

### TOWARDS A HEALTHY TAMAR

All East Tamar residents have a vested interest in the health of the Tamar. The problems of accumulating mud and spreading rice grass affect us all.

Now a new group has been formed aimed at restoring the health of the Tamar Estuary (kanamaluka)

The Tamar Action Group (TAG) is backed by 40 prominent Launceston business people, including developer Errol Stewart, who see the health of the estuary as a vital factor in the future prosperity and liveability of the region.

TAG is non profit, non political and totally run by volunteers. Since 2017, \$95 million has been spent on improving the condition of the estuary as part of the Launceston City Deal, yet the stretch between Launceston and Legana still receives a D rating for water quality.

TAG acknowledges the work that has been done, but claims that much more is needed.

Chair of the new action group, Andrew Lovitt, said that the aim of the group was not necessarily to provide a solution, but simply to put pressure on all levels of Government to take urgent action.

"If we have tens of thousands of residents demanding action on a solution, that's pressure that's hard to resist," he said.

The mud accumulation is plain to see, both in the Launceston basin and on the East Tamar.

At the lowest tides, Dilston residents look out on extensive mud flats that were not there 15-20 years ago.

With the cessation of dredging and raking, Seaport developer Errol Stewart is being forced to move Seaport's 70 berth marina due to the accumulation of mud.

The Tamar Estuary has one of the world's largest accumulations of rice grass, creating a monoculture which is progressively squeezing out native flora and fauna, and limiting access to the river.

Most of the beaches along the Tamar once enjoyed by our older residents have disappeared.

One solution put forward is the Tamar Lake proposal, using a barrage near the Batman Bridge to create a freshwater lake.

Over 10 years the Tamar Lake group has developed a feasibility plan which claims that the project would solve both the siltation and rice grass problems.

Andrew Lovitt says that the Tamar Action Group is not wedded to any particular solution, simply giving a voice the many Tamar residents who believe that inaction is not an option.

Membership is free – go the TAG web site at [tamaractiongroup.com.au](http://tamaractiongroup.com.au)



Gravelly Beach 1931



Gravelly Beach 2020



*Merry Christmas from all The Smoke Signals Team*

## 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**

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Jenny:0419 544 266

### **Playgroup**

Amy: 0413 394 523

### **Dilston/Swan Bay/Windermere Garden Club**

Kerri: 0407 447 344

### **East Tamar Mens Shed**

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### **Book Discussion Group**

Jess: 0428 658 988

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### **Justice of The Peace**

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## **Copy For NEXT ISSUE Due**

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## MARKET REPORT

By Fiona Millar

What a wonderful day we had at the Made With Love Market. The connections and smiles on people's faces is the true measure of success. On top of that we had 502 signatures that entered the grounds across the day. People came from afar to enjoy our little market on a perfect-ish spring day. The opportunity to just get back out into our community and see each other, share stories, grab a snag, find a bargain and buy wonderful art from our local neighbours was what we all needed. Two highlights for me was the ukulele players entertaining us and getting us to sing along, THANK YOU Pat Adam's for organising as it was a magical part of the day. The other was it was the first time ever Scotty Street shared his amazing sculptures with the world. WOW! AMAZING!

Saying THANK YOU never seems quite enough, but from the heart to those who participated on the day, the many hours behind the scenes, cleaned, prepared, sorted, made signs, trusted in the planning and took a chance to come and share their talents with the community. THANK YOU. To each of the stall holders that came along, to Pat Hollier the best helper I could ask for, the WCF team that have car boot sales like no other, George and the John's and the Men's Shed team, my She Shed girls and my hubby who held me up THANK YOU.

If anyone would like to reach out to any of the stall holders and need contact numbers, please let me know.

So what's next? From here there has been a lot of interest from the community of creatives to hold another handmade market, so we are looking into that for March. We also have had interest in an art and history trail, more music events, an art show, regular mosaic and art classes, creating a calendar of events and community grant opportunities for resources. There are more ideas out there, we just haven't heard them yet, so stay tuned for a drop in "exploring our community" meeting time or feel free to get in touch with me on [creative.fionam@gmail.com](mailto:creative.fionam@gmail.com) or 0414657578.

Stay well, Stay safe and enjoy.







