

Smoke Signals

East Tamar Newsletter

Issue 206

www.winderdoon.com/community/smokesignals.htm

December 2016

DRAINAGE CONCERNS FOR RESIDENTS OF DILSTON

A group of concerned residents from John Lees Drive Dilston met with LCC Director of Infrastructure Harry Galea and assistant, Corey Robson recently to express dissatisfaction with what is claimed to be severe water run-off onto properties fronting John Lees Drive after heavy rains this year in January and June.

The main arguments expressed by residents were that the newly - constructed walkway adjacent to the houses had changed the nature of run off from the road reserve and increased the amount of water draining onto their properties.

LCC Engineer Harry Galea, explained to residents attending the meeting that Council had not yet taken over management of the road reserve. It is still under the control of State Roads. It is 1 km of 50-60 kms of roads that the LCC is currently negotiating with State Roads to acquire, when suitable upgrading standards and Council

management criteria have been finalised.

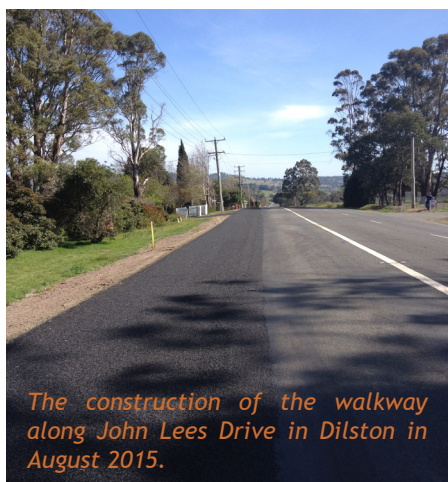
The construction of the walkway was undertaken by LCC with State and local funding after residents expressed a desire to pursue the construction of a walkway. The preferred plans for the walkway were to convert one of the traffic lanes into a walkway, after the road was no longer used as The East Tamar Highway. Plans submitted by LCC engineers to the State Roads authority were not approved, and the walkway plan was modified to the new specification without further consultation or advice to residents.

Several residents expressed concern that modifications to drainage have been of an unsatisfactory standard and that this was causing problems around their property. They questioned why Council would not provide curb and guttering or suitable drainage given the high density of housing in the area.

Mr Galea explained to the meeting that, within a rural setting, it was not normal to control water flow on the high side of a road reserve.

Mr Galea committed to:

- assess the claims of residents on a case by case basis by the end of November
- examine the rainfall records over the period to determine whether above-normal rainfall had been experienced
- report back to residents by middle December on a case by case basis as to what Council is prepared to do.



The construction of the walkway along John Lees Drive in Dilston in August 2015.

This Issue

Garden Notes

NBN Solution Offered

Church News

Community Centre News

Fire Brigade

Lullabies For Life

Hillwood News

A Santa Story

Blackbird Design Studio

DID YOU KNOW?

Planning a function?

Dilston Hall hires out tables & chairs for community use at a very minimal fee

For further details contact Pat Hollier:

63281348

GARDENING NOTES & NEWS



In October, The Garden Club were guests of Anna and Jonathan Waterhouse in Windermere Rd. We were suitably dined on the back patio in sunny weather and enjoyed the first reunion after the winter break.

The Waterhouse garden is always kept well pruned and presented. John had made a definite statement with his fruit trees this year, but this move should reinvigorate the trees for later production. Anna's sense of colour is a delight in this garden and there are always great displays of spring colour in her Azaleas and a diversity of other little attractions set off by the diversity of leaf greens. Conversation is always a strong point when visiting another garden, and one thing this group has in common is the joy of conversation and sharing the joys of other's work.

Thank you Jonathan and Anna, the group loves your garden.

Our November meet was at the home of Kerri Curtis and Greg Mitchell. Lovely Rhododendrons and Azaleas in flower ; also Bearded Irises were seen as well as several Silver birch trees, a good producing Lemon and two rows of Cherry trees that will keep them in fruit for the coming festive season. A couple of veggie patches also look productive.

A promising feature of the river -front back lawn is a labyrinth. Although in its infancy at present, it allows quiet contemplation on feature points for a long quiet walk in a small space. Great idea Kerri & Greg.

