

HILLWOOD BERRIES

Hillwood Berries



When Robin and Karen Dornauf built their first strawberry growing tunnels at Hillwood back in 2013, nobody could have predicted the extraordinary growth that was to come.

Raised on a dairy farm, Robin already had runs on the board, having developed the Christmas Hills Raspberry Farm back in the 1980s and the Meander Valley Dairy, producing specialist cheeses and cultured butter.

This led them to Hillwood, when they bought an existing dairy factory in 2012 and used the accompanying 40 hectares as the foundation for their new business, Meander Valley Berries, in 2013.

The 2021/22 season will see the total area planted cover 50 hectares, housing more than two million strawberry plants all planted and picked by hand, making it easily the biggest business in our part of the Tamar.

The strawberries are grown on waist-high tables in coir bags.

The workforce needed to pick all these berries at their peak will exceed 400 this year.

While the farm employs locals and backpackers, the growing demand for pickers led the Dornaufs to engage with the Commonwealth Government's international aid initiative, the Australian Seasonal Workers' Programme, bringing in workers from Timor Leste, Tonga and Samoa.

These workers are housed and fed by Hillwood Berries in two locations, and, because of Covid-19, the present seasonal workers have been in Tasmania for two years.

Apart from the farm shop, all the fruit is sold to the national distributor Driscolls, so could be retailed in any state.

The strawberries are Amesti, a special variety developed by, and exclusive to, Driscolls.

The thriving business is now largely run by Robin and Karen's sons, Simon and Marcus Dornauf.

In 2017 the Dornaufs purchased the neighbouring Hillwood Strawberry Farm, now the home to the Farmgate Cafe and pick your own berries area, and became Hillwood Berries.

Open every day through summer from 9am to 5pm, visitors can pick strawberries, blackberries, blueberries and raspberries.

If PYO is not your thing, you can buy berries from the shop, together with a range of local products, including cheeses, ice cream, jams, toppings, sauces, vinegars and honey.

They are currently working with a local winemaker to produce a strawberry wine.

It's a great spot to take visitors for a coffee, or maybe a strawberry milkshake?



Growing Tunnels at Hillwood Berries
PYO Strawberries in Front



Manager Meg Beasley with Berry Products at
The Farm Cafe

Letters To The Editor

WINDERMERE/SWAN BAY - ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

Residents who follow the Dilston-Windermere-Swan Bay Facebook page will be aware of my recent posts about safety issues along our roads that are faced by drivers and pedestrians alike.

Over the years I've written many times to the Launceston Council to complain about the lack of safe areas for pedestrians to get off the road. While some drainage issues and road widening has occurred in some areas this hasn't solved the problem of blind corners, or narrow sections and uneven verges that are unsafe for walkers.

More recently there has been an increase in inconsiderate drivers who don't keep to the 50km limit along Windermere Road which has made walking, especially with a dog or small child, even more unsafe.

I expressed my concerns again to the Council in mid-October – and posted both my letter and Council's response on our community Facebook page. It was soon apparent others in our community shared my concerns about the Swan Bay and Windermere sections of Windermere Road, as well as other Swan Bay roads. As a result several residents and myself met with Mayor, Albert Van Zetten and Deputy Mayor, Danny Gibson on Wednesday 3rd November 2021 where we outlined the issues and then drove them along the roads so they could see the problems for themselves.

It was a positive meeting and we were encouraged by the Mayor's suggestion we list the points raised that day in a written presentation that would be circulated to all councillors, and Nick Browne, from the Roads & Traffic Department. This document – together with photographs - was lodged with the Council on 18th November.

Some additional road safety points that were raised at the 3rd November meeting, and that have been included in the presentation to Council, include a review of, and potential reduction in, the speed limit along Windermere and Los Angelos Roads; improved road signage for Sanwae Drive at both the Windermere Road and Los Angelos Road junctions; addressing the increasing incidence of potholes; and regular slashing of the long grass along the verges that impedes both visibility and pedestrian safety.

While I'm hopeful of finally receiving some positive response and action from the Council, and have suggested all the councillors meet further with concerned residents and to drive the roads and see the problems we face, if you share these concerns please consider contacting the Council independently. Ph: 6323 3000 or email contactus@launceston.tas.gov.au

We all love living in this beautiful area but in continuing to approve development it seems the Council has failed to properly maintain our roads and the infrastructure is no longer able to safely support an increased volume of traffic

If anyone would like to view the submission, please contact me.

