

THE TAMAR LAKE: by John Baily

I have been asked by a number of people in the community why I believe we should be going down this track. I believe it is disgraceful for the upper reaches of the river to be so neglected.

Why is the whole world so conscious of becoming clean – with zero emissions and carbon free, while The Tamar River is our sewer ?

The upper reaches are not navigable except for small vessels at high tide.

The public cannot enjoy any aspect of what the river used to be – it still smells, there is absolutely no sailing, no swimming, limited school rowing – little recreational use of what was a clean waterway.

HOW DO WE FIX IT?

First it must be substantially dredged – there are a number of properties that are happy to take the slurry – it is not toxic as some people may suggest.

A Barrage should be built up river, where the engineers declare there are extremely good sound rocks for footings for such a structure, creating a freshwater lake.

It would be designed for the fresh water to flow over the top removing any of the fine particles with it, as it moves through.

We know the silt whilst in suspension will keep moving forward with the flow. Once it meets salt water it flocculates & sinks to the bottom.

Once it flows over the barrage it is in enough volume to actually sit on top of the salt, because the salt is heavier and is carried out into Bass Strait.

Locks would be positioned to take both large vessels and smaller boats- these are used extensively throughout Europe catering for all types of vessels.

The Rice Grass will slowly die off and can be “harvested” & put into land fill for composting. – possibly a new separate business.

I travelled to Robe South Australia to see their man made Marina also to the Patowalonga Lake System at Glenelg – it has drained the water from around the airport & runs to Glenelg with yet another Barrage, and a magnificent marina for all types of pleasure craft.

I urge you to click on <http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au>

Follow the links through, you will see how our waterway could look as beautiful as South Australia’s.

There are dozens of barrages around the world – I also went to Singapore to see how theirs operates- it is magnificent, for that situation.

The Seine River in France has 7 barrages between Paris and the English Channel.

The Cardiff Bay Estuary Barrage was was one of the largest civil engineering projects in Europe in the 1990s. It is a very similar situation to Launceston, with two rivers feeding into

a tidal estuary. Wikipedia gives a comprehensive report of its life to date, so please read it at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardiff_Bay_Barrage

The Tamar Lake could provide enough fresh water for all of Tasmania, as it collects from the largest & most effective catchment area in the State.

Habitat of birds, fish, and insects is actually increased - so wild life attractions will be extended.

There are investors who want to invest in the Green Hydrogen, and this will save the high cost of piping water from alternative sources.

All boating activities will be accessible to the general public, Restaurants, tourists, and locals would all hold their heads high and be proud of their river instead of cringing and apologising for its shameful appearance when the tide is out.

(Editor’s note: We hope that this contribution from Dilston resident John Baily will stimulate debate. Supporters or those with alternative views are encouraged to contribute–smokesignals@bigpond.com)



Cardiff Bay Barrage

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor

Another plea to everyone in our community to please, please, PLEASE slow down when driving along our roads, and to be aware of our precious wildlife.

Recently I was obliged to remove no less than three roadkilled bennetts wallabies - all male. One was found while walking our dog, then two more when on my way to an appointment in town. All were killed along Los Angelos Road. Two had been very recently killed as they were still warm, and the oozing blood was still wet.

At this time of year when vegetation is drying out and wildlife are more likely to be checking out the grass along the verges, and seeking a bit of moisture, they are also more likely to be active outside the traditional dusk to dawn timeline.

All the development in our area is slowly displacing our wildlife, and reducing their decreasing habitat even further. Please consider that this area is their home too. And it was their home long before all of us arrived. We are incredibly fortunate to have wildlife living so close. Most of us, I'm sure, value, appreciate and enjoy their proximity. So please do your bit to help protect and maintain it.

It's worth remembering too that vehicle damage from colliding with a bennetts in particular - can be significant. And expensive.

Thank you.

Anne Layton-Bennett
SWAN BAY

GARDEN HARVEST PROJECT



For School Children
(Port Dalrymple School - George Town)

Do you have an overwhelmingly abundant supply of produce from your garden at certain times of the year? Have you ever thought that it would be wonderful if you were able to donate some of it to a worthy cause?

If so, Evelyn Tuba, coordinator of the **Garden Harvest for School Children Project** would love to hear from you. Teachers report that children who come to school hungry have difficulty learning and concentrating because they are undernourished. School teachers have been paying for fruit out of their own pockets to support these children.

If you have an excess of anything, particularly fruit, please consider donating it to this project.