## Windermere Church Forever

Windermere Church Forever Inc. would like to thank the Dilston, Swan Bay, Windermere & Hillwood communities for their generous contributions for our stalls at the Dilston Hall Christmas Market.

Nine overflowing stalls & 29 helpers!

What an wonderful effort by so many people.

Over \$3000 was raised towards the long term aim of ensuring the Church remains a ongoing community asset.

Tickets for our Christmas Raffle are on sale and available from Windermere & Hillwood Cafes. It will be drawn at Windermere Cafe at 8.00pm on Friday December 18th



## GET SMOKE SIGNALS ON LINE

We rely on volunteers for the distribution of Smoke Signals, so can't guarantee that you will receive it in your mailbox every time. Why not subscribe to our on line version and be sure to keep up to date with local happenings (you'll still get the printed version if we have a deliverer in your area). Just email [smokesignals@bigpond.com](mailto:smokesignals@bigpond.com) with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line and we'll add you to our online subscription list.

### Smoke Signals is also available from:

George Town Library	Hillwood Berry Farm
Marigolds on the Tamar-Hillwood	Windermere Cafe
Mt Direction Service Station	

**Distributors desperately needed for the Hillwood Area**  
**If you can help please contact**  
**George or Jenny Chandler**  
**on 0419 544 266 or email**  
[jenichan@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jenichan@bigpond.net.au)

**Smoke Signals Community**  
**Project Grants Are Still**  
**Available Go to**

<http://coolclimateclassroom.com/smokesignalscn.com/smokesignals.htm>

# BIRDS OF THE TAMAR By Jon Hosford

## Spotted Dove



The spotted dove is very common in our district in the more concentrated population areas. An introduced species to Australia and Tasmania in the late 1800s, this bird has adapted well as have other species such as blackbirds and sparrows, to the habits of humans. They basically scavenge grain and weed seeds introduced from other world areas and have seemingly no difficulty in gaining grain and scraps from fowl enclosures and roadside weed infestations. Their cooing call is pleasant to some, and most likely one of the birds frequently spotted due to their size and a reasonable tolerance to human presence. I sense we would probably have a greater problem with mice if these

birds were not as common. Likely also their presence would not be so common if we did not keep supplies of grain so readily available to them. They are commonly seen perching singly or in pairs on overhead wires, or feeding conspicuously on the ground.

They are definitely to be distinguished from the Bronze wing which is not so aptly named the Common Bronze wing. These birds are solitary, far more colourful and have a less distinctive contact call. Spotted Doves breed at any time of the year, but most activity is from September to December. The male performs a display flight, which consists of a steep rising flight with loud wing-clapping. Once the bird

reaches a height of about 30 or 40 m above the ground, he then spreads his tail and wings and glides down to a perch. Males also court by walking in front of the female with the black and white neck patch fluffed up while bowing the head up and down.

The nest is a loose platform of sticks, which may be placed in a variety of locations. Both sexes share the incubation of the eggs and the rearing of the chicks.

### Facts and Figures

Research Species:	No
Minimum Size:	29cm
Maximum Size:	32cm
Average size:	30cm
Average weight:	158g
Breeding season:	July to January; can breed all year round
Clutch Size:	Two.
Incubation:	14 days
Nestling Period:	14 days



Common Bronzewing

## WINDERMERE CAFE NEWS

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Our last TGIF for the year will be Friday 18th of December

We will be closed for a break from Monday 21st of December & reopening on Saturday January 2nd

Also we are taking bookings for our next high tea which will be held at 2pm on January 16th

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram for all our updates



Opening Hours  
Thursday-Sunday 9-3

## Ivan Dean MLC

Your local Independent  
Member for Windermere -  
Legislative Council



*I am frequently in the Hillwood and Dilston areas and happy to catch up should I be able to assist with any issues.*

Phone: 03 6324 2005

Mobile: 0417 364 375

Email: [ivan.dean@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:ivan.dean@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Henty House

One Civic Square

Launceston TAS 7250



The months of October have been extremely active at the SHED. In October we tendered for the unenviable task of removing damage infrastructure from the vineyard in Rostella Road. Over a period of 3 weeks , a total of 285 man hours were given to removing collapsed overhead netting, retrieving collapsed wire support and removing poles from the vineyard. The owner has now the opportunity to plan a future for the vineyard .



