



Smoke Signals

Dilston Windermere Swan Bay Newsletter

We're on the web

<http://www.winderdoon.com/community/smokesignals.htm>

Issue 166

October 2010

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Without the Fibre we are Forgotten

A meeting of 30 people comprising residents and Launceston City Councillors at Dilston this week learned that under current plans, the NBN (National Broadband Network) will not service the district with 'fibre to the home' (ftth). The fibre option connects as 100mbps (100 times faster than those lucky enough now to be able to connect to ADSL1 broadband). This will severely limit the options available to most residents in the medium to long-term future.

The meeting was informed by reliable residential sources who work closely with the current proposals, that the Tamar Valley Region will be severely limited in its appeal to residents that see broadband as essential a service as water or power. It will severely hamper our ability to attract and grow small business, and access future government, education or health services. At present there is no apparent mechanism available to change the current Tasmania's NBN rollout plans.

Even though it is less than 5km from UTAS Campus and Newnham that will be connected in Stage 2, Dilston will have to wait until Stage 4 or 5 of the NB rollout (after 2014) and then only receive a wireless solution that can connect at a maximum speeds a tenth of the fibre cable option. Because Dilston is not being connected this means the sister suburbs further north (Windermere, Swan Bay and Hillwood) will not have fibre. While the wireless signal offers promise it is much like the mobile phone signal and has all the black spot and drop out problems residents in this district know so well. This is inadequate if the government's plans to phase out copper cables and replace it with the NBN as the only way our home or business telephones and internet can connect to the world.

Nor are there any plans as to what and how the wireless solution will be configured or copper phone lines phased out. If it is done using proposed solutions two immediate problems look likely: the system does not permit businesses with local servers to run standard business functions and when the power goes off (a problem we all know too well) so does the system. In the case of a medical emergency how do we all connect to the world with no copper cable, limited or no mobile phone coverage and no NBN? Would you locate a family or grow a business in a region with such an uncertain connection to what is supposed to be the digital world?

Even on the West Tamar, where it has been advertised that NBN will be provided under Stage 2, homes and significant businesses further than 200 metres from the proposed fibre cable route have been told they will have to use wireless "when it is available".

This brings to question the integrity of the Federal and State Government promises to provide a NBN service that will be affordable, accessible and provide universal service to all Australians. The service apparently is selective and biased to metropolitan regions through a focus on population density not demand or need.

Political Pressure on government seems our only option to change this ridiculous lack of foresight. **Continued P.5**

*Windermere
Corner Café*

6328 1335

TGIF

Launch of a new Summer event

FRIDAYS

5-7PM

**Relax unwind, catch up with
neighbours and friends**

**Enjoy a glass of wine or beer
& nibbles**

Also See Page 6 for Wine Trivia

Garden Club News by Ros Ryan

Fourteen members gathered at the home of Val & Max Jansson for our September get together.

The weather was fine and we were able to sit outside and enjoy a great lunch. We also enjoyed the company of their 2 very sociable grandchildren.

Our walk around the garden saw spring bulbs such as Heliboris and a good variety of Daffodils all in flower.

A garden of David Austin roses all with healthy new growth was a feature.

Colourful and large Camelia bushes and a beautiful Magnolia tree were all in flower.

Max has been busy mulching the gardens.

Also spotted was a small garden of salad greens under a cover and looking very healthy.

Thank you Val & Max for a great day.

Maureen & Rob McLaine hosted our October meeting which was attended by 28 people.

A sumptuous lunch followed by a tour of the garden and hothouse was enjoyed by all.

Maureen is a keen propagator of vegetable seedlings and had 15 varieties of tomatoes ready to transplant in early November. Over the years Maureen has keenly observed which varieties do best in her particular microclimate.

We were most impressed with her dedication. Thank you Maureen & Rob.

Forthcoming Meetings:

November: Margaret & Jon Hosford

December: Christmas Lunch Ros and Noel Ryan.

