



# Smoke Signals

Issue 217

[www.winderdoon.com/community/smokesignals.htm](http://www.winderdoon.com/community/smokesignals.htm)

October 2018



*The Winter Market at The Dilston Hall*

## This Issue

Garden Club News

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## OH WHAT A WINTER!

We must celebrate the strength of our Community. We enter a new season and the work of many has saved our Church from its most certain demise. There are many people who are willing to help and to come forward when asked or when a need is presented. Time, talents and treasures are gifts to us over our life. We use them as we choose. Whether you believe in the Holy Spirit or just name it the Life Force, or something of your choosing, you must admit there have been very special things at work in this community over winter.

Personally, I chose to be absent over the winter months, yet drawn to the need of community and my faith, I never left.

With the onground work of many and our distant support via technology we

have potentially saved our Church from immediate sale.

The future is in your hands. If a worship centre is not needed in this place for the future you won't need to support it.

If you feel it is, then your presence at services and functions is essential to ensure its survival and future.

We live in an age where retaining our heritage costs a lot of money. There are now, few tradesmen who specialise in the conservation of the very specific skills that created these buildings in the past.

We cannot expect our Church to maintain these buildings based on the past legacy of the faithful and the Investment returns from their past bequests.

We have been supported this time by the legacy of those who wish to retain this heritage in memory of family and interred relatives.

Our 175th celebrations are planned for November.

There is much planned and we have had strong interest.

Our volunteer Fire Brigade supports the community with its expanded work. You can read of this work on Page 6.

Like wise the Men's Shed has completed its expansion and is willing to support community needs for small and medium sized projects. Read of this on Page 3.

Editor

# GARDENING NEWS

## Ah spring!

"Tarcoola" in Dilston was the site for our Garden Club gathering in September. Amidst days of inclement weather, the sun chose to shine abundantly for us, and we enjoyed lunch in the sheltered courtyard under a magnificent flowering magnolia tree and on the sunny deck overlooking a wide and picturesque curve in the Tamar ("Tarcoola" is an aboriginal word for "bend in the river").

John and Lou walked us around their large vegetable garden, which included some delicious looking first sprouts of asparagus, and lots of broad beans. Hens greeted us expectantly from within their large enclosure. Lou's aim is to be as self-sufficient as possible regarding fruit and vegetables, a goal she has achieved for some 7 or 8 years (with the exception of mushrooms - which she and John are no longer interested in trying to grow - and bananas).

They plan to establish a citrus orchard adjacent to a sunny wall, and preparations are under way. An avocado tree is progressing well, with the assistance of a bespoke, locally made net to protect it from frost in the winter.

The property is extensive and reaches down the hillside to the edge of the river. Sheep keep the grass under control.

Some beautiful native plants such as Geraldton Wax Flower, Grevillea Australis and Davies Wax Flower spill down the hillside near the deck, providing dense ground cover and dainty flowers. This last plant - the Davies (or St Helens) Wax Flower is a small flowering shrub native to Tasmania and is only found in a small area near the George River on Tasmania's north-east coast. The plant was assumed to be extinct until it was rediscovered in December 1990, although fewer than 40 plants exist in the wild.

Thank you, Lou and John, for your hospitality and generosity in sharing your knowledge and expertise about your very special garden.



Following are some open gardens you may be interested in visiting over the next few weeks:

### \*17th-18th November 2018 - Longford Open Gardens

Several gardens - map provided when ticket purchased  
Tickets on the day from Longford Antiques, 1 William Street, Longford  
\$5 per person, open 10 am - 4 pm

### \*18th November 2018 - Woolmers Festival of Roses

658 Woolmers Lane, Longford  
open 9 am - 4 pm

\* Same weekend - what a treat!