Removing the netting



Retracting the wire support



Removing poles

The Made with Love Market on November 14th was a great opportunity for members to offer for sale items made during the year. With the opportunity to provide sausages and coffee to the public attending, a valuable source of income was obtained.

Our Men's Shed is now a sustainable operation, and we are grateful for the relationship we have with Launceston City Council with our lease and the benefits of socialisation, learning new practical skills and a contribution to community we can provide to our members.

We have been successful in gaining a defibrillator unit from a program sponsored by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Cardiac Science Australia. The unit will be installed soon and members will be suitably trained in its use.



A new future

A reminder that bat hollows are now available to the public at \$5 each and will be made to order for those who would like to be involved in an attempt to sustain the microbat population we have in the district. These tiny creatures do a great job in reducing the insect infestations that would occur if we lose their habitat to urbanised housing development.

Lined with carpet to provide a grip for climbing, these hollows can be mounted high in a tree to provide a suitable daily shelter for these small nocturnal creatures.

President:  
George Murray 049 927 3375  
Secretary:  
Jon Hosford 0419 317 808



ETMS is assisted by  
equipment grants  
from the Tasmanian  
Government.



A future home for a microbat



The original bridge over Lady Nelson Creek, which is actually a convict built culvert designed to drain the swamp to the north. The church is visible on the hill behind in what is now Dilston Road.

Most residents would be unaware that there had ever been a church at Dilston, but a non denominational church stood in Dilston Road for almost 100 years.

In 1883, Mr Alfred Ray, recognising that the children of the district had neither religious or secular education, began gathering children in his own house each Sunday for Sunday School. This prompted a Church of England minister to begin monthly services in a local farmhouse.

In 1884 a committee was formed to raise funds to build a church in Dilston on land donated by Mr W.P. Coulson, the Secretary and Treasurer of the committee, on what was then the road to George Town, quite close to the Friends' Arms.

The subscription raised £27 1s 6d, of which £24 17s 9d was spent on the building, with an organ donated and much material and labour voluntarily given.

The Church was officially opened on Friday, January 23, 1885, with a service conducted by Rev J.M. Easterling.

The Daily Telegraph reported: "The weather was most propitious, and the remainder of the day was spent in cricket, races and other games incidental to such occasions. After a most enjoyable day, the party wended their way home by moonlight".

The building also served as Dilston's first school, with the Education Department providing fencing and other improvements and volunteer teachers conducting classes twice a week.

Attendance at both the church and the school required it to be extended by ten feet in 1890, on land then owned by Mr Henry Law, who by that time had bought most of Dilston.

The church trustees were to arrange for the transfer of title, but this still had not been done when Henry Law went bankrupt in 1891 and the church was put up for sale as part of his estate.

Again William Coulson came to the rescue, buying and donating the land to the church for a second time! The 54th anniversary of the church was celebrated in 1939 with a "Back to Dilston" weekend with a fair and concert on the Saturday and a united service on the Sunday.

The church ceased operating in the 1950s and in the early 1980s was sold and demolished.

*Windermere  
Watches*



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Christmas is rapidly approaching. Look out for our annual Nativity display at the church gates!

COVID restrictions still prevent our regular Services here in Windermere, but weekly services are held at 8:30 and 10:30 at Holy Trinity in town. We look forward to meeting our new Holy Trinity Assistant Priest, Rev. John Tongue, who will move from Devonport and start in early December. Our annual Twilight Family Carols Evening will be held outdoors at 7pm on the 24th followed by refreshments and community "catch-ups". There will be plenty of room so invite your family and friends, and carpool if possible. BYO folding chair or rug, and warm jacket. Communion will be offered after this for those interested.



Thanks to the 21 willing helpers at our annual grounds Working Bee, and especially to Michael and Julie Carey from Mt Direction who donated a truckload of wood chips to further extend the riverbank garden, and to Steen Wiberg for providing several loads of topsoil for the re-build of the damaged road-edge. Special thanks to the church members who regularly mow and maintain the lawns and gardens throughout the year. This is greatly appreciated.



Sat. Nov 21st was a classic Windermere day, and we celebrated with an outdoor concert featuring the Launceston Male Choir, solos by Sharon Lissa and Kathy Suttar, and some rousing sing-a-long items for the audience. Everyone enjoyed drinks and nibbles afterwards, and the weather was very kind. Slightly over \$750 was raised. Thanks to all involved in preparing, singing and catering. Our first community engagement since lockdown was truly delightful. The shady hill, with a view of the river, the chirping of birds and lovely singing: where else would you want to be?

