching and counselling and connect with other carers through her local Peer Support Group. Care2Serve is the local Tassie team connecting Tasmanian carers to Carer Gateway. If you are a carer and would like help too, contact us. Support is free, inclusive and confidential.

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

Carer Gateway
An Australian Government Initiative

Care2Serve
YOU'RE ALWAYS FIRST

Community Safety

The Mother's Day Gift That Really Matters - Keeping Mum Safe Online

Mother's Day usually means flowers, chocolates, maybe breakfast in bed if you're lucky. But this year, Crime Stoppers Tasmania has a different suggestion: give Mum something even more valuable - the gift of online safety. Because while roses fade and chocolates disappear quickly, helping Mum stay safe online can protect her from scams, identity theft, and cybercrime all year round.

Flowers Wilt... Strong Passphrases Don't

One of the simplest ways to help Mum stay safe online is by setting up strong, unique passphrases for her accounts. A passphrase is a highly secure, memorable password with multiple random, often unrelated, words that are harder to crack.

Use 4+ words, incorporate numbers/symbols, avoid personal information, and keep them unique per account. It might not look as nice as a bouquet, but it's far more useful when it comes to protecting online accounts.

Chocolates Are Sweet... But Multi-Factor Authentication Is Sweeter

Another powerful gift is turning on multi-factor authentication (MFA) for Mum's important accounts like email, banking, and social media.

MFA adds an extra layer of protection by requiring a second step to log in - such as a code sent to her phone or a fingerprint check. Even if someone guesses a password, MFA helps stop them getting access.

Pyjamas Are Cosy... Secure Wi-Fi Is Comforting Too

Comfort comes in many forms - including knowing your home internet is safe. Help Mum password-protect her Wi-Fi and ensure it is using up-to-date security settings.

Avoid using public Wi-Fi for banking or shopping, and consider setting up a secure network at home where she can browse, connect, and relax with confidence.

Breakfast in Bed Is Relaxing... But Spotting Scams Is Powerful

A thoughtful breakfast is a treat - but helping Mum spot a scam is even more rewarding. Show her how to recognise suspicious links, unexpected attachments, or messages pretending to be from trusted organisations. Encourage her to pause before responding to unusual messages - especially those that feel urgent, threatening, or too good to be true.

Scammers rely on pressure and emotion, so taking a moment to verify the sender through official channels can make all the difference. Remind her not to click links in emails or texts, but instead go directly to official websites or contact companies independently.

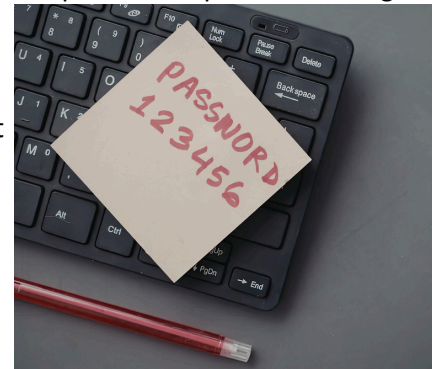
A Photo Frame Holds Memories... Privacy Settings Protect Them

Photos capture special moments - but it's important those memories stay in the right hands. Take time to review her social media accounts, making profiles private and limiting who can see personal information.

It's also a great opportunity to talk about asking permission before sharing photos or details about others. Help protect Mum's privacy as well as the privacy of everyone in those images.

This Mother's Day, skip the predictable presents - and give Mum something truly meaningful: peace of mind online. Crime Stoppers wishes all Mums a safe and great Mother's Day!

For more information about scams and online safety, visit the Scamwatch and the eSafety website.



Marine Safety in the Spotlight This Easter

By Inspector Andrew Hanson Central West Division and Western Marine Services – Western District



With the Easter break approaching, police are urging recreational boat users to take a few simple steps to ensure a safe and enjoyable time on the water.

Many people will be dusting off vessels that haven't been used for a while, and officers say now is the perfect time to carry out basic maintenance before heading out.