A drop off or pick up point can be arranged – please contact:

Evelyn Tuba – Swan Bay
Email: evelyntuba@bigpond.com
Telephone: 0438 937 451



This is a worthwhile community project.
Please consider making a contribution when your harvest quantities become too much!

WINDERMERE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The 17th Windermere Tennis Tournament was held on Australia Day, (almost didn't because of covid). A fun day was had by all.

The weather was great. The tennis was competitive, the carrot cake cook off even more so, with 7 entries that took the judges a while to decide on the winner. Congratulations to Cynthia Groves. This years tennis was won by Denis Pratt & Jo Drake, congratulations to both, also to Tom Dart for being the runner up in both the tennis & the cook off.



SAVE THE DATE

"Save the date" for a Mothers day Craft-ernoon tea at Dilston Memorial Hall, Saturday 30th April 2-4pm.
Stay tuned for more information.



GARDENING MAINTENANCE WORK REQUIRED

Gardening maintenance contractors with suitable horticultural experience are required to service properties in the East Tamar.

Please contact smokesignals@bigpond.com for details

BIRDS OF THE TAMAR By Jon Hosford

Hoary-headed Grebe

Poliocephalus poliocephalus

As a youngster growing up in Victoria, I was always fascinated by the little “Dabchicks” that lived on our home dam. They would always feed under water and frequently disappear for up to 50 seconds when under threat. They managed to evade hawks and eagles that were well known sky enemies to them.

Since I have moved to Glenara Lakes in Youngtown, I have taken a more focussed interest in this bird. There are 2 pairs which frequent the waterway feeding the North Esk catchment. This year they have successfully raised two chicks each and the parents continually work from dawn to dusk to feed their growing young.

Hoary-headed Grebes usually nest in simple pairs in Tasmania, but sometimes in other States, they form colonies of hundreds of floating nests, which may be joined together to form a large raft. The chicks follow their parents around, anxiously looking for when they will again surface with aquatic arthropods (insects), mostly caught by deep diving. They feed during the day, and when the light is poor, forage mostly at the water surface., I have not personally

observed these birds walking on land. They live in the water always but can fly to new territory when needed.

The Hoary-headed Grebe is a small stocky grebe. It has a darkish grey and white plumage, an inconspicuous brown iris, a square black ‘chin’, and breeding adults develop a white streaking over their entire head (hence the name). There is a diagnostic narrow black streak down the nape of the neck. Juveniles have a striped face, white chin and throat, and a mottled brown and white hindneck.

They are well established on permanent freshwater dams and waterways in the Tamar Valley.

Their relatives, the smaller Australasian Grebe is quite different in breeding plumage. It is a smaller waterbird with two distinct plumage phases. The non-breeding plumage of both the male and female is dark grey-brown above and mostly silver-grey below, with a white oval patch of bare skin at the base of the bill. During the breeding season, both sexes have a glossy-black head and a rich chestnut facial stripe which extends from just behind the eye through to the base of the neck.



Hoary-headed Grebe & chick



Australasian Grebe & Chick

Smoke Signals Community Project Grants

Smoke Signals is produced and distributed entirely by volunteers and printed at no cost by Michael Ferguson MP, so all money raised from advertising in the Smoke Signals newsletter is available to fund worthy community projects. Applications are invited from community groups in the 2nd round of grants of up to \$1000 for local projects that will benefit a section of the community over a reasonable period of time. Contact Smoke Signals for more information

The Low Head Community Garden project has now been completed. It is a credit to Kathy and her team and a great enhancement to the Lagoon Bay area. It is certainly worth a look if ever traveling in the area – the entrance it is on the left opposite the Lagoon Bay picnic area. It has been a very positive start to the New Year with the success of a grant application from the Tasmanian Department of Communities through the Tasmanian Men's Shed Association.



The grant has been used to purchase a new wood tuning lathe and a new welder as we have some new members with considerable expertise who are keen to transfer their knowledge and experience to others in the shed who are keen to learn new skills. We have used the grant to purchase and update some of our hand tools.



New members are always welcome, and as we are open Saturday as well as Wednesday, from 8.30 to 2.00pm younger members of the community who are keen to learn from the experienced members should not hesitate to apply.

As the Men's Shed is self-funding, and we need to cover costs such as insurance and electricity etc, so we are keen to accept any jobs from the community such as building or restoring household items, anything from chook pens to quality furniture, also including any metal work or construction.

Contact us at secretary@easttamarmensshed.org.au



ETMS is assisted by equipment grants from the Tasmanian Government.