All are welcome. Come along and join the club. Please ring President Ros. 63281566



A flower of *Heliboris* x *hybridus* with olive-green nectaries visible behind the stamens

Copy For NEXT ISSUE

Due

Friday November 19th

For publication first week in December.

Email address: smokesignals@bigpond.com

Or mail to:

454 Windermere Rd. Windermere 7252

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN SMOKE SIGNALS?

1/6 Page \$17.00

1/12 Page \$9.00

book an ad in four issues and save:

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Small Classifieds, Wanted to sell, etc \$5 (one insertion)

Community Notices and Fund Raising Notices are Free !!

Advertisements must be accompanied by full name, address and should state the number of editions that it is to appear in.

Leave advertising copy at the Windermere Store or email to:

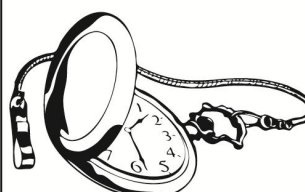
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<http://www.winderdoon.com/unity/smokesignals.htm>

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6PM TO 8PM

Friday & Saturday nights- full counter meals 6pm to 8pm

Sundays- 5pm to 8pm

Pizzas& jacket potatoes eat in or take away

This Cafe



Lyndel & Max Rawlings
would love to catch up with friends from

Dilston/Windermere/Swan Bay

if you are in town.

Come and see us for a coffee and a chat

At our new business in George Street.

Opposite Barratt's Music.

FIRE BRIGADE NEWS by Rob Montague

The lighting of fires outdoors for rubbish disposal still appears to present some confusion to residents.

The lighting of fires at any time of the year is now controlled by Launceston City Council and residents must seek a permit from the Council to gain an exemption from the by-law for the purpose of burning AT ALL TIMES.

In addition to this:

A **Permit Period** is determined by fire weather conditions, usually anytime between October and April and is put in place by the TASMANIA FIRE SERVICE to encourage land owners to burn VEGETATION ONLY responsibly and in a regulated way as determined by conditions applied by the permit officer. In the Launceston Council area FIRE PERMITS override the council by-law, but property owners must also seek a permit from the council to gain an exemption from the by-law. Please

note that the word BAN only refers to a day of 'TOTAL FIRE BAN' which may only occur three or four day's or so a year. For a copy of the by-law see:

<http://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/lcc/index.php?c=176>

Rob Montague
BC Dilston
0417 554 269



Brigade Contacts:

Rob Montague
Jason Hingston
Neville Jolly
Mob 0417 540230

6328 1336 (h)
Mob 0407392457
6326 5860 (h)

Summer is Coming *with* Dr. Don

I think we all breathe a sigh of relief with the warmer weather and the re invigoration of our gardens. It's time also to think about your body as we prepare to enjoy what most likely will be a long hot summer.

Are you over weight ? Perhaps the best indicator of this is whether you have needed to update your wardrobe in the last six months. Exercise and eating less of every thing is a good start. A walk after the evening meal is a great way to lose weight and

to meet your neighbours.

Do you have any moles changing size or colour ? These should be checked. Also any skin sores that don't heal with a week or two should be checked.

Avoid excessive exposure to the sun between 12 noon and 3pm. At other times let your body absorb that ever important vitamin D. Adequate vitamin D is important in preventing a range of disease: type 2 diabetes; heart diseases ; osteoporosis and various cancers, breast and prostate to name two. In Tasmania low levels of vitamin D are very common, so as well as adequate sunlight a supplement may help to keep you well. (vitamin D levels can be monitored with a blood test)

Avoid dehydration, drink enough plain water to ensure you are passing urine at least every two hours.

Brian Wightman MHA, Labor member for Bass.



Smokesignals acknowledges the contribution and support of

Brian Wightman, MHA in the printing of this newsletter.