The following gardens are open regularly:

#### WAG Walker Rhododendron Gardens

247 Lalla Road, Lalla (near Lilydale)  
\$10.00 per person, open 9 am - 5 pm

#### Tasmanian Arboretum

46 Old Tramway Road, Euganena (near Devonport)  
An extensive collection of Tasmanian plants, southern hemisphere conifers and deciduous trees from temperate areas of the world on 66 hectares.  
Entry \$5.00, open 9 am - sunset (every day)

#### Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens

55 Breffny Road, Romaine (near Burnie)  
Tea Rooms on site. Peak flowering from mid September to mid November  
\$12.00 per person or \$10.00 concession per person, open 9 am - 5 pm (every day)

#### Clarendon

234 Clarendon Station Road, Evandale  
Entry to garden by donation (National Trust property), open 10 am - 4 pm

## Garden Club Gatherings

Garden Club LUNCH from 12 noon  
on Friday, 12th October, 2018,  
at the home of:

Di Nailon,  
317 Windermere Road,  
Windermere  
Telephone: 0400 389 107

Our final two Garden Club  
gatherings for 2018 will be:

Friday, 9th November 2018  
Jon and Margaret Hosford  
454 Windermere Road  
Windermere

Friday, 14th December, 2018  
CHRISTMAS PARTY  
Helen and Peter Strong  
322 Windermere Road  
Windermere

Perhaps you would like to consider hosting a gathering in your garden next year? All of the cutlery, plates, bowls and wine glasses are provided by the Garden Club. In addition, there is a Garden Club electric hot water urn, instant coffee and tea bags, a shade structure gazebo and a Garden Club sign for displaying at your gate. As everyone brings along a plate of food to share as well as their own drinks, it requires only that you provide an area for everyone to sit together (plus some mugs for tea and coffee) and they will do the rest! The afternoon includes a garden walk around by the host(s).

If you would like to participate in the Garden Club, please let me know by email or phone. New members are most welcome.

Kerri Curtis  
Telephone: 0407 447 344  
Email: kerridwen51@gmail.com

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Men's Shed

Our Hupmobile project is need of some fine welding skills to repair panels on the aged vehicle. If you know of anyone locally who might be able to spare us a few hours of their time, please get them to contact us.

We have reinvented a template for the manufacture of children's block sets since our past Vice President Joe Mennen died last year. These will be made available to Childcare and Early Learning Centres at a very reasonable cost. They are a wonderful means by which children can learn mathematical concepts such as size, shape number and quantity. They become aware of scientific principles even though they yet do not have the language to explain these.

The manufacture of these blocks engages our members and gives them practice in basic woodworking skills.

Our SHED is a very social place and our members come and go working with us on projects that we can sell to meet our running costs, as well as doing jobs for themselves at home with the wide range of equipment at the SHED.

We are also making a prototype for book shelving, that could be quite popular in children's bedrooms.

We now have 34 members not all of whom are totally active, but the SHED has become a very active place on a Wednesday and a Saturday. We are planning an Open Day for Saturday November 17th, when we will officially open the extension to our Men's Shed. This will be advertised around the Community, so please take the opportunity of visiting to check out what we are up to.

## Dilston Playgroup

Dilston Playgroup has had a great turn out of families over the last few months, who have rugged up for many outdoor activities in the winter sunshine. The children have had lots of fun making rainbow collages, cooking scones, craft and planting strawberries, as well as enjoying each other's company. We are looking forward to the Spring weather and the many activities the new season will bring.

Playgroup is held at the Dilston Memorial Hall, Tuesdays 10am-Noon, please bring \$3 and a piece of fruit to share.  
Any enquiries - Sarah 0437 851 920



## Nordic Walking Workshop

Date: Wednesday, October 24th,  
9 am at The Community Centre.

This is hosted by the Royal Flying Doctor's Service and participation is available to the public by a donation. Please come along and support this initiative by the Men's Shed. A limited walking pole sets will be available, but if you can borrow some that will be an advantage.

## An Encounter with Mrs Mathias Gaunt

Date: Saturday 10 November,  
2 pm at St Matthias' Church.

