

### THE FRIENDS ARMS FINDS A FRIEND



Nick Jones with the restored stonework

1825, has found its champions in Nick and Fiona Jones.

Nick arrived in Australia as a "ten pound Pom" in 1973, and after travelling around Australia, settled in Melbourne, working for ICI.

After a posting to Launceston he left ICI to found the agricultural supply business T.P. Jones & Co. Later projects included Launceston Lakes, Platypus House at Beauty Point and the Icecreamery at the refurbished Pennyroyal.

Nick married Fiona in 1997 and it was Fiona who spotted the old Dilston Inn on a walk with her friend (and our Dilston Hall Manager) Lizzie Benstead.

They were able to purchase the property in 2019 but it was in very poor structural condition with subsiding foundations causing severe structural cracking in the stone walls.

Melbourne company Mainmark stabilised the foundation with computer controlled injected grouting, and the roof and guttering were replaced.

Nick and stonemason Ali McCann then set out on the monumental job of exposing, repairing and cleaning the stonework.



Nick with one of the original 1825 three panel cedar doors

Our built heritage is a precious asset, but most of our older buildings can only be preserved if a use can be found for them.

This often involves the owners in considerable expense to counter the inevitable deterioration of buildings close to 200 years old.

Fortunately one of our district's most significant threatened buildings, the Friends' Arms in Dilston Road, built in

Nick also acknowledges the wonderful support and encouragement he has received from the Heritage Council. The exterior is now close to complete and many of the interior rooms have been finished.

Nick and Fiona have done our district a great service with their meticulous restoration of this beautiful and historic building and we welcome them into our community.

### 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](mailto: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

## Letters To The Editor

**Because of limited space, letters should not be more than 300 words, and may be edited where necessary.**

I really liked all the ideas put forward and they seemed ecologically sound and the way forward for so many reasons. The way we currently empty sewer in the river is abominable and there is an urgent need for change to help protect this ecosystem.

Regards,

Sandra Woods

AFTER reading the article promoting a 'Tamar Lake', and with over 50 years of sailing on the waters of the Tamar Estuary and 20 years campaigning to have something done to rectify its deplorable condition, I suggest there may be a significantly cheaper, still viable and more environmentally friendly option available: restoring South Esk River flows.

Historically the South Esk River flowed the Cataract Gorge in to the Estuary's upper reaches until 1955 when the flow was diverted by Trevallyn Dam to feed the newly built Trevallyn Power Station.

Prior to 1955 'average low summer' flows through the Gorge were 20 cubic metres per second (cumecs) {Hydro Tasmania figures}.

After Trevallyn Dam was commissioned flows were reduced to a mere trickle of just 0.43 cumecs remaining at this for 48 years!



Current flows are 2.5 cumecs.

Floods can be anywhere between a few hundred cumecs to over 1,000 cumecs and what a sight it is to behold all that white water tumbling between the high cliffs of the Gorge before spilling out in to the yacht basin!

In 2002 Hydro Tasmania closed Trevallyn Power Station for upgrading allowing all the water (approximately 50cumecs) which would have gone to the power station to flow through the Gorge resulting in an amazing transformation of the Estuary's upper reaches, within hours the water changed from its normally muddy/silty look to an incredible blue; ...you could even see the bottom and not only that but fish happily swimming in the now crystal clear waters.

Fortunately the transformation was captured by the late Geoff Smedley in the attached photo, ...an image which graphically shows what the Estuary's upper reaches can, and 'should', look like.

67 years after South Esk Cataract Gorge flows were diverted I ask ...is it any wonder the Tamar Estuary's upper reaches are the environmental catastrophe they are?

...good blood flows are essential for humans to have a healthy life as good river flows are absolutely crucial to maintain the life of any river system!

Jim Collier

The vision of Tamar Lake as portrayed by John Bailly (Smoke Signals February 2022) is both illusionary and blinkered. The benefits are obvious whereas proponents never mention the negative aspects, which are considerable. Projects which work against the forces of nature fail because there are always negative ramifications which far outweigh the positives. This is a classic example of the Dunning-Kruger effect where those of little knowledge are extremely confident in their views. Estuarine scientists around the globe are united in their views armed with the science as we know it. I am yet to find a scientific paper endorsing barrages as a solution to an environmental problem. The magnificent Tamar deserves respect and dignity that only science can provide, not death from a strangulating barrage.

Dr Ian Kidd

Estuarine Scientist

Launceston

Having read your news letter concerning the Tamar river which I fully agree with I wish to make some suggestions which you may wish to contemplate.

Would it be possible for the barrage to be placed on the northern side of the Batman Bridge? This would create a great fresh water lake between the Batman bridge and the Gorge.

I refer to Tasmanian Country dated 24 March 2022 "Scheme just adds water" . One of Tasmanias largest irrigation projects \$290,000 million Tamar irrigation scheme which incorporates 240 kilometres of pipeline and five pump stations. It will service an area of 89000 hectares spanning Westwood, Legana , Beaconsfield, Rowella, Pipers River , Hillwood Lilydale and Pipers Brook.

I believe that this project if it was implemented would prevent any barrage being constructed in the future and would be disastrous for the citizens of Launceston.