Keep in touch with weekly updates and news: [facebook@stmatthiaswindermere](mailto:facebook@stmatthiaswindermere) or email [hosfordm@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hosfordm@bigpond.net.au) Rector: Dane Courtney 0408622182

The long-awaited alarm system has now been purchased and installed, so hopefully we won't see any further break-ins. We thank the Smoke Signals Community Fund for providing a grant of \$1000 towards the cost of this.

**"May the true joy and blessed peace of this Christmas rest with you throughout the year"**



## GARDEN CLUB NEWS

**SAD ANNOUNCEMENT** - It is my sad duty to inform you that Garden Club founder, Dora Hannan, passed away on Sunday 18th October. I am sure many of you knew Dora who was residing, more recently, at Glenara, and we visited her garden as a group in August 2019. Although her Glenara garden was small in comparison to her previous garden in Swan Bay, Dora had created a truly magical place with delightful artistic touches which made it very special, and very much reflected her personality. How I wish I had seen her garden in Swan Bay!  
Rest in peace Dora

**"OLD WESLEYDALE"** - Garden Club has had a busy November this year – with not one, but two events. The first was a private visit to the garden of "Old Wesleydale" at Mole Creek. This beautiful garden has previously been opened under the Open Gardens Scheme, but is only available for private bookings these days.

The 1830s house and outbuildings are surrounded by the "Arts and Crafts" influenced garden. Scott and Deb Wilson (who have no outside help at all!) have created this garden which sits within the stone wall enclosures. Borders of flowering perennials, which have evolved into a series of garden rooms lead from one area to another. The walled topiary garden, picking and potager gardens, the white garden and the hot garden each have their own distinct personality while still providing a connection to the house. A dovecote-style henhouse, fabulous pavilion and English style conservatory embellish the different areas.

All of this is enhanced by the view from the front over the "haha" to the Western Tiers, and a hillside behind the house used for grazing cattle. Garden club members and friends (28 in all!) enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea in the large old 1830s barn. If you would like to know more about this gorgeous garden, you can check it out here:

<http://www.oldwesleydaleheritage.com/english-garden/>



A view to the heritage accommodation of "Old Wesleydale"



The topiary garden

**"LA PAIX DE L'AMOUR"** - What a delightful day we all had in the garden of Jan and Rosalette in Windermere. It was such a joy to sit in the coolness beneath the mature elm trees on a hot day. Jan and Rosalette have only lived in the property for about two years but have already built upon the beauty of this mature garden with charming sculptures and features which have clearly made it their own.

We were honoured to be able to make a toast at the unveiling of the property name: "La paix de l'amour" and we enjoyed a tour of the extensive woodland walkways, the newly built rose garden looking out over the Tamar estuary, and viewing the site where the orchard and vegetable gardens will be placed.

Jan has many wonderful plans for their beautiful garden, including a winter bulb/summer wildflower meadow and a gazebo, and we look forward to being able to visit again next year to see how he is progressing!

A wonderful array of decorated hats were worn for the "Alice in Wonderland" theme - Ros Ryan's was the

most popular, and her prize was a rich red potted pelargonium donated by Rosalette.

Thank you so much Rosalette and Jan for hosting us so hospitably in your beautiful garden. We wish you many years of happiness in our lovely community.



Jan and Rosalette revealing and celebrating their property name





Ros receiving her prize for most popular hat



Quirky "Tap Man" sculpture



A delightful sunny corner

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](mailto:kerridwen51@gmail.com)

## A new community group formed to address East Tamar's roadkill issue

Readers of Tasmania's newspapers will be aware the issue of roadkill features regularly in the Letters pages. Tourists and locals alike frequently express their horror at seeing so much carnage lining our state's roads, while conservationists highlight the issue of injured or orphaned wildlife, all of which must either be euthanased by a veterinarian, or cared for at wildlife sanctuaries, or by trained volunteer wildlife carers.

Not content to read one more letter, or pass one more carcass, George Town resident Bruce George decided more must be done. And the place to start was the East Tamar. The result is the formation of the Tamar Wildlife Roadkill Initiative. The group has been officially embraced under Wildcare Tasmania's banner, and it's now keen to hear from others in our region who are eager to assist.