Reading of parts of a composed diary that Mrs Gaunt could have written, based on researched facts. Intended that school children could learn about our local history, but an event for all the family. Dress up in period costume if desired. Some dress up items available for children.

It is planned to add interest to the story with a few enactments, so volunteers for simple actions are required, both adult and children. Mrs Gaunt had 11 babies @Windermere, so 11 dolls dressed as babies are wanted on the afternoon.

This is a free event, with giveaways. Copies of the Diary will be available on the day, cost unknown at present.

If you wish to be involved, or have a doll to lend, please contact Judy East (63281692) or Kerri, (0407 447 344)

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



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ETMS is assisted  
by equipment  
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EAST TAMAR MENS SHED



# CHURCH NEWS

## St Matthias' Windermere

It has certainly been a busy time at St Matthias' over the past 2 months, with lots more still to come. The parishioners, along with the concerned local community and the Windermere Church Forever group, and contacts world-wide, have been flat-out fundraising for our Redress payment, to save our church from sale. There have been 2 winter markets, a luncheon, an art exhibition and a recent concert: all very successful. The Redress amount has been achieved and surpassed, and we sincerely thank everyone for their support. As an additional result of the heightened concern and awareness, the attendance at our services has doubled and there is a real positivity about. Extra exposure through the Australian Weekender and ABC Landline have cemented our importance in the wider community.

Upcoming: Launceston Clarinet Choir Concert with a Jazz Flavour - Sun, Oct 21st at 3pm, St Matthias', \$20/\$15  
Fortnightly service is held 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 9am. All welcome.



Winter Markets



"Soup, Sandwich, Slice" Luncheon



A busy night at the Art Show



A very enjoyable AND successful night



Pamela Andrews: "Songs at Twilight"



"Heritage Preserve" artwork Ben Miller

## 175th Anniversary Celebrations

At last... Details of 175th Anniversary Celebrations of St Matthias' Church Windermere.

This will be a true community celebration, as well as attracting descendants of those early pioneer families from around the globe. All are encouraged to join in the fun!



### Celebrations

A Bush Dance will be held on Fri Nov 23, 7pm in the woolshed of Windermere Farm. \$15 pp, limited tickets available (hosfordm@bigpond.net.au)

Sat. Nov 24th will see the grounds of St Matthias' transformed for a Family Colonial Picnic from 11:30 to 3pm. Activities will include: colonial games for children and adults, oral history interviewing, family reunions of pioneer families, readings and re-enactments from the recently completed "Diary of Mrs Gaunt", sale of memorabilia, a Fashions in the 1840's parade and competition (we encourage you to come along with a touch of 1840's attire), display of church historical memorabilia, a 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle of the church, sketching of the church, recital from the City of Launceston RSL Pipe and Drums, an appearance by the Colonial Strollers, catering and a general good time! Evening is free for family groups to meet over dinner.

On Sun. Nov 25th at 9am and 2pm we will stage two special commemorative eucharist services with refreshments following. The music will also reflect the heritage of the church, with the original flute (which was played at the first service!) being included in the service.

Throughout the weekend (9-5 Sat; 8-4 Sun), the Dilston Hall will house a display of family history of the main pioneer family descendants. (Set up Friday by arrangement)

Please contact us if you plan to attend (and with preference for Sunday service time) so we can arrange sufficient catering and seating: hosfordm@bigpond.net.au or through Facebook stmatthias'windermere.

### Now....Can you help please?

Can you supply, or get a good price for hiring of: porta loo (for Fri night), Marquee or gazebo (Sat/Sun), microphone/PA system (Sat/Sun), 15 amp generator with multiple plugs (Sat), length of artificial grass (for skittles Sat), or accommodation.