Carolyn Gutteridge, Windermere. (M) 0438298516



The Smoke Signals Team

High Tea

It takes a lot of people to write, design, print and distribute our community newsletter. Smoke Signals said thank you to its many volunteer distributors last week with a High Tea at the Windermere Cafe.



Behind the scenes

Play Group



Dilston Playgroup has been enjoying some stunning weather and the children have grown a gorgeous veggie patch with loads of herbs and vegetables such as strawberries, broad beans, beetroot, spinach, celery and parsley. We have also been exploring and investigating with some creative sensory play experiences with coloured rice, shaving foam, spaghetti, water, kinetic sand and rice bubbles. These sensory activities allow curiosity and child led inquiry based discussions about the world we live in and how different textures are manipulated, expanding children's vocabulary and imagination.

As we are looking to the festive season we have a lot of fun things planned such as:

November

15th - Edible sensory play table

22nd - Jelly sensory table/making Christmas cards

29th - Nature craft/ coffee bean sensory experience

December

6th - Christmas wrapping paper making/ice melting investigation

13th - Christmas cookie decorating

20th - playgroup Christmas party with music, a dance off, party food and hopefully a visitor from the North Pole!



We welcome all families to come and enjoy our playgroup as it is a fantastic way to meet and connect with other young families. We gather each Monday from 10-12 at the Dilston Hall. Sessions cost \$3. We encourage you to bring your child's morning tea and drink bottle. Contact Amy on 0413394523 if you have any questions.

I have been running our local playgroup for over two years now and am hoping to get a team together to help share the fun of planning and organising play sessions. You can be as involved as you like. Please let me know if you are interested at all in joining the team by contacting Amy on 0413394523.

City of Launceston

City of Launceston will again present our Music in the Park program during various weekends in January 2022. Keep an eye on our City of Launceston Official Facebook site for details.

This information will also be available in council's Living as a Senior Newsletter.

Join up at: : <https://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Community/Seniors>



I sometimes like to speculate what the Tamar Valley would have been like had Tasmania been settled by the French rather than the British.

This very nearly happened.

Marion du Fresne had already claimed Van Diemen's Land for France in 1772 and Napoleon was keen to establish a base for future trade routes in the southern ocean.

Nicholas Baudin arrived in 1802 and charted the East coast of Tasmania, before heading to Sydney to reprovision.

The French expeditioners were apparently lavishly entertained in Sydney (despite Britain and France being at war at the time), and the young zoologist Francois Peron, described as "sociable and loquacious", reportedly let slip the French plan to establish a colony and lay claim to Van Diemen's Land. This news was quickly relayed



Nicolas Baudin

to Governor King who, as soon as Baudin sailed from Sydney, dispatched Lt Bowen to establish a colony in Van Diemen's Land to forestall the French.

Clearly the French would have quickly realised that the Tasmanian climate was similar to many parts of France, and, with their knowledge of viticulture and winemaking, a wine industry would have inevitably developed.

The British had no such knowledge and no taste for table wine- their preference was for the heavy fortified wines imported from Spain.

Nevertheless, self sufficiency dictated that most large estates had their own vineyard and there were many such in Launceston and along the Tamar.

The best known vineyard on the East Tamar was established by Matthias Gaunt at Windermere in 1841, importing a range of varieties from Sydney.

In Launceston's Horticultural Gardens (on the Lawrence Street frontage of City Park), 26 varieties of grape were cultivated and cuttings offered to the public at 3d. each, so there would have been many vines planted throughout the Tamar Valley.

The Gaunt vineyard was probably on or about the site of the Tudor house built by Ross Ambrose in Windermere Road, where, according to Judy East in Down Windermere Way, "wine cellars underground were filled in for safety reasons".

It produced wine for at least 30 years, from some 13 varieties like Black Hamburg, Black and White Syriac, Black Constantia, Verdehlo, Black and Red Muscat and Black Cluster which was probably pinot noir.

Dr Gaunt was a successful exhibitor at Horticultural shows and was regarded as an expert in viticulture.

He experimented unsuccessfully with "electro culture", placing a wire close to the roots of vines, but concluded that the neighbouring untreated vines produced superior fruit.

One of the Gaunt obituaries rather uncharitably concludes that, despite the longevity of the vineyard "Dr Gaunt did not succeed in becoming a great wine maker," but another describes the vineyard as "one of the best and most extensive on the island", producing "very superior wine".

