



# Smoke Signals

East Tamar Newsletter

We're on the web

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

## Managing Maatsuyker



wide at its widest point and covers 180 hectares. Its highest point is 300metres above sea level. The island is part of the south west National Park, Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. It has a variety of flora and fauna, and is unique in that it is the location of Australia's most southerly lighthouse.

David and Wendy replied to an advertisement in the paper and after being shortlisted, their chance to undertake this adventure was brought forward when the couple who had been chosen, was unable to accept the assignment at short notice. After a three day crash course in weather observation and cloud identification, the couple was flown onto the island from Cockle Creek on September 8th by a Parks and Wildlife contracted helicopter along with provisions for 6mths. Total weight in addition to passengers was limited to 750kg to be carried in a "squirrel" underneath the helicopter.

"It's been a real experienced in basic living, but what we expected", David said when Smokesignals spoke to him on the phone recently. "We have no heating, so planning for warmth is a significant exercise each day.

The day's routine commences at 5:30 am , when no matter what the weather, an 0600 hrs reading needs to be collected from the island's weather station . "We take readings from the weather station at 0600 , 0900 and 1500 each day and report these readings to BOM. You can see the cloud formations out to sea that advertise the fronts moving across Tasmania, so our training has helped us to recognise basic weather patterns."

Continued on Page 2...

Have you ever wondered where the daily regional weather reports come from and what it would be like to live and work in an isolated part of Tasmania without the comforts of modern living we so readily take for granted?

Wendy and Dennis Milne, local residents of Windermere Road, accepted the challenge to volunteer and live on Maatsuyker Island for 6 months, maintaining grounds & equipment , to monitor and report weather details 3 times per day to the Bureau of Meteorology.

Maatsuyker Island is located approximately 10 km off the south coast of Tasmania and is the second largest island in the Maatsuyker Group. It is 3 km long and 1.5 km

Issue 193

October 2014

### Inside this issue

Your Health	Page 3
Church News	Page 4
Community News	Page 5
Fire Brigade News	Page 7-8
Community Advertising	Pages 10
Birds of The Tamar	Page 11
Hillwood News	Page 11
MOVEMBER	Page 12

Windermere

Corner Café

6328 1335

Mon-Thurs 7:30—5:30pm

Fri—TGIF as usual

A range of Tasmanian wines, beers  
& spirits are available

Kitchen closes 7:30pm

Sat-8:00—4:30pm

All your basic essentials .

Licensed to sell Tasmanian produced and  
owned alcohol.

Try our Take Home Meals

Available Mon-Fri

Phone for your order

There is no heating in the lightkeeper's house and electricity supply is a diesel powered generator. There is no timber on the island as early settlers harvested this long ago, so heating is dressing to the conditions.

Food supplies are very limited. Growing vegetables is undertaken by the volunteer couple living on the island and this is very fickle, as severe winds often frustrate efforts to bring crops to maturity.

"The Broadbean crop was destroyed by the 175km /h winds in late July", Wendy said, when asked about the vegetables she was growing. I brought plenty of seed with me, but how it grows will depend on what weather we get before it matures."

Daily work is diverse and chores include weather readings and reports 3 times per day, maintaining the lighthouse as a warning for passing ships, mowing the airstrip on the island and maintaining the buildings.

Apart from the regular daily workload, they both have time to admire the stunning views across the Southern Ocean and to the South Coast.

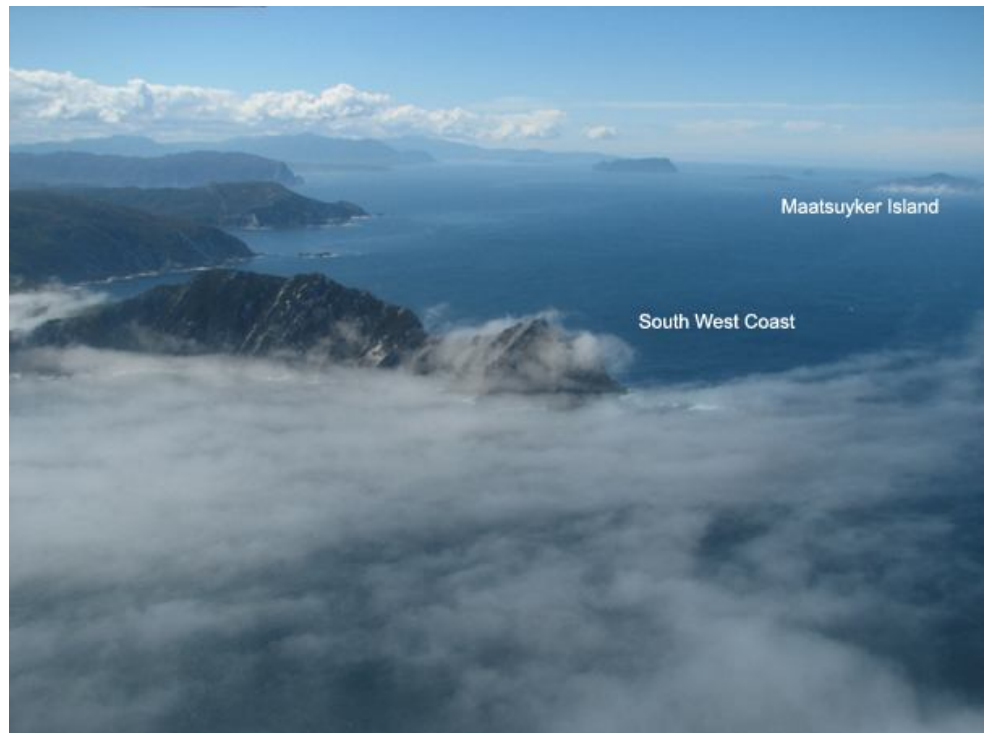
"It's a tranquil and beautiful place to live. Things happen every day that make you aware that this is a special place.