Thank you Kerri & Greg for your hospitality and for sharing your well-kept grounds with a lovely outlook over the Tamar.



Kerri & Greg's Labryinth in winter.

A Native Adventure

Eight years ago we, Di & Ian Farquhar, planted a Xanthorea in the turning circle in our garden at 12 Woodlawn Road. By the fourth year the plant was looking pretty robust and we sought to stimulate flowering by heaping dry vegetation and lighting a fire at the base. As the fronds recovered it was observed that twin leaders had manifest. The fire may, or may not, have initiated branching of the leaders. It certainly did not initiate flowering. A further four years later to 2016 and the most prolonged dry period one can recall, may, or may not, have

initiated flowering. Be that as it may, when we returned for northern travels this winter we were delighted to observe two flower spikes developing among the fronds. Ian subsequently measured weekly growth which revealed a growth rate of about 300 mm per week for the peak period. Now that the actual flowers have emerged growth has slowed to 50 mm per week and will probably stop when the topmost florets emerge. Needless to say Di & Ian are a bit cocky about this plant. Visitors are welcome.

Forthcoming Events

Christmas this year is at Jon & Margaret Hosford's residence. The cost is \$5 each (for this festive occasion) together with a salad or sweet for the table. The Hosfords will offer some wine from yearly funds and an offering of Jon's wine production locally. Please call Roslynn to confirm your attendance. We need to know the approximate numbers.

Phone: 6328 1566
(leave a message if no answer).

Fletcher & Co. nursery

Fletcher & Co. Nursery (formerly Garden View Nursery) has reopened. Plants sold direct to public at wholesale prices.

75mm pots - \$2.50
125mm pots - \$5.50
140mm pots (trees) - \$7.50

543 John Lees Drive, Dilston
Open Saturdays & Sundays
10am-4pm

Garden Club Dates for 2017



January Meeting

We usually do not meet in January.

February Meeting

Friday February 10th
Jackie & Brian Ralph
7 Swan Bay Drive



NBN REALITY FALLS SHORT OF THE DREAM



Windermere Corner Café

6328 1335

Please note our changed hours

Sat: 9:00 - 4:00 pm

Sun: 9:00 - 3:00 pm

Mon: 8:00 - 5:00pm

Tues: 8:00 - 5:00pm

Wed: 10am - 3:00pm

Thurs: 8:00 - 5:00pm

Fri: TGIF as usual - A range of
Tasmanian wines, beers &
spirits are available.

All your basic essentials .

Licensed to sell Tasmanian
produced and owned alcohol.



Caltex Mount Direction

Open 7 days per week

Weekdays: 6am to 7pm

Saturday: 8am to 7pm

Sunday: 8am to 6pm

Full grocery lines
Fish bait & gear - BBQ gas
Variety of takeaways
& hot drinks

PHONE ORDERS

Dietitian

Stephen Hodgkinson: APD, BHlthSc, MND
Summerdale Medical Centre
Home visits upon request
Ring now to make an appointment
P: 0419 838 674

E: stephen.h.nutrition@gmail.com

Some of the areas I can assist with are:

- ❖ Diabetes - Type 1 & 2, Gestational
- ❖ Digestive Health - IBS, Coeliac, Diverticular
- ❖ Cardiovascular - Hypertension, High cholesterol
- ❖ Weight Management - loss/gain and support
- ❖ Gastric banding - Pre & Post op
- ❖ Vegetarian & Vegan Diets
- ❖ General Healthy Eating & Nutrition advice

Mention this add for a 20% discount



On November 21st, a group of 25 residents met with personnel responsible for the planning and erection of a proposed NBN solution to cover Dilston Windermere and Swan Bay areas.

The proposal is for the erection of a 40 metre Fixed Wireless tower on the top of Gaunt Hill in Windermere. It is expected to cover properties to the north of the site (Swan Bay), whilst properties along the river to the south (Dilston & Windermere) will be serviced through the addition of 4 new antennas fixed to the existing tower at Legana. Matthew Evans, a spokesperson for Ericsson contracted by NBN to install the network, assured the meeting that this solution would adequately service all properties in the region with allowance for future expansion of users without compromising speeds.