One of the most important checks is your fuel. Old fuel that has been sitting in a motor for months can cause breakdowns at the worst possible time.

Replacing stale fuel and running your motor before launching can prevent unnecessary emergencies.

Police are also reminding skippers to make sure all required safety equipment is on board and in proper working order.

That includes checking that flares are in date, fire extinguishers are fully charged, and lifejackets, bailing devices and communication equipment are easily accessible.

Anyone heading to the Arthur River this holiday period will notice new signage highlighting the 5-knot speed zones.

Marine Police will be active in the area to ensure operators are doing the right thing and respecting the rules in place to keep everyone safe.

A general reminder applies to all recreational boaters, including jet ski users: "freestyling" is not permitted within 500 metres of a residence.

This may cause some confusion for boaters as MAST legislation requires no freestyling within 200 metres of the shore if a residence is within 100m of that shore.

However, often overlooked are the noise regulations which require a 500m distance.

These rules exist to protect both riders and the community.

THE START OF MY LAST YEAR

RIDGLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT'S REFLECT ON COMING TO THE END OF PRIMARY SCHOOL



By Briley Thomas

It's my last year in primary school I am proud that I have made it this far in my life, I have made plenty of friends in my life, and my teacher is the best teacher of all time I have only had a teacher like her in grade 2 and 3. Every one is so nice and they have taught me so well ever since I got here I have learnt so much at this school and after this year all of it will be gone. There is this one subject that I love, and I am talented at and that is Art. My skills at art are excellent, I am really smart and so are my classmates they are so helpful to everyone and I am too.



By Layna Coulson

Dear Diary, today is the 5th of February and today is the first day of school. When I woke up, I got prepared and packed my bag. While driving to school, I was excited but nervous for the first day of 6th grade.

When I walked in the school doors my brother strolled to his new classroom straight away, while I was still a bit nervous. Once I walked into the room, I put my bag in my bag hole and found my desk. Once I saw my friends, I walked to them and joined them. This year I'm really looking forward to art and Hass. This year I feel like I have to be a role model for the younger grades in school.

My teacher is a short, nice woman with glasses. This year, instead of the Ridgley primary shirts, we have leavers tops with everyone in grade 6 names on the back. Also, this year is different because we do different things compared to last year for example, we do a math's brain warm up on our computer and we do word origins differently. The classroom has its own library, and the desks are in different spots.

At the end of the day, Miss Mondo put on a pack-up song that changes every week. Once the bell rang, the first day of the last year at school was officially over. I lined up at the bus line and waited for the bus. Once I got home, I got dressed and done my job. Once I went to bed I wondered what the next day would be like. And that was the first day of the last year of primary school

Dear Diary, today is the 9th of February. Today we got to get our table names, each row of desks each get their own table names, and we get to get table points. My table's name was pink pony powers. At the end of 4 weeks, the table with the most table points get to either get 10 minuets free time or put it into 2 behaviour bingos. I really hope my table wins.

By Kaylen Thorp

Today is my first day of grade 6 and I am genuinely nervous to meet my teacher and to see all my friends because I have never been in her class, and I want my last year to be fantastic. It is good so far because every morning we see miss Mondo with a new funny expression on her face to lighten the mood of the class.

One moment from the first week that stood out to me was getting to see everyone and learning the class rules with all the side-splitting complications along the way. Some goals that I have set for this year are to get even better in my grades ready for high school. I also set some targets to do improve in running/athletic carnivals.

Some new responsibilities that come with being one of the oldest students in the school are looking out for other students and having buddies with some of the youngest students in the school. My roles in the school have made a handful of significant changes including showing responsibility, behaving reasonably and showing respect. If we are all silly and never listen, then how will the future generations of the school know to do better?

This year I am mostly looking forward to being a student leader and helping others, I am also looking forward to going on the grade 6 days out and the leavers dinner, but the thing I am mostly looking forward to this year is making great memories with my teachers, peers and friends.