I came across a pigeon on the track a couple of days ago. It appeared weak and it wanted to follow me into the lighthouse looking for food. We tried to feed it and noticed it had a band on its leg with a phone number."

After phoning the number, David learned that the bird had been released from Hamilton (Victoria) and had obviously been swept southward by the strong north westerly winds. Unfortunately the bird did not recover from its long diversion south.

The island ecosystem is monitored by Parks and Wildlife Tasmania together with the volunteer group Friends of Maatsuyker. The group sends parties to the island regularly to assist with building maintenance, weed control and monitoring of the significant colony of Short-tailed Shearwater (Muttonbird) breeding on the island.

Makes life in the East Tamar sound rather civilised doesn't it? No doubt they will enjoy the comforts of home at Windermere when they return in February.



## The Mail Must Go Through

**East Tamar Residents**, please spare a thought for our new postie Sally.

Since the little red car of John Taylor stopped being seen in the district because of The Taylors retirement, a new contract for mail delivery in Dilston Swan Bay and Windermere has been negotiated by Australia Post.

John and Jenny knew all of the residents and even managed to deliver mail when there was no obvious letter box in which to place mail.

It is a steep learning curve for Sally our new postie. She works by herself and so delivery times have changed for your area. She also does not know the local residents but she is learning fast.

It is particularly difficult when properties don't have letterboxes that are easily accessible or even, in some cases, any letter box at all.

Sally works in conjunction with The Windermere Corner Café on parcel deliveries and will leave a card in your letter box if a parcel has been received for your address.

Parcels are usually available for collection at the store after 4pm on the day the card first appears in you

letter box.

Kerry Schoeffel has reported to Smokesignals that there is a quantity of mail that has been unable to be delivered recently as Sally is unable to find a letterbox.

If you have not been receiving mail you have expected, you might ask at the store.

Naturally this mail cannot be held for long before being returned as undeliverable.

Please give our new postie a smile, a wave and a fair go to do her job by making your letter box accessible.



# ***Your Health....How Your Diet Can Help Wound Healing***

## **by Dr. Heidi Dreiling**

Without good nutrition the whole process of wound healing can be negatively impacted. Your diet during recovery plays a critical role in how fast your wound heals, how strong the wound tissue becomes, the duration of the recovery period and how well your body fights off infection. A poor diet can turn a normal wound into a chronic wound that may never seem to heal.

### **Protein**

Protein helps repair the damaged tissue. You'll want to take in more protein than usual to help the healing process. This means 2 to 3 servings of protein a day, with each serving containing at least 2 to 3 serves of meat (1 cup of beans or 2 tablespoons of peanut butter are alternatives).

### **Fats**

Fats from dairy products are essential for wound healing. Cell membranes are created with the use of fatty acids. Cooking oils and meats are also a good source of fats. One cup of milk or yogurt or a serve of cheese would be good examples of how much you should include in your daily diet during the healing process.

### **Carbohydrates**

Taking in plenty of carbohydrates is essential, to prevent the body from using other nutrients and protein for energy. Cereals, breads, rice and pasta are good sources of energy.



wound healing. It can help fight off infection, and aids in controlling the inflammatory response. Red fruits and vegetables, eggs, fish and dark green vegetables are all good sources of vitamin A.

### **Vitamin C**

Vitamin C is an important antioxidant for wound healing. It increases the strength of the wound as it heals, and it helps with the creation of collagen in the skin. Vitamin C is also important in the creation of new blood vessels, and it helps with iron absorption. Citrus fruits and leafy green vegetables are great sources of vitamin C. You should be taking in up to 200 mg of vitamin C daily, which is fairly easy with at least one serving of these foods per day.