Community Contacts - *FIRE:000*

Dilston Hall: 6328 1348
St. Matthias Church:

6328 1209

Playgroup: 6328 1196

Garden Club: 63281566
CWA: 6328 1257
Book Discussion Group: 6328 1231

Bird Watching: 6328 1163

Native Animal Rescue
Lorraine De Weys 63263502

FIRE BRIGADE OFFICERS

Rob Montague 6394 8377 (w)

6328 1336 (h)

Jason Hingston Mob 0407392457

Neville Jolly 6326 5860 (h)

Mob 0417 540230

David Lake Mob 0438 075 534

Dr Don Hempton

The Windermere GP

Is available for consults,
Strictly by appointment

Ring 6328 1560



Nature Notes—Jon Hosford



Courting Intermediate Egrets

Photo: Arnold Faulks

Returning to Tasmania after 2 months in Queensland and 1 month travelling outback South Australia and the Fleurieu Peninsula, I have managed to see a very beautiful refreshment of parched dry lands being brought back into life after 10 years of extreme summers and little rain over winters.

In south eastern Queensland, the sheep and cattle are grazing on Mitchell grass and the introduced Buffle grass, that was a metre high in August. The yearling lambs and cattle are the best I have ever seen and unfortunately for us, are bringing huge prices at the market. Graziers are finally having a bonus year.

On The Fleurieu Peninsula I saw sheep stocked at 6 /acre.

The wildlife is also very healthy and bird populations are building up

again in the Murray catchment after the great rains there this winter.

I was privileged to be in the Coorong at the mouth of The Murray River when water was released through the barrages for the first time in 10 years.

The Pelicans were having a great time gorging themselves on the fish coming through with the fresh water, and undoubtedly this will bring new life to a very sick Coorong.

This has been a rare year for mainland Australia and unlikely to be a regular occurrence. The extremes of weather will most likely dictate the fortunes of mainland farmers and who knows when the next wet year will be.

We are indeed fortunate in Tasmania, to live in the wettest area of a dry continent. We have yet to suffer any

water restrictions in Launceston— a rare occurrence in Australia over at least the past 5 years.

Talk of a Tasmanian food bowl for Australia is a great idea IF we can learn the lessons of judicious water allocation from the mistakes of those in the Murray Valley.

The environment MUST come first in its water needs if we are not to suffer the same fate as those on the mainland. Rivers MUST flow regularly, and floods, when they occur, must be sustained, so that the natural systems can respond appropriately to evolutionary time-lines and not to those of Man all the time.

Water is too easily taken for granted. We must share it prudently with our native flora and fauna.

Genuine buyers looking...

Buyer A. Young lady has just sold her home & is looking for a house with land (minimum 8 acres) for horses up to \$350k in the East Tamar Valley region, or alternatively 10 plus acres of pasture so she can build a cabin. Up to \$250k.

Buyer B. Local guy here from W.A. looking for a neat home on small block up to \$350k. Private area - shift worker. Cash Buyer.

Buyer C. Cash buyers here in Tassie looking for a nice house on approx 4-20 acres land. 4 bedrooms & good garaging. Windermere, Dilston, Swan Bay & Hillwood areas. Up to 30 mins from CBD. Up to \$550k.

Buyer D. Local young retirees looking to downsize from larger farm. Looking for well presented 3 bedroom home. 2 bathrooms. Good sheds. On minimum 10 acres land. Have cattle. Likes East Tamar areas Up to \$550k.

Your local residing agent

Sharon Fahey 0409 188 249

&

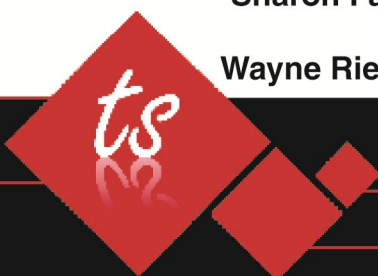
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What in the Wetlands is Gambusia??

By Grant Scurr Gambusia Project Manager , Tamar NRM

Gambusia is a small pest fish from Northern Mexico and Southern USA which has been introduced to Tasmania. Gambusia were given the misleading name 'mosquito fish' about 100 years ago. Since then they have been spread around the world. Unfortunately Gambusia do not eat significant numbers of mosquito larvae and are actually less effective for controlling mosquitoes than native fish.