I'm sure Dr Gaunt would be delighted to see the many vineyards dotting the Tamar today.



Baudin's Vessel Geographe

CHURCH NEWS St Matthias' Anglican Church

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL AND PAGEANT. DECEMBER 11.

You are all invited to join us at 2-4pm on Saturday Dec. 11th in the grounds of St Matthias' Church Windermere for our inaugural family Christmas Festival and Nativity Pageant. Please spread the word to friends and wider family groups, and bring your children and grandchildren to celebrate Christmas together.

There will be 6 different hands-on activities to introduce and reinforce the Christian Christmas story (see website <http://stmw.org.au/images/ChristmasFestival.pdf>) as well as displays of different nativity scenes, children's story books, and jigsaw puzzles to share, Baby Jesus 'rocks' to find, and lots of giveaways to continue the story-telling at home. You are encouraged to wear a simple costume element (eg. dressing gown/teatowel head-dress for shepherds, star, crown for kings, or make a sheep mask on the day...see Google/Youtube for lots of easy ideas) so you can all join in the human nativity pageant scene at 3pm with masses of shepherds, sheep, angels, stars, wise men, townsfolk, Marys and Josephs.... Further details Ph 0409317806

There will be Christmas music, and a continuous-loop 5 minute animated video on a TV in the church: all helping spread the true story and meaning of Christmas.

Please BYO picnic snacks and drinks, and scissors if possible. The event is free, but you may like to donate an item of non-perishable food to be distributed through Anglicare to the needy of Launceston this Christmas.



Sun. Dec 12th. 9am Regular service. 3rd Sunday in Advent

Fri. Dec 24th 7pm Carols service outdoors (Photo 2020). BYO chair and WARM clothing. Followed by refreshments and a chat with your neighbours. Holy Communion will be offered afterwards for those who wish to take it.

Sat. Dec.25th. 9am service at Holy Trinity (Cameron St) and St Andrews Evandale.

Sun. 26th. 9am Regular service at St Matthias'.

Our concert on Nov. 13th was an enjoyable afternoon despite the inclement weather. Thanks to all who contributed to its success.



After Dec 15th when the borders re-open, you are more than welcome to wear a mask if you feel uncertain or uncomfortable in our relatively confined space.

We wish you all a blessed and safe Christmas.

Services 2nd and 4th Sundays 9am. Rev. John Tongue 0488473973 Facebook: stmatthiaswindermere

Web: stmw.org.au

It has been a very successful year for the Men's Shed with several new members joining, bringing a variety of skills to the group. The Shed has had a constant stream of requests from members of the community to repair or build various items as well as members working on their own projects. The Christmas Market always leads to a flurry of activity so much so, on some days, work bench space is at a premium. If the demand continues the Management Committee may need to open another day as well as Wednesday and Saturday morning.

Some of the member projects include building a flying model aeroplane, making an egg incubator, restoring an old piston driven engine, wood turning as well as the usual building or restoring wood furniture restoration and welding items.

A major focus lately has been the design and building of the Community Garden for Low Head. The raised beds are made from recycled fence palings and treated pine. There will also be a series of "boat sheds" for storage of tools and gardening supplies. It will be installed on site at Low Head by the Men's Shed ready for the opening on December 12.



The East Tamar Men's Shed provides a great opportunity for contributing to the community, at the same time, meeting like-minded practical men who are keen to share their knowledge and skills. There is a large range of tools and equipment for metal work and woodwork available for use once training has occurred.

Open Wednesdays and Saturdays 8.30 am to 2.00 .

All members of the shed would like to say a big thankyou to our previous secretary Jon Hosford. Jon has been secretary since the shed started and he has made an enormous contribution to our success. Well done Jon!



ETMS is assisted by equipment grants from the Tasmanian Government.



Working from a ladder? Cleaning the roof, gutters, solar panels, flue?
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BEES IN THE GARDEN



What I want for Christmas

The allure of growing your own food, being self-sufficient, and living green is immense. As showcased in Urban Homesteads, the benefits of a productive garden on your doorstep, tending to chickens, harvesting your own honey, and using eco-friendly water-harvesting techniques are clear: fresh herbs, vegetables and fruit on tap, fresh eggs, delicious honey; plus living at a slower pace, better value for money, and a more soothing and mindful way of living. And not only the benefits of attracting bees, but also beneficial insects and birds.