Several residents expressed frustration that this plan falls far short of the "Fibre to the Premises" promise made by Lalla McKenzie of NBN in 2011 after a community meeting at The Windermere Corner Café.

A major concern of residents at this latest meeting was the uncertainty of a guaranteed equitable solution for all residents, given the difference in pricing of plans for any who will have no option other than to seek a satellite connection due to their property not having line of sight to the available towers, especially for some of those living in specific locations in Dilston and Swan Bay.

Current prices for satellite NBN plans are more than triple those of Fixed Wireless and Fibre.

Speeds offered under comparable established Fixed Wireless networks currently fall into 3 groups. The slowest of these options would effectively be at least 3 times faster than we are currently experiencing on copper ADSL plans.

- 50 mbs download, 20 mbs upload
- 25 mbs download, 5 mbs upload,
- 12 mbs download, 1 mbs upload.

A current problem with Internet speeds is the "contention" factor when peak demand slows speeds to a major degree. A Fixed Wireless network has been shown to be less susceptible to this factor, although experienced opinion at the meeting argued that it was still a factor that differentiated Fixed Wireless from that of fibre.

It is proposed that the Telstra copper network will remain in place for voice, but Internet access via this will no longer be offered. The current proposal before the Launceston City Council will need planning approval to be commenced.

When pushed for expected timelines, Matt Evans offered that the Legana antennas should be in place by March 2017 and the Windermere tower approximately mid-year 2017.

Wedge-tailed eagles nest in the vicinity of the access area to the Windermere tower, and as they are sensitive to disruption by untimely human activity during their breeding season (June-October), this will have to be factored into the construction timeline.

Comment from Marcus Bowles, GetConnected's IT expert:

The bad news is that fixed wireless replaced terrestrial lines elsewhere in Tassie. This means less reliability and well below international standard for redundancy and quality of service. This is very much worse than FTTP originally promised.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

The February issue of Smoke Signals will feature your questions and concerns about the NBN, so please make sure you have your say. Email smokesignals@bigpond.com by February 24th. GetConnected will follow-up with NBNCo.



ST MATTHIAS
WINDERMERE



HOLY TRINITY
LAUNCESTON

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT



CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE 7:00 PM
SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER

- ◆ Get into the Christmas Spirit with nibbles afterwards (Shortbread, Fruit Cake, who knows?)
- ◆ AND CHAMPAGNE or Orange Juice (if you prefer) to CHEER EVERYONE !!
- ◆ For those who wish there will be a Communion Service after NIBBLES



ALL SOULS' DAY SERVICE Sunday 6 November

The very first All Saints Day Service we held at St Matthias—it rained. Second Service, cold and windy; Third Service, blowing a gale! Last year, rain was forecast but it went around us making it almost perfect. *This year we were back to VERY WINDY!! C'est la vie !*



The Service was a special Choral Evensong with the Holy Trinity Choir there to 'chime in' - making it a truly beautiful and enjoyable service. There were many descendants, many friends and family who lit a memorial candle from the Easter candle in the church as a sign of remembrance and thanksgiving for the remembrance of other lives.

ST MATTHIAS' SERVICES

Sunday 11 December
10:30 am Eucharist



Saturday 24 December 7:00 pm
Service **CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE**

**WE ARE UNABLE TO OFFER CHRISTMAS DAY
EUCHARIST AT ST MATTHIAS THIS YEAR**



HOLY TRINITY CHRISTMAS SERVICES

(For information on Christmas Services

Go to the website

holytrinitylaunceston.org



East Tamar Men's Shed



THE SHED has had a most productive 2 months on projects that have kept members busy and challenged learning new skills with the equipment we have now.

A new project for the construction of a set of Early Learning building blocks for a School in Launceston has allowed us to learn new routing skills and designing a set of blocks that will suit the young learners.

A further project design for a desk to supplement our community colleagues at the Dilston Fire Station has occupied members in a most positive way.

We acknowledge the passing of Valerie, wife of our member and Auditor, Max Jansson. Max has been a member of our Shed since formation and we understand how this bereavement has changed his life. Valerie was a strong loving wife to Max and family and we offer continuing support to Max through our SHED community.