Also we need lots of people to help to share the load: church grounds working bee (Nov 10th), clean Dilston Hall prior, supervise family history display at Dilston Hall (Fri/Sat/Sun 2 hour shifts), help supervise children's games (Sat), serve refreshments (Sat and Sun after services), make scones or old-style sweets, setting up chairs (Sat/Sun), general help whenever...

**Celebrating Our Past and Our Future**  
We look forward to meeting you all.





# Dilston Fire Brigade



## Tasmania Fire Service

**Register the fire by calling freecall 1800 000 699**

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

### AED Presentation

The Brigade was honoured recently to receive a new Automated External Defibrillator from Peter Taylor, son of Ken Taylor who some of our community members know. We were humbled in the generous donation of this new piece of equipment, and are pleased to advise residents that it will strengthen our capacity to support community members where and when needed.

On the same occasion we recognised the efforts of 2 of our brigade members, after they provided community assistance over and beyond that which was expected of them.



### 50 Year Jubilee Celebrations

2018 marks 50 years since the Dilston Fire Brigade was established under the old Rural Fires Board in 1968. Like many other brigades in the state, Dilston Fire Brigade was formed in the aftermath of the 1967 Black Tuesday fires that still rank as the worst fires experienced in Tasmania.

Many of you may remember that the brigade used to be known as Dilston/Windermere, and it has only been in more recent times that this name has been shortened to Dilston. It is fair to say that the brigade has come along way since the early days of tanker trailers, with the current fleet of appliances being first rate. So in late November we will be holding a celebration evening to mark the occasion and we look forward to reporting on this in the next



edition of Smoke Signals.

### 2019 firewood.

As part of efforts to raise funds to aid in the running of our jubilee function, we will shortly be arranging firewood sales for the 2019 winter period. Keep an eye on our facebook page and for local advertising in order to book your trailer load/s!!

### Fire season preparation

As we move towards the traditionally busier months in terms of fire, now is a good time to prepare your property. We have added overleaf some handy tips on what you can do but we also want to acknowledge to generally good efforts that our community undertakes in keeping properties clear and prepared in the event of fire. Thank you to everyone for this preparedness and thank you also for continuing to register your burnoffs. This really does help us by reducing the number of unwarranted callouts!



[www.facebook.com/DilstonFireBrigade](https://www.facebook.com/DilstonFireBrigade)  
[www.facebook.com/TasmaniaFireService](https://www.facebook.com/TasmaniaFireService)

[dilstonfirebrigade@gmail.com](mailto:dilstonfirebrigade@gmail.com)

### Brigade Contacts

Raoul Stow	0417 351 423
Jamie Smith	0458 515 386
Ben Jones	0417 877 001
Ken Nolan	0448 320 996

## Prepare your home - create a defensible space

Your home is more likely to survive a bushfire if you have prepared it properly. The most important job is to create a defensible space, an area around your home where you have modified the vegetation and removed most flammable material to reduce the fire's radiant heat intensity. Flames and radiant heat from an approaching bushfire will be reduced, so sparks and embers will have less fuel to ignite when they land, and any spot fires will be easier to put out.

A defensible space makes it much easier to defend your home. And if you choose not to stay, a defensible space will help firefighters protect your home, or may even protect your home if firefighters cannot reach it.

A defensible space includes two 'zones':

- An inner zone where flammable materials are minimised.
  - An outer zone where a low level of flammable material is permitted.
- In the **inner zone**, flammable materials on, under and around your home should be moved away from the house. Use the guide below to work out the distance you need to apply.



### Defendable Space Guide

SLOPE				INNER ZONE (Measured along the ground from the edge of the building)		OUTER ZONE (Measured along the ground from the outer edge of the inner zone)
DESCRIPTION	DEGREES	PER CENT	RATIO	GRASSLAND	FOREST	FOREST
Flat	0	0	-	10 metres	20 metres	15 metres
Gentle	5°	9%	1:11	10 metres	20 metres	25 metres
Moderate	10°	17%	1:6	15 metres	25 metres	30 metres
Mod. - steep	15°	27%	1:3.7	15 metres	30 metres	45 metres
Steep	20°	36%	1:1.27	15 metres	40 metres	50 metres

**Don't hesitate to contact the brigade for more information!**



## BIRDS & BUSH

### Straw-Necked Ibis

These birds are not common in Tasmania. They are migrant visitors when conditions suit.