Gambusia cause several problems in Tasmania. They breed in huge numbers from late spring to mid autumn (1,000,000 fish can result from a single pregnant female and her offspring in one breeding season). This causes intense competition for food and habitat for our native tadpoles and fish at sites in Windermere wetlands and places in the West Tamar like Tamar Island Wetlands.

Tamar Natural Resource Management (Tamar NRM) has been conducting a Gambusia control and awareness project since 2006. Recently, research and development of traps for Gambusia in conjunction with the Australian Maritime College (AMC) has produced effective traps that use light to attract the fish. This has been of critical importance as hand netting was the only control method available for Gambusia in most natural waterways. These traps are a world first and have attracted interest from the Murray Darling Basin Authority,

Sydney Olympic Park Management Authority and several other groups interstate. Traps are serviced two to three times a week and hand netting as often as possible. We always need more volunteers, so for more information or to volunteer your services, please ring Tamar NRM on 6323-3310 or email Grant.Scurr@launceston.tas.gov.au



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SOLD

From Page 1.... National Broadband Network

How can you make a difference on this issue?

Write/email your local politicians:

Federal Bass: Geoff Lyons

Geoff.lyons@hotmail.com

State Labor Bass: Brian Wightman

brian.wightman@parliament.tas.gov.au

State Liberal Bass: Michael Ferguson

michael.ferguson@parliament.tas.gov.au

Let Smokesignals know if you wish to be kept informed
on this local NBN issue by emailing :

smokesignals@bigpond.com

Community News & Forthcoming Events

CAR BOOT SALE

AT THE DILSTON WAR MEMORIAL HALL

to be held on **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 13TH**

8.30am till 1.30pm

If you would like to take part in the car boot sale as a seller ring Patricia on 63281384 or Pat on 632 8 1348

The Hall Committee welcomes all residents to come along and see what's on offer. Enjoy morning tea or have a sausage straight from the Barbecue cooked as you like it. Sausage sizzle will be going all morning.

A selection of hand made cards made by local ladies will be for sale.

Come along and buy your Christmas cards or special event card.



Are there any men interested in starting a mens shed in the Dilston, Windermere, Swan Bay area?

We are hoping to gain some indication of interest from you about starting a Shed in our area.

If you are unsure of what a mens shed is about have a look at www.mensheds.com.au

Why not give us a ring and let us know you are interested, if we get enough we will set up a meeting to discuss it and hopefully start the ball rolling.!!!

Jeff Wynne 6328 1544

Neil McLelland 6328 1215

Thank you Geoff & Christine Peck

Geoff and Christine Peck have been long-time members of the Smokesignals team by delivering the newsletter to residents in Los Angelos Road and the new estate.

They are leaving the district after selling their home "Lioevilo" in Windermere Road.

Thank you Geoff & Christine, we have appreciated your help. Keep in touch.

Thank you

To The community of Dilston, Windermere and Swan Bay who have been so supportive during our recent emergency. Thank you for your generous visits and best wishes.

Thanks also to the RSDS who flew Peter to Hobart. We would have found it very difficult without our family friends and the feeling of belonging from the people of the area.

Peter and Wendy Doyle.

Native Point

Wine Trivia Evening

Due to popular demand

Saturday November 27th

7pm

Windermere Corner Café

Mark the calendar and book your table for a fun evening with food & wine pairing

Windermere Corner Café

Phone: 6328 1335



Repairs to the Jetty

Launceston City Council is currently undertaking repairs to the jetty at Windermere. Tasspan contractors were busy at work on the jetty at low tide to replace sections of the handrail and adjoining planks to ensure that the jetty remains safe for public use.

The jetty is a popular place for anglers, who catch cod, mullet and occasionally salmon from the jetty as well as the adjacent pontoon.

TASSPAN crane at low tide this week facilitating repairs to the jetty.



From The Past....