### **Vitamin A**

Vitamin A is another crucial antioxidant. The body needs additional vitamin A to help with

### **Zinc**

Zinc helps the body synthesize proteins and develop collagen, so it is an important mineral for wound healing. As long as you are taking in sufficient amounts of protein from meats, you should be getting enough zinc in your diet. The level recommended by your doctor will vary from 15 to 50 mg per day.

A final note is needed to emphasize the importance of hydration for wound healing. Drink plenty of water and fluids throughout the healing process to help facilitate proper circulation and detoxification.

Newsletter printed by courtesy of

*Your local*

*Liberal member—standing up for Bass*

# **Michael Ferguson MP**

Web: [www.michaelferguson.com](http://www.michaelferguson.com)

Email: [michael.ferguson@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto: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



# ST MATTHIAS WINDERMERE



# HOLY TRINITY LAUNCESTON

## CHRISTENING OF TWINS AT ST MATTHIAS



Courtney Paige and Ashlea Jade (exactly 10 months of age) were baptised on Sunday 27th July at St Matthias, Windermere.

***Absolutely Beautiful and also VERY well behaved.*** What a treat and a pleasure it was. Their parents, Marc and Angela Davey of Dilston, were very proud parents. The twin girls were born on

September 27 2013. Their big brother, Layton James, was also baptised at St Matthias in 2010.



## SPECIAL SERVICE

### ALL SAINTS DAY - SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER

All Hallows, All Saints or, All Souls is an annual Christian celebration; a time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering and thanking God for the lives of our loved ones. ***It is especially important as a time for us to remember those whose lives have touched our own in faith and love.***

In our Church at Windermere we mark this time with a BBQ and a Special Evening Service where those who wish may light a memorial candle from the Easter candle in the church and process with them to the loved ones as a sign of remembrance and thanksgiving for their lives.

A performance of "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" will commence after the BBQ. This Elegy was written by Thomas Gray in 1751 and is especially appropriate for this Very Special Service.

***All are invited to join us on Saturday the 1st of November  
for this celebration***

BBQ at 6:00 pm

Presentation of "Elegy in  
Churchyard"

Service commences at 7:30 pm



### ST MATTHIAS' SERVICES

Sunday 12th October

10:30 am Eucharist Service

Sunday 26th October

10:30 am Eucharist Service

**SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER**

BBQ in Church Grounds

Presentation of "Elegy Written in a Country  
Courtyard and All Saints Day Service to follow

6:00 pm Start

Sunday 9th November 10:30 am Eucharist Service

### HOLY TRINITY SERVICES

Each Sunday:

**8:30 am Eucharist Service**

**10:30 am Sung Eucharist**

**5:30 pm Choral Evensong** (1st Sunday)

**Growing in Faith Together** (2nd Sunday)

**Taize Service** (3rd Sunday)

**Prayer at the end of the day** (4th Sunday)

No Service (5th Sunday)

## Local Dog Attacks A Concern for All

There are many advantages of living in a rural community, and most of us choose to do so because of the privacy and the serenity it affords us.

Unfortunately, from time to time, pets stray and infringe the rights of our neighbours .

Stray dogs can be difficult to deal with once they successfully learn how to control livestock such as sheep.

Smokesignals has recently received a request from a Swan Bay resident to publish a reminder about the responsibilities accompanying your right to keep dogs.

Unfortunately the resident had to destroy several sheep after a dog attack in the area in August this year.

This is most distressful for the farmer, the animals and most damaging for neighbourhood relations.

If your dog escapes from your property and bites a person or another animal, you will be liable for that action and subject to fines and possible damages claims. Further, the owner of livestock for farming purposes may destroy any cat or dog found at large in the place where their animals are confined or, if the animals are tethered, in the vicinity of such animals.

If your neighbour tells you that your animals have strayed and you do not go and collect them, the law allows your neighbour to keep your animals until you have paid for any damage that they have caused.

If you see animals straying away from private property, you should take action and report the matter.

From The Council's web pages.....

"The Council can assist residents if they have a problem with barking, attacking, straying or nuisance dogs. Not all complaints have a nasty ending, as compromise is reached on many occasions. Try approaching the owners of a nuisance dog and working the problem out together. You should also advise the owner of the dog that if the problem isn't fixed you will contact the Council's Animal Control Officer. For more information please call the Council's Customer Service Centre on 03 6323 3000. "

## River House

### The people's choice..

Congratulations to Helen and Carl Gledhill, proprietors of The River House accommodation in Rostella Rd , Dilston.

