

The Coastal VOICE

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER EST. 2015

FREE

MAY 2026

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ISSN 2206-0057



North West
ecofest
Service dogs only

GENERAL
ADMISSION

Adult	Conc.
1 day \$15	1 day \$12
2 day \$25	2 day \$20

FAST LANE

Online fix & event crew

PLUS!

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
A M-HEALING
VOUCHER, OR
A TRIBE COLLECTIVE
VOUCHER!

Ecofest Hits a Major Milestone!

BURNIE - PENGUIN - ULVERSTONE - DEVONPORT & BEYOND

Moments That Matter on the Coast



By Alicia van Ek

There's something pretty special about this time of year on the Coast. I recently spent a day at Ecofest, first helping the Scouts with parking (a great reminder of how many hands it takes to bring events like this to life), before heading in to enjoy the afternoon with my kids. Watching them take on the rock wall and flying fox was a highlight, but what really stayed with me was their curiosity, chatting with stallholders, asking questions about wildlife, recycling, and protecting our forests. It's those moments—when learning feels like play—that show how powerful community events can be.

It's also been exciting to be part of launching Joey Scouts in Turners Beach—creating a space for our youngest community members to connect, learn and grow through adventure, teamwork and community spirit. Seeing that next wave stepping into community life is something I'm proud to be part of (read more on page 11.)

This edition also shines a light on National Volunteer Week. After reaching out to organisations across the Coast, the responses we received were heartfelt and genuine. Be sure to read the thank you messages on page 21—they're a reminder of the quiet, consistent contributions that keep our communities strong. From sporting clubs to community groups and support services, volunteers are at the heart of it all.

I also had the chance to attend the Judo State Cup (see page 24), another fantastic example of dedication, discipline and local talent on display. Events like this showcase not only skill, but the commitment of families, coaches and organisers who make them possible.

Looking ahead, May is packed with reasons to get out and be part of it. We'll be celebrating Mother's Day, welcoming Tones and I to Ulverstone on 2nd of May, enjoying the Supercars Fan Fare in Devonport, taking in Jazz Festival activities, and lighting up the Coast with Burnie's Bright Night. It's a calendar that reflects the vibrancy of our region.

And as always, if you've got something to share for June, we'd love to hear from you. Whether it's a story, an event, or a community initiative, this paper is here to reflect you. Reach out anytime: editor@thecoastalvoice.au

Thank You to Our Coastal Volunteers



By Tracey Clark

If there's one thing that defines our community, it's the quiet, consistent work of volunteers. The Coastal Voice itself is a reflection of that. This paper is largely created, shaped and delivered by a dedicated team of volunteers, and quite simply, we couldn't bring you this publication each month without them. Behind every story, photo and page is someone giving their time because they care about this place and the people in it.

Look through this issue and you'll see that same spirit echoed again and again. The majority of the stories we share are about clubs, events and organisations that rely on volunteers to keep going. From sporting groups to community services, it's volunteers who keep the wheels turning. Inside this month's edition, you'll also find a special section dedicated to National Volunteer Week, celebrated from 19–25 May 2026.

As Rhonda Wilson, Acting CEO of Volunteering Tasmania, puts it: "Volunteering Tasmania is proud to be celebrating volunteering all year round in 2026. We are looking forward to National Volunteer Week in May with the theme Your Year to Volunteer, and additionally, 2026 is the United Nations International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. It's a global moment to recognise how vital volunteers are in building strong, inclusive and sustainable communities - something Tasmanians know well."

"Volunteering is part of our way of life. In 2023, 70% of Tasmanians volunteered, contributing \$12.1 billion in economic value. But volunteering is about so much more than numbers. It helps people feel connected, supported and valued, strengthening both individual wellbeing and community resilience. This National Volunteer Week, we extend a heartfelt thank you those who willingly give their time to volunteer and we encourage others to discover how volunteering can create connection, purpose, and lasting positive change."

To every volunteer in our community: thank you.

Cover image: Zomury Smith-Williams, Marketing Coordinator, North-West ecofest Tasmania

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We acknowledge the
Palawa/Pakana peoples of
Lutruwita upon whose lands we
are on.

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Celebrations

Ecofest has hit a Major Milestone—and the Energy was Unmistakable!

By Cassie Smith, Media coordinator

Record numbers of Tasmanians poured into this year's festival at Camp Clayton, drawn by a shared passion for sustainable living and a growing urgency to rethink the way we live. In the face of rising fuel costs, many arrived carpooling with friends, turning the journey itself into an act of environmental care.

From paddock-to-plate living to the global impact of fast fashion, presenters from across the state sparked curiosity and conversation.

The program wasn't just talk—festivalgoers rolled up their sleeves and dove into hands-on workshops, crafting beeswax wraps, making sourdough, and creating vibrant decorations that transformed the space into a living celebration of sustainability.

A highlight of the festival's tenth anniversary was the beautifully curated zero-waste celebration space brought to life by the local homeschooling community.

On day two, it became the heart of the festivities, where attendees gathered with the Ecofest committee to mark a decade of grassroots impact.

Kids brought their boundless energy to the greenSTEM Goblins slalom course, putting the eco-carts through their

paces and adding a sense of fun and discovery to the event.

Across two buzzing stages, a packed lineup of performers gave audiences plenty to reflect on. Local musicians delivered powerful, thought-provoking sets with lyrics that lingered long after the final notes.

A standout moment came when composer Teresa Beck-Swindale debuted a song written especially for Ecofest, performed live with her band to an enthusiastic crowd.

Beyond the workshops and performances, Ecofest remained true to its roots—a convergence of community groups and changemakers. Conversations flowed as freely as ideas, with festivalgoers engaging deeply in pressing environmental issues.

With the current fuel crisis front of mind, many explored practical alternatives, including the growing potential of electric vehicles powered by home solar systems and battery storage—solutions that felt not just possible but within reach.

Ten years on, Ecofest isn't just an event—it's a movement gaining momentum!

Images supplied by Ecofest.



Local Legend Brett Norton-Smith Honoured for Lifetime of Service

Surf Life Saving Australia is proud to recognise Brett Norton-Smith with Life Membership — the organisation's highest honour.

Life Membership is awarded to those who go above and beyond in their service, demonstrating outstanding commitment to Surf Life Saving over a sustained period of at least 20 years. Brett exemplifies this in every sense.

Brett joined Burnie SLSC in 1961 and has completed 65 years of service. He has been a member of Burnie, Devonport (Life Member), Ulverstone (his current club) as well as Northcliffe and Southport in QLD.

Brett has been, and is still very much involved, in all aspects of Surf Life Saving where he has been a major contributor for over 60 years. He has been a committee member of each of his clubs since 1964. Club Positions held include Club Captain, Patrol Captain, Junior Manager, President, Surf Sports Manager and Secretary. Brett has won the Tasmania Lifesaver of the Year as well as the Tasmania Official of the Year.

He has officiated at 12 Australian Championships including referee of the ski area for 3 years. He is a level 3 surf coach and a Tasmania State team member on 11 occasions, and coach of the Tasmania State team on 15 occasions. As a competitor he won numerous medals at the Tasmania

Championships and two gold medals for board paddling at the Aussies. He has been a trainer/assessor for over 50 years and a carnival official for 50 years.

Brett sat on the National Surf Sport Committee representing Tasmania from 1991 to 1997 and was a member of the National coaching panel for 5 years. He was a member of the Surf Sport Manual re-write between 1992 and 1995. During his time as Deputy President of SLSTAS he attended a number of SLSA Board meetings as a delegate for the Tasmania President.

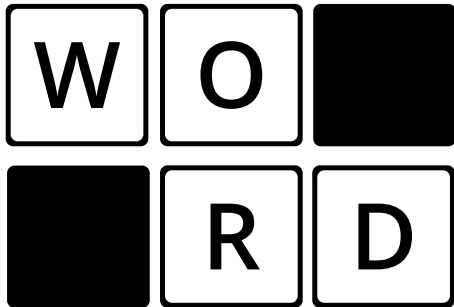
He was recognised for his contribution to surf lifesaving by being awarded Life Membership of Surf Life Saving Tasmania, a member of SLSTAS Hall of Fame, an International Citation of Merit, and a 60 year patrol award. He was awarded with a Presidents Medal from Surf Life Saving Australia.

Brett attended the National IRB training session held at North Cronulla in 1974 and worked tirelessly to introduce IRB's into Tasmania where he coordinated and ran workshops and training.



Image: Brett Norton-Smith

Puzzles



Solve the Crozzle to be in the draw for:

A M-Healing Voucher

April Crozzle Solution

PEACE

Winner

Dorothy Soden won a \$100 Voucher for The Cove

E L T T A W I L L O W F
 H O N E Y S U C K L E L
 O H A A L O I V W I E M
 R Y A C I N O R E V H Y
 J A S M I N E S I E Z R
 L C E S O R U F A I Y T
 Y I V I O L E T N O S L
 S N L D A P H N E R N E
 I T O Y M E I U M P A Z
 A H V E R A L A T E P A
 D I Y P P O P Y L L O H

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

- | | | | | |
|---------|-------------|---------|----------|--------|
| Daisy | Honeysuckle | Myrtle | Poppy | Willow |
| Daphne | Hyacinth | Olive | Rose | Zinnia |
| Erica | Iris | Pansy | Veronica | |
| Hazel | Ivy | Peony | Viola | |
| Heather | Jasmine | Petal | Violet | |
| Holly | Lily | Petunia | Wattle | |



HIDDEN PICTURE

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

A Tribe Collectives Voucher



April Winner:
 Ruth Cannon won a Kids Holiday Pack donated by Cheryl Virtual Helper



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



TRIBE
 COLLECTIVES



MHealing Centre

Body - Mind & Emotion Therapy

- Stress Relief
- Nervous System Regulation
- Body-base Therapy
- Physical & Emotional Balance



BONUS PUZZLE! 4X4 SUDOKU

To solve a 4x4 Sudoku, fill each row, column, and 2x2 box with numbers 1 to 4 without repetition. Use given numbers as clues and apply process of elimination. Happy puzzling!

	1	2	
	3		
	4		

Mother's Day Colouring In



Quiz Time!

Penguin Sports Quiz

With thanks to Craig Dunham

1. Name the dual Olympian from 2012 & 2016 who has represented Australia as a track cyclist?

2. In which discipline did Penguin Surf Club members win a silver medal at the World Championships in Hawaii in 1983?

3. Name the 2 brothers who were raised in Penguin who both had long careers in the AFL; the youngest played 244 games with Richmond, the eldest almost 200 games with Fitzroy then later Richmond?