Potential new members can contact Jeff Wynne: 0417 843 943 or Jon Hosford: 0419 317 808 or write to us: secretary@easttamarmensshed.org.au

Visit our website:
www.easttamarmensshed.org.au



ETMS is assisted by equipment grants from the Tasmanian Government.

Playgroup

Dilston playgroup has had another exciting year of Tuesday morning fun. The children and their families have enjoyed a range of different activities such as tea parties, cubby house making, looking at insects and lots of craft, as well as the children enjoying each other's company. During a shed clean out, the 'Men's Shed' discovered some old playgroup photo albums dating back to 1982. There are some lovely memories which have been captured, so please call into playgroup if you would like to have a look into earlier playgroup days.

We are always keen to meet new families and would love to welcome some new faces to playgroup. In 2017

we are hoping to find someone to help out with the running of the playgroup, if you are interested or would like any more information call Sarah (0437 851 920).

Ange and Sarah would like to thank all the families for joining us throughout the year and look forward to continuing Tuesday morning fun in 2017. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Dilston playgroup will have a short break over Christmas/ New Year and will begin back on Tuesday 24th January 2017. Held at the Dilston Memorial Hall, 10am-12pm. Cost is \$3 and a piece of fruit (to share). For any more info contact Sarah 0437 851 920.



Playgroup helps children in their quest to simply be children and Mums in their sharing of this wonderful challenge. Join us Now!

Newsletter printed by courtesy of

Your local

Liberal member—standing up for Bass

Michael Ferguson MP

Web: www.michaelferguson.com

Email: michael.ferguson@dpac.tas.gov.au

Mail: PO Box 537, Launceston 7250

Phone: 6777 1032

Supporting Northern Tasmania

Authorised by M. Ferguson, 53 St John Street Launceston 7250



Dilston Fire Brigade



Tasmania Fire Service

Please, register your burns!

Register the fire by calling freecall 1800 000 699

By telling the Tasmania Fire Service about your fire you may help prevent false alarms.

1800 000 699

Folks, we are still experiencing situations where people are burning off at their residence without registering the burn with the Tasmania Fire Service. This is not a permit! At time of writing the fire permit period has yet to begin and as such you don't need to apply for one to burn off. But we ask, please still register your burn on the number above. It really will avoid unnecessary call outs, and in some cases embarrassment!

And we are more than happy to help by offering advice!

Property Access

We mentioned last issue the requirements to enable a large fire appliance to access your property. We are happy to report that a number of residents have sought advice on this matter with the resultant pruning now meaning all large (including Ambulances) emergency vehicles are able to access their properties. We

encourage all community members to consider their own properties, and rest assured, even our brigade chief has some work to do!

Fundraising

We are currently running a Christmas raffle to help bolster brigade funds. Whilst it is true that the Tasmania Fire Service funds our building and appliances/gear, as a unit we raise money to enable us to improve our facilities beyond that which we have been provided. Recent donations and support have enabled us to set our station up with improved audio visual equipment by way of a ceiling mounted projector, a powered screen and improved information technology. This greatly assists in our training and provides for better educational outcomes.

Kerry and Liam are selling tickets at the café, and we can be contacted should you like to buy

in bulk....!

Drawn December 11:

1st Prize

Car Gift Pack (value \$700+)

2nd Prize

Sports Pack (value \$400+)

3rd Prize

Wine/choc pamper pack

4th Prize

Paint Ball/Berties vouchers

5th Prize

One Touch Technologies voucher

All the best for the festive season and don't forget the annual Christmas Lolly run. See over leaf.



www.facebook.com/DilstonFireBrigade
www.facebook.com/TasmaniaFireService

Brigade Contacts

Raoul Stow	0417 351 423
Jason Hingston	0439 771 156
Jamie Smith	0458 515 386
Tom Hudson	0427 378 908

All the members at the Dilston Fire Brigade would like to wish everyone in the community the very best for the festive season, and ask that we all stay safe as we move on into 2017! Thankyou to you all for your support throughout the year and a big thankyou to our new members, helping us to continue our service to the community.

As always a very big thankyou to Kerry and her team at the Windermere Café for their ongoing support and the fantastic lunches served after each Sunday Training session, and to the ongoing support from our families. We couldn't do it without you!