Helen and Carl were recently awarded the People's Choice award for the Northern region by the Tourism Council of Tasmania.



In previous years the business has been runner-up for this award on 2 occasions.

They are hopeful of an award at the State level which will be announced in November.

Good Luck! It is great to see local businesses prosper.

Visit the website and see what they offer for your visiting relatives.

[www.riverhouselaunceston.com.au](http://www.riverhouselaunceston.com.au)

## Open Gardens Australia

The garden of Carolyn and Wayne Riley at **325 Windermere Rd** will be featured by Open Gardens Australia on the weekend of November 1-2 from 10:00am –4:30.

"A lovely established garden on a steep site fronting The Tamar River. Thriving camellias azaleas, wisteria and natives form a canopy for woodland plantings of bulbs and perennials. Tranquil nooks overlooking views of the water. Small orchard and vegie patch on the river flats."

Entrance fees are \$8 with proceeds going to Rotary projects.

Carolyn and Wayne will have artists working in the garden and sausage sizzle will be available.

*Below: a section of The Riley garden.*





## Gardening—

### Garden Club Functions

Garden Club is held on the 2nd Friday of the month commencing at 12:00 noon. You are welcome to join us at the stated venues and to contribute to a shared meal.

**October 10th** Anna & Jonathan Waterhouse

472 Windermere Rd.

(finger food contributions please)

**November 14th** Jackie & Brian Ralph

Lot 7 Swan Bay Drive

**President:** Roz Ryan

**Phone:** 63281566

### Garden Notes for October November

#### Fruit Trees

##### Codling Moth in apples

Controlling Codling moth in apple trees requires a consistent and vigilant approach. Casual sprays or once-off solutions are not effective..

The life cycle of the codling moth is worth understanding to understand the timing of effective control.

Last year's pupae emerge from their cocoons after sheltering in the basal bark of trees and plant growth in the orchard at dusk or later when the temperature is 15 degrees or higher.

The female moths mate and lay their eggs on the skin of small growing fruit.

There can be up to three life cycles in a summer. The emerging caterpillars chew their way into the apple where they reside until they mature, at which time they chew their way out again.

##### White oil spray:

1 part of white oil: 50 parts of water-sprayed every 10 days from late September to November will smother eggs and prevent the caterpillars from emerging.

Wrapping corrugated cardboard coated with petroleum jelly around the base of the tree will attract and trap the emerging pupae. Replacing this at the end of summer and burning the old wrap will destroy any pupae present.

Apple trees usually set much more fruit than they can ripen, so pruning any fruit that you notice has an entry hole will help to control the successful population and allow the unblemished apples to grow larger.

#### Citrus

Citrus trees have shallow feeder roots that need protection with mulching (the mulch shouldn't touch the trunk) and feeding with citrus food and organic pellets throughout each season. Mature trees need two kilograms each of fertiliser and citrus food applied to the drip line each season. They can be fed right now with citrus food and again when the new fruit is set. Remove weeds and lawn from around the tree and then water the ground well.

To reduce weeds and to keep the soil moist, cover the area with a 5cm layer of organic mulch, compost or aged manure (or a mix of all three). Don't allow the mulch to build up around the trunk. It will potentially rot the trunk.

It is important to water citrus trees regularly, particularly while they are flowering and forming their fruit. Deeply watering trees once a week in spring and summer ensures a good crop.

Citrus leaf miner is a little insect that makes small tunnels in new leaves; deter them and a range of other insects, such as sooty mould, scale and mealy bug, by spraying fortnightly with Eco Oil from spring until autumn.

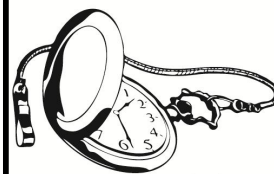
#### Vegetables

Vegetables that can be successfully sown from seed in October include Parsley, Carrots, Silver Beet, Beetroot, Spring Onions, Leeks, Lettuce, Radish, Spinach and Bok Choy. I find Perpetual is a reliable variety of Spinach which does not easily run to seed when the weather warms. This can be sown, or seedlings can be successfully established in the cooler weather of Spring in Tasmania.

Mix carrot seed with sand and apply with a plastic drink bottle into shallow furrows. Then draw the soil over the seed with your thumb and forefinger. It is essential to keep the soil moist until

## Windermere Watches

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



Jeff Wynne  
0417 843 943  
or 6328 1544

[www.windermerewatches.com.au](http://www.windermerewatches.com.au)

## Signal Station Tavern

Bar, Lounge & Duncan's

**Bottleshop** competitive prices

Thursday night specials

\$10

6PM TO 8PM

Choice of 4 different meals

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

the seed germinates in about 10 days.