4. Which jockey left the town as a 14-year-old, was the Victorian Apprentice of the Year, and later won a Cox Plate & Blue Diamond Stakes?

5. Name the local boy who had a long basketball career in the NBL and was later the Assistant Coach of the Boomers?

6. Who was the former Penguin cricketer who was a member of Tasmania's initial Sheffield Shield team and played in the Gillette Cup winning team in 1979?

7. Name the only Tasmanian to ever win the National Singles Bowling title in 1967?

8. Who was the young member of the National Road Racing squad of 6 women, severely injured in Germany when an out of control car slammed into the group?

9. Who was the local footballer who played with South Melbourne and even coached the Sydney Swans as well as being Chairman of Selectors, a Director and Life Member?

10. Who was the young footballer recruited by Glenelg who went on to forge a business career that saw him rise to CEO of Woolworths and now the Chairman of the Tassy Devils?

Answers will be published in the June Issue.

Next Council Meeting

May 18

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



Celebrating the People who make our Community Stronger

From 18–24 May, we celebrate National Volunteer Week, Australia’s largest annual celebration of volunteering, and an opportunity to recognise the vital role volunteers play in our community.

Across the Central Coast, volunteers contribute in many different ways, and together these efforts help shape the strong, connected community we are proud to be part of.

The following are just a few examples of the many volunteers making a difference across our community.

At Hive in Ulverstone, volunteers are an essential part of the experience for visitors and locals alike. From welcoming guests to supporting programs and helping bring the Planetarium to life, they help create a place of discovery, learning and connection.

In our natural spaces, the Friends of Reid Street Reserve are the driving force behind the care and restoration of an important area of native bushland. Through regular working bees, they remove invasive weeds, plant native species and maintain habitat that supports a rich variety of wildlife.

The International Café is another example, creating a welcoming space where people from different cultural backgrounds can connect, share food and celebrate cultural diversity. Supported by Welcome Cultural Services and a dedicated group of volunteers, it has grown into a valued and inclusive community gathering.

Volunteering not only strengthens our community, it also benefits those who take part. Research shows volunteering can improve wellbeing, reduce social isolation and build a strong sense of purpose and connection.

To everyone who volunteers across the Central Coast, from sporting clubs and schools, to churches, service organisations and local community groups — thank you.

Your time, effort and dedication make a real and lasting difference.

If you have been thinking about getting involved, now is a great time to start. There are many opportunities across our community to contribute in a way that suits your interests, skills and availability.

Central Coast 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

CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL



www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au

admin@centralcoast.tas.gov.au

(03) 6429 8900

Mayor's Message - Devonport City Council

By Mayor Alison Jarman



Devonport is back in the spotlight as a finalist in the 2026 Tassie's Top Tourism Town Awards, and it's a great reminder of just how much our city has to offer.

From our coastline to our events and local businesses, this recognition reflects a community that continues to grow, evolve and welcome visitors year-round. If you'd like to support Devonport, voting details are available on Council's Facebook page. It's a simple way to help share our story more widely and showcase what makes this place worth the visit. That story is best experienced in person, and there's plenty happening in the months ahead.

In May, the Supercars Fan Fare Community Event brings a burst of energy to the city, with displays across the CBD before moving to Haines Waterfront Park and the Market Square Pavilion. It's a free, family-friendly event that puts visitors right alongside the action.

Then in July, the focus shifts to live blues and roots music as part of the Devonport Jazz Festival. Blues & Brews on Saturday night delivers a lively mix of music, food and craft beer from Island State Brewing, while Sunday's Wind Down Session offers a more relaxed close to the weekend. Tickets are available now via the Paranaple Arts Centre website.

Together, these events highlight what Devonport does well. They bring people into the city, support local artists and businesses, and create experiences that stay with you long after the weekend ends.

That same mindset carries through to how our community looks after its environment. Devonport is now the third best-performing local government area in Tasmania for container returns, averaging 310 containers per person, and our local refund point has surpassed 6 million containers returned.

It's a strong result, and one that reflects a shared understanding that small actions add up. Whether it's attending an event, supporting local, or doing your part for the environment, it all contributes to the bigger picture. Devonport continues to build that picture every day, and it's one worth being part of.



Burnie City Council Mayor's Message

By Mayor Teeny Brumby



It's always a privilege to share some of the wonderful things happening across our city, and right now there is plenty to celebrate in Burnie.

Firstly, I'd like to encourage our community to take part in the Community Recognition Awards, with nominations closing on 12 May. These awards are an opportunity to shine a light on the quiet achievers, the volunteers, the leaders, and the everyday people who go above and beyond to make Burnie such a caring and connected place. If someone comes to mind as you read this, please take a moment to nominate them. Recognition matters, and these stories deserve to be told.

Speaking of community spirit, I recently had the absolute joy of celebrating a very special milestone for Burnie's young ambassador, Matty Dunn. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Rotary Club of Burnie West, under the leadership of President Ricky Charles, and in partnership with Burnie Mazda, Matty has been gifted a near new vehicle following the achievement of gaining his learner licence.

For Matty, this represents far more than just a car, its independence, confidence, and the ability to more fully participate in life and community. It's a beautiful example of what happens when local organisations come together with heart and purpose.



These moments, celebrating people, supporting one another, and coming together as a community are what make Burnie so special. And as we head toward the end of May, I'm excited to invite you all to one of Burnie's most vibrant community events; Burnie Bright Night.



Set for Saturday 30 May from 4pm to 8pm at Wivenhoe Recreation Ground, this promises to be an incredible evening for all ages. There'll be live performances from local favourites The Ringmasters, along with first-time Burnie appearances from Palm Theory and Australian Idol contestant Jakob Gibson. Add to that Xtreme amusement rides, classic sideshow games, a wide variety of food vendors, and plenty of family-friendly activities, and you've got the makings of a fantastic night out.

To finish, the sky will come alive with a dazzling fireworks display, a truly magical moment for our community to share together. Importantly, Burnie Bright Night is an inclusive event, with free ear plugs available at the gate thanks to Crisp 'N Clean, ensuring those sensitive to noise can still enjoy the evening comfortably.

I look forward to seeing many of you out and about in the coming weeks.

Community

Penguin Silver Salties - May/June 2026 Autumn Program

The Silver Salties Autumn 'Walk and Talk program' will commence on the Thursday 30th April. This terms program will run weekly on a Thursday up to and including 18th June.

Please join us at Penguin Surf Life Saving Club, Preservation Bay Drive, Penguin on Thursdays 1.30pm to 2.30pm.

The Autumn program speakers and activities are being organised and so far we have our regular short walk to start each session (weather permitting) along with trivia session, a visit to Ulverstone Seniors Choir, a presentation from one of our members on his travels in Nepal, a games session and more.

We look forward to seeing everyone return in May and as always, we welcome new members- we'd love to have you at any stage during a program and a reminder - it's all free.

What is Silver Salties?

- A Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) participation program for older Australians delivered by participating Surf Life Saving Clubs (SLSCs) and affiliates, promoting physical activity, social connections, and involvement in the surf lifesaving community.
- While older Australians are the target audience, adults of any age are welcome to join!

If you are interested in seeing what we do at Silver Salties, require more information or you would like to become a member please contact one of our Penguin Silver Salties co-ordinators Sue King 0447 257 413; Ann Eustace 0407 357 230; Ken Knight 0498 088 917.

Port Sorell Swimming Pool Proposal

By Cheryle Laphorne

In Port Sorell, one man's push for a community swimming pool is gaining quiet momentum — and now, a vision is beginning to take shape.

His proposal centres on the 16 acres adjoining Camp Banksia, a space he believes could support a purpose-built aquatic facility for the growing community.

The idea is grounded in practicality. Nearby, the Latrobe Swimming Pool operates outdoors and only seasonally, leaving limited options for year-round access. For many residents, the next closest facility means a round trip of up to an hour to Devonport a barrier for families, older locals, and people living with disability. But beyond convenience, he sees opportunity.

A local pool would not only support employment and small business activity, but also play a vital role in water safety education for children and families in a coastal community.

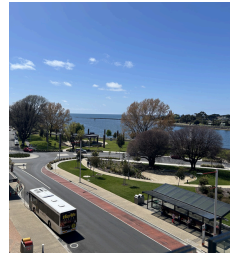
It would provide a safe, supervised environment for learning — something the open water cannot always guarantee.

There are also clear health benefits, with increased access to hydrotherapy, rehabilitation, and gentle exercise for ageing residents and people living with disability.

With a focus on sustainability, the proposal includes ideas to offset operational costs through solar energy, alongside potential state and federal government grants.

While challenges remain, the vision reflects a broader belief: that regional communities want accessible, modern infrastructure. And sometimes, all it takes to start that conversation is one person willing to put the idea forward and keep it moving.

The Coastal Voice reached out to Latrobe Council for Comment 16/04/26.



Step Inside the World of Nigel Minchin

When the door opens at Nigel Minchin's home, you're not walking into a gallery — you're stepping into his world. Room upon room is filled with colour, culture and story. His works invite you to pause, look deeper, and connect with moments that move across place and time. This is where the art lives and is created — raw, personal and immersive. On rare occasions, Nigel opens his home studio to the public, offering a unique opportunity to explore and purchase his work in an intimate setting.

Open Studio Weekends
12 Jermyn Street, Ulverstone
23–24 May & 30–31 May
10am – 4pm

Step inside and experience it for yourself.



Let's Celebrate!

National Volunteer Week 2026

An Invitation from Mayor Cheryl Fuller

Central Coast Council is proud to host the 2026 National Volunteer Week event. We warmly invite two volunteer representatives from your organisation to join the Mayor for a special evening celebrating the incredible contribution volunteers make across our community.

Connect with fellow volunteers, share stories, and recognise the positive difference volunteering makes every day.

This is Your Year to Volunteer!

We look forward to celebrating with you.

- 📅 **Wednesday, 20 May 2026**
- 🕒 **6.00 pm to 7.30 pm**
- 📍 **Gnomon Pavillion, Ulverstone**
- ✉️ **RSVP by 12 May 2026**

6429 8902 or exec@centralcoast.tas.gov.au

National Volunteer Week
18-24 MAY 2026
YOUR YEAR TO VOLUNTEER



volunteering TASMANIA
CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL

Raising the Standard in Dog Training on the North West Coast

By Isabella, A Bark Above Dog Training & Behaviour

There's a quiet shift happening in the dog training world, and here on the North West Coast, A Bark Above Dog Training & Behaviour is proud to be part of it.