Inaugural members already include several people with extensive knowledge and experience in wildlife care and rescue, and it's anticipated that training will be provided to ensure all members have the necessary accreditation to enable species identification, rescue, and the safe disposal of carcasses.

The group aims to focus on and assist like-minded individuals and organisations in the mitigation of roadkill in Tasmania, and particularly in the Tamar Valley; to effectively use existing and proven mitigation strategies and methods, and to develop additional innovative ways; and, to partner with other groups to further develop and strengthen policies to reduce roadkill.

Various strategies were discussed at the group's first Zoom meeting in late November. These include: researching previous roadkill studies that might help identify hotspots; working with local councils and the Department of State Growth to improve or install road signage; a public education campaign to focus on driver alertness, speed, avoidance, and reporting and rescue; grant opportunities; fundraising; and virtual fencing.

If you're interested in learning more, or would like to join, please contact Bruce on: 0478 947 217 or email: [georgeandhart@bigpond.com](mailto:georgeandhart@bigpond.com)

© Anne Layton-Bennett

# THE BEES IN MY GARDEN



## BEES ARE SUFFERING FROM SLEEPLESS NIGHTS TOO!

You may be amazed to learn that, like many of us, bees are having sleepless nights too. But for honeybees, it's a recent development and linked to the introduction and wide use of certain popular pesticides, namely neonicotinoids.

According to a recent article in <https://www.phys.org> "Bees that ingest nonlethal levels of popular pesticides resembling nicotine, known as neonicotinoids, are losing sleep, according to new research from Vanderbilt University. That disruption of their circadian rhythm causes honey bees to lose their sense of time and navigation, leading to broader stress within highly social bee populations and lower hive survival rates."

Bees rely on their sense of time and the position of the sun to navigate to good sources of pollen, and just like people who don't get enough sleep, they don't function very well when they are tired. According to their report, "If they have an incorrect sense of time their ability to effectively navigate is hindered. It stands to reason that if a bee's internal sense of time is disrupted or altered it could affect learning, memory and foraging efficiency".

## MORE BAD NEWS FOR PESTICIDES

Honey samples can now point the finger at bad pesticide practices. For the first time a new automated technique has been developed in Canada to extract pesticide residue in honey that can be used to identify locations where farmers are using pesticides containing pyrethroids and at what levels.

According to <https://www.phys.org> "pyrethroids are one of two main groups of pesticides that contribute to colony collapse disorder in bees, a phenomenon where worker honeybees disappear, leaving the queen and other members of the hive to die". These are the pesticides that affect how the brains and nerves of the bees work, ultimately causing paralysis and death.

Agricultural producers worldwide rely on honeybees to pollinate hundreds of billions of dollars worth of crops, and yet they are using pesticides that are killing these hard-workers that they rely on.

## IN THE NAME OF THE LAND

This leads me to a French film newly released in Australia, "In the Name of the Land". I hope we get an opportunity to see it here at the Star Theatre.

Here's an excerpt from the ScreenDaily review:

"In the Name Of The Land is a crash course in how corporation-dictated agricultural practices have turned farmers into over-worked near-slaves prey to overwhelming debt and clinical depression. The contrast between strapping young Pierre and his mental state just a few decades later is difficult to watch but convincingly portrayed. Claire manages to keep the farm going and do the accounts (the director used his mother's real-life datebooks to illustrate the never-ending stress) but compound tragedy strikes. What was once a satisfying way of life where hard work was rewarded has been transformed into a trap with conglomerates and banks insisting that farmers expand, invest heavily — they'll give you a loan to expand but not to cover current debts — requiring the use of headquarters-furnished pesticides and chemicals and never paying a fair price for the grain or chickens that result."

By all accounts, it's a cry from the heart for a return to more traditional farming methods. Perhaps the EU has had a tougher grasp on the lives of producers than has been the case in Australia.



Images from Pixabay



# PLAY GROUP

Dilston Playgroup has been absolutely thriving with so many new young families joining the area and attending our fun playgroup. As well as making new friendships we have been busy gardening this season with a new veggie patch made from an orchard apple crate. The children have been enjoying planting, watering and eating their own grown produce as well as watching its progress each week.