#### Tomatoes

It is usually too early to put tomatoes in the open ground without protection until early November. Those planted earlier than this can succumb to frost and those planted later will catch up in warmer conditions so that you will have fruit in mid-late January. To get fruit before this in Tasmania requires a controlled environment as tomatoes will not ripen until the nights are warm.

Feed your vegetables with a fertiliser that has an NPK of about

Nitrogen (N) 3-5

Phosphorus (P) 3-5

Potassium (K) 0.8-1.5%

Dynamic Lifter Organic Plant Food is available in 7 kg bags It is ideal for vegetables, and an economical way to buy fertiliser.



## Tasmania Fire Service

# DILSTON FIRE BRIGADE

### What a Weather Change!

From the floods and wild wet weather as reported in the last issue of Smoke Signals, there has been a significant change in the local climate with a day of Total Fire Ban declared for the southern region of the state as this contribution is written.

And what a day it was! Our TFS colleagues in and around Hobart, as well as down the channel were inundated with multiple vegetation fire call outs. In fact in the space of less than 24 hours there have been well over 60 fires attended to, AND IT IS STILL SEPTEMBER!!!!

Given the predicted conditions the Tasmania Fire Service had prepositioned crews on standby and as a result most of the fires were brought under control in a relatively short time. But we cannot disregard just how easily fires started at a time where we don't normally see much fire activity.

So what does this mean?!!!

We all need to start preparing for the fire season NOW!

This means creating a defensible space around your property.

This means cleaning up garden waste and clearing away underbrush that could fuel a fire.

This means clearing out the guttering and ensuring the eaves and balconies are protected from ember attack.

Do all your hoses and nozzles work? Do you feel confident that you can protect your property should fire endanger it?!

One particular residence of Kingston in the south undertook hazard clearing and cleaning from around their property YESTERDAY and TODAY a fire came within metres of their house. But the clear ground they had created meant that they along with fire crews were able to relatively easily defend their property, even in the face of 100+ kph winds!

**WE CAN HELP!**

We are more than happy to provide advice and in select cases assistance in preparing your property for the coming fire season. PLEASE take heed of our advice and don't hesitate to get in contact with us for help and advice!!

**NEW Members...**

We are pleased to report that we have started basic training with 4 new members and within a few short weeks they will be to a point where they can respond under supervision to incidents. BUT WE STILL NEED A FEW MORE.....PLEASE!!! A few more members will help us to replace those that have recently retired or relocated, and also reduce the workload on the rest of us!! Please consider coming along and giving us a chance to show you what being a volunteer firefighter is all about!

#### Brigade Contacts

Paul Blakie	0417 592 424
Neville Jolly	0417 540 230
Jason Hingston	0439 771 156
Raoul Stow	0417 351 423

#### **NEW STATION...**

We have completed the relocation process and although we still have quite a bit of sorting out to do, we are fully operational out of the new station just along from and opposite the Windermere Corner Store. If you see the doors open please feel free to come in and have a look.

#### **Group Exercise...**

As reported last issue Dilston Brigade took part in a multi brigade group exercise recently based out of Karoola Fire Station. We were even lucky (!) to be featured on WIN TV News but of course the focus was on a range of incidents and exercises aimed at honing and applying skills learned. Dilston Fire Brigade acquitted ourselves very well which is a credit to all the members for all the hard work put in on training days and evenings.



[www.facebook.com/DilstonFireBrigade](http://www.facebook.com/DilstonFireBrigade)





## FACT SHEET

# EMERGENCY KITS

Emergency kits consist of all the things you will need to perform the actions in your Bushfire Survival Plan. You won't know exactly what should be in your kit until your preparation work is done and your plan is written.

**Emergency kits should be prepared before the fire season.**

The best emergency kit is one that can be used for all hazards – not just bushfires.

**If you need a simple Emergency Kit, consider the following items.**

- What you need to help survive the day of a bushfire;
- What to take with you to safety;
- What you need for up to four days following a fire.

- Special requirements for infants, elderly, injured, or those with disabilities
- Important documents (eg Insurance papers, wills, passports), valuables and photos
- Drinking water (three litres per person per day) and food for at least 48 hours
- A change of clothes for everyone
- Mobile phone & charger
- Blankets
- Children's toys

**General Items:**

- Battery powered AM/FM radio plus spare batteries
- Waterproof torch
- Woolen blankets
- Clothing to protect you during a bushfire (see below)
- First aid kit with manual
- A can opener
- Emergency contact numbers

**Before you leave, add:**

- Money, key cards and credit cards
- Medications, toiletries and sanitary supplies

**For your pets**

- Basket/cage/leash
- Medications, food, drinking water and bowls
- Familiar item (toy, bed, treats) to help reduce stress

**You should keep your Emergency Kit/s in waterproof storage containers in a location that is easy to get to and that the whole family knows about.**

For greater preparation, think about creating a survival kit, a relocation kit and a recovery kit.