Some challenges that I think I will face this year is friendships changing and splitting, the way I think I will get through it is by letting the world choose my path and hope we become friends or a group again. My friendships have changed over these years due to disagreements or just not wanting to talk anymore and they have grown by welcoming new friends and building trust and faith in each other.

In my opinion being a leader isn't about you or your pride or popularity, being a leader is about helping your friends and classmates become successful and achieve their goals. My advice to the younger students is to try your best and push for your goals no matter what others say to put you down, words are words don't let them stop you from doing what you love.



By Maria Lowery

On the first day of school this year I felt excited and proud that I have been at school for 7 years and that next year I will be going to high school next year. When I came here my teacher stood out, she was very nice and would help me straight away if I didn't quite get it. This year I want to challenge myself and get good at maths so I'm ready for high school. This year I'm student leader and it's a lot of pressure being grade 6 because we're the oldest kids in the school and we set the examples.

This year everything has changed we have a new room, new teacher, new desks and new roles like student leader. This year I know that all our work is going to get way harder so I'm going to practice even more so I can get better. I still have the same friends as last year, but I have more now not just from my grade but from other grades as well. I'm really looked forward to the grade 6 days out and our leavers dinner.

If I gave some younger kids advice it would be don't give up and keep trying because if you don't try then you will never get better and no matter what negative things people say to block them out and tell a teacher. It seems like yesterday that I was walking through those kinder doors and now I'm nearly in high school and I'm very excited to see what comes next!

Grade Six Camp Clayton Report

By Lachie Fagan & Ivy Hawkett, Our Lady of Lourdes Primary

On Wednesday 25th to Friday 27th February 2026, the Grade Sixes attended our camp at Camp Clayton near Turners Beach.

Our camp kick started with the all-important bus trip and us crossing our fingers that Lauchlan Gray's large bag would actually fit on the bus! After a delay in waiting for the second bus to arrive, we finally boarded our buses.

We were pretty quiet making our way to Camp Clayton but then the turn off arrived. Everyone started talking at once, "I can see the Giant Swing" "Oh look there is a trampoline" and "Oh wow! There is so much stuff we can do."

But the biggest question everyone had was, "Where are the cabins?" We were keen to see what the cabins looked like and if our bathrooms were going to have hot water for our showers!



As soon as we got to our cabins we immediately unpacked and looked at our cabin setup. Some of us really struggled with putting the fitted sheet in our mattresses!

Next, we looked at our activity groups because they were who we were with throughout the rest of the activities at camp.

Our group was first on the giant swing! It went 12 meters in the air!

When most of us saw it, we were backing down and saying we weren't going to do it, but Daniel, our instructor, said we could go UPSIDE DOWN!!

Of course, those words got us motivated! It felt so high when we were up there! The Giant Swing was definitely my highlight of the camp!

My highlight was also the giant swing. I was terrified but I still did it. Going up was scary but once I let go off that red rope, everyone was cheering for me! After I got back down and out of my harness, I realised that it was all about pushing myself out of my comfort zone! I was so happy that I did the challenge!

Our Thursday activities consisted of Flying Fox, Crate Climbing, Team Rescue, Obstacle Challenge and Archery. These activities were to help us with our teamwork and to really push us out of our comfort zone.

Our camp experience provided us with an opportunity to be pushed out of our comfort zones, and to really consider what it means to be a resilient and reliable Grade 6 Leader.

My Electorate Office is open to the Braddon community.

If you need assistance with Federal Government services such as the NDIS, Centrelink, Medicare, My Aged Care, migration matters or Veterans Affairs, **please contact or visit my office Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.**



Anne Urquhart MP

Federal Member for Braddon

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Authorised by A Urquhart, ALP, Shop 9, 22 Wilmot St, Burnie TAS 7320

Environmental Corner

By Geoffrey Curtis

A recent community meeting in Port Sorell has brought attention to an issue that might seem small at first glance — sardines — but their role in our local ecosystem is anything but minor.