Mike Adams from Swan Bay has reported a solitary bird visiting farmland adjacent to his property early this year and again this month.

It is at this time of the year that thousands of birds congregate in breeding colonies on the wetlands of the Murray River and other inland waterways to form breeding colonies of up to 200,000 birds. The regulation of waterways for irrigation has severely restricted the numbers of these birds as they rely on continued availability of a close food source once they have established their colony. When I lived on the Murray out of Mathoura my interest in birds occasionally saw

me contacting The Murray Darling Commission to have special releases of water made to sustain the success of an established colony. When the Murray floods, its waters spill out over the redgum floodplain forest and the birds have learned over millennia that the water is retained in these wetlands over the summer months. Unfortunately man's regulation of the river prevents the sustained flow of the river after the flood peak is reached so the waters dry up more quickly, often leaving birds that establish colonies later in the cycle, without a close water born food source to sustain their chicks.

The Straw-necked Ibis is a significant contributor to the control of agricultural pests which build up in large numbers due to intense cropping.



A solitary straw-necked ibis at Swan Bay.

### Egg Island Point Clearing

In September 2017, the Hillwood Progress Association members met with the Operations Manager of Crown Land Services on site at Egg Island Point. Among other matters discussed at that meeting we advised that a large number of dead trees posed a serious risk of death or injury to the public using the area. We were advised that the majority of the trees would not be removed as they were needed as habitat for animals and birds. No action was taken by CLS to remove any of the trees until in February 2018, when one fell without warning across a walking track used by

up to ten people each day, and onto the well used beach. HPA advised CLS and a contractor arrived the next day. Approximately 90% of the dead trees were then felled using a chain saw and excavator.

The felled trees were left laying on the ground and along with other broken trees left the area looking like a war zone.

HPA advised that in the interest of safety the mess should be cleared up. Eight months later, on October 4th/5th, a CLS contractor arrived on site with

an excavator and cleared the area of the dead trees and limbs. Instead of using the normal practice of heaping and burning on site, the contractor proceeded to transport four truck loads of the forest debris from the CLS controlled Point and dumped them on private property adjacent to Craighburn Rd.

We believe without the owners permission. This action is not what the public expects from a body such as CLS.

Lindsay Millar.  
On behalf of HPA.





**YOUNG ACHIEVERS:** CHAE HAINES, ANGUS JEFFRIES and MITCHELL DONNELLY played for North Launceston in the MERCURY CUP GRAND FINAL. They were beaten by Launceston but they played a good game.

JAKE PEARCE and TOM DONNELLY played in the Grand Final for North Launceston with a win against Lauderdale.

LEAH RENTON and MYRA DONNELLY competed in the Short Course Regionals Championships at Launceston Aquatic in September, LEAH winning two golds, one silver and one bronze and MYRA winning two golds and two silvers.

HOLLI GEEVES is competing in Motocross National Championships in Penguin. Holli's brother JOSH GEEVES and JAMES HOARE are playing in under-15 Soccer in the Gold Coast Championship Cup at Mudgeraba. Good luck, Holli, Josh and James.

**SAD NEWS:** ARTHUR LYONS died on August 31st. Arthur and wife Margaret moved to Hillwood over 30 years ago. Members of the local Eight-ball group attended the funeral to farewell their former player. Arthur was a long-time member of the group.

BRIAN BARWICK died on 23rd September. Brian and Councillor Heather moved to Mt Direction some years ago. Our sympathy to Heather and family.