Urban Homesteads: How to Live a More Sustainable Lifestyle,
by Rebecca Gross. The Images Publishing Group, Melbourne 2021.
With beautiful full-colour photos, and stories of people who've embraced the concept. From Dymocks, Booktopia and Amazon, etc.



OH DIDN'T IT RAIN!

The Bee-Friendly Plant Swap Day hopes for better weather next time!

A big thank you to all the people who braved the weather and brought a stunning selection of plants to swap.

Malcolm Giles, our local bee-keeper, was very popular, as was his selection of MALBREN honey he brought for sampling. Also popular and well presented were Broady's bee stake artworks and his fire-pits.



Trixie with some of her lavender

Special thanks to Garden Club members Kerri and Greg, Elizabeth, and Wendy, and to Fleur at Windermere Cafe.



Opening Hours
Thursday-Sunday 9-3

WINDERMERE CAFE NEWS

The Windermere cafe girls wish you all a Very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year & we thank you for your valued support.

Christmas TGIF will be held December 17th so come down have a drink & a meal for an end of year catch up! We will be taking a break over the festive period from December 20 & returning January 6th for the Thursday roast ;)



Windermere Watches



Service & Repairs

to all

Wrist Watches and Pocket Watches

Jeff Wynne

Phone 6328 1544 or 0417 843 943

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

OCTOBER – Anna and Jonathan Waterhouse hosted a large number of enthusiastic Garden Club members in their new garden at Prospect Vale. As many of you will be aware, Anna and Jonathan lived in Windermere (with a large garden!) for 20+ years and moved in 2020 (during COVID restrictions). They have worked hard in the past year and have achieved a much smaller garden but one which is a wonder and a delight, and gives them much more time to enjoy other activities. What an inspiration for those who may be contemplating downsizing. Thank you Anna and Jonathan.



Beautiful display of azaleas at Anna and Jonathan's

NOVEMBER - Another large group of Garden Club members gathered at Dilston, at the home of Jess and Steve for a most delightful afternoon. Jess had organised three interesting and very informative guests to educate and inspire us.

John Donnachy from Swan Bay shared his passion and enthusiasm for incorporating many more native Australian and Tasmanian plants and trees into our gardens, to support native birds, animals and insects. See "Bring Back the Birds!"

Anna showed us some of her magnificent collection of dried plant specimens which she had prepared as part of her Horticulture course. Along with a colleague, Greg, who had also completed the course recently, we learnt about some very simple techniques for preserving and pressing flower and leaf samples. The collections were wonderfully comprehensive with seeds, flowers and leaves all included. Anna has even made beautiful works of art using some of her specimens.



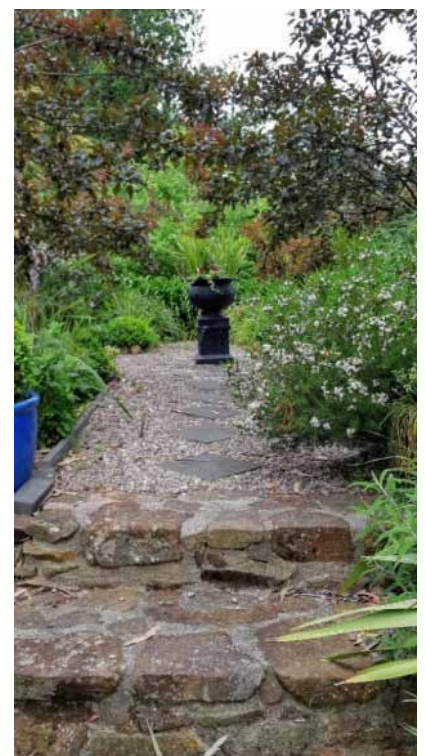
Anna with some of her Horticulture specimens

Those attending also enjoyed some of Steve's new meads to taste. Thank you Steve! Wanderer Meads can be found regularly at Harvest Market in Launceston.

Jess's garden is truly beautiful. Our tour of the garden took us up the steps to the large urn and through the orchard to the flower garden - a journey through idyllic simpler times. Jess is passionate about NOT mowing everything! She mows pathways through but allows grass to grow creating little meadows, which encourage insects and birds and small native animals. The result is magical! Pademelons are free to wander in most of her garden, the only enclosed part being the flower garden which Jess has developed into a lovely mixture of cottage plants, small trees and roses. A wander along the pathway in between the beds is a meditation on living with nature rather than trying to control it.

The other side of the house leading down to the river, is a massed iris garden - an opportunistic creation after a problem with the septic system was remedied. From such opportunities are works of art created! The irises were blooming beautifully for our visit.