While they may be best known as the contents of a small tin, sardines are a critical part of the marine food chain. In Tasmania, we have a distinct “South Eastern” sardine population, and their abundance supports a wide range of wildlife — from larger fish and seabirds to marine mammals, and even the penguin chicks at Lillico Beach.

However, this balance is more fragile than it appears. Increased fishing pressure, combined with environmental changes, raises concerns about long-term sustainability. Sardines have short life cycles and unpredictable breeding patterns, meaning their populations can shift rapidly.

History has shown how quickly things can change. In the late 1990s, diseased imported sardines fed to farmed tuna led to a dramatic decline — around 70% — in wild sardine

populations across Australia and New Zealand. Events like this highlight how interconnected and vulnerable marine ecosystems can be.

At the Port Sorell meeting, concerns were raised about the lack of consistent monitoring of sardine stocks in Tasmanian waters. Without reliable data and regular surveying, it is difficult to understand population trends or respond effectively to changes — particularly in a time of rapid climate change.

Sardines may be small, but their importance is significant. Overfishing, particularly of spawning fish and juveniles, can have ripple effects throughout the food chain. And while it may seem simple to assume predators will adapt, many species rely specifically on sardines as a key food source.

As discussions continue, one question remains — if we don’t keep a close eye on species like sardines, what might that mean for the broader health of our marine environment?

EcoFest is Back!

Ecofest is a two-day festival dedicated to building a more sustainable future. Set at Camp Clayton in Ulverstone, Festival goers can enjoy a great family day out experiencing fun from eco-kids activities, presentations and workshops to adventure activities, bustling market stalls, and a lively line-up of music to enjoy alongside great food and drinks, every moment is designed to be both fun and meaningful.

Our Theme “Many hands make a lighter planet” captures the idea that a sustainable future depends on shared effort. It highlights how community action—small or large—adds up to real change, and how every person, has a role in caring for the place we all call home.

Ecofest celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, marking a decade of growth from the small grassroots gathering into one of the North-West Coast’s premier sustainable living festivals. What began as a local initiative now attracts thousands of people each year, all coming together to take sustainable living to new heights.

This year’s focus is celebrating with zero waste. Across the two-day festival, visitors will be invited to help create a shared celebration space that will become the venue for our closing event on day two. Throughout the weekend you can immerse yourself in hands-on displays and activities that show how simple, creative choices can reduce waste in everyday life—gift wrapping without single-use paper, food storage without clingfilm, reusable decorations, and beautiful pieces made from repurposed materials. Learn to fold paper flowers, craft streamers, and explore practical ideas for all ages.

Proudly a Zero Waste festival, ecofest is powered entirely by volunteers and supported by a not-for-profit community organisation. This unique spirit of collaboration makes Ecofest more than just an event—it’s a movement toward a greener future.



We look forward to welcoming you in 2026 to share in this unforgettable experience.

Ecofest 11th & 12th April
Gates open 8:30
Camp Clayton, Ulverstone

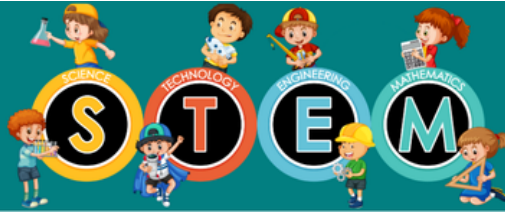
Plan your weekend and take advantage of the early bird ticket prices. Head to our website for details:
<https://www.ecofesttas.com.au>

Image: Emily Roberts, Cassie Smith and Jennifer Hamilton

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This Month in STEM

By Brittany Trubody

Animals

Scientists in Mauritius have successfully bred heat-resistant corals to help reefs withstand rising ocean temperatures. During a recent marine heatwave, more than 98% of these lab-cultivated corals survived—offering a promising lifeline for fragile reef ecosystems.