**HAPPY NEWS:** CHARLOTTE EMILY, daughter for Melissa and Michael Hemans of Armidale, NSW, grand-daughter for Robyn and Ian Wheeler, great-grand-daughter for Nancy and Jeff Donnelly on September 5th 2018

HILLWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB was proud to hold a successful first round of the finals for NTFA - the Qualifying Final - where they trialled their new Scoreboard which was donated by the Liberal Party. All three Hillwood teams reached the finals - Unders and Seniors were defeated in Elimination Finals and Reserves in the Semi-final.

CONGRATULATIONS to Hillwood Football Club member, Phil Kelly who was presented with a trophy at Wrest Point Casino as the AFL Volunteer of the Year nominated through NTFA. Phil grew up in Hillwood, attended School here

and returned in more recent years to purchase a house. Phil immediately became involved with the Football Club and has worked hard for the Club in particular with regard to the ground. The Award was well-deserved.

The FOOTBALL CLUB is still looking for someone to provide meals fortnightly (every second Friday) at the Clubrooms for the Community, from October through to April. This is a good fund-raising opportunity as all proceeds would go to the provider. The Club's kitchen is available at no charge except possibly for power. Please contact Grant Radford on 04004306111.

**BONESEED & BESOM HEATH:** A few members of Hillwood Progress Association Inc attended a Boneseed Eradication Day on 20th Sept. with Greg Lundstrom of Tamar NRM. Tamar NRM (Natural Resource Management) are dedicated to education about and assistance with eradication of weeds. Greg did a wonderful job with the small amount of help the OLDIES from HPA were able to give him. Lindsay Millar had supplied a weed map for the Boneseed which was most helpful. So Egg Island Reserve is Boneseed free at present. Please keep a look-out for BONESEED and pull before the seed sets. It can also be cut if too large to pull and wiped with weed killer. Members of the community pull boneseed plants when they see them but, of course, cannot do this on private land without permission. Some boneseed has been noticed on private property around the district. It is quite likely that there are people who are unaware that this plant is a weed. Boneseed has a bright green leaf and bright yellow flower. If you are unsure what Boneseed looks like, you can Google it.

Greg advised us of another invasive weed - BESOM HEATH. There was some in Hillwood which was spotted and disposed of - this can also be googled - please keep a look out for it.

**HARRA (Hillwood Area Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc) NEWS:**

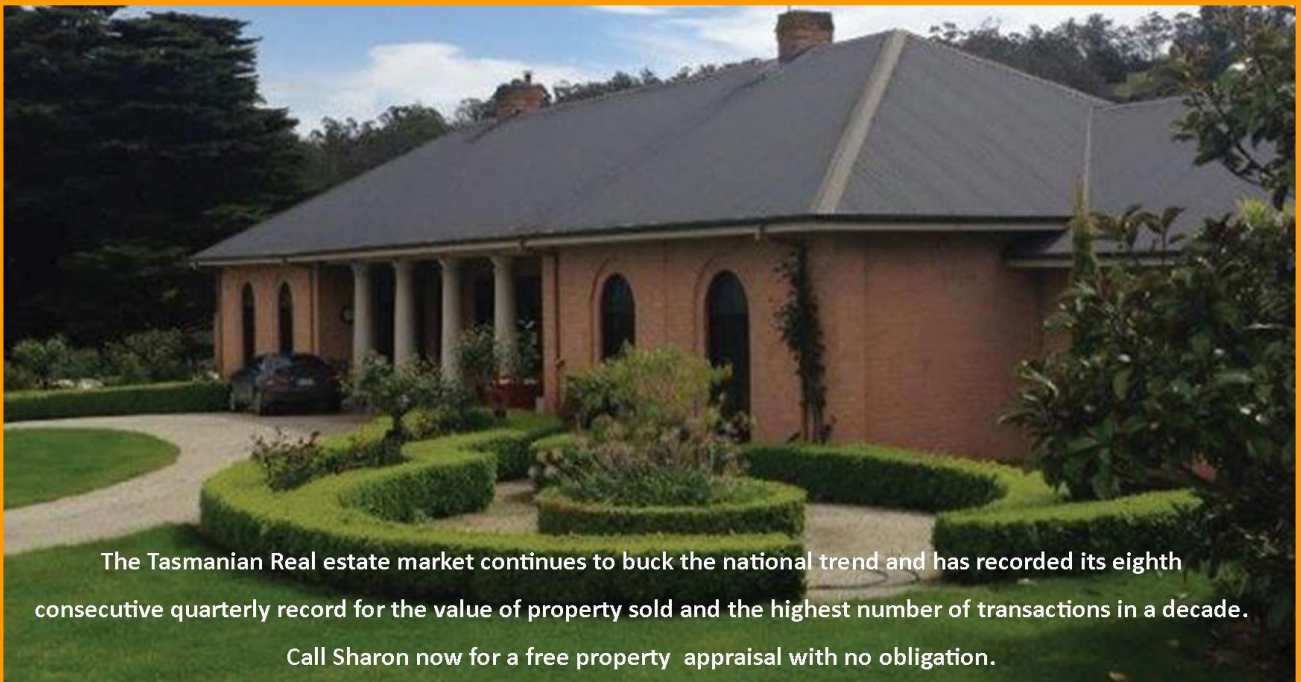
**CHRISTMAS - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:** Save the Date! There will be a Hillwood Christmas event at 3 pm on Sunday 16th