Thank you so much Jess and Steve for having us in your garden, and for arranging such interesting guest presenters.



Bring Back the Birds!

By John Donnachy and Anne Layton-Bennett

Choosing what to grow in our gardens has often focussed on bee-friendly plants, and the colourful and pollen-rich flowers that will attract them. Bees are important, but so are birds and too many of our smaller native birds are now under serious threat.



It's estimated bird numbers have declined nationally by around 30 per cent during the last 40 years and the Tamar Valley hasn't been immune. Some species are now listed as either vulnerable, threatened or endangered. In our East Tamar communities two of the main reasons we no longer see or hear

as many birds as we once did is due to land clearance for housing development, and the increased risk to birds from both feral and domestic cats.

One positive way to turn the tide, give bird species a better chance, help the bees and benefit your garden is to plant out more native plant species. Native trees, bushes, shrubs and grasses provide protection and food for our smaller birds like thornbills, blue wrens, robins,

New Holland and yellow-throated honeyeaters, eastern spinebills and firetail finches. These are all species that have been displaced due to their bush habitat being cleared leaving them vulnerable to predators.

While many European trees are certainly lovely to grow and spectacular to look at in the spring and summer months, they offer no food and little protection (especially in winter) for our smaller birds. Most native trees on the other hand are generally quick to grow, while their flowers, leaves and fruits are a valuable food source. Good examples for the home garden include members of the leptospermum or tea tree family, callistemons or bottlebrushes, banksias, some of the smaller flowering eucalypts, melaleucas or paperbarks, and hakeas.

Those with properties close to areas of bush are likely to see the birds that we once did before moving closer to the river in Swan Bay where there is a greater area of pasture. But after planting approximately 150 native tree and bush species, and creating what we hope will be a haven, we've noticed the feathered bush telegraph is already active and we're beginning to notice a few more birds paying a visit.

Our birds are important pollinators just like the bees and we all need to help them survive. John will be very pleased to offer advice on the best species for your area, and those that are most likely to thrive in your garden.

Email John jrdonnachy@gmail.com

or Anne at seabreeze33@outlook.com

EXCESS PRODUCE FROM OUR GARDENS TO PORT DALRYMPLE (GEORGE TOWN) SCHOOL CHILDREN – A SPECIAL PROJECT

Project Coordinator: Evelyn Tuba

Email: evelyntuba@bigpond.com

Telephone: 0438 937 451

Evelyn Tuba has proposed that Garden Club members and indeed our whole Smoke Signals community, consider making available their excess fruit (and vegetables) to support children at Port Dalrymple (George Town) School. Their teachers report children who come to school hungry and have difficulty learning and concentrating because they are undernourished. School teachers have been paying for fruit out of their own pocket to support these children.

It is recognised that schools are on holidays for most of the summer season, but late spring, late summer and autumn fruit would be very acceptable and most gratefully received. A drop-off point will be established as well as a possible pick-up arrangement. (Please contact Evelyn).

We hope that Garden Club, and indeed the whole community will keep this project in mind when dealing with the wonderful (and sometimes overwhelming!) abundance from our gardens. Please contact Evelyn if you would like to know more or make a contribution. What a wonderful project Evelyn! Let's all help her make it a success!

We welcomed a new member to Garden Club this month. If you would like to participate in Garden Club activities, please call or email me. New members are very welcome!

Kerri Curtis: Telephone: 0407 447 344

Email: kerridwen51@gmail.com



Tasmania Fire Service

Dilston and Hillwood Fire Brigades



Register your burn offs and fires by calling freecall 1800 000 699

By letting us know, you will help to prevent false alarms!

FIRE SEASON ... MAYBY?!

There is still a 70% chance of La Niña forming in the coming months which means we are going to see above average rainfall that will dampen(!) the upcoming fire season! Not such a bad thing perhaps but it will result in an increase in the growth of fuel for future fires. So we still encourage ongoing registered fuel reduction where needed, and keeping vegetation and growth under control where burning is unable to be done!

Remember the 1800 number!..and thankyou to all Hillwood and Dilston/Windermere/Swan bay residents for you ongoing use of the registration system. It has noticeably reduced the number of false callouts!

PERMIT PERIOD

The Fire Permit period has yet to be declared however it is likely to be put in place in a number of weeks. The Tasmania Fire Service is endeavouring this year to give all residents and land owners a lead time of several weeks, and to avoid a snap decision.