With the festive season fast approaching we have been starting to enjoy some festive crafts such as card and wrapping paper making, Christmas tree decorations and gifts.

As we approach the holiday season, the 14th of December will be our last playgroup of 2020 and we will enjoy a fun Christmas party playgroup with music, a special morning tea and maybe a special visitor from the north pole.

Dilston Playgroup is held on Mondays 10am-12pm, at the Dilston Hall. Cost is \$3 (BYO children's morning tea). All families welcome! Any inquiries, please call Amy on 0413394523 or keep up to date on the latest news on the Dilston Playgroup Facebook page.



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Tasmania Fire Service

# Dilston and Hillwood Fire Brigades



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## FIRE SEASON COMMENCES!

Despite the recent wet spring period, the 20/21 fire season is well and truly upon us with both Hillwood and Dilston Brigades attending to multiple vegetation calls since the last edition of Smoke Signals.

Did you know that there are fire towers strategically located in high positions, and manned across the state at present? They are scanning for any signs of smoke in the environment so this is another good opportunity to remind people to register their burns on 1800 000 699. This will help to prevent false call outs for volunteers, even if it is a small heap of leaves etc.

Recently, Hillwood Brigade members and their families held a BBQ to meet and greet the families of our newer members. Tae Ocean and Peter Rickards were presented with their Firefighter Level 1 qualifications, and have already responded to their first incidents. Meanwhile Maurie Taylor and David O'Brien have completed their Basics and had the opportunity to assist with a fuel reduction burn at Weymouth.

Both Brigades would like to wish everyone in our communities a happy festive season and a safe summer.

## DILSTON SANTA LOLLY RUN!

There has been much speculation as to whether the annual Santa Lolly Run will be held, as similar type events have been cancelled in other areas around the state. Well, we are happy to advise that our event will be run, although we are still working out some of the finer details and challenges placed upon us from COVID19. See our flyer overleaf, but keep an eye on our facebook pages, along with the community pages, and for information at the Windermere Café, for updated information. See you out there!!

## CAN WE FIT!

Both brigades would like to ask

our respective community members to have a check of the entrances to their properties to ensure we (and other emergency services) can easily gain access should the unfortunate need arise. It is worth noting that we don't just respond to fires, but also to other call such as medical emergencies, and to assist Ambulance Tasmania. Our larger appliances are quite large as shown below, and so your help would be greatly appreciated!!

## FIRE PERMITS 20/21

The fire permit period has yet to be declared in Tasmania at time of writing, but we are expecting it very soon, and may have been declared as you read this article!



.../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 20th December, 2020 from 2.00pm**

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:

PETERS, Shirley died November 14th 2020. Shirley was a Life Member of the Hillwood Football Club and she and her family were keen supporters of the club, her two sons playing for the club. Sadly, Shirley lost her husband Gerald in November 2019. Our sympathy goes out to Martin, Simon and Tracey.

## HAPPY NEWS:

I am happy to report the birth of a baby boy to Brea and Nick Andrewartha. Brea is the former Brea Pearce. Brea grew up in Hillwood and is the daughter of Tanya and Max Pearce. Congratulations to you all on the birth of Luca William Andrewartha on 5th November 2020. Tanya and Max have recently sold their Hillwood home but we will still see them around Hillwood for a while yet. Tanya and Max raised their family in Hillwood and were involved with the Hillwood Football Club, Max having only recently relinquished his role as President.

## HILLWOOD GARDEN CLUB:

Members enjoyed a trip to the Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens in November. Some time ago at one of the combined Garden club and George Town Historical meetings, we were treated to a presentation about the history and massive work that went into these wonderful Gardens. They are a tribute to the many volunteers over quite some years. By all accounts, well worth a visit. The Garden club meet for a fun evening on the third Monday of the month in the Hillwood Hall. Contact: Geraldine Goodwin 63948267.

## HILLWOOD LADIES GROUP:

Meets for a cuppa and a chat each Wednesday morning from 10.00 a.m. until 12 noon in the Hillwood Hall. Some bring craft work and there is an occasional outing for lunch. Contacts: Muriel on 0438 414 798 or Gayle on 0418 590 564. They will resume on the first Wednesday in February.

## HILLWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB:

It has been a quiet year for Hillwood this year with no games being played but training has commenced and they will be fielding teams in 2021. Training has also commenced for a Women's team. Something new for Hillwood. Contact for the Women's team: Jayne Donnelly on 0417 415 292. Bob McLean is the incoming President and his number is 0418 130 901.

AUS-KICK and MINI-LEAGUE: Hillwood is in dire need of boys and girls between the ages of five and eleven to play Aus-kick and Mini-League. Unfortunately, in recent times none of the players were from Hillwood. So they need HELP. If you know any children between

these ages who live in Hillwood or outlying areas such as Mt Direction, The Glen etc please encourage them to contact Shaun Crawford on 0438 624 626 OR just turn up on Thursday evening from 5.00 pm onwards.

Friday night meals at the Clubrooms have been popular with the final for the year being 11th December with a Christmas dinner. Sorry, but by the time this issue reaches you, bookings for this final evening will be closed.

MELBOURNE CUP DAY TREAT: A delicious lunch was provided on Melbourne Cup Day by Tracey, Richard and Mandy Monaghan at the Clubrooms. It was most enjoyable and much appreciated. I have a photo of the beautiful presentation.



## COMMUNITY LIBRARY:

I am advised that a Community Library has been set up in the outdoor area of our local Coffee Shop. This is established on an honorary system whereby you can either borrow a book and return it OR swap - leave a book of your own in place of the one you have selected. Thank you to Jan and Pieter and Tony

## MAYORS ROAD SHOW

The most recent Mayor's Road Show was held at 10.00a.m. Thursday 27th August in the Hillwood Hall and was presented by the Mayor, Greg Kieser and General Manager Shayne Power. Police, Council management, Future Investment Group members were also present to answer questions. Questions were answered about the Bike Track to be built in George Town (no impact on ratepayers – costs covered by Grants), ratepayers to pay shortfall of operating costs of indoor heated pool, Hillwood Hall Acoustics in Council's budget. Council has advocacy list when politicians visit – our Foreshore walking track is on this list. I found this to be a very interesting session. It is unfortunate that it is difficult and costly to put this show on at weekends, but quite a number of residents were in attendance and asked questions. This roadshow is held on a regular basis. I can recommend that if you are able to attend it is well worth the effort.



## Letters To The Editor

Many Hillwood residents are concerned that Crown Land Services continue to refuse to reduce the high fire risk fuel loads on areas of Riverfront Reserves on Craighburn, Jetty and Leam Roads ,Including Egg Is Point , placing properties at risk.

Constant requests since 2010 by the Hillwood Progress Assn., have met with denial by CLS., TAS FIRE and Council, that the situation exists.

App,15 Yrs ago an arsonist lit a bush fire on the CLS reserve at the boundary of "REWA" and "HAZELWOOD" on Craighburn Rd. at 1am in a severe fire danger period and with a gale force S/E wind blowing. Only an incredible effort by our local brigades and some luck ,saved two houses and hundreds of ha. of pasture and bushland.

Another fire on CLS Reserve land almost burned down the Egg Is. Creek Bridge. No fuel reduction by CLS, other than grass cutting , often only once a year on the Point, has been carried out for over 20 yrs. Last Christmas holiday period, grass on the public access areas on the Point were not cut until Jan 29th. this year, leaving them covered in metre high dry grass and a massive fire risk, particularly for people leaving cars and trailers after launching boats at the ramp.

We have a well equipped and experienced local Brigade who are not allowed to carry out fuel reduction burns when it is safe to do so, but are then called out to fight a resultant dangerous situation with the risks involved.

Before being controlled by CLS. the local community used regular, safe ,reduction burns to keep our foreshore areas both accessible and safe.

Why is it so difficult now!

Lindsay Millar OAM

"Rewa", Craighburn Rd.

Hillwood

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## Market Update

According to the data collected by the Real Estate Institute of Tasmania volume and prices have been increasing over the previous 12 months.

In Tasmania we generally have an increase in sales in the spring and summer months and this year has been no different, with spring sales being exceptionally strong. We expect this to continue for the short to medium term, particularly as it looks likely that the lowest interest rates we've experienced for decades will be here for a while longer.

All this points to the fact that NOW is the time to get your property on the market whilst it is looking its best.

I am actively seeking new properties, large or small, cleared or bush, on small allotments or larger productive farms to match our ever increasing demand from mainland buyers for our enviable lifestyle.

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