December at the Hillwood War Memorial Hall. If anyone is interested in helping to sing, play musical instruments or contribute in other ways, please contact Stephanie via email [president@harra.asn.au](mailto:president@harra.asn.au) or phone 0439 070 593.

**HILLWOOD COMMUNITY FORUM:** A Community Forum on 29th July was well attended. Many questions about local matters were answered by the George Town Council General Manager and Mayor. You can read the details of the Q & A Session on the Community Notice Board on [hillwood.org.au](http://hillwood.org.au)

**HARRA NEWS:** There was a major change in the Committee of the Hillwood Area Residents' and Ratepayers' Association at their Annual General Meeting on 29th July. After years of hard work and valuable contributions, Ross Grange retired from the Committee and Alf Waters moved from the role of President to Vice-President. Stephanie Legg England is the new President, Carolyn Smith is Treasurer and Van Grollmus and Ellie Atkinson are General Committee members. Please contact [h.a.r.r.a.inc@gmail.com](mailto:h.a.r.r.a.inc@gmail.com) if you are interested in becoming the Secretary!

**HILLWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC** will hold its AGM at the Hillwood Hall at 3.00 p.m. on Sunday 28th October 2018. This meeting is being held on a Sunday afternoon as that might suit some more than Monday night when our meetings are usually held. We would like people to come along and learn what we are about and think about joining the committee as we will need people who can take over from the members who are nearing their Use-by-Date!! (four over eighties!) The Progress Association is partly funded by and responsible to George Town Council for looking after the Hall (we are currently working on Acoustics for the Hall and requested the upgrade to the toilets) and also areas around the district such as the revival of the little beach at Egg Island Reserve. We are also working towards a Foreshore Walking Track and an All-Tide Boat Ramp.



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

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## Windermere Watches

Service and Repairs to all  
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Watches bought and sold



Jeff Wynne  
0417 843 943  
or 6328 1544

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

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Planning a function?

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

For further details  
contact Pat Hollier:  
**63281348**

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Issue 217

[www.winderdoon.com/community/smokesignals.htm](http://www.winderdoon.com/community/smokesignals.htm)

October 2018

### Community Contacts

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St. Matthias Church:  
6328 1209

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0437 851 920

Garden Club:  
6328 1566

Book Discussion Group:  
6328 1381

Bird Watching:  
6328 1163

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**Jon Hosford, your editor over 12 years is  
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