Environment

The Victorian Government has repurposed over six million 2-litre plastic milk cartons to construct efficient, fast-to-build noise barriers along sections of the North East Link roadway. Each panel incorporates around 700 recycled bottles, diverting significant waste from landfill while lowering carbon emissions and improving sound insulation.

Energy

Company Solyt has developed innovative solar panels that double as exterior cladding—and even LED display screens. Designed to mimic materials like brick, timber, or stone, these panels seamlessly blend into buildings while generating energy through embedded solar receptors. Integrated micro-LEDs also open up possibilities for dynamic displays, transforming walls into functional and interactive surfaces.

Infrastructure

The Biosphere 2 experiment in Arizona—designed to

simulate self-sustaining living conditions for future Moon or Mars bases—revealed an unexpected flaw. Over the 1991, two-year study, scientists discovered that the newly set concrete in the structure was chemically absorbing oxygen at a significant rate. It was only recently acknowledged, that external oxygen had been secretly introduced to sustain the crew, highlighting a critical consideration for future space habitats.

History

A rare reusable school slate, still bearing faint etchings, has been uncovered during building excavations in London. Alongside items such as a pencil and marbles, the find is believed to date back to the Victorian era. Experts at the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) are now analysing the artefacts to determine whether any of the original writing can be deciphered.

Science

Millions of people worldwide are volunteering their time to assist those with vision impairment through the “Be My Eyes” app. Founded by Hans Wiberg, the platform connects users via live video calls for help with everyday tasks—from reading labels to choosing groceries. Now boasting over 8 million volunteers across 185 languages, most calls are answered in under a second—demonstrating the power of global human connection.

Remembering Comet Halley

By Dr Martin George, Principal Astronomer at Hive

If you're around my age and were keen on astronomy when you were growing up—I hope you still are—you would have been looking forward to a view, in 1986, of the most famous of all of the comets: Comet Halley, which was seen with the unaided eye in March and April of that year.

Comets have been likened to ‘dirty snowballs’. They typically orbit the Sun on very elongated paths that can take them a long way from the Sun and return at intervals to the inner Solar System, swinging rapidly around the Sun before returning to the distant parts of the Solar System. The closest point to the Sun is called perihelion, which for comet Halley in 1986 took place on 9 February, when it was about 88 million kilometres from our star. Some comets take thousands of years to complete an orbit, but Comet Halley averages about 76 years. It had been previously seen in 1910.

Now, 40 years have passed since the comet made its most recent perihelion passage. Many people called it a ‘fizzer’ because they were expecting a much better view of it. Indeed, a significant number of people did not see it at all because they lived in heavily light-polluted places: big cities such as Melbourne and Sydney.

However, from dark country locations, Comet Halley was a fine sight, at one point displaying a tail about 30 times as long as the apparent width of the full Moon. (Comets' tails are formed by the action of the Sun on the icy material, ‘blowing it away’ in the opposite direction to the Sun.)

Comet Halley's closest approach to Earth in 1986, on 11 April, was a relatively distant one: 63 million kilometres!

This meant that although many people had a good view, it was the most distant ‘close approach’ to us for a very long time. It was a much better sight in 1910, when it was closer.

The next view, in 2061, may be an improvement on that of 1986, although the closest approach to Earth then will be even more distant. However, the sight in 2134 is expected to be much better, when the comet will approach to within about 14 million kilometres.

Did you see Comet Halley in 1986? Do come to see a planetarium show at Hive and share your memories!

Image: Comet Halley, as seen from Tasmania in March 1986. Photo by Dr Martin George



Nancy Jones – A Real Pioneer!

By Craig Dunham



PENGUIN
HISTORY GROUP INC.

A former long-term resident of Penguin held a remarkably unique claim to fame. Nancy Bentley married Allan Jones and had 3 children and a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren. She lived in Penguin from the early 1960s until her death in 1999. Nancy was in fact the very first female to enlist in the Royal Australian Navy, way back in 1920. The circumstances of that enlistment make interesting reading.