Remember, a Fire Permit is NOT a Fire Ban!! It is simply process of engagement between residents and the brigades to help manage the amount of burning off over 1 cubic meter that is undertaken at any one time during the normally hotter months. If you are well prepared (hose, cleared area, etc) then there is rarely an issue in obtaining a permit! Use the 1800



number or get in touch with one of the contacts below.

BRIGADE NEWS

Hillwood brigade had a successful open day for the community on the 23rd October, we were welcomed 2 new members. Thank you to all who turned up on the day.

In June members of the brigade headed to Hobart to visit the TFS communications centre "FIRECOMM" to familiarise themselves with the hidden workings of the comms system and what goes on at the other end of our radios. The brigade was also able to tour Hobart Fire Station.



Dilston Brigade has all but completed the rigorous training calendar for the newer members and we congratulate them on their commitment and efforts.

The annual lolly run will be held on Sunday December 19. See over for more information, but keep an eye on our facebook page closer to the date for a "Santa Tracker" link!!! So below also for a map of our intended route. Special requests can usually be accommodated!

Merry Christmas to all members of both communities. Stay safe this festive season, and thankyou all for your ongoing support of both brigades.



.../DilstonFireBrigade
.../TasmaniaFireService

Dilston Fire Brigade Contacts

Raoul Stow	0417 351 423
Paul Blakie	0417 592 424
Ben Jones	0417 877 001
Ken Nolan	0448 320 996

Hillwood Fire Brigade Contacts

Elaine Burns	0417 540 665
Sharon Clarke	0417 600 571
Leon Hodges	0409 169 288
Andy Kendall	0427 818 282



DILSTON FIRE BRIGADE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LOLLY RUN

SUNDAY 19th December, 2021 from 3.00pm

Travelling from **Peddie Drive** to **Dilston** and **Rostella**,
then **John Lees Drive** to **Windermere Road Nth**,
Sanwae Drive, and on to **Native Point**,
then **Los Angeles Road**, **Millhaven Way**, **Walford Rise**,
and finally **Windermere Road Sth**.



Merry Christmas

SAD NEWS

HAMMERSLEY, Jimmy died on 26th October 2021. While Jimmy did not live in Hillwood, he was a part of the Hillwood community due to his heavy involvement for many years with the Hillwood Football Club. Jim began his footy career with Karoola and after losing part of a leg to a farm accident, played with a wooden leg! I have been told that Jim was so determined to get back to playing football that he would get the school bus driver to drop him off so that he could learn to run with his wooden leg, and then get picked up as the bus came around again.

Jim held many roles within the Club including representative on the NTFA. He will be sadly missed. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Lyn, son Scott and daughter Lisa.

DINING OUT:

We are spoilt for choice for eating out venues in Hillwood

HILLWOOD SHARK CAFÉ:

A recent initiative of Hillwood Football Club and held in their Clubrooms, a pleasant venue with some special home-made food open on Mondays and Tuesdays only between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

Congratulations to Trish and family. A well-attended Melbourne Cup afternoon was held with a delicious High Tea on the menu.

NOTE: Shark Café will close after Tuesday 14th and re-open on Monday 3rd January 2022.

MARIGOLDS

The local coffee shop is open from Wednesday to Sunday 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. with a variety of meals available. I recently tried their home made macadamia ice cream. Yum! There is also a book exchange on their verandah.

HILLWOOD BERRY FARM CAFÉ

Now open all week from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. with delicious food and, of course, ice cream. I love the mixed berry ice cream cones.

SIGNAL STATION TAVERN

Our local tavern provides meals from Thursday lunch through to Sunday evening. They have been having some fun times at the Tavern including a celebration for the Melbourne Cup. They provide musical events, car events and Market day on the first Sunday of the month.

HINTON BAY VINEYARD

More delicious food can be enjoyed at this vineyard together with their premium wines. A great place for a private function. They also have tastings, run a cooking school and provide accommodation.

And of course,

HILLWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB

Provide meals on the second and fourth Friday nights of the month during the off-season. The last of these community teas to be held for this year will be on December 10th with a special Christmas tea, cost \$30, bookings only.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Congratulations to all on a most enjoyable evening. So much so, that the big question at the end of the evening was "when is the next one?" Lots of people, lots of fun and something new (for me) a balloon tree which provided lots of prizes. See the write up in the Hillwood Progress Association section.