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Michael Fitzgerald was the first settler in Dilston, building a cottage here in 1818, when he was appointed District Constable for the East Tamar.

Fitzgerald had been transported for life in 1797, having been convicted of political crimes in Ireland. After some years in Sydney he was transferred to Port Dalrymple and received a full pardon in 1810. He married Mary Wood in 1811 and had four children.

He was appointed a Constable in 1816, probably reflecting his good behavior as a convict and the fact that he could read and write, not common amongst convicts.

His primary responsibility, apart from running his small farm, would have been supervision of the convict gangs constructing the road from Launceston to George Town.

In his first year he received 3 gallons of spirits, one pound of tea, 4 pounds of sugar, 2 pounds of gunpowder, 20 pounds of lead and a promissory note for 12 pounds, 10 shillings which was lost "while leading a horse down a hill called the Devil's Backbone"

It is hard for us to imagine Dilston as a remote and dangerous place, but it certainly was for Michael – in 1819 he was attacked and robbed by a gang of escaped convicts from George Town. Governor Sorrell granted Michael's son William 50 acres in compensation for the robbery. The escapees were captured, given 2,000 lashes each and deported to Newcastle.



An early map showing the location of his cottage

In 1821, Michael and Mary had a visit from Governor Macquarie and his wife, in a party which had intended to proceed to George Town on horseback. Finding the going too rough, they took refreshment at the Fitzgerald's, and proceeded to George Town by boat.

It is not clear exactly where their cottage was but it was described as "on the east bank, looking across the Tamar to Freshwater Point."

It was there that Michael met an untimely end, as described in his own statement.

I reside on the banks of the River Tamar. On Wednesday last I was sitting at my door reading a book when I received a wound through my back inflicted by a native with a spear. The spear was not thrown but held in his hand, the spear passed through my body. On receiving the wound

I attempted to secure the man, in wrestling with him the spear broke in my body. I then ran round the house in order to meet him when I received another wound through my wrist and into my belly. I still pursued him but both the native who first wounded me and his companion escaped. I saw no others. The natives have repeatedly robbed me of blankets, muskets and other articles. The following day the natives came down to our house and attacked us with stones they have also attacked several other settlers in my neighbourhood. I am now lying in a dangerous state in the Hospital.

He died on the 15th April, 1831, "after lingering eight days in extreme agony".

Sources: Nigel Burch, Lost Mines of the Tamar and Barbara Gibson, Michael Fitzgerald, His Life and Family.

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 with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line and we'll add you to our online subscription list.

Smoke Signals is also available from:
Marigolds on the Tamar-Hillwood

George Town Library
Mt Direction Service Station

Hillwood Berry Farm
Windermere Cafe

CHURCH NEWS St Matthias' Anglican Church

Despite so much uncertainty over Omicron, and COVID case numbers rising, we were so blessed to be able to stage our inaugural Christmas Festival on Dec 11th before the borders opened in December, as well as our outdoor Carols Service on Christmas Eve. However, with limited internal ventilation in our small church building, we were forced to suspend services over January to allow time to arrange a suitable safe format, while many of us joined in the services at Holy Trinity in town.

At the moment, it is planned for Rev John Tongue to conduct our first 2022 service OUTDOORS at the church at 9am on Feb. 13th.

In the case of inclement weather, we plan to relocate to the Dilston Hall.

This will be the case for the 2nd and 4th Sundays from now, until further notice.

As this bi-monthly newsletter cannot hope to keep us up to date with almost daily changes in regulations and best practice arrangements, please keep in the loop by:

1. Subscribe to our weekly Parish email newsletter, via a message to rector@htl.org.au, or to Margaret Hosford hosfordm@bigpond.net.au or
2. Join our Facebook page [stmatthiaswindermere](https://www.facebook.com/stmatthiaswindermere) for any important updates and/or
3. Keep an eye on the church noticeboard, which we will endeavour to keep up-to-date with any new arrangements



Our inaugural Christmas Festival helped bring the Christmas story to life for many families, with an opportunity to make fridge magnets and finger puppets of the nativity characters, Christmas crowns and paper angels and nativity sets and sheep masks, or to look for Baby Jesus rocks in the churchyard and to ice star biscuits. Everyone could play instruments along with carols, watch short Christmas DVD's, and enjoy a display of different nativity sets from around the world, and best of all...dress up to be involved in the enactment of the Christmas Story. Bec and Stewart, who were our last married couple at the church just as COVID impacted many wedding plans, took the roles of Mary and Joseph, while others were shepherds, townsfolk, and even sheep! Though we know from the Bible that the "Wise Men" didn't reach Jesus until he was a young child, they were also included in the scene as they are an integral part of the story too. Everyone got to take home a storybook/colouring book with illustrated texts, balloons, and whatever they made, along with many special memories and photos with our Nativity models at the church entrance. Thanks to everyone from the community who helped in any way.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Garden Club annual Christmas party was a delightful day – thanks to the hospitality once again, of Lou and John at “Tarcoola”, Dilston. John had organised a really special programme of, not one, but two speakers for us, to inspire us and answer our many and varied questions.