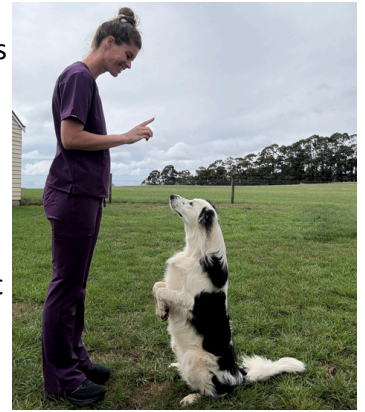
Dog training is an unregulated industry, which can leave owners unsure who to trust. At A Bark Above, we focus on education, ethics and evidence-based methods — ensuring both dogs and their owners feel supported every step of the way.

Our approach is Fear Free and holistic. Rather than just addressing behaviours, we look at the whole dog — their environment, emotional state, physical wellbeing and learning history. Behaviour is communication, and understanding the “why” is key to creating lasting change. We support dogs at every stage of life. For puppies, we build strong foundations through positive, engaging experiences that set them up for success.

As dogs grow, we help navigate common challenges such as anxiety, reactivity and frustration, with tailored, practical plans that fit into everyday life.

We also offer a Fear Free grooming experience, focused on comfort, consent and reducing stress — helping dogs feel safe throughout the process.

At its heart, our work isn't just about dogs — it's about helping people feel more confident, connected and supported. Because when we truly understand our dogs, everything changes. Want to learn more? Check out: abarkabovedogtraining.com.au



How Culture Shapes a Nation

By Geoffrey Curtis

Humans, as we know, are often cruel, even today. In the Middle Ages in Great Britain, the general population with little or no education was often plagued by gossip, jealousy and little respect for women by men.

Over time, emerging stories about sorcerers and witches became folklore, often untrue, distorted and made into pantomimes, a dance and even nursery rhymes. Perhaps you may be surprised to learn that many nursery rhymes have a dark side to their origins. Can you remember the rhyme, ‘The Three Blind Mice’? Who was the farmer's wife, and why were the mice blind, and why did she cut off their tails with a carving knife?

On a more sinister rhyme, ‘Humpty Dumpty’ referred to someone at the time in the 1600s as a short, clumsy or humped-shouldered person. This derision also refers to King Charles I. It's a long story of the king wanting more money, parliament refusing and intrigue by the king's agents in France and Spain. In the end, history tells poor old ‘Humpty’ fell and cracked his head, much like King Charles, who lost his head by being executed.

If you want to know more about the background to English nursery rhymes, then look no further. Susan Ackroyd's book ‘Rhyme and Reason’ is available in paperback by Boolarong Press and online. An intriguing, thoughtful, and provoking insight, one wonders why we continue to sing nursery rhymes to our young children.

Central Coast U3A update

By Alison McArd



Engaging in new learning activities sharpens cognitive function & may help reduce memory loss or cognitive decline.

Our sessions this month will provide exercise for the body & the mind – the weekly Core Fitness & Balance exercises & fortnightly Pétanque games will strengthen the body & Cryptic Crossword solving will give the mind a workout.

For those wanting to gain information, sessions will include “Return to the Moon”; “The Effects on Society of the Black Death in Britain & Europe”; “Peter Dombrovskis, his Life, his Art”; “Geology of the West Coast of Tasmania” & “The Palaeolithic Cave Art of Southern Europe”.

We will also have a presentation on “Care beyond Cure”. Work is underway on the programme for semester 2 & we always welcome suggestions for suitable topics. If you have something that you think would be of interest to our members we'd love to hear from you.

Membership of U3A is \$40 per year & this entitles members to attend as many sessions as can be fitted in to one's busy life. If you are not already a member, why not join today.

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

A large purple and orange graphic for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The main text reads 'LIFELONG RESPECT' in white on an orange background, followed by 'DEVONPORT WALK AGAINST ELDER ABUSE' in white on a purple background. Below this, it says '9 JUNE 10AM MARKET SQUARE' and 'Free refreshments after the walk'. There are two circular inset photos: one showing three people holding signs, and another showing a woman holding a sign that says 'MISUSING POWER OF ATTORNEY'. At the bottom, there is a photo of a group of people holding a banner that says 'WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY 15 JUNE STAND UP. WALK AGAINST ELDER ABUSE'. To the right of the banner photo is a 'REGISTER' button with a QR code and the phone number '6231 3265'. Logos for COTA Tasmania, Tasmanian Government, and Devonport are at the bottom left.

Community

Heritage Festival 2026: Home Hill – Fireside Chats by National Trust

Join us at Home Hill this Heritage Month for a thoughtfully curated series of Tuesday morning Fireside Chats.

Across weekly sessions, these conversations will explore the theme of Change, bringing together a diverse range of voices, stories, and perspectives. From reflections on our evolving community to personal experiences and broader social change, each session offers a unique opportunity to engage with our heritage in meaningful ways.

We invite you to slow down, listen and connect as we explore the people and ideas behind our region's evolving story. Enjoy tea and coffee in the welcoming surroundings of Home Hill as we share conversations that illuminate Tasmania's past, present and future.

While the fire may be virtual, the sense of warmth, connection, and shared experience is very real.

Tuesday 5 May, 1.30pm – 3.00pm

Wendy Elsmore – End of Life Challenges and Comforts
Retired psychologist and current Committee Member of Dying with Dignity Tasmania, Wendy Elsmore brings a compassionate and insightful perspective to some of the most significant social changes of recent times. Her talk explores end-of-life choices, voluntary assisted dying, advance care planning, and the evolving ways Tasmanians navigate these deeply personal decisions.

Tuesday 12 May, 10.30am – 12.00am

Final guest speaker is to be announced soon.
This final session will feature another local voice offering a fresh, personal perspective on life, community, and change.

Bookings are essential:

<https://nationaltrusttas.rezdy.com/759134/heritage-festival-home-hill-fireside-chats>

Celebrate Mother's Day with the CWA: High Tea and Heartfelt Community

By Jenny Rowden, CWA



The Country Women's Association (CWA) invites all women to join us for a special Mother's Day High Tea on Thursday, May 7th. It's a morning dedicated to celebrating the caring women in our lives while turning our focus toward a vital cause affecting our local community.

Event Details

- When: Thursday, May 7th | 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
- Where: Montgomery Room, Car Park Lane
- What to Bring: An elegant cup, saucer, and plate trio and a 3 tier plate – only if you have these, we will have spare; as well as a small plate of finger food to share.

We are honored to welcome Anne Urquhart MP, who will join us for some of the time and draw our highly anticipated Mother's Day Raffle.

Our guest speaker for the event is Captain Andrew Webb from the Ulverstone Salvos. He will provide insight into the realities of homelessness in our area and explain how the Support Hub in Ulverstone provides a lifeline to those in need.

In 2026, the CWA across Tasmania is focusing its efforts on addressing homelessness. We are asking attendees to contribute to our donation drive by adding an extra toiletry item to their shopping trolley. You can bring items to the meeting or drop them off beforehand.

Phone: Jenny #0457 071 166 or email cwaulverstone@gmail.com for more information.

Penguin Post Office Celebrates Jacky Cure

By Caroline Kane

28 years ago, Jacky Cure commenced work at Penguin Post Office. Jacky has worked within Australia Post; in Burnie, Somerset, Wynyard, Devonport and Ulverstone. Fittingly Jacky is retiring this June from Penguin LPO, back where she began.

Jacky was born, raised and educated in and around Sulphur Creek. Jacky married Andrew Cure in 1987 after they caught each other's eyes at a BBQ hosted by her father, Tony. Jacky and Andrew are becoming winter nomads and while they won't be leaving the area permanently, they will be leaving a large hole in the community and Jacky at the Post Office in particular. They will be spending a large amount of the time with their gorgeous and formidable granddaughters.

As Jacky's old colleague Misch Andrews states "Jacky has a genuine smile for every customer she serves."

Jacky possess an encyclopaedic knowledge of births, deaths, marriages and household movements throughout the district but never the gossip, always discrete. She has a wicked sense of humour that can catch you unawares. Even my dog loves her and his relationship with humans is usually purely transactional.

She has shown incredible patience and diplomacy in training two clueless new owners from the mainland and her professionalism and compassion is unparalleled. We will all miss her immensely.



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The North West Coast Candlelight Vigil

The North West Coast Candlelight Vigil will be held on Wednesday May 6th, from 6 to 6.30pm at the Gnomon Room on the Ulverstone wharf Precinct.

As part of Domestic Violence Prevention Month, National Family Violence Remembrance Day is the first Wednesday in May when Candlelight Vigils are held nationally to remember and honour those who have lost their lives to family violence.

For every death due to family violence there are hundreds of thousands of women and children with a lived experience of emotional, physical, sexual and economic abuse. In fact, one in three women in Australia have experienced physical or sexual violence from someone they know.

A warm welcome is extended to any member of the public wishing to attend and show support for those affected by domestic violence. Advocates for Change guest speakers will provide thoughtful and challenging messages.

Attendees are encouraged to wear purple, and candles will be available.

This is a joint community event by Zonta Devonport & Cradle Coast, Soroptimist Devonport, Engender Equality, the Police FV unit, Family Violence Counselling and Support Service and Central Coast Council with support from the Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance.

New Joey Scouts Group Launches at Turners Beach

Local families have something exciting to look forward to this term, with a brand-new Joey Scouts group launching at Turners Beach. Designed for children aged 5–8, the new group offers a fun and engaging introduction to the world of Scouting — with a strong focus on confidence, connection and adventure.

Joey Scouts is the youngest section of the Scouting movement and provides a safe, supportive space where children can learn through play. Weekly sessions are filled with hands-on activities, games and opportunities to explore, all while building important life skills and forming new friendships.

The Turners Beach Scout Group now caters to a wide range of ages, including:

- Joeys (5–8 years) NEW
- Cubs (8–11 years)
- Scouts (11–14 years)

Across all age groups, the program is designed to help young people build confidence, learn new skills and make new friends, while developing a strong sense of teamwork and community.

The Joey Scouts will officially kick off on Wednesday 6 May, with their first activity set to be a special Mother's Day-themed session, where children will create a handmade gift for someone special in their lives. Sessions will run from 6:00pm to 6:45pm at the Turners Beach Scout Hall, and families are warmly invited to come along and try it out. To make it easy to get involved, the group is offering a four-week free trial, with no obligation to continue.

With a focus on fun, friendship and personal growth, the launch of Joey Scouts is a welcome addition to the local community — and a great opportunity for young children to take their first step into a lifelong journey of adventure. Learn more: tas.scouts.com.au

Lighting Up for Little Voices

By Nia Michellis, Speech Pathologist

Across the North West Coast and beyond, I have the privilege of working with children who are learning to find their voice — often against significant challenges.

Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) is a rare and lifelong neurological speech disorder that affects a child's ability to plan and produce the movements needed for clear speech. For these children, communication doesn't come easily. It takes intensive therapy — at least twice a week — along with daily practice, patience, and an incredible amount of determination.

Every day, I see just how hard these children work. Small wins that many take for granted — a word, a sentence, being understood — are huge milestones worth celebrating. Alongside my clinical work, I volunteer my time to support families navigating a CAS diagnosis through my social media pages and awareness campaigns.

It can be an overwhelming and isolating experience, and no parent should feel alone in that journey. Raising awareness is a big part of that and is the first step — helping communities better understand what CAS is and how they can support these children.

May is Apraxia Awareness Month, with Apraxia Awareness Day on May 14. Across Australia, more than 100 sites will light up blue this year in support — a powerful visual reminder of the many children and families impacted.

I've also written two children's books to help explain CAS in an accessible way, with copies donated to Libraries Tasmania and across the country. By raising awareness, we can help ensure every child has the opportunity to be heard.

APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY - MAY 14TH

CHILDHOOD APRAXIA OF SPEECH

Have you heard of Childhood Apraxia of Speech?

A lifelong, neurological, speech disorder affecting 1-2 in 1000 children.



People with Childhood Apraxia of Speech know what they want to say but they have trouble moving their tongue, lips, and jaw to speak.

This makes their speech hard to understand.

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Created by Keys to Communicate Speech Pathology in 2020.

Community

Devonport Online Access Centre to Close After 28 Years of Community Service

By Joanna Apse

After nearly three decades of dedicated service, the Devonport Online Access Centre will close its doors to the public in late May, marking the end of an era for community-based digital access and support.

For 28 years, the Centre has been a vital resource for the Devonport community, providing access to technology, IT training, and ongoing support for those navigating an increasingly digital world. From helping job seekers submit online applications to guiding seniors through the basics of computers and the internet, the Centre has played a quiet but crucial role in bridging the digital divide.

At the heart of its success has been an extraordinary group of volunteers. Over the years, 357 individuals have generously given their time and expertise, contributing more than 127,000 hours of service. Their commitment has ensured that thousands of community members received not just technical assistance, but also patience, encouragement, and a welcoming environment.

The closure comes as a result of funding cuts, a decision that underscores the ongoing challenges faced by community organisations relying on limited financial support. While the doors may soon close, the impact of the Centre will be felt long into the future through the skills, confidence, and connections it helped foster.

The Devonport Online Access Centre extends its deepest gratitude to every volunteer who has been part of its journey. Their dedication has left a lasting legacy—one measured not just in hours served, but in lives changed.

As the community prepares to say goodbye, there is a shared sense of appreciation for what the Centre has achieved and a recognition of the important role such services play in ensuring no one is left behind in the digital age.

As we prepare to close our doors in late May due to funding cuts, we extend our heartfelt thanks to every volunteer who has been part of our journey. Your generosity and commitment have made a lasting difference in our community, and that impact will not be forgotten.

Prominent Penguinians

By Craig Dunham

For one of the smallest towns on the North West Coast, Penguin has produced its fair share of successful and prominent individuals over the years.

These persons have achieved fame at national and in many cases at international level across a wide range of endeavours – sporting, cultural, scientific, political and economic.

- JOHN ROGERS (Armed Forces)
- LLOYD ROBSON (Historian and Academic)
- GRANT O'BRIEN (Business Executive)
- ALANNAH HILL (Fashion Designer)
- SALLY DINGO (BUTLER) (Author)
- EMILY LANGSTON (International Legal Consultant)
- ROGER NEILSON (Diplomat)
- JULES HARNETT (Astrophysicist)
- TREVOR KAINE (ACT Chief Minister)
- DAVID SHEPPARD (International Environmentalist)

In terms of sport the list includes:

- TOM EASTALL (Lawn Bowls)
- AMY CURE & LOUISE YAXLEY (Cyclists)
- MARTY CLARKE (Basketball)
- MICHAEL & BENNY GALE (Football)
- RUSSELL ROBERTSON (Football)
- STAN AITKEN & DALE SHORT (Jockeys)

They are all a product of a small, close knit and caring community which has always valued its youth. It reflects the fact that Penguin is a wonderful place to raise a family; it has the schools, the clubs and the social organisations to nurture its young people.

Over its 150 year history, successive generations of young people have contributed to the community's history in times of war and peace, as well as in times of prosperity and despair.

Like them, we the current generation, look forward with optimism to our future and to the continued development of our special community.

Sound in Space Opens in Style

Sound in Space 2026 opens this month with Alluvium, an award-winning duo known for their immersive and genre-defying performances on Sunday 17 May.

Featuring internationally renowned guitarist Aaron Hopper and Tasmanian electronic producer Paul Corfiatis, Alluvium

blend experimental guitar, electronics and field recordings to create rich, evolving soundscapes.

Their performance draws on their latest album Heavenly, a sonic exploration of the universe, paired with striking visual projections within the Ulverstone Planetarium.

Each Sound in Space performance is a unique collaboration between sound and visuals, offering audiences an intimate and immersive experience unlike a traditional live music event. The series runs monthly from May to October, with limited seating available for each performance.

Tickets and full program details are available via the Hive website: www.hivetasmania.com





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CCCC Update

Craig Heppell – President, CCCC

Karen and I just returned from a quick weekend trip to Brisbane to see two of our sons. Curiosity drives me more than you can image. I don't rely on (actually, rarely listen to) mainstream media to investigate what is really going on nationally and internationally.

If you took on board everything the mainstream media was pessimistically bleating about, couple with the drivell coming from middle-manager Federal Politicians, you would believe we were about to be immobilised, starved or vapourised. Knowing that the reach for that type of rhetoric is wide and deep, I put on my old surveillance goggles and took a close look at how SE Queensland was faring.

Friday night; after dealing with massive traffic leaving a busy airport, our sons took us to their local Turkish Restaurant. The food was off the charts, but what I took particular notice of, was how packed it was with seated patrons and takeaway customers – it was nuts!

Saturday morning; we headed to one of the big Shopping Centres in Brisbane's north to grab a few things and have a coffee. Packed – people everywhere, all with shopping bags. Carpark chocka-block.

Saturday night; into Brisbane CBD to a very nice, highly regarded restaurant. Packed to the rafters from 5.30pm, with surrounding bars and eateries pumping with patrons. Heavy traffic and full flights – where is the fuel crisis? People eating and spending – where is the cost-of-living crisis?

Despite the best (and worst) efforts of MSM and Politicians, Aussies are getting on with it. Confidence is key. So be careful who you listen to, be confident, support local businesses and enjoy all that this beautiful Central Coast has to offer.

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Celebrating Mother's Day

Mums have a way of making our world a little softer, a little brighter, and a whole lot more beautiful. Whether it's your mum, a grandmother, stepmum, or a special mother figure—Mother's Day is a moment to pause and say thank you.

They're the quiet supporters, the problem-solvers, the ones who somehow make everything feel okay. And while she might say she doesn't want anything... we all know she does. And she deserves to be spoiled!

Don't forget to remind the special person in your life just how much she means to you. At Coastal Blooms Penguin, we have everything you need to make her feel truly valued.

Give the ultimate gift for the Mum who makes your world a better place and all your days a little more fabulous.

Our Mother's Day collection features thoughtfully curated blooms and gifts, inspired by the incredible women in our community. Each arrangement is created with love, care, and a touch of magic. This Mother's Day, skip the last-minute rush and give her something as beautiful as she is.

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Has the Market Shifted?

By Craig Heppell, Ulverstone Real Estate

The reports from mainland Real Estate industry insiders are that Sydney and Melbourne are softening, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide are pretty solid, Hobart is even-stevens.

Auction clearance rates in Sydney still sit around 55% - anything under 60% means the pendulum has swung to buyers.

Why Sydney? It's the engine room of the nation's property market. Buyers are no longer willing to chase prices there.

So, what's really happening here on the northwest coast of Tassie? Buyer confidence has softened (from about a 9/10 to a 7/10), especially in that \$800,000 to over \$1m price bracket.

The budget range of \$500,000 to \$650,000 is seeing solid buyer activity, but at a reduced volume compared to 6 to 8 weeks ago and beyond.

You don't have to be Einstein to realise the pendulum has swung from almost unbridled confidence, or greed, to caution (but not fearful).

Uncertainty around fuel supply and prices, increased cost of almost all goods and services and will the conflict in the Middle East escalate (insider tip...it won't), is having a

dampening effect on potential buyers' confidence. Don't launch the lifeboats just yet.

Properties are selling, but they may take a little longer and buyers are beginning to put the brakes on to calculate the true value of a property.

Buyers are setting stricter limits and sticking to them. Price growth in general will soften, with buyer numbers dropping slightly but sales volume to remain steady.

So, if you want to know EXACTLY what the market is doing TODAY or you're thinking about selling, get in touch on 0400 180 515.

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Labor is delivering cost of living support for all Australians

- ✔ Tax cuts for every taxpayer, including another cut in July 2026
- ✔ Pay rise for all minimum and award wage workers
- ✔ Paid Parental Leave expanded to 24 weeks, and super is now being paid on all Government PPL.
- ✔ \$10,000 bonus for housing apprentices, on top of their wages.
- ✔ Paid Prac for nursing, teaching, social work and midwifery students.
- ✔ Boost to Medicare with \$1.8 billion in extra hospital funding
- ✔ Expanded 5 per cent deposits to all first home buyers.
- ✔ More choice, lower costs and high-quality care for Australian women.
- ✔ Delivered another pay rise to aged care nurses, following the first instalment in March.
- ✔ Opening another 50 Medicare Urgent Care Clinics – including Burnie and Devonport
- ✔ Cheaper medicines with all PBS medicines now costing just \$25 or less.
- ✔ Cut student debt by 20 per cent
- ✔ Expanded Bulk billing.



Business

Local Expertise Brings Clarity to Jewellery Valuations

By **Cheryle Laphorne**

In Ulverstone, Sarah Beckett provides a specialised gemmology service, combining professional jewellery valuations with detailed identification of stones, metals, and crafted pieces.

Working by appointment, Sarah offers a personalised service that allows clients to better understand the true value and composition of their jewellery.

Recently, I met with Sarah to review my private collection and found the experience both informative and reassuring.

Sarah was friendly, professional, and highly knowledgeable, taking the time to explain each piece in a way that was easy to understand.

What can often feel like a complex process was made simple. Each item was carefully assessed and documented, resulting in an updated insurance valuation and a quality outcome I could feel confident in.