HILLWOOD LADIES GROUP

Having celebrated their Christmas functions, will begin meeting at the Meditation Centre again on the first Wednesday in February. Contact: Gayle on 63 948213 or

YOUNG ACHIEVERS

AIMEE HAWES won Best and Fairest for the women's Division of Launceston City Soccer Club.

Brother SEAN HAWES won Best and Fairest for the Under 16 Launceston City Soccer Club.

and Brother JAMES HAWES made the NPL State League.

Aimee, Sean and James are the children of Jackie and Jason Hawes of Glen Road and grand-children of Gayle and James Laverty of Glen Road.

We also heard of a couple of achievements by the HILLWOOD BERRY FARM so asked and received the following report:

HILLWOOD BERRY FARM

This year has been a very busy year for Hillwood Berries. Apart from the huge expansion to nearly doubling in size Hillwood Berries has also been the recipient of 2 Business awards. This year they took the award for large organisations in the waste not awards. This was selected based on businesses in 6 of the northern region of Tasmania. This award was decided on waste avoidance, waste processing and education initiatives through to recycling, re-invention and upcycling. Hillwood Berries also took out the agricultural award in the recent George Town Business Excellence Awards. This expansion has employed 10 more local people this year full time as well as 70 plus locals who work for us in the harvest, picking, planting and various harvest jobs. Many people now travel to Hillwood to visit and pick their own strawberries at our PYO café which we are sure also adds value to other businesses in the area.

HILLWOOD GARDEN CLUB

Thank you to HILLWOOD GARDEN CLUB members who look after the Pontoon site gardens for us. They recently held a working bee but there is a problem with blackberries making it hard to clean up properly but it is now tidier. Thanks to Jan and Peter of Marigold for the supply of drinks and thank you to Garden Club members for their efforts.

LUNCH AT ANNE AND TOM'S.

A most enjoyable afternoon was held at the home of Anne and Tom Nixon, long-time residents of Hillwood who regularly open their home to visitors to partake of a delicious lunch to raise money for worthy causes. The worthy cause in this case was Magnolia Place (Launceston Women's Shelter) and the group that held the event was Tamar Chapter 178 of the Order of the Eastern star. This Chapter is a member of the Masonic fraternity but a separate entity. I was told it is not only an organisation but a way of life. Formal meetings

are held, social fund-raising and lots of fun. There are three chapters in Tasmania, North, South and North West which are part of the United Grand Chapter of Australia which in turn is a part of a world-wide organisation. It is one of the largest organisations in the world. A side benefit is that members are made welcome all over the world. Men need to be Masons to join but ladies only of good morals and character. Well over \$1,000 was raised at this recent event.

THE HILLWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Trivia Night

What a fun night was had by all at the Hillwood Progress Association's Trivia Night. A special thank you to Master of Ceremonies, George Town Mayor, Greg Kieser, Quiz Master, Tom Gunn, for his great questions and Anne Green for adjudicating.

Congratulations to the winning team 'The Scorchers', made up from members of the Hillwood Fire Brigade and their partners. Closely followed by the "Out Ciders". The challenge is on for next year to win the perpetual trophy!

Also a big thank you to Jess Nesbit and Emmalea Jones for organising such a wonderful event and for all the many helpers who made it such a fun night.



The winning team, The Scorchers- Bill Birch, Sandra & Leon Hodges, Sharon Clarke, Elaine Burns, Adam Clarke, David & Allison O'Brien with the fun organisers Emmalea Jones & Jess Nesbit in the background with MC GTC Mayor Greg Kieser.



Elaine Burns accepting the winners trophy on behalf of "The Scorchers" from Jess Nesbit & Emmalea



Catch it in the Catchment

What a great job cleaning up our foreshore in the Hillwood area! Thank you to Tamar NRM / Landcare working with the Hillwood Progress Association and our caring community of 15 volunteers who attended on the day. 65 kg's of rubbish collected in the 2 hours allotted time, which was followed by a free BBQ at the Hillwood Pontoon. Thank you to Greg Lundstrom for his work co-ordinating the event and Jason Orr, East Tamar NRM, for organising the BBQ food, nicely cooked by Leon Hodges. Volunteers walked and collected the areas of Egg Island Reserve, Leam Road, Johnstons Road and the Jetty Road bus shelter area.

Some papers and rubbish look like they have been inadvertently discarded but some have been clearly dumped, like this pile of tiles near the little beach at Egg Island Reserve!