Steve Solomon, who is well known for his books on growing vegetables in the southern hemisphere, talked about how to achieve a vegetable garden which will provide food all year round, using seasonal plantings, crop rotation and above all – good soil! From all accounts, his approach to this is both scientific and practical. Steve has an amazing history – born in the US, he has specialised in seed production and selling seeds all over the world. He sold that business and moved to Tasmania – replicating many of the practices as in Washington State but translating them to the Southern Hemisphere environment.

Mark Hay from Allans Nursery joined us once again, talking about some of the newer ranges of plants available, and had a selection of plants for purchase. Mark is a guru on anything to do with garden plants, pests, remedies for problems, etc. As usual he was able to answer the most difficult questions very easily. Christmas lunch was spectacular, as has become the norm, and those attending enjoyed a garden walkaround with John in his vegetable and fruit garden. Thank you so much Lou and John for hosting a fabulous end to the Garden Club year once again. And thank you John, for organising such wonderful guests to keep us informed and knowledgeable!



Steve Solomon and John Bailly



A happy group of Garden Club members enjoying the Christmas party at “Tarcoola”



Mark Hay with some of his plants

OPEN GARDENS IN SWAN BAY, WINDERMERE AND DILSTON

George Town Garden Club enjoyed a visit to four Garden Club member gardens in November, which were very kindly opened up especially for their visit.

A huge thank you to Ros Ryan, Elizabeth File and Wendy Peberdy for your hospitality to this group of 18 George Town Garden Club members. Greg and I were very happy to participate as well. Judy Stagg from George Town Garden Club and her group were very pleased and reported that they enjoyed their day very much. The weather was a little tricky but they managed to dodge the rain and enjoyed a picnic in the grounds of St Matthias’ Church. We were so glad we could provide four gardens for them to visit.

THE BEES IN MY GARDEN



OUR BEE-FRIENDLY FUTURE

So much has changed since I began writing about bees in 2019. Some readers may remember that back then I was shocked to learn from my German friend, Ingrid, that the bee population in Europe had declined so much that the situation was critical. I was prompted to share my concerns and to try to promote an appreciation of the essential work that bees do in ensuring our food supply. Did you know that almonds, for example, are 100% reliant on honey bees for pollination. Specialist pollination services are also essential to the breeding of new strains of many crop, pasture and horticultural species. Here in Australia pollination services from honey bees contribute \$4-6 billion annually to the economy. And we should be proud that Australia is one of the top ten honey producing countries in the world. Bees and other pollinating insects have a global economic value of around \$150 Billion.

Since lockdowns, all over the world less traffic has meant less pollution, and that has helped the bees. Also, consider this staggering statistic - in a 2015 study researchers estimated that 24 billion bees and wasps are killed by vehicles on roads across North America every year. Hopefully that figure has since declined considerably. We are so lucky in our community.

We have the space to grow our own fruit and vegetables, and to have beautiful gardens ideally growing the types of flowers and trees favoured by bees. When you think about what's good for the bees before you plant, you are also helping our local beekeepers. Tasmania certainly has the capacity to produce more honey. According to industry reports there are 276 beekeepers in all of Tasmania, representing only 4% of the country's hives. Bee-friendly gardens are one way of showing support. Another would be if we could persuade our local authorities to consider adopting best bee practice solutions that are now helping to revive the bee population in Europe, for example.,



Here's one idea that's helping the bee population revive.

The video is available for your viewing pleasure at <https://vimeo.com/199647818> Do you think we could have a "Honey Highway" all the way from Windermere to the Mowbray Connector Intersection? SmokeSignals would love your feedback.

My New Year's resolution is to eat more honey.

Great on toast, of course, honey is the perfect substitute for sugar in lots of recipes, including marinades. I've come across a recipe for oatmeal, honey, plain yoghurt and peanut butter cookies, apparently also a dog-friendly special occasional treat that I'll offer our new dog Abbie. The Tasmanian Beekeepers Association booklet "The Bee Hive" has some simple recipes like this Honey Cheese.