- A **SURVIVAL KIT** contains everything you need around your home, for example, the clothes you will wear and the tools needed to prepare your home. This kit is needed if you are going to stay and defend your property, and most of its contents could also be used if you plan to leave your home early.
- A **RELOCATION KIT** contains all the things of personal and practical value that you want to relocate to a safe place.
- A **RECOVERY KIT** contains the things you will need to survive in reasonable comfort in the 24 to 48 hours after a bushfire, until normal community services start again.

**Know YOUR bushfire risk**  
**Make a plan**



Have you got a copy of these publications from the TFS? If not, contact the brigade and we can get one to you!

The TFS YouTube page is loaded with good advice for the community in the lead up to the approaching fire season. We encourage you all to take a look and become informed and educated in how you can make a difference!

[www.youtube.com/TasmaniaFireService](http://www.youtube.com/TasmaniaFireService)



## OLD CHOOK\* RETIREMENT SOLUTION

by

Dr Buck Emberg

\*'Chook' is Australian slang for 'chicken'.



The therapy sessions grew in intensity and numbers as the percentage of my aged patients swelled. In my professional years as a counsellor there was a thorny problem which seemingly had no solution to old age...except die as swiftly as possible. What do normal families **do** with old, worn out, tired, difficult, useless, crabby, expensive, flatulent...and boring parents?

"Oh, don't misunderstand us, of course we love Mum and Dad," the concerned counselees always responded quickly as they warmed to the topic of their problematic 'aged parents', "it is just that...well, they are getting so...so...redundant. (What I think they meant was 'unnecessary'.) "We cannot even plan a decent holiday because one of us has to check on them...and...and they are getting so forgetful. We have to put their pills in boxes so they don't forget...and **then** we need to call to see if they took their damn medicines on time. Dad is 84 and Mum is 82 and they look like they will hang on for a number of years yet. We are at wit's end." Such confessions were unacknowledged as deep guilt frequently masked, peppered and flavoured their adult dialogue. My counselling task was to simply help alleviate the children's 'wickedness' and their concealed irritations that old Mum and Dad had become an age issue. Then the bomb was often dropped. Their parents lived on government pensions. Somehow, parents being 'pensioned' was a burden and shame by itself.

Remembered are the tears of guilt, chewing of lips and the red faces of embarrassment as the 'offended' counselees recited the problems of caring for their old...really old...parents.

For a bit of background Joan and I have spent the best parts of our lives living on small properties in rural settings, mostly in Tasmania and sometimes in countries like Mexico or The Marshall Islands. We even lived in rural Germany by choice. Our best moments were in our handmade mud mansion in the Australian bush.

The paramount kindnesses of living rustic were the farm animals: goats, milking cows, geese, turkeys and the myriad of wild animals who cohabited

our properties and became common; but especially, the chickens. Chickens, the egg-laying kind, are what we learned to see were really **unvarnished** and natural humans. Over the years we perhaps lived with a thousand or so. Chooks have no pretence about stealing food from each other, they always fight for advantages of any kind be it sleeping or bathing or scratching in the gardens. Their basic morality is '**me**', just like many humans. When one of theirs dies they wait and eat the growing and gathering maggots. They are extreme environmentalists as nothing is left of any value. Chooks find the weakest of the flock and pick on her in order to be closer to Top Chook. Top Chook is invariably ruthless, mean and imperious; sort of the Chairperson of the Board whose top spot on the roosting limb is zealously guarded. Some chooks strut in self-importance, some wish to be left alone and find another place to roost away from the tribe. Others like to just 'hang around' the corner drug store and eat what they can and watch the parade. They are so human-like and comical as they unknowingly act like an important feathered society! Being totally self-interested, their actions reflect not only the chook-condition of the barnyard but imitate the life and style of humans.

**And** chooks are generous, just like some humans. After they have finished their cute baby period, they move through the large-knuckle period of teen-ages, then **they lay eggs**. At first, even their eggs are small and cute. Then they get serious and give big eggs...**daily!** Now they are paying their way in the barnyard world. They are earning their keep and helping to support the old retired chooks who just laze around and dust-bathe in the sunshine, eating the grains, pellets and hand-outs given freely to them in their retirement. Mind you, they are not as successful in pushing the young chooks around when the wheat is scattered.