For those with jewellery, Stones or Metals of sentimental or financial value, having access to a trusted local expert offers peace of mind whether for insurance purposes, estate planning, or simply gaining clarity of what you own.

Sarah Beckett's service reflects the value of skilled, specialised knowledge within the community, delivered with care, clarity, and professionalism.



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Anne Urquhart MP
Federal Member for Braddon

- Shop 9 Columbar Court, 22 Wilmot St, Burnie TAS 7320
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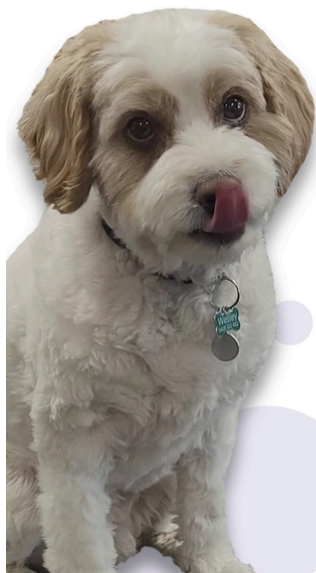
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What's the controversy over Marinus?

By Michael Harries, President NW Environment Centre Penguin

If we are willing to learn from history then the two key components of Marinus are a huge risk. Those two are the cable and using our dams for pumped hydro energy storage. The existing cable Basslink costs over 100 million annually to maintain and it nearly sent us broke when it failed. That's huge risk number one. The only other yet to be completed pumped hydro scheme, Snowy 2, has blown out from 2 to 20 billion dollars. All that is debt and we taxpayers pay the interest. You either pay billions in interest payments or you spend that money on fixing problems needing attention. Things like surgery waiting lists, shortage of housing, support for kids struggling at school and so on. Is that what we want? That's huge risk number 2.

When we talk about what will happen if Marinus goes ahead there are a plethora of assumptions barely being considered by the developers. We just don't know what in five years time the economy, electricity market and government will look like yet we are gambling with billions of taxpayer dollars. When Marinus was thought up in 2017 no one could possibly have seen that within ten years new solar farms with huge battery banks together with other renewables would be delivering over half of all electricity to the grid.

So lets ask some hard questions.

Q1. Who pays the debt and who gets the benefit?

The cost of Marinus would be borrowed by the owners; Tasmania, Victoria and the Commonwealth. However Tasmania alone would have to borrow around a further 1 billion to build the "North West Transmission Development". The taxpayer would carry that debt and not the companies using the cable.

Q2. Will it make the electricity grid work better and cheaper?

Marinus will have very little impact on the grid and that is because batteries are now doing what Marinus aimed to do.

The interest payments may not end up as higher power prices because power prices are a sensitive matter come election time. Our Government is far more likely to pay for that ongoing interest by cutting services or by borrowing more money to pay the interest. So even if they try to hide that interest cost, we pay.

Q3. Is it worth the inevitable environmental impact?

Native fauna and flora are already struggling with forestry, mining, roads, climate change and pollution. To add more huge transmission corridors, more roads and potentially thousands more wind generators into their already reduced habitat would be a colossal environmental cost.

Q4. What compensation will farmers receive and will they have to accept big new transmission lines over their land?

Some farmers have accepted compensation but others just don't want huge transmission lines across their land. Current legislation allows government to compulsorily acquire corridors. How many good farms will end up looking like urban freeways?

Q5. How many more wind generators will be installed following completion of the project? Pending Marinus there are applications for hundreds of turbines but this could be several thousand throughout our very fragile North West environments. No limits have been set.

What we can and should do is engage independent qualified analysts to measure all the risks and there certainly are several very serious risks. Without such independent analysis the government hand picked consultants will clearly give it the thumbs up then if the project goes belly up they will have disappeared.

Why Marinus Link?

Submitted by Marinus Link Project Team

Across Australia, the energy system is changing. Coal-fired power stations that have underpinned the national grid for decades are progressively closing. In their place, renewable energy is growing rapidly.

Different parts of the country produce energy at different times. Solar peaks in the middle of the day. Wind can vary. Demand shifts across regions and climates. The system needs to stay balanced every minute of every day.

In a renewables-led grid, sharing and storage of electricity are critical to maintaining both reliability and affordability.

Tasmania finds itself in a unique position in this changing system. For more than a century, the state has built its economy on reliable, flexible hydropower. It's energy that can be stored and used when it's needed most.

Project Marinus is about connecting that advantage to the rest of Australia, while also enabling more electricity to flow to Tasmania.

Victoria has abundant low-cost solar energy during the day. Tasmania has dispatchable hydropower that can respond when demand is highest. Connecting the two allows Tasmania to import affordable energy when it's plentiful, and export when it's most valuable.

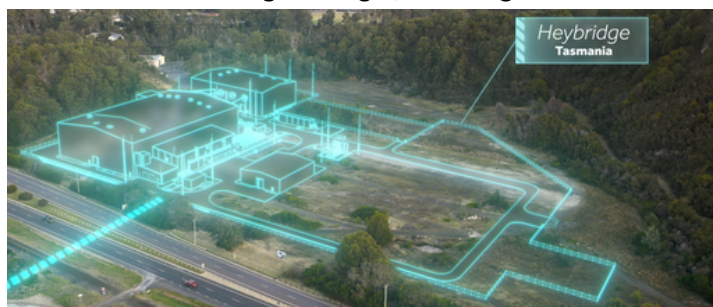
Project Marinus has been studied in detail over many years, including independent modelling through national energy market processes. These assessments have consistently found that stronger interconnection supports a more reliable system and delivers long-term benefits for consumers.

It is also a regulated project, meaning both the investment and delivery are independently assessed to ensure costs are prudent and in the long-term interests of electricity consumers.

As with any major infrastructure, there are important considerations to manage. Potential impacts to environment and community have been considered extensively in the project's design and through approvals processes. Wherever possible, routes have been selected to avoid sensitive areas, often aligning with existing transmission corridors and established farmland.

For landholders, compensation is independently assessed under the Land Acquisition Act 1993. In addition, a Strategic Benefit Payment (SBP) of \$200,000 per kilometre will be paid to eligible private landholders in annual instalments over 20 years.

Australia's energy system is changing. Tasmania has a natural advantage within that change. Projects like Marinus Link and the North West Transmission Developments are about making the most of that position – supporting jobs, driving regional investment and building a stronger, smarter grid.



Environment

100m Eligible Drink Containers Returned Through Recycle Rewards

By Tracey Clark

Tasmania is celebrating a major environmental milestone, with 100 million eligible drink containers returned through the Recycle Rewards scheme in just eleven months since its launch in May 2025.

The achievement highlights strong community participation across the state, with returns recorded in every region. If stacked, the containers would reach more than 8000 times the height of Cradle Mountain.

The environmental impact is significant. Recycling these containers has saved carbon emissions equivalent to taking more than 7,500 cars off the road for a year, generated enough energy savings to power 1,700 homes, and conserved water equal to 250 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

To mark the milestone, a new impact calculator has been launched, allowing Tasmanians to see the real-world benefits of their recycling efforts. A public dashboard also tracks container returns by region and material type.

Environment Minister Madeleine Ogilvie praised the effort, encouraging continued participation.

Since 1 May 2025, Tasmanians have been able to claim a 10-cent refund for each eligible container, reinforcing the scheme's role in reducing litter and supporting a circular economy.

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Environmental Corner with Geoffrey Curtis



Sometimes we may wonder how and why scientists produce phrases and words that appear to make little sense. Here is one that recently came to my attention: 'Negative Consumption Externalities.' How's that for a mouthful? Nevertheless, when delving into this a bit further, it really began to make 'common sense'.

Let's say you want to buy an item, such as a car, a washing machine, or a small toy. There are only two forms of transaction involving the supplier of the goods and the demand for wanting the good, that's you, the consumer. The agreement is the price set by the seller and the buyer's willingness to pay it.

Nowadays, it is illegal to smoke in a public space or in an office of a private building unless in a designated area. Not long ago, people were smoking just about anywhere; in fact, some adults still do.

Take, for example, an adult buying a packet of cigarettes and lighting one up for a little smoke in a family vehicle with children in the back seat. The adult (the buyer) has agreed to pay the price of the cigarettes, and the seller is also satisfied. Is there a third party?

From the above transaction, only two people are involved. So, where is the third party? Why, they're sitting here in their child restraint chairs? Now this is where it can be a little tricky.

Arguably, and without their consent, the children have been inhaling smoke from cigarettes. Worse, right now, as you read these words, children have been subjected to

dangerous nicotine from parents' cigarettes in their own homes over many years. Evidence suggests that children who may never have smoked, as they grew into adulthood, began showing harmful symptoms of coughing, phlegm, breathlessness, and wheezing.

Where, therefore, does the term 'Negative Consumption Externalities' come into play? When the use of a good or a service results in cost or harms a third party who was not directly involved in the transaction.

Can you think of anyone or something that happened along these lines? One that comes to mind is the true story and movie 'Erin Brockovich' (played by Julie Roberts) with dozens of communities who fell ill with chemical poisoning and cover-ups in the USA. All the people involved are known as third-party victims.

There are numerous ways we cause harm, not only to ourselves but to the natural environment. It has been stated many times that the polluter pays; this can be in the form of a tax, fines, or restitution.

Unfortunately, it's the consumer who pays, as the producer or manufacturer will pass on infringement costs. Some producers get away with things. Recently, a gas hub in the Northern Territory has been leaking methane into the atmosphere for over 18 years! To put that into perspective, it is equivalent to 8,300 new cars on our roadways every year!

All is not lost. Some producers have woken up to their responsibilities. This is known as 'Environmental Stewardship'. In a nutshell, it is the ethical management of the natural environment and its resources to ensure sustainability for current and future generations.

When Life Feels Heavy, Connection Matters Most

Kelly Dernehl, CEO of New Mornings



There's something I've been noticing more and more lately. Not just in the work we do at New Mornings, but in everyday conversations. People are tired. Not just physically tired, but emotionally tired. Tired of carrying things on their own. Tired of feeling like they should be coping better. And still, so many are trying to do life alone. Somewhere along the way, we started believing we had to handle everything ourselves.

We tell ourselves: "I should be able to deal with this." "Other people have it worse." "I don't want to burden anyone." So we stay quiet. We push through. We carry what feels too heavy, for far too long. But we weren't made to live this way. We were created for connection. For community. For spaces where we can be honest about how we're really doing.

At New Mornings, we see every day what happens when someone realises they are not alone. It might be a simple conversation over a cup of tea, or hearing a story that feels familiar. Nothing dramatic happens, and yet everything shifts. Because being seen softens the weight. It reminds people their experience matters. And often, it's the first step toward healing.