Honey Cheese

One part honey to two parts grated cheese (like cheddar) Mix honey and cheese to a paste. Spread on hot buttered toast, and put back under the griller for a minute or two to melt lightly. Nice for a simple little lunch.

If you would like to participate in Garden Club activities, please contact me. New members are very welcome.
Kerri Curtis – Email: kerridwen51@gmail.com Phone: 0407 447 344



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 ... YES, BUT...!

Despite the early season rains, both Dilston and Hillwood Brigades experienced a period of busy fire fighting activity over the holiday period with crews being dispatched to multiple incidents within, and outside of our respective areas.

It is with no small level of concern that a good many of these fires have been as a result of nefarious and nuisance activity. There is simply no excuse or rationale that excuses the risk posed to the Tasmanian community, or emergency service personnel by taking these actions.

Thank you again to both communities for your continued practice of obtaining permits where needed, and registering burns where under 1 cubic metre.

RECRUITMENT 2022

Both brigades are looking to bolster our numbers in 2022 following the normal ebb and flow of brigade members that relocation to other areas. If you feel you might have some time to give to an essential service to the Tasmania community, then please touch base via one of the contacts below. Who knows, it might be a little different to what you think!!

A GENEROUS DONATION

A heartfelt message of



appreciation to Justin Goebel and his team at LJ Hooker for the welcomed donation to Dilston Brigade. Whilst we are yet to put it to use, we have narrowed down the options, and the community may see a few small changes at the station over the next few months!



NEW NATIONAL WARNING SYSTEM

As part of the review into the national emergency warning system, the Tasmania Fire Service has subscribed to, and



implemented the new Australian Warning System.

The changes include the way bushfire warnings are displayed on the TFS website and by TFS partners, including TasALERT and the ABC.

Advice (yellow)
Watch and Act (orange)
Emergency Warning (red)
Smoke Alert (grey)

While the colours and icons have changed, the meanings of the levels have not, and incident controllers do not have to do anything differently when activating a warning level.

These changes are part of a nationwide review of the Australian Warning System. They are designed to bring consistency across Australia to the way incidents are displayed, with most states and territories working towards implementing them this month.

Over time, the Australian Warning System will also be used for other hazards like floods and storms.

Further information about the Australian Warning System can also be found on the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience website



.../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



ADVICE: A fire is burning. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes. (May also be used to advise that a threat has reduced.)



WATCH AND ACT: A fire is burning and conditions are changing. Start taking action now to protect yourself and others.



EMERGENCY WARNING: An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay may put your life at risk.



SMOKE ALERT: Provides information about smoke from a fire, bushfire or fuel reduction burn that may impact a community or areas of Tasmania.



HAPPY NEWS:

Welcome to little TUCKER LEWIS CHAMP, born 6th December 2021 to MANIKA and JOEL Champ. A grandson to proud grand-parents, Shari and Jamie Champ. More Happy News for the Champ family with the wedding of AMY CHAMP to JAYDEN HOSKING on December 27th 2021. Congratulations.

YOUNG ACHIEVERS:

Three Hillwood girls competed in the State High School Basketball Championships held at Elphin Stadium in November. Well done LILY AIREY, HOLLY MILLER and HANNAH MILLER in representing St Patrick's College in their respective teams.

PIERS and OLIVER NICHOLLS had three wins and second place between them in Tamar Rowing Club's Regatta in November. CONGRATULATIONS to RACHELLE WHEELER for her Achievement Award in Hospitality training, received at the end of year Cocktail party where delicious food and Mocktails were prepared and served by the participants. The wonderful staff who provide the hospitality training also received a special award at a Festival held at Country Club Casino Disability Awards night.

CONGRATULATIONS to SIGNAL STATION TAVERN on receiving the THA (Tasmanian Hotel Association) Great Customer Experience Award. Well deserved.

FAREWELL to Tom Donnelly who will be living in South Australia while playing for Norwood, a club in the South Australian league. Tom played for Hillwood before playing with North Launceston where he participated in three Premierships.

HILLWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB: You may have noticed some works happening at the Recreation ground. An automated sprinkling system is being installed by George Town Council which links in with the George Town Football Club's system. This modern arrangement will reduce the amount of water used by about a quarter I am told and alleviates the need for someone to drag heavy hoses around the grounds, the best time being midnight!