Enter **Sweet Joan's Old Chook Philosophy**. Being grandmother of about twenty grandkids she observed many years ago, when we were confronted with dozens of excess (read 'old') chooks invading our small farm, "I cannot kill the old girls...no one killed

me when I quit laying eggs!" With such a brilliant and undeniably accurate bit of homespun belief, we looked for a solution and discovered an old chook farm where the farmer allowed chook retirees to wander till they dropped. His reward was their droppings. He shovelled, bagged and sold the excreta at the local market. Maggots were sold as fish bait. Good solution. The oldies paid their way during **and after** retirement! This could become a model for government fiscal policies!

I return to the chicken flock. There are three possible methods to solve the problem of what to do with aged chooks, and by inference, people. First, we just put them out into a corner of the chook yard and let nature take its course by sheer misadventure but keep up the water to them. In human terms we see this already taking place by the location of many aged-care facilities which are put at the end of the bus line or in small villages with poor infrastructure and meagre hospitals. Who knows the old chooks are even there? We become invisible! Secondly, before they get too stringy, the old chooks can be euthanized and used on Turkish kabobs. Unfortunately, there is only one human correlation I can imagine for this garrotting exploit. That is to have grandma and grandpa babysit while both parents grind on to pay huge mortgage payments. Second generation babysitting is evisceration. Thirdly, let the old chooks stay in the chook yard where they can dust bathe, eat bugs and grass and generally enjoy the last part of their formerly productive lives. Bits of kitchen scraps can be given to them when they get too hungry and there are always extras to toss around. Old chooks of Both Kinds do not need much. They like their old clothes, unmanaged feathers, dust or sagging beds and occasional innocuous presents. They need precious little attention. And they will eventually pass on to that Great Chook Yard eventually with little notice or fuss. Not a big deal...really. Pretend they are not there.

Joan and myself? We have applied for thirty-seven jobs and are expectantly waiting for positive results. One will be in the morning mail. We aren't dead yet!

Buck and Joan Emberg are retired university teachers.

## Community Advertisements

*Local house/animal sitter  
short/long stay. Please  
take a look at our profile on.  
[www.trustedhousesitters.com](http://www.trustedhousesitters.com)*

*Phone Christopher & Peppa  
Tolley 0427990 739*



### 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

### Peter Gutteridge

#### BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

**Bathroom and Kitchen  
Renovations,  
Decks, Pergolas,  
Painting, Paving,  
Tiling and General  
Maintenance**

**0448990314  
63281391**



#### Rebecca Evans Equine

Equine Therapy & Riding Coach

- Qualified Equine Muscle Therapist and NCAS Coach
- Remedial and maintenance equine muscle therapy
- Riding lessons

*'Holistic solutions for you and your horse'*

S.A.E.N.A Member, B.Sci, Cert. EMT, NCAS Coach.

Mob: 0407 736 007



0419 501 819

#### Martin's Mowing and Maintenance Employ a Local

*Ride-on Mowing  
Brushcutting  
Gardening  
Rubbish Removal  
Chainsaw Work  
General Maintenance etc.*

*Friendly & Reliable*

### BROADY'S Bobcat & Truck Hire

Mob: 0427 833 090

Email: [rgbroad@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rgbroad@bigpond.net.au)

Skid steer bobcat, 4.2t excavator and 8t tip truck available for general earthworks. We have post hole diggers, forks, spreader bar, rock breaker and rock grab attachments. Located in Windermere. Willing to travel.



### Willdig Excavations Pty Ltd

Specialising in:

- Earthworks, house sites, small dams
- New driveways and upgrading of existing
- Installation of pipe lines
- Rock landscaping
- Gravel and rock supply at very competitive rates
- Tree removal and land clearing

*Obligation free quotes*

*Willdig Excavations operates its own quarry on the East Tamar*

Contact: Will Archer 0427 971 988 or Email: [will@landfall.com.au](mailto:will@landfall.com.au)

#### Side Saddle,

Excellent Condition, Purchased New in 2001 from Qld saddler/side saddle instructor Wendy Tribold

Ph/Txt Louise 0428137568  
(Georgetown)

### ST Matthias Anglican Church Windermere

**A community working Bee for  
the maintenance of the church  
grounds will be held on**

**Saturday October 25th**

**9:30- 4:00pm**

A BBQ lunch will be provided.

Please bring appropriate tools—  
brushcutters,/ edge trimmers

Chain saw, rake, spray unit for weed  
kill

Wheelbarrow etc.

Phone Jon Hosford

0419 317 808 to advise your  
intention to participate or for further  
info



## Birds of The Tamar .... The Superb Fairy Wren

The male Superb Fairy Wren or Blue Wren is known to most people as one of Eastern Australia's pretty birds. Very few are probably aware of the habits of this species and there are many half truths about its behaviour.

A report in The Launceston Examiner recently exposed the opportunist qualities of the male in seeking to spread its genes. This trait, whilst reported by many keen ornithologists who have studied the bird closely is probably associated with colonies that are not well established or when competition between colonies through restricted habitat is apparent.