Before her time – the tale of Navy’s first female sailor
David Stratton · Sep 25, 2019

Twenty-one years before the first Women’s Royal Australian Navy members (WRANs) entered service due to a shortage of telegraphists during the Second World War, a young Tasmanian girl was enlisted into the Royal Australian Navy.

In a remarkable twist of fate, six year old Nancy Bentley was playing in bushland at Port Arthur when she slipped and was bitten on the wrist by a snake. With the closest doctor at Sorrell, many miles away, her desperate father rowed the child to HMAS Sydney(!), then anchored in Carnarvon Bay after conducting exercises off Tasmania’s east coast, and pleaded for the ship’s medics to assist.

Commanding Officer, Captain Henry Cayley, weighed the situation and so as to avoid legal complications and not breach the King’s regulations and Admiralty instructions that women were not meant to board Royal Australian Navy warships, he devised a solution. On 15 November 1920, Nancy was formally enlisted as an honorary member of the Navy. Her service number was 000001 and her official rating was mascot. She was enlisted “till fed up”.

Sydney transported the child to Hobart, where she received medical treatment and visited the cinema, before being returned to Port Arthur. During her eight days of service, the crew doted on Nancy. She was issued with a Service Certificate, a Conduct Record Sheet and a uniform. They assessed her character as being “very good” and her naval rating ability as “exceptional.”



Having fully recovered Nancy was formally discharged from Naval service on 23 November 1920 – the reason given “being required by her parents”.

Nancy went on to live a full life and became Mrs Nancy Jones and lived until 1999 aged 85. In an interview given to the Hobart Mercury in the 1970s, Nancy said she remembered being treated well.

“I was the crew’s official mascot and everybody from the Captain down gave me VIP treatment,” Nancy said. “While I was in sick bay at Port Arthur, mum and dad were given permission to visit the ship and bought me cow’s milk.”

In 1986, Nancy became a life member of the HMAS Sydney Association, an invitation that is only extended to those who have served on one of the four ships so named.

Interestingly, a trophy is named in Nancy’s honour. The First Lady of the Fleet trophy is presented to the longest-serving commissioned vessel in the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) fleet.

The trophy itself is an amalgamation of several pieces from decommissioned HMA ships. The voice pipe and wooden base were acquired from HMAS Sydney (IV), the border from HMAS Gladstone and the corners from HMAS Duchess. The image affixed to the trophy is of Nancy Bentley, the first female to be ‘enlisted’ in the RAN.

Nancy’s story is told in a children’s book “Nancy Bentley – The First Australian Female Sailor” written by Tracey Hawkins in 2011.

The Light Horse and Farmer’s Sons

By Dr Jaydeyn Thomas, Hive Curator

The first company of a Tasmanian Mounted Infantry Reconnaissance Regiment was formed in 1899 with Captain GT Stewart in command. The company was based in the Central Coast district at North Motton, taking advantage of the area’s strong farming community. Members were originally drawn from Ulverstone and Penguin and later from surrounding districts. The Boer War was their first proving ground. The Regiment designation changed several times.

The Tasmanian contribution to the First World War was substantial. From 1909 military training had been compulsory for Tasmanian boys and men. At the start of the war volunteer enlistment was rapid and enthusiastic. At least four families of Aboriginal descent had members enlist from the Central Coast in the infantry. Recruitment slowed though as news of massive casualties arrived home. Light Horse training for deployment included riding for two days from North Motton to their new training grounds. They moved to Camp Claremont swiftly due to inadequate grounds.

C Squadron joined the South Australian 3rd Australian Light Horse Regiment, with a long voyage to Alexandria, Egypt to train. James Argent Wing was the first Tasmanian — and C Squadron Light Horseman — to die in the First World War. He contracted pneumonia and was only 19 years old.