The Club will continue their Shark Café on Mondays and Tuesday and Friday night meals on Second and Fourth Fridays of the month for the next two months.

HILLWOOD LADIES GROUP: has delayed their first meeting for the year because of COVID. At this stage, the plan is to begin in March.

HILLWOOD GARDEN CLUB: will hold their first meeting of the year on the third Monday of February (21st) which is traditionally shared with George Town and Districts Historical Society. The speaker for this meeting is Mike Turner of Environex. The meeting will be held in the Hillwood Hall at 7.30 p.m. under Covid rules.

THE HILLWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

(Provided by President, Robyn Wheeler)

KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL NOMINATION.

The Hillwood Progress Association were nominated late last year in the Keep Australia Beautiful awards. I do have to admit I was a little surprised by this but now recognise that "Keep Australia Beautiful" is more than just an award for a tidy town. It is a national award program that is designed to celebrate sustainability achievements in rural and regional communities.

Members of our group attended the awards ceremony in Penguin, on 26th November, and were excited to receive 3 Certificates of Recognition.

The Hillwood Progress Association's citations were:

'For the 2021 Anzac Day Community Breakfast and other fundraising and environmental activities throughout the year.'

'For caring for your local environment and helping your community come together with respect for the past and a warm welcome to the new.'

The Hillwood History Room's citation was:

'For creating a local history room including the innovative project "Who Lived in My House?"'

What an honour to be part of this community. We are definitely heading towards a more inclusive, supportive community, one that I am proud to be a part of.

Our Treasurer, Jess Nesbit, who was also at the Awards Ceremony representing the City of Launceston, received several Certificates of recognition for Projects and initiatives she was involved with in her role as Waste & Environment Officer. Well done everyone.



Robyn, Elaine, Jess and Sharon receiving one of their Certificate of Recognition Awards.

HILLWOOD COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS BBQ.

Working together with the Hillwood Football Club, the Hillwood Fire Brigade, and the Hillwood Berry Farm, our Christmas BBQ was held on Saturday 4th December 2021. Members of the Hillwood Football Club ran the BBQ and Bar and they didn't stop.



A big thank you to our Samoan, Tongan and East Timorese neighbours, for joining with us and for the Samoan's for entertaining us with singing and dancing. A special moving singing tribute was made for Bernice from Samoa, who sadly passed away on the morning of the event. A brave effort.

Thank you to all those who made it such a wonderful event.
What a fantastic day!



There were games and football, and we were even treated to a Haka!

A special highlight was the flame thrower, Tauanau (Wally) Efu, from Samoa.



Santa arrived in the fire truck and received requests from children (and some adults) as he handed out bags of lollies.



TONGAN VOLCANIC ERUPTION

Of course, we have heard since, very sad news of the underwater volcanic eruption near Tonga on 14th /15th January 2022 which according to official reports, the resulting tsunami and volcanic ash has affected 84% of the population of Tonga. Hillwood Berries are endeavouring to ascertain what assistance is needed for the families of our Tongan's here at Hillwood and how to support that. They will be organising a fundraiser in the near future. Please keep an eye out on social media for details, on how you can assist.

HILLWOOD

RAGWORT RAID.

The HPA joined with Tamar NRM for their annual ragwort raid on Saturday January 22nd with numbers of this toxic weed greatly reduced from previous years. Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) is an upright plant that grows up to 1 m tall.

Each plant has numerous separate stems, and each rigid branched stem is greenish-purple in colour. The leaves are deeply lobed, ragged in appearance, dark green on top and lighter underneath. Ragwort flowers are daisy-like, about 1 cm across with bright yellow petals. Ragwort is poisonous to grazing animals with cattle, horses and pigs the most susceptible. Cross-bred sheep will eat ragwort without showing ill effects unless continually exposed to the plant in large quantities.

As some ragwort will flower later, we may have missed some, so keep your eyes peeled and pull, (bag and bin), if safe to do so. Remember, you will need owner's permission if on private land.

Alternatively contact HillwoodPA@outlook.com for more information.

Well done to the community for their diligence over many years working to help eradicate this weed.



HISTORY ROOM

The history room volunteers have now returned from their Christmas break and are continuing with their research on all things historic about Hillwood and surrounds. Our open day is planned for Saturday 26th February 2022 from 9:30am till 2pm. Covid restrictions will apply.

For further information, please contact Julie Airey 0408 275 539.

The next HPA General Meeting will be held on the 15th March 2022

Come along at 7pm at the Hillwood War Memorial Hall and help make things happen.



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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

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