Finally thankyou to the Editor of Smoke Signals for continuing to make available the space in each edition so that the brigade can keep you all informed of our activities. Merry Christmas everyone and prosperous New Year!



**DILSTON FIRE BRIGADE ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS LOLLY RUN**

Sunday 18th December, 3.00pm

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



LULLABIES FOR LIFE



By Paula Peeters

A pair of fairy wrens are in our garden - their calls are shrill, sweet and curiously penetrating. And for the first time ever, I think they might stay. This is terribly exciting. When we moved here eight years ago, we transformed a backyard of kikuyu grass into a small tangled oasis of native plants, deliberately planted thickly to entice small birds. Our street has mostly old-style Brisbane yards: mowed lawn with the odd tree or shrub, and the birdlife is dominated by magpies, butcherbirds, and the local gang of noisy miners.

Now two drab little fairy-wrens, a female and a non-breeding male, are hopping from twig to twig in our backyard. They pounce on insects as they go, trilling almost continuously. Shouldn't they hush? The neighbourhood bully-birds will surely hear them, and chase them away. But maybe the fairy-wrens' need to keep in contact with each other (and perhaps share a lively conversation about this new place) outweighs the risk of being detected? After all, a fairy-wren's song helps it to survive while still a naked babe in the nest, and it learns its first call while still in the egg.

Female superb fairy-wrens sing to their eggs, while sitting in the nest. This seems like an odd thing to do, as calling from the nest would make it more obvious to predators, and also to cuckoos who regularly parasitise fairy-wrens. Are their advantages of singing

on the nest that outweigh the risk of attracting predators and parasites?

To find out, researchers in South Australia¹ recorded the song of female fairy-wrens on the nest, and also recorded the songs of the chicks. They noticed that each mother had a slightly different call. But what was even more fascinating, was that the begging calls of chicks included song elements that were most similar to the calls of the mother wren. By swapping eggs between nests, they showed that the chick's calls were not inherited genetically, they were learnt. The chicks were learning how to sing from the female wren who reared them.

But, as suspected, some of eggs were eaten by predators - especially currawongs and ravens. Horsfield's bronze cuckoos had been active too, surreptitiously leaving their eggs in some fairy-wren nests. But that's when things started to get really interesting.

Over a series of experiments and observations, the researchers discovered something astonishing. The fairy-wren chicks were learning the mother's call while still in the egg. And when they hatched, the chicks that could mimic the mother's call most faithfully were the ones that received the most food. Chicks that sung the mother's song poorly, or not at all, received less food.

Cuckoos were unable to learn the fairy-wren mother's call while developing in

the egg. Once hatched, the cuckoo chick had to learn very quickly how to imitate the fairy-wren begging call. If it didn't learn to modify its call quickly enough, it would be abandoned by the fairy-wren parents, even if it was the only chick left in the nest. So the lullabies sung by the mother fairy-wren over her eggs turned out to be vital to the survival of her chicks.

The more the female fairy-wren called to her eggs, the higher the similarity between the chicks' and the mother's calls. The female fairy-wrens also called to their eggs more often when a cuckoo call was heard near the nest. Male fairy-wrens also learnt the begging call from the female fairy-wren, and would preferentially feed the chicks who gave the correct begging call. Song-learning before hatching has been demonstrated for all other fairy-wren species that have been studied.

So as I listen to the fairy-wrens singing in my garden, I wonder if I'm hearing song phrases that were learnt while still in the egg. Perhaps these little birds have stayed together and survived this far - across the suburban wasteland - because they understand the importance of song for their survival. I can only hope that the female will one day sing lullabies of life over her own eggs, from a nest hidden deep in the scrubby nether regions of our yard.