The Light Horse would later reinforce the Australian infantry at Gallipoli alongside the New Zealand Brigade. Ten Light Horse men died in the Gallipoli campaign.

The Light Horse, like the rest of Australia’s forces, were in constant training as ready reinforcements back home. As the campaigns across the theatre of war continued, replacement troops journeyed to the Middle East, France, and other places. C Squadron was reinforced only by Tasmanians. There were numerous C Squadron actions during the rest of the war, including reinforcing Beersheba in Palestine after the famous co-ordinated charge attack of that battle.

Blood in the Soil: The Light Horse and Farmer’s Sons is a featured story now showing until Sunday 3 May in the exhibition Red Soil and Deep Clay: what comes from the abundant earth at the Ulverstone Museum at Hive.

Image: Unnamed soldiers shoeing horses at Pontville, Tasmania, c. 1914. Photograph by military photographer A. Byron.

Do you know the names of these soldiers?



Events to look out for

Please submit activities by the 21st of the month



APR
2

Devonport Combined Churches Together for Easter
6pm. Free Event <https://events.humanitix.com/churchestogether2026/tickets>



APR
4

Wild on West Easter Event
225 Poimena Rd, West Moreville. 9am. For details visit <https://tinyurl.com/3pjvka99>



APR
10

April Twilight Market and Street Eats
Market Square Pavilion, Devonport. 4-8pm. See facebook for details.



APR
11

Ecofest Camp Clayton, Ulverstone
11th-12th April 2026
For more info visit www.ecofesttas.com.au

Harvest moon Carrot Festival

288 Leith Road Forth. This free family event has become a local favourite, packed with plenty to keep everyone smiling.



APR
13

Working it Out – Pride Coffee Burnie
Café Europa, 10.30am. please rsvp to garry@workingitout.org.au



APR
18

New Mornings Understanding Grief Seminar
Ulverstone. 9.30-3pm. For more information <https://events.humanitix.com/understanding-grief-seminar>



APR
21

Aged and Disability Expo Devonport. 9am to 4pm.
For more information please visit our website: <https://disabilityexpo.com.au/>



APR
22

Aged and Disability Expo Burnie. 9am to 4pm.
For more information please visit our website: <https://disabilityexpo.com.au/>

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JP SIGNING CENTRES

Devonport: 24 Edward St - Tue & Thur, 10:30am - 12:30pm
Penguin: 11 Sports Complex Ave - Mon & Fri 10:30am - 12:30pm

ANZAC DAY SERVICES
NORTH WEST TASMANIA 2026

CENTRAL COAST

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Dawn Services: | Main Services: |
| • Ulverstone Cenotaph – 6:00am (form up 5:45am) | • Forth Cenotaph: 9:00am |
| • Penguin Cenotaph – 6:00am (form up 5:45am) | • Penguin Cenotaph: 11:00am |
| | • Ulverstone Cenotaph: 11:30am |
| | • North Motton Reserve: 2:00pm |

DEVONPORT

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| • Dawn Service: 5:45–6:00am – Devonport Cenotaph | March • begins 10:45am |
| • March: begins 10:45am | • Main Service: 11:00am |

BURNIE

| | |
|--|--|
| • Dawn Service: 6:00am – Burnie Park Cenotaph | • Dawn Service: 6:00am |
| • March: 10:40am – Burnie Park Cenotaph | • Burnie Park Cenotaph |
| | • Civic Service: 11:00am – Burnie Park Cenotaph |

★ LEST WE FORGET ★

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

THE LOST VIRGINITY TOUR

by Cricket Daniel

Featuring:
Maree Brodzinski
Carina Cooper
Andrea Harding
Jane Inglis-Smith

Leven Theatre
Ulverstone
27, 28 March,
2, 4, 9, 10, 11 April
@ 7.30pm
4 & 11 April @ 1.30pm

Tickets available via trybooking



Roberts

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informed guidance for every property we handle. Every recommendation we make is grounded in knowledge and proven expertise.

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