The Mercury

My daughter in law found this article about the Swan Bay school and I thought you may think it worth publishing in Smoke Signals.

to was at Cecil Medwins, up on the Highway where Barbara Lees now lives.

East Tamar School circa 1930

Cecil was the eldest son of David Medwin of Woodlawn.

Lalla Smethurst

SWAN BAY.

The Swan Bay (East Tamar) State School children trained by their teacher, Miss Ellwood, held a successful concert last week in the large new apple house loaned for the occasion by Mr. C. Medwin, George Town Road. Councillor E. Archer, Burnside, was in the chair. Mrs. Archer was presented with a dainty bouquet of pink carnations by little Margaret Williamson, the youngest scholar in the school. At the conclusion of the concert a dance organised by the Swan Bay Parents and Friends' Association was enjoyed. The music was provided by Mrs. Killalea (piano), Mr. Rosevears (violin), and Mr. G. Willis (drums). Mr. Watts was M.C. A refreshment stall conducted by Mesdames H. Taylor, C. Medwin, G. Williamson, and Miss J. Taylor, did a flourishing trade, and a coffee supper was provided by members of the committee. The gross takings amounted to £13 12s.

From The Mercury.... 14th December 1934

The School was situated where "Cricketswood is now, just along from where I grew up near Woodlawn turn off. The Margaret Williamson mentioned was my older sister. Margaret passed away 3 years ago. The Mrs G. Williamson was my Mother and the Mrs H. Taylor lived were Rob and Maureen McLaine live now.

The school burnt down in the early 1930's before I was born. The Apple shed referred



Contact Smokesignals

smokesignals@bigpond.com.au

With articles or suggestions for articles of local interest.

**ST MATTHIAS
WINDERMERE**



**HOLY TRINITY
LAUNCESTON**

THE CONGREGATIONS OF
St Matthias, Windermere
And

ST MATTHIAS

2nd and 4th Sundays each month
10:30 am Eucharist

HOLY TRINITY

Monday **12:15 pm Eucharist**

Tuesday **12:15 pm Eucharist**

Wednesday **10:30 am Eucharist**

Thursday **12:15 pm Eucharist**

ALL SAINTS' EVE SUNDAY OCTOBER 31

At 6:00 pm on October 31 **WE INVITE ALL IN OUR COMMUNITY** to join us at St Matthias Church Windermere for a BBQ and special service to celebrate the lives of family and friends who have died, and to light a candle in their memory. (Meat provided, bring a salad to share)

Further details contact Sue Speed 63281209

'All Hallows' now more commonly called 'All Saints' Day' is celebrated on 1 November in honour of all the saints, known and unknown.

In terms of Christian theology, the day commemorates "The Communion of Saints". Christian denominations celebrate the Solemnity of 'All Hallows' because of the fundamental belief that there is a spiritual communion between living Christians and those who have died in the faith. Just as "Halloween:" is a corruption of the name "All Hallows Eve" so the stories of witches and ghosts are a corruption of the beautiful Christian practice of lighting a candle on the eve of 'All Hallows' to remember the faithful Christians who have helped to shape our faith.

QUIET DAY AT ST MATTHIAS

SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER: 10:00 am—2:00 pm

We had our first 'Quiet Day' at St Matthias about 2 years ago. I went along not really knowing what to expect. What I found was an unexpected 'experience'. In our busy, everyday lives, how often do we stop, listen and think quietly? - meditate if you like. I came away in the afternoon thoroughly refreshed and feeling that I had actually "accomplished something" or "sorted through something that had been bothering me" that day.

Archdeacon Robert McKay will be the leader of the day. It is a thoughtful experience and anyone who would like to join us would be most welcome. Bring along something for yourself to eat at lunch, coffee/tea available. Sue Speed

SERVICE AT HOLY TRINITY: DEFENCE SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER

A Church Service to commemorate Defence Sunday at Holy Trinity, Cameron St, 10:30 am. All relatives and friends of members of the Defence Forces of Australia are invited to join in the service to help mark this day. If you would further information please contact S Speed 6328 1209,