References:

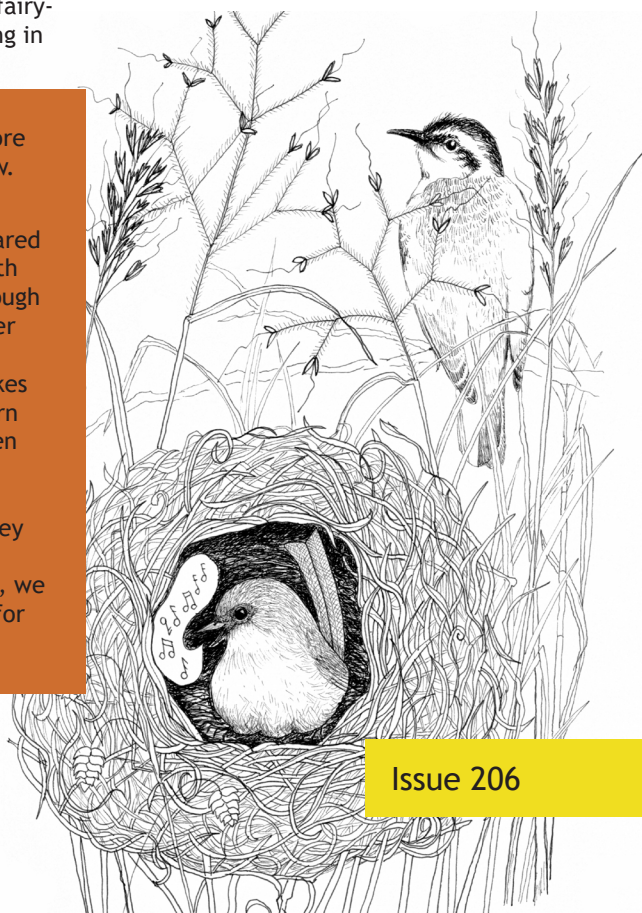
Colombelli-Négrel, D., Hauber, M. E., Robertson, J., Sulloway, F. J., Hoi, H., Griggio, M., & Kleindorfer, S. (2012). Embryonic learning of vocal passwords in superb fairy-wrens reveals intruder cuckoo nestlings. *Current Biology*, 22(22), 2155-2160.

Kleindorfer, S. (2015) *The ecology of embryonic learning: costs and benefits of vocal tutoring in fragmented habitat. Presentation at the Ecological Society of Australia Conference, Adelaide.*

With permission by Paula Peeters, Jan 2016

Paula is a writer and ecologist. More of her work may be viewed at www.paperbarkwriter.com

I republish this article which appeared in *Australian Birdlife*, June 2016 with the permission of the author. Although the species of Fairy Wren may differ in location, the behaviour of our Tasmanian variant is similar. It makes me aware that we have lots to learn about the interrelationship between birds that seems to sort itself out. Promote our local birds and their survival by growing habitat that they prefer. Whilst a diverse garden of colourful plants is for our pleasure, we need to include adequate habitat for birds of the Tamar - Jon Hosford



WEDDING: Phil and Deb closed their Coffee shop for a week to attend the wedding of their daughter Naomi. We hope you all had a wonderful time and that you enjoyed the break and the celebrations.

BETH WOLF celebrated her 70th birthday in November. Her family visited from the mainland to help her celebrate. Beth is a very caring and popular member of our community and we all wish her the happiness she deserves.

LINDSAY MILLAR: At the Rotary Club 60th Anniversary event, Lindsay was surprised with recognition of his involvement with George Town Rotary Club. He was awarded the prestigious Paul Harris Award. Lindsay, with registration No 33 is the oldest living registered member. Congratulations Lindsay!

KAYE McLEAN: Kaye received the Volunteer award at the AFL Awards night in November. She was also awarded the Clarry Boon Trophy at the NTFA Presentation Night held in October. This trophy is also for volunteering. Kaye's husband Bobby received this Award in 2006, creating a record for being the only couple to receive the Clarry Boon Trophy.

HOLLI GEEVES recently represented Tasmania in the Australian Junior Motorcross Championships held in Renmark, South Australia. A valuable experience for the local 14 year old George Town High School student.. Holli also plays touch footy and soccer.

JOSHUA GEEVES (Holli's brother) recently competed in NTJSA Under-13 Soccer in Merrimbula NSW for the Karl Posselt Cup in which he came third. Joshua also plays cricket with George Town Cricket Club.

HILLWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB now has a full licence and is available for hire. The Clubrooms are open every Thursday night during the off-season with refreshments and nibbles available. Call in and meet members of your community and enjoy a game of Indoor Bowls or Crib. Also watch your local noticeboards as the Club will be open for other events including an occasional meal.