Community doesn't remove life's challenges, but it changes how we carry them. It means there are people who will sit with you, listen without judgement, and remind you that you don't have to do it alone. If you've been carrying something quietly, consider this your reminder: you don't have to. This week, reach out. Check in on a friend. Send the message you've been thinking about. And when someone asks how you're going, be honest.

Because when we show up for each other, even in small ways, we create the kind of community where no one has to carry life on their own.

Palliative Care Week

Hospice Care Association of North West Tasmania

Palliative Care week shines a spotlight on the incredible warmth of our Hospice Care Volunteers. Living with a life limiting illness can be challenging for an individual and their family, our Volunteers provide compassionate companionship during this time, allowing people to retain a sense of dignity and social connection.

We offer Carers weekly respite from their caring role and an opportunity for people to have their life stories told through our Biography program. As a small compassionate organisation, our Volunteers make a significant impact on the lives of people nearing the end of life. If you know of someone in your family or wider community living with a life limiting illness who needs some extra assistance, please contact us to see how we can help.

We would like to thank everyone who supports our service and extend our deep gratitude to our wonderful Hospice Care Association of North West Tasmania Volunteers.

If you would like to spend time and share meaningful conversation with someone in your community on a regular basis, we warmly invite you to get involved. Please visit our website at hospicecarenw.org.au or call 6477 7747 to learn more about becoming one of our valued volunteers and making a difference.



M Healing Centre - Nervous System Regulation

For people experiencing tension in the body, sleep difficulties or emotional overwhelm, I can help restore balance through body-based and nervous system-focused work.

Located in Forth. For a free initial consultation (10-15 min), please call Mira on 0422 700 388.

Registered practitioner (IICT)
Structured 3-7 session process
Individual, professional approach

Mira Has kindly sponsored the Puzzle this month, thank you!



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



Shingles

By Alec Azar

Shingles, also known as herpes zoster, is caused by the varicella zoster virus, which is also responsible for chickenpox. It occurs because of a reactivation of the chickenpox virus, which remains in the nerve cells of the body after an attack of chickenpox. People who get chickenpox are at risk of developing shingles later in life, since the virus lies dormant in the body. Fortunately, it is rare to have more than one attack of shingles.

Anyone who has had chickenpox can develop shingles. However, people who have never had chickenpox can catch the virus from another person with shingles. A person who has never had chickenpox, but comes into contact with a case of shingles, would develop chickenpox (not shingles). Shingles can be spread when a person comes into contact with fluid contained in the blisters. The virus can be spread by direct contact with the lesions or by touching any dressings, sheets or clothes soiled with discharge from the spots.

Shingles is a skin rash characterised by pain and blistering which usually appears on one side of the face or body. Tender, painful skin, tiredness, headache and photophobia may occur 2 to 3 days before the skin turns red and breaks out in tiny fluid-filled blisters.

Shingles can affect any part of the body, including the face. Classically, the rash caused by shingles often takes the shape of a belt from the midline on one side of the body. The rash forms its characteristic pattern because the virus works down the nerves that branch out from the spinal

cord. The chest and lumbar region are most commonly affected.

The rash usually lasts about 10 to 15 days. During that time, a scaly crust might appear. Once the attack is over, the skin usually returns to normal, but there can be some scarring or a secondary bacterial infection in severe cases.

Sometimes, the pain doesn't go away once the shingles rash has cleared. This persistent pain in the region for longer than 3 months is called post-herpetic neuralgia. Pain-relieving medication or tablets specific for nerve pain may be needed to help manage symptoms.

Anti-viral medications can help ease the pain and shorten an attack of shingles. The medication works best if administered within three days, and ideally within 24 hours, of the onset of a rash. If you think you have shingles, seek urgent medical attention. Analgesic medication may also ease post-herpetic neuralgia, but consult your doctor first.

The National Immunisation Program (NIP) provides a free shingles vaccine called Shingrix for people aged 65 and over, or for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders aged 50 or over (and people aged 18 and over with some immunocompromised medical risk conditions). The dosing schedule is two injections, two to six months apart.

The NIP provides a free chickenpox vaccine to children aged 18 months of age and as catch-up for children up to 20 years of age. People from 20 years of age must purchase the vaccine privately.

MND North West Tasmania Support Group & Upcoming Fundraiser

By Junene Stephens, Secretary



The MND North West Tasmania Support Group continues to provide vital support, connection and care for individuals and families affected by Motor Neurone Disease across the region.

Support meetings are held on the last Friday of each month at 11:00am at the Ulverstone Returned Servicemen's Club, offering a welcoming space for those living with MND, their carers, and loved ones to connect and share.

The group is also preparing for its upcoming community fundraiser, to be held on **Sunday 5 July from 2:00–4:00pm** at The Pier, Ulverstone. This special event will feature guest speaker Adam Walker, Chair of Pharmacological Sciences at the University of Sydney, whose research focuses on MND.

Community support plays a crucial role in the group's ability to continue its work, and everyone is warmly invited to attend this informative and inspiring afternoon.

For more information, please contact Junene Stephens (Secretary) on 0427 252 763 or email jstephens@berendsen.net.au.

In-Home Foot Care with a Personal Touch

For many in our community, simple things like foot care can become difficult but one local service is making it easier, bringing support right to the front door.

Ann offers basic, routine foot maintenance in the comfort and convenience of your own home. Her caring approach focuses on the essentials, including nail cutting and filing, as well as attending to callouses and corns helping clients stay comfortable, mobile, and confident.

With reasonable rates and minimal wait times, Ann's service is designed to be both accessible and practical, particularly for those who may struggle to get to appointments.

Importantly, Ann's work is focused on health and wellbeing, rather than cosmetic treatments, and she notes that this is not a pedicure service.

If you or someone you care for could benefit from simple, reliable in-home foot care, Ann welcomes enquiries and bookings.

To find out more or make an appointment, contact Ann on 0408390858.

Servicing Tamar River to Burnie areas by appointment.

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Convenient home visits within North/Northwest Tasmania.

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The advertisement features a dark purple background with a white paisley-style decorative graphic on the left. The text is in white and light purple, providing contact information and service details for Ann Montague.

Ecofest

Many hands make a lighter planet—and at this year's Ecofest, that spirit came alive in force. A vibrant brigade of volunteers turned out in droves, from community groups rallying their crews to individuals stepping up with enthusiasm and grit to the Camp Clayton team doing what they do best. Clad in a sea of high-vis fluro, this unstoppable army transformed the festival grounds of Camp Clayton —setting up, keeping things running seamlessly, and packing down after two action-packed days.

Zonta Club of Cradle Coast

Zonta International is a leading global organisation, and has been working to empower women and girls through service and advocacy since 1919. There are over 1200 Zonta clubs around the world, in more than 69 countries. We are primarily a women's group, but men are welcome too.

The Zonta Club of Cradle Coast meets once a month for a dinner meeting in Burnie, alternating between guest speakers and committee meetings. Guests are always welcome! As well, we have regular coffee catch-ups at varying venues along the coast on a Saturday during the month. We have a number of projects that advance the needs of women in our community and we would love more help! If you would like more information, contact zontclubofcradlecoast@gmail.com or via our Facebook page.

Cycling Without Age Central Coast

Committee and Active Bike Riders. Flexible commitment Ph. 0499990534 or <https://cruisinthecoasttas.com/>

CTST Community Transport Services Tasmania Ltd

Every day, our volunteers help keep people connected, supported and able to live independently within their communities:

- Volunteer Drivers provide safe and reliable transport to medical appointments, shopping, social outings and other activities
- Passenger Experience Volunteers join our Social Outings to chat, connect, help everyone feel welcome and support the driver. There is no driving required
- Social Support Volunteers offer warm conversation or support consumers with their shopping (Devonport & Surrounds only)
- Home Maintenance Volunteers help in the garden to keep homes safely maintained (Devonport & Surrounds only)

Interested in volunteering with us in your local community? To find out more or to register go to: <https://www.ctst.org.au/volunteer> or call 1800781033

Volunteers Wanted – Paper on Skin™ Festival (2–9 October)

Paper on Skin™ is seeking friendly, reliable volunteers to help support our interstate and international guests during this year's festival.

We're looking for people who can assist with airport pick-ups and drop-offs, transport between venues, and help with general event logistics across our program of activities. This is a great opportunity to be part of a unique cultural event and connect with artists and visitors from around the world. Flexible availability across the week is welcome.

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact paperonskin@gmail.com with the subject header: Volunteer Expression of Interest.

Respect

Respect cares for more than 4,000 residents across our homes and supports over 1,000 people living independently in our retirement villages and independent living units. At the heart of our community are our volunteers. Our volunteers generously give their time and companionship to create special moments that mean so much to our older people.

This National Volunteers Week, Respect wants to say thank you. Your kindness strengthens our homes, our teams and the communities we serve.

Tasmanian Wildlife Hospital

Tasmania Wildlife Hospital is powered by an incredible community of volunteers who truly do it all! From hands on care for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife to building enclosures, planting native trees and Fundraising and marketing support... Their impact is vital.

This National Volunteer Week, we celebrate our diverse team, they are the heartbeat of our hospital and give our wild patients a second chance at survival.

Inspired to join our mission? Please visit www.tasmaniawildlifehospital.org.au and head to the volunteer section to express your interest, then jump into one of our May Information Sessions on Wed 13th (evening) or Sat 30th (morning).

Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden

The Emu Valley Rhododendron Garden has a long proud history of welcoming volunteers both in the garden and in our café.

As a primarily voluntary organisation we value our volunteers and would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that make this award-winning garden and café what it is today and in the future.

Our scones and many of our sweet treats are still made by our amazing volunteers, including our raspberry jam for our scones. Our garden would not be what it is today without our incredible volunteers, so we thank you!

Hospice Care North West

Hospice Care Association of North West Tasmania is supported by more than 40 dedicated volunteers who give their time to assist people living with life-limiting illnesses.

Among them is Jenny, a valued volunteer who provides compassionate companionship to a client each week. Her visits help foster connection, offering meaningful conversation and a sense of community in the comfort of home. Jenny has supported this client for over 18 months and has been volunteering with the organisation since 2021. She also contributes as a Walk Leader in the Walking Through Grief program, which offers support to those grieving the loss of a loved one. With her nursing background, training in grief and loss, and natural empathy, Jenny brings warmth, understanding, and attentive listening to those navigating difficult times. Thank you Jenny!