Rubbish was also dumped, and the bin taken from near the Bus Shelter on Jetty Road, the day after the clean-up. Thank you to the George Town Council for replacing the bin and cleaning up the area again so quickly.

A timely reminder, if you see anyone littering please report to the Littering report hotline 1300 135 513.

It was also evident that some members of the community have already been keeping our roadsides tidy and cleaning up when walking their dogs or enjoying a leisurely stroll. Thank you to all who keep our communal areas tidy.



Ragwort Raid

Save the date 22nd January 2022. Pencil this date in to help remove this weed from our area. Once around in greater numbers, this plant has been considerably reduced on the East Tamar. With the assistance of Landcare and Tamar NRM, let's work together to eradicate this weed altogether.

HILLWOOD

Road Works as advised by State Roads Division

Batman Bridge -painting of the Batman Bridge has commenced and will continue until April 2022.

Swan Bay

Construction work will continue on the East Tamar Highway between Magazine Road and Windermere Road until Friday, 21 January 2022.

There will be a reduced speed limit with occasional lane closures during their working hours, 7:00 am - 6:00 pm, at both sites.

HILLWOOD HISTORY ROOM:

The work continues, and progress is being made! This dedicated group are continuing to collate, sort and investigate the history of the Hillwood area.

Oral histories are being recorded and typed up! Stories and photos are coming out of the wood-work. The data base for collating has been reinstalled and is now up and running!

The Hillwood Progress Association Inc were successful in obtaining a Grant from the George Town Council Grant's program Round 1, and a new printer and labeler have been purchased and installed into the History room.

Cupboards removed from the kitchen refurbishment at the Hillwood Memorial Hall have been repurposed into the History room and have made for a much more inviting space.

Do you have a story to tell? Do you have any old photos of the area?

Do you know anyone that went to the Hillwood State School that was open from 1916 to 1953? The Hillwood History Room members would like to make contact with former pupils of the school with the view to inviting them to an afternoon tea. We are also looking at having an open day, late January / early February. Keep an eye out on the Community noticeboards.

If you would like to be involved in the "Who lived in my house" project or provide or assist with our oral or written history please contact: HillwoodHistoryRoom@outlook.com or Julie on 0408 275 539

HPA General Meeting Tuesday, 16th November 2021

At our Nov meeting, we had Guest Speaker, Colin Paterson, Project Manager with Fortescue Future Industries.

The purpose of Colin's talk was to:

- To build understanding of the potential of green hydrogen in the state, national and global energy mix,
- And importantly, to understand the views on the development of green hydrogen particularly from groups who work to make a positive difference to the area.

Colin's talk was well received and there was ample opportunity for questions.

Another main topic for discussion was to organise:

Our Meet the Neighbours – Community Christmas BBQ.



Working together with the Hillwood Football Club, the Hillwood Fire Brigade, and the Hillwood Berry Farm, our Christmas BBQ is planned for Saturday 4th December from 3pm onwards. Members of the Hillwood Football Club will run a BBQ and the bar will be open. Games and music are also planned.

All being well, the Fire Brigade are hoping to pick up Santa and bring him for a quick visit.

Christmas Colouring Competition.

This year our Christmas colouring competition is using drawings created by our very own talented member Jo Osborne. Entrants will be judged according to age and Adults are encouraged to enter as well. The drawings have an Australiana theme, and copies can be obtained by emailing HillwoodPA@outlook.com

To find out more about our activities search the Hillwood Progress Association Inc Facebook page.



Colin Paterson,
with Tom Nixon
and David Menzie
discussing all
things Hydrogen.

Merry Christmas to all and thank you for your contributions. Please contact me, Nancy Donnelly on nancydonnelly@bigpond.com or 0431 613 484 if you have anything to contribute to our Hillwood News.

 **LJ Hooker**

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Community Contacts

FIRE:000

Dilston Fire Brigade
Raoul Stow 0417 351 423

Hillwood Fire Brigade
Elaine Burns 0417 540 665

Windermere Cafe
6328 1303

Dilston Hall
Lizzie Benstead: 0409 974 508

St Matthias Church
June: 0411 567 029
Jenny: 0419 544 266

Playgroup
Amy: 0413 394 523

**Dilston/Swan Bay/Windermere
Garden Club**
Kerri: 0407 447 344

East Tamar Mens Shed
George: 0499 273 375
Jon: 0419 317 808

Book Discussion Group
Jess: 0428 658 988
Jess.Panday@education.tas.gov.au

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