The Club is happy to have appointed Jacob Lowe as next year's Senior Coach. Jacob, who some years ago coached

the Under 19's to a Premiership is keen and training started in November with a successful Meet the Players night. Fifty five players attended training which was followed by a meal provided by the players. Max Pearce is now the President and the Club is looking for a new Secretary.

USUAL UNUSUAL is being held this year on Tuesday 20th December at the Hillwood Hall at 7.00 p.m. Bring your children/grandchildren along for a lovely evening of Christmas carols (both traditional and Australian). Supper afterwards.

HILLWOOD GARDEN CLUB held a Working Bee at the Hillwood Pontoon Reserve in November, in readiness for the Christmas BBQ to be held early December by local group, Hillwood Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc (HARRA).

CAR BOOT SALE February 18th. HARRA is organising a CAR BOOT SALE to be held at the Hillwood Recreation Ground. Contact is Alf Waters 0438 948251. Please watch the Noticeboards.

HILLWOOD KIDS CLUB is a wonderful programme run by the lovely Susan and Nick Gillman for the children of our area. This year it has been well attended with between 14 to 20 children coming along. By the time this issue of Smoke signals is out, Kids Club will be closed for the year. BUT

I will put a reminder in the February issue. The Club is held every second Friday from 4.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. during school terms. Contact No for Susan is 0439 065914 and email gillmas73@gmail.com

THANK YOU to Smoke Signals for including Hillwood News in your publication and also a big Thank you for providing the Voucher for the Christmas Decoration Award.

Please contact me if you have any news you would like me to include. Happy News, Sad News, young people's achievements, events, celebrations. Contact me on 63948140, 0431 613484 or nancydonnelly@bigppond.com

Wishing you all an enjoyable Christmas.

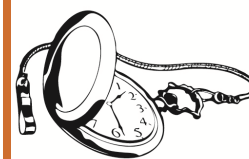
Nancy was humble in not celebrating the appointment of Danielle England, her grandson's fiancé to the Smoke Signals team as Graphic Designer.

Dani will layout the content of Smokesignals as a voluntary contribution to our East Tamar Community. It is truly heartening to see young people offering their skills in this way. Please support Dani with your business or community graphic design.

Sincerely,
Editor

Windermere Watches

Service and Repairs to all
Wristwatches and Pocket Watches
Watches bought and sold



Jeff Wynne
0417 843 943
or 6328 1544

www.windmerewatches.com.au

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As a get about the area type of chap I am sure I am not the only one to view with absolute disdain the tyre marks on the road at the Windermere shop and Hillwood fire station intersections. This is vandalism to say the least not to mention the ever present danger behind these deliberate actions bordering on out of control driving. Most of us welcome living in such a beautiful part of the world but with scars on the community like these can only taint this in the face of us and tourism alike, much the same as graffiti.

I know the police take a dim view on this and any information regarding hooning would be very much appreciated.

- Concerned old time resident.



Towns Shearing Real Estate

For those of us who are living on the land, we are all extremely grateful that winter has now passed and we are starting to see the paddocks drying out and some warmer days ahead to help with getting our gardens back into a decent state of presentation. The surplus rain has been wonderful to help fill the dams, but I think we have now had enough. Its time to start thinking of getting your home on the market if you have been considering this. It is also exciting see the bank interest rates staying at an all time low and this obviously helps us with repayments on our home loans, as well as an enticement into investing into the housing market.

So if you would like an obligation free market appraisal on your property, please do not hesitate to call me.

What others are saying about Sharon...

"Very friendly and helpful all the way. We felt we were kept in the loop through the entire process and were very grateful for the help and advice given to us. A very positive experience and we are very happy with the outcome." Ben and Kaytlen Margison

"Simon and I cannot praise Sharon Fahey enough, her expert knowledge and friendly approach put us at ease. Sharon worked so hard to sell our property and did so very quickly and at a great price. We have no hesitation in recommending Sharon to anyone. We will definitely call Sharon first when we need her assistance again. We are very happy with the outcome." Simon and Janelle Hill

Call Sharon Fahey 0409188249

Elders Towns Shearing 58 Elizabeth Street Launceston Tas 7250



THE STORY OF SANTA



By Rev'd Paul Grayston

There is a story about a boy. His name was Nicholas or Nick.