Volunteer to support people living with a life limiting illness on the coast. We welcome people who may like to volunteer up to 3 hours a week or fortnight as a Compassionate Home visit Companion or a Transport Volunteer. Ph 6477 7747 or hospicecarenw.org.au

City of Devonport Brass Band

City of Devonport Brass wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to our players (past and present), their families, our committee and all of our supporters – without you we wouldn't be here!

Two Significant Events in April

By Dr Martin George, Principal Astronomer at Hive

The Easter period in early April saw two major events—one concerning human spaceflight and the other involving a comet that was destroyed!

The great news about humans in space was that NASA's Artemis II mission to take four astronauts to the Moon, launched on the morning of 2 April (Tasmanian time), was completed almost flawlessly.

Until the end of May, we shall be showing some of the best images from the mission as part of each of our regular shows in the Ulverstone Planetarium. The astronauts took pictures of both Earth and the Moon during their trip.

The Artemis II astronauts—Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen—did not land on the Moon. Their path took them around the Moon and back to Earth again in what is called a 'free-return trajectory', rather like a 'figure 8' shape. This mission bore some similarities to the Apollo 8 mission in December 1968, which took astronauts to the moon for the first time (also without landing), but Apollo 8 orbited the moon ten times before returning to Earth.

I have been asked by several Hive visitors why Artemis II did not land. It is because humans are 're-learning' the

steps necessary for crewed lunar landing missions, and testing modern technology. Nobody has been to the Moon since the Apollo 17 mission of December 1972—over 53 years ago!

Sadly, a comet that may have been a fine sight in our western evening sky immediately after Easter did not survive its passage close to the Sun.

Comet C/2026 A1—also known as Comet MAPS—was a 'sungrazer' comet that passed less than 170,000 kilometres from the Sun's surface. Its closeness to the Sun caused the comet to break apart, and astronomers knew that this might happen.

Had it survived, we may have seen a long comet tail in the evening twilight. I'm hoping that it's not too long before we see another bright comet, although the spectacle of Comet McNaught in 2007 would be hard to beat! Did you see it?

Coming up in May we shall see a clear return of Venus to our evening sky, low in the northwestern evening twilight. This begins a period when both Venus and Jupiter—with Jupiter above and to the right of Venus—will be visible, appearing not far apart.

Venus is the brightest object in the sky apart from the Sun and the Moon, shining like a brilliant beacon!



This Month in STEM

By Brittany Trubody

Animals

There's growing hope for people with cat allergies, as more mainstream pet food producers are introducing "chicken therapy" formulas. It works by incorporating eggs from chickens that have been exposed long-term to cats, which causes them to produce a natural protein in their eggs that helps reduce the production of Fel d 1. When cats consume these egg proteins consistently over several weeks, it can reduce allergen production by up to 50%—offering more support for allergy sufferers.

Environment

Bioengineer Mathilde Wittcock is tackling tennis ball waste with an innovative acoustic solution. With over 330 million tennis balls produced each year—and less than 1% recycled—she has designed modular sound-dampening panels that are assembled without adhesives and created using 283 repurposed tennis balls. Ideal for libraries, galleries, and offices, these panels reduce ambient noise while giving waste a second life. To put it in perspective, the 55,000 balls used during the two weeks of Wimbledon alone could be transformed into nearly 200 office panels.

Energy

A breakthrough in upcycling technology could reshape how we harness solar energy. Scientists have captured luminescent particles derived from food waste that absorb ultraviolet (UV) light and re-emit it as visible light, which can then be converted into electricity. Because UV radiation is present even without direct sunlight, this system can be up to 50% more efficient than conventional solar panels—dramatically improving energy capture beyond the 15–20% during typical daylight hours.

Infrastructure

The future of urban transport will arrive later this year, with the world's first electric "helitaxi" service launching in Dubai. These airborne taxis follow designated sky routes and connect via "vertiports" to key locations such as business districts, shopping centres, and airports. Following successful trials, the UAE is combining this innovation with its current driverless vehicle network, positioning itself at the forefront of fast, flexible, and congestion-free transport for all citizens.

History





Daylight Saving Time owes its origins, in part, to a dislike for a sleep-in and a passion for leisure. In 1907, Englishman William Willett—an avid golfer—published a pamphlet titled *The Waste of Daylight*, arguing that shifting the clocks would give people more usable evening light for hobbies - such as golf. The idea to utilise more of the days natural light gained traction during World War I, when Germany adopted the time change to conserve coal supplies, prompting other nations to follow. Despite its longevity, modern research suggests daylight saving may actually do more harm than good, with direct links to increased accidents, heart issues, and disruptions to our circadian rhythms following clock changes.

Science

A promising new lung cancer treatment is being prioritised through regulatory agencies in the US and Europe. This inhalable therapy uses the same cellular-access technique as a typical virus would, but instead, it would deliver immune-boosting genes directly into the lungs, enabling the body to target and destroy cancer cells more effectively. Early results have been highly encouraging, prompting accelerated trials and expedited review processes.



Central Coast, your results for the FOGO bin audits are in:

-  1,199 tonnes of FOGO was processed between Spring and the New Year.
-  8.5 tonnes of this was contamination (or 0.71% by weight).
-  The contamination rate of the FOGO bins in the Central Coast municipality has remained the same as in the 2024 audit.
-  Keep up the great work **Central Coast!**



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Strength, Spirit and Community at the Judo State Cup

By Alicia van Ek

On Friday 18 April, I had the pleasure of attending the Judo State Cup hosted by the Ulverstone Judo Club — and what an incredible showcase of skill, discipline and community it was.

With close to 100 participants from across Tasmania — including clubs from Exeter, Launceston, Devonport, Ulverstone and Hobart — the event brought together competitors of all ages and experience levels. From young beginners stepping onto the mat for the first time, to more seasoned athletes demonstrating refined technique and focus, there was a real sense of encouragement and respect throughout the day.

The club is very lucky to have people like Chris Palmer, Jamie Dodd, Terry Vonbibra and James Saltmarsh deeply involved — individuals who contribute significantly to the strength and success of the club both on and off the mat. One standout for me was Sienna Depoli-Kubanc, an impressive young competitor who has been involved in judo for eight years. Competing in the Under 15 girls division, Sienna took out gold — a fantastic achievement.

Beyond her own success, she also gives back by helping out with the younger age groups, embodying the strong community spirit that runs through the club.

At the heart of it all is John Deacon, whose remarkable judo journey spans decades. Starting the sport at just 15, John — now 82 — has gone on to coach and adjudicate at Olympic level. His passion and dedication continue to inspire generations of judoka across the state.

Events like the State Cup are a powerful reminder that sport is about so much more than competition — it's about connection, confidence and community.

If you want to learn more about Judo Tasmania, visit: www.judotasmalia.org.au

Image: John Deacon and Sienna Depoli-Kubanc



USC Returns to State League

By Elise Mee, President, Ulverstone Soccer Club

Ulverstone Soccer Club is proud to mark a historic return to State League Football after a 29-year absence, signalling a new and exciting chapter for the club and the wider community.

This milestone has been made possible through the commitment of players, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters who have rallied behind the club's vision. To compete at this level, the club has welcomed 20 new players from local, mainland and overseas. These players adding valuable experience and depth to the squad.

In what is shaping up to be a highly competitive 10-team competition—where the bottom two sides face relegation—every match will be crucial.

Ulverstone Soccer Club continues to thrive at all levels, with close to 1,000 registered players participating from school programs right through to the National Premier League. This strong foundation reflects the passion for soccer in the region and the club's important role in the community.

The club invites all Ulverstone locals to get behind the team and attend home games throughout the season. Your support from the sidelines makes a real difference and helps create a strong home-ground advantage.

NPL 2026 FIXTURE

R1 7/3 Ulverstone v Devonport	R10 30/5 Devonport v Ulverstone
R2 14/3 Launceston City v Ulverstone	R11 14/6 Ulverstone v Launceston City
R3 22/3 Ulverstone v Launceston United	R12 20/6 Launceston United v Ulverstone
R4 29/3 Ulverstone v Riverside	R13 27/6 Riverside v Ulverstone
R5 11/4 Kingborough v Ulverstone	R14 4/7 Ulverstone v Kingborough
R6 18/4 Ulverstone v South Hobart	R15 11/7 South Hobart v Ulverstone
R7 2/5 Glenorchy v Ulverstone	R16 19/7 Ulverstone v Glenorchy
R8 10/5 Ulverstone v Clarence	R17 2/8 Clarence v Ulverstone
R9 23/5 South East Unit v Ulverstone	R18 8/8 Ulverstone v South East United

North-West Squash Championship Delivers Strong Inaugural Event

By Andrew Woodhouse, President — Penguin Squash Club



The inaugural North-West Tasmanian Open & Junior Open attracted a strong field of 40 participants across 44 entries, with players travelling from across the North West Coast and beyond. Representation was led by Penguin (12 players) and Deloraine (11), with solid support from Wynyard (7), Devonport (5),

Ulverstone (4), and Hobart (1). Encouragingly, the event featured 10 junior players, including 4 competing in Open divisions, highlighting the strength and potential of the region's junior pathway.

The tournament reinforces the North West as a key hub for squash in Tasmania and provides a strong foundation for future growth.

Results – Division Winners

Division 1: David Mulcahy (Parsons). Division 2: Nico Smuts (Ulverstone). Division 3: Sebastian Jongschaap (Penguin). Division 4: Zaniel La Trobe (Penguin). Division 5: Anjelica Williams (Penguin)

Junior Divisions

Junior Division 1: Blake Brewtnall (Deloraine). Junior Division 2: Nickilis Smuts (Ulverstone)

The club acknowledges Squash Tasmania President and Tournament Director, David Mulcahy, for his outstanding work and expertise in delivering a high-quality event.

The organising committee extends sincere thanks to tournament sponsors Synectic, Fielding Logging, Goodstone Group, and Midway Furniture for their valued support. Special thanks also go to club volunteers Lyndal Luck and Terry Townsend for their outstanding efforts managing the canteen and supporting the smooth running of the event.

Image: From left: David Mulcahy (1st – Parsons), Todd Viney (Plate Winner – Wynyard), Mark Cato (3rd – Deloraine), Paul Brewtnall (2nd – Deloraine)

Pride of Penguin: Four Local Players Step Up to VFLW

By Jenny Rowden

Four rising stars from Penguin Football Club — Libby Haines, Georgia Purton, Joherty Revell and Emilie Seward — are taking the next step in their football journeys after being selected in the VFLW Tasmania Devils squad.

The achievement marks the realisation of a shared dream, built on years of hard work, resilience and strong friendship. All four were key members of Penguin's 2024 premiership-winning team, a season that showcased both their talent and their tight-knit bond.

For Libby, who only began playing at 16, the opportunity is an honour and a chance to test herself at the highest level.