These birds are almost always in family groups and the preponderance of brown birds in these groups gave rise to the idea that the coloured male bird controls a harem of females.

This is untrue. Most of the brown birds in a group are actually junior males which moult into female-like plumage at the end of summer and back into blue nuptial dress at the start of the spring breeding season.

If you look closely you will see that many of the brown birds have blue tails. These are the junior males. Only old males moult directly from one nuptial plumage to another, and it is they who tolerate the presence of other males in the group. The female bird drives off members of her own sex.

These birds are particularly active in the breeding season and will support up to 4 sets of chicks if conditions are favourable. All members of the group support the feeding of the young and even the fledgling birds will copy their parents and help to support the next breeding.

The birds are very territorial and command about a hectare in area. Song battles are common between neighbouring groups.

They are low dwelling birds, foraging for insects in thick shrubs affording dense cover. To promote these birds in your garden you need to promote



dense shrubs such as Grevillea Rosmarinifolia and Leptospermum (tee tree species). Elimination of cats from your garden is also essential to promote a good habitat for these birds.— very difficult to do, as cats don't have boundaries.



## Hillwood News

From HILLWOOD we have news of two former long-time residents.

Firstly, the happy news. Mrs. Jean Taylor recently celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at the RSL with 140 guests and a further 40 who dropped in to wish her happy birthday.

Jean, who until quite recently was living in a unit at Low Head and is now a resident at Ainslie, Low Head, lived for many years in Hillwood. She was a well-known cook, belonged to organizations such as Red Cross and CWA.

Well done, Jean for reaching your 100<sup>th</sup>.

**The sad news.** Former resident, Mrs Jackie Sheppard died recently. She was in her nineties and was a fondly remembered resident, especially by those who worked with her at the local Hillwood Strawberry Farm.

Jackie was also a member of Red Cross.

Locals at Hillwood are very appreciative and supportive of the Hillwood Coffee Shop. After the closure of the local shop and Post Office, something was lacking. Now we again have a meeting point. Well done, Phil



Left: Grevillea Rosmarinifolia

Below: Leptospermum Nitidum



Copy For NEXT ISSUE

Due

Friday November 28th

For publication in the 2nd week of  
December

Email address:  
[smokesignals@bigpond.com](mailto:smokesignals@bigpond.com)

Or mail to:

454 Windermere Rd. Windermere 7252

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE  
IN SMOKE SIGNALS?**

1/6 Page \$17.00

Book an ad in four issues and save:

1/6 Page \$51.00

1/12 Page \$27.00

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:

[smokesignals@bigpond.com](mailto:smokesignals@bigpond.com)

Smokesignals on the web



## MOVEMBER looms.

### Are you up to the challenge in support of men's health?

Last year a team of 9 men from The  
Shed participated in Movember and  
raised almost \$3,000 in aid of re-  
search into men's health issues.

We plan to do this again in 2014.

#### Will you join us?

Accept the challenge and contact  
Jeff Wynne

0417643943

or Jon Hosford

0419317808

### Smokesignals

Is the newsletter for The East Tamar  
Community of Dilston, Windermere,  
Swan Bay and Hillwood, published  
bi-monthly.

## Community Contacts - **FIRE:000**

Dilston Hall:	6328 1348
St. Matthias Church:	6328 1209
Playgroup:	0407 993 616
Garden Club:	63281566
Book Discussion Group:	6328 1231
Bird Watching:	6328 1163
Native Animal Rescue	
<i>Lorraine De Wey</i>	63263502
Men's Shed	6328 1544
<b>FIRE BRIGADE OFFICERS</b>	
Paul Blakie	Mob 0417592424
Neville Jolly	Mob 0417 540230
David Lake	Mob 0438 075 534
Jason Hingston	Mob 0407392457
Raoul Stowe	Mob 0417351423

## Sharon Fahey, your local residing Real Estate Agent

Sharon Fahey is a true professional who pays particular attention to the smallest of details and goes out of her way to give superior service to her clients.

Sharon has been in the Real Estate industry since 2003 and because of her dedication to her clientele, she has once again been awarded the Towns Shearing's **Sales Person of the Year** (without a Personal Assistant) for now 3 years in a row, also a **Gold Sales Award** for 3 consecutive years and **Top Listing Achievement Award**.

This is a testament to her dedication and success.

So if you are thinking of selling or would just like an opinion of what your home could be worth, do not hesitate to give Sharon a call.

There is no obligation for this service to any home sellers living along the East Tamar area.

**Sharon Fahey 0409 188 249**



[sharonf@tsre.com.au](mailto:sharonf@tsre.com.au)  
towns shearing real estate  
58 Elizabeth Street, Launceston