He lived in a city called Myra in the South West corner of Turkey. It was part of the Roman Empire of The 3rd Century AD.

Nick was born into a very wealthy family. Unusually, they were Christians. Tragedy struck while Nick was just a child- both his parents died. Nick inherited the family fortune.

Nick was very influenced by the teaching of Jesus to give all you have to the poor, and he began to give his money away to people he met who were in genuine need.

Again disaster struck for Nicholas when the Roman Emperor Diocletian declared a persecution of Christians. Nick was imprisoned. The persecution passed and he was released. A new Emperor declared Christianity to be the religion of the Empire.

Nicholas became a leader among Christians in Myra. He became a priest. He continued to give his money away secretly to poor people by dropping bags of coins through their windows. He was promoted to be the Bishop of Myra.

He is recorded to have attended the famous Council of Nicea in 625 AD,

where the revered Nicene Creed was written.

After that Nicholas' story becomes a bit legendary.

There are wild stories of him flying off to Mediterranean islands to bring back children who had been kidnapped as slaves. There were even stories about his prayers bringing children back from the dead.

By far, the most intriguing story is of a poor family, a widower with 3 daughters, whose father was too poor to pay for their dowry and wedding in accordance with the custom of the time, so the girls could never marry.

Nicholas dropped 3 bags of gold for the 3 daughters through the chimney -hole in their roof and, so the story goes, the bags fell into their socks, hung out to dry by the fire.

Nick was declared by the Pope to be Saint Nicholas.

The legend of St Nicholas spread across Europe.

Children hung out stockings at Christmas time in the hope that St Nicholas would leave them gifts.

People gave to the poor at Christmas time in memory of St. Nicholas.

In northern Europe St Nicholas was translated in to "Sinter Claus" and in

English was pronounced "Santa Claus". Parents bought oranges imported from sunny Spain as a Christmas treat for their children and because they looked like bags of gold. They hung the oranges on evergreen trees, which stood out when trees were usually bare in winter. They symbolised the new life that Jesus brings.

The North Pole, the reindeer, the elves, the red suit and a flying sleigh came into the story much later. But if you trace the Santa Claus story right back you find this extraordinary St Nicholas of Myra who gave generously to the poor, who cared for the welfare of children, who served the Lord Jesus and helped people all through his life, who suffered and had so much to contend with.

He was a Christian leader. He lent his faith and wisdom at Nicea, and most memorably of all he gave gifts. He inspired a tradition that spread through the whole world and down the centuries of giving gifts and giving to the poor at Christmas -time to remember the birth of Jesus.

Rev'd Paul Grayston, Chaplain to The Launceston Church Grammar School



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AUDIO TOUR FOR CHURCH HISTORY

A welcome addition for visitors to the East Tamar region is the newly developed audio tour available at the historic St Matthias' Church in Windermere Road.

A recommendation of the Conservation Report commissioned by Holy Trinity Anglican Parish, encouraged development of suitable means to encourage visitors to share the history of the Pioneers of this district.

The tour describes conditions prevailing in the district for early pioneers and directs visitors to 6 family gravesites with appropriate commentary together with the features of the church.

We encourage residents to visit this experience and to share it with visitors from your family or those who show an interest in the history of The Tamar.

www.holytrinitylaunceston.org/stmatthias tour.html

BLACKBIRD DESIGN STUDIO



Hi! My names Dani, I'm a graphic designer living in Hillwood and I recently started my own design business. Blackbird Design Studio deals with everything from layout to illustration to web design. You can check out my portfolio at the website listed below.

I absolutely love design. I believe it has a very active role in our day to day life and really affects how we percieve the world. This is why I'd like to offer my services, free of charge, to any not-for-profit organizations out there. Time permitting, I also enjoy helping people out with small personal projects, such as designing personalized birthdays cards or picking out colour schemes.

I greatly appreciate the oportunity and experience the Smoke Signals team has granted me by allowing me to assist in designing this publication. I look forward to working on future editions!

This issue of Smoke Signals was designed by:

Blackbird Design Studio

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BLACKBIRD PRICE GUIDE

- NFP Project - Free
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Issue 206

www.winderdoon.com/community/smokesignals.htm

December 2016

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Garden Club:
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Book Discussion Group:
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