Georgia reflected on the strength of their connection, noting the positive impact it has had both on and off the field. Joherty, who helped establish Penguin's first U17 girls team, said the moment she secured her place was one she immediately shared with her biggest supporter — her mum. Emilie spoke of the persistence required to reach this level, with early mornings and hard work now paying off.

Now training alongside some of the state's best players, all four are focused on continuing to develop, contribute and make their mark at VFLW level.

Their message to other aspiring female footballers is simple: believe in yourself, stay committed and don't give up.

Building Confidence, Discipline and Connection Through Martial Arts

Local families are invited to discover the benefits of children's martial arts through structured classes designed to support both physical and personal development.

Team 360 offers engaging programs for a range of ages and experience levels, creating a safe and supportive environment where children can build confidence, improve fitness, and develop important life skills. Each class focuses not only on movement and technique, but also on respect, discipline, resilience, and social connection.

Martial arts can be especially valuable for children looking to build self-esteem, manage energy in a positive way, and form

friendships in a welcoming group setting. With experienced instructors and a strong focus on encouragement, every child is supported to progress at their own pace.

Families are invited to experience the program firsthand, with free trial classes available for all new participants. Team 360 is also a registered Ticket to Play provider, meaning eligible families can access vouchers to help cover participation costs — making it even easier for children to get involved.

Ph: 0488 196 059
14 Industrial Drive, Ulverstone TAS
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/360maf/>
Instagram:
<https://www.instagram.com/360maf/>



From Penguin to Nationals: Rory's Cycling Journey

By Tempy Grundy, Grade 7, Penguin District School

For the second time in a row a Penguin District student has represented Tasmania in the Australian junior track cycling national championships. Rory Stretton travelled to Brisbane between and to compete against other U15 females.

Rory Stretton started cycling at five-year-old as her older brothers Dalton and Mitchell have both participated in the sport. She stated that "Honestly, I don't feel pressured as much, but its more motivation. Dalton and Mitchell have both won medals at competitions. Looking back at his (Dalton's) achievements made me hope I could do similar." This helps drive the passion for the sport.

To get to nationals Rory first had to participate in State titles at Silverdome in December 2025. She did 5 events which she won all of them. In January this year she travelled to Adelaide to compete in Australian Junior Track Series, which was the third of three events around the country in the AJTS series to prepare which girls Rory would be racing against. she ended up with pretty good results.

In the Australian junior track cycling national championships Rory didn't do as well as she hoped, she would have liked to do more preparation, but even though she didn't get the results she wanted the PDS community is still proud of the achievement.

Here are a few questions we asked Rory:

Why do you like the sport? The thrill that it gives me to compete against people around the country

How does it make you feel? It made me feel good because it gives me the opportunity to meet new people and because I get the opportunity to get do something not many people do

Where was it held? Brisbane

How did long you go? 28th of march – 6-7 of April

Favourite part of the trip? After it, the kids and team would go swimming and play ping pong which was fun.

Is there anything you would change if you could? I wish I trained more prior to the event. Was in a slump and couldn't train. Was only doing 20k rides when should've been doing more.

Did your sibling influence why you do it? Yes, started at 5 but didn't like it because she only did it because of her siblings, over time she grew to liking it.

Do you feel obligated to participate in it? No, I feel like mum would let me quit if I wanted to, but my family's so involved in it, and I do enjoy the sport and the community around it. Its probably expected of me but not forced.

Do you feel pressure to be better than them? Honestly, I don't feel pressured as much, but its more motivation. Dalton and Mitchell both won medals at competitions. Looking back at his (Dalton's) achievements made me hope I could do similar.

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Policing Update

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



Over the past month, local police have remained active across the region, with a strong focus on high visibility, prevention, and community safety.

The Easter period saw an increased police presence on our roads, with high-visibility patrols and a large number of breath testing sites in place. Pleasingly, the vast majority of people travelled safely and responsibly, allowing families and visitors to enjoy the long weekend safely.

Despite ongoing pressures from rising fuel prices, we have not seen a corresponding increase in fuel thefts or related offences across the region. There were a handful of isolated incidents, including one report of failing to pay for fuel in Ulverstone, however overall numbers remain low. This is a credit to local

businesses and fuel providers who continue to invest in effective security measures.

Police are investigating the theft of a grey box trailer from a paddock on Turners Beach Road. The trailer, displaying registration Z31SO, was taken from a five-acre property accessed through an unlocked gate on 8/4/26 (Offence Report 802197).

We also attended several reports of unlawful entry to businesses in Ulverstone's industrial areas over one weekend last month, where scrap metals and copper were targeted. Investigations into these matters are ongoing.

As always, information can be shared by calling 131444, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

And to finish off with a good news story... we were investigating a disturbing theft in Penguin when 4 super-cute puppies were reported stolen! Fortunately, they only escaped and went exploring, and were soon found alive and well by members of the public and council.

Fledgling Fire Fighters

By Tyson Smith, Grade 6, Riana Primary School

During week 10 of first term, Riana Primary School students participated in the Fire Education program, which is something every grade participates in every 2 years. Fire Fighter Craig comes to visit our school to remind us how to be fire safe and what to do in an emergency.

Students learn how easily fires start and things we can do to stay safe. They learn how to make calm choices during a fire and everybody should have lots of working smoke alarms in their homes, even in the bedrooms. Students also learnt electrical fires can't be put out, they only go out when they burn out, which include fires in electrical cars.

As part of this program, volunteer fire fighters from the Penguin Fire Brigade attended the school with their truck. Kinder and Prep/1 students got to explore the truck, its firefighting equipment, listen to the siren, see the flashing lights and even hold and squirt the fire hose.

Here are some quotes from the students that participated in this experience:

Gabby said "It was good because I got to hear the sirens"

Roy said, "I liked it because I got to go in the fire truck".

Sienna said, "It was great because we got to have a photo and sit in the fire truck."

Georgia agreed with Ernie that "spraying the fire fighter hose was amazing."

Every single one of these grades loved this and we would like to say a big thank you to the volunteer fire fighters that came in and shared their time with us!



Community Tips Rewarded

Three anonymous Crime Stoppers tipsters have received cash rewards after providing information that assisted police investigations and led to the seizure of illegal firearms, illicit drugs and cash.

Crime Stoppers Tasmania Chair Mr David Daniels OAM said the rewards recognise members of the community who choose to share information about crime safely and anonymously.

Mr Daniels said even when tipsters choose to remain completely anonymous, they may still be eligible for a reward if their information leads to an arrest or charges being laid.

The three recent rewards were paid for the following information:

- **Illegal firearm located:** An anonymous tip provided about an unsafe firearm. Police obtained a search warrant and located a loaded rifle and ammunition. One person was charged with multiple offences. The anonymous tipster contacted Crime Stoppers and received a reward of \$525.
- **Firearms and illicit drugs:** Information provided through Crime Stoppers indicated firearms and drugs were present at a property. Police obtained a search warrant and located illegal firearms along with illicit drugs including ice, MDMA and cocaine. One person was charged with drug and firearm related offences. The tipster received a \$450 reward.
- **Firearms, drugs and cash seized:** A tip provided detailed information that enabled police to obtain a search warrant. The search located illicit drugs, firearms and cash. The anonymous tipster received a \$450 reward.

Tasmania Police Assistant Commissioner Rob Blackwood said Crime Stoppers was a valuable resource assisting police to disrupt unlawful behaviour and criminal activity.

"Every tip provided to Crime Stoppers has the potential to contribute to an investigation," he said. "Public safety is a priority for police, but we can't do it alone. We welcome any information that can assist police in disrupting the illegal use of firearms or that assists in removing illegal firearms from the community."

Crime Stoppers Tasmania and Tasmania Police encourage anyone with information about crime or suspicious behaviour to report it safely and anonymously. If it's not right, speak up anonymously to Crime Stoppers. crimestopperstas.com.au or 1800 333 000

Lost for Words

By Geoffrey Curtis

Henry, aged 56, meekly peered around the door and, eyeing the young woman sitting at a desk, sheepishly asked to come in. Peering over her spectacles, she smiled knowingly, because incidents such as this were not uncommon. She said, "Do come in, how can I be of help?"

Henry sat down. "I want to learn how to read", he mumbled. "That's wonderful, and why would you want to?" came the inquiry. Henry slowly raised his head and, looking for support, stated he had been missing out on something for much of his life.

"Are you employed?", continued Janice, who by now had introduced herself. Henry nodded, stating he had been a truckie for most of his adult life. "Tell me, Henry", said Janice, "how did you manage to find your way around if you are unable to read or write?"

"O, that's easy", grinned Henry, and he began to elaborate. He would 'chuck' his head out of the cab window and ask someone for directions. At other times, he could work out some of the road signs, like the round one with red around the outside with a slanting (diagonal) red painted line, which meant he could not take his truck down that road.

Stories like Henry's have been told by many over the years. Unlike Henry, some never seek help for many reasons. Literacy is not relevant; they lack confidence, English may not be their main language, or they are unable to access literacy support.

Of course, there are myriad reasons often cited by people who can't believe someone can have poor literacy skills and blame teachers and the education system for this. Others say parents and carers don't do enough to support their child at home and feel it is the school's responsibility.

There may be psychosocial factors, including being intellectually impaired, itinerant families and a degree of poverty. We can all blame someone or something, but that does not change the situation for those who want to be functionally literate.

Basic or functional literacy refers to the ability to read, write and do numeracy, which Barton (2006) cites as the initial stage of learning that adults need to go through. In Australia, 44% of adults are only able to achieve literacy at low levels 1 to 2. Here in Tasmania, we have the worst rates, with 52.8% of men and 46.9% women unable to achieve these functional levels of literacy, as shown in a 2023 parliamentary report.

Literacy builds self-esteem, helps one's quality of life, and gives freedom. In the past, you only needed to be able to read, write, and do basic mathematics. Now you must be computer-literate. Without this, the likelihood of getting a job is becoming almost impossible. Try picking apples, a seemingly easy job for most, but now one must be able to fill in a form online before anyone gives you an interview.

26Ten is a network of organisations and individuals working together to improve adult literacy and numeracy in Tasmania. Better literacy and numeracy mean a better Tasmania for all. The name comes from the 26 letters of the alphabet and the ten digits used for counting.

Do you know of someone, or do you want to improve your reading? If so, you are welcome to 1300 00 2610 or type the website <https://26ten.tas.gov.au>



The What's On page will return in June with a new layout! In the meantime, for events, including community group meeting dates, please visit the Coastal Voice What's On page:

<https://thecoastalvoice.au/whats-on/>

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