If the barrage were to be built at Batman Bridge it would allow a fresh water lake to be constructed and also provide irrigation to all above areas and also benefit the citizens of Launceston and farmers in the surrounding districts.

Yours sincerely

Mervyn and Adrienne Gee

### **Windermere -Swan Bay road issues update**

Followers of the Dilston/Windermere/Swan Bay Facebook page will be aware that I was able to speak to the Launceston council meeting held on 10 March 2022 for 2 minutes. The deputy mayor brought a motion to the council following our submission in mid -November 2021 and although 4 months have passed, I guess we should feel a bit happier that our submission is being considered. The motion was passed un-opposed and it was good to hear that the Councillors who spoke to the motion were in favour of improvements to roads and infrastructure in our area. There have also been ongoing emails to the Mayor/Deputy Mayor from myself and other residents since the submission.

This is what I said at the Launceston Council Meeting:

"I wish to thank the Deputy Mayor for this motion formalising the process for considering the submission by Windermere and Swan Bay residents.

As stated in the submission, the increase of new sub-divisions approved by council has seen a marked increase in traffic on our roads which are no longer considered safe by residents.

Spending on infrastructure is not considered consistent with the increase of new dwellings in the area. We are not seeking amenities similar to built up areas within Council boundaries and for example, we are certainly not seeking footpaths similar to the ones found within the CBD, just safe, flat areas that allow us to move off the road in safety. We are simply seeking safer roads.

We sometimes have very little option but to remain on the road when an approaching vehicle also has nowhere to go, and the option of diving down an open drain or an embankment which invariably has rotting road kill with my dog, is really not a fair option.

I ask Council Officers to please work with residents in coming up with workable proposals to improve the roads and while some compromise may be required on the part of residents and the Council, residents will not accept that our safety can be compromised.

I also ask all Councillors to make themselves fully aware of the issues involved and to please talk with us, walk with us and drive our roads.

I re-iterate my comments in the submission that as long as our roads have inadequate road signs, high speed limits and are plainly dangerous in many places, Council leaves itself open for litigation in the event of injuries sustained by a road user or for damage to property."

Please note: as at the date of publication I have not received any calls from Council officers or Councillors to further discuss our concerns. It is now important that residents report any road issues in their area to the Council to allow for their concerns to be addressed.

A message to all road users - Please keep to speed limits and drive to road conditions and allow for walkers and cyclists. Local residents including P-platers are also speeding along with tradespeople.

Carolyn Gutteridge



# BIRDS OF THE TAMAR By Jon Hosford

## Egrets and Herons

Egrets and Herons are closely related birds which inhabit wetlands and tidal estuaries.

They have long legs which enable them to wade and search for invertebrate life and small fish. You will often see egrets hunting together in shallow lagoons or on the margins of swamps and draining paddocks. There are 4 species of egret found in Tasmania and often, from a distance it is difficult to tell them apart. Their common names refer to size.

### The Great Egret

The Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) can be seen on tidal margins stealthily and deliberately stalking fish and invertebrate life. It freezes motionless before striking its prey and occasionally will take fish whilst flying across the water surface. It has a yellow bill for most of the year, which turns black when in breeding plumage. Its neck is about 1 ½ times the length of its body.



Great Egret

### The Intermediate Egret

The Intermediate Egret (*Egretta intermedia*) is smaller, daintier and more graceful than the Great egret. It is distinguishable from the Great Egret by its neck and body proportions being roughly similar in length. It flies with quicker wingbeats than the Great Egret and generally hunts in vegetation that is less open and taller than other egrets. It is known for its spectacular breeding plumage (see my favourite photo, taken in my presence by a friend).

These birds nest in colonies within the redgum wetlands and are threatened by control of water by dams as they rely on long lasting spring floods for their food supply. Dams are withholding natural river flows at the very time these birds need food close to their nest. Extreme temperatures mean their chicks are vulnerable to heat stress whilst parents hunt for food in rapidly receding waterways.



Courting Intermediate Egrets

Photo Rob Hosking

### The Little Egret

The Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) is noted by its slender and always black bill. It feeds on tidal mudflats and sewerage ponds. It appears to be more in a hurry to gather prey, shuffling through mudflats and dashing after fish in shallow water with raised wings. It visits Tasmania during the winter months but is not known to breed here.



Little Egret

In the Heron family we have the White-faced heron, a predominantly grey bird that is frequently seen on the edge of dams and waterways. It floats through the sky in a most ungainly manner and will devastate your frog population once it includes your dam in its feeding pathway.

The White-necked or Pacific Heron is occasionally seen in Tasmania in late winter-spring after heavy rains.



White Faced Heron



Pacific Heron

Photo Brian O'Leary

### The Cattle Egret

The Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*) is a sociable small egret that is most readily seen feeding in groups in pastures amongst cattle and horses. It snaps up insects and frogs the cattle disturb in their grazing. It is mostly a winter to spring migrant to Tasmania.



## Why a Men's Shed and why work with wood.

There's a growing awareness that making things with our hands provides psychological benefits and woodworking, as a creative activity, helps to stimulate the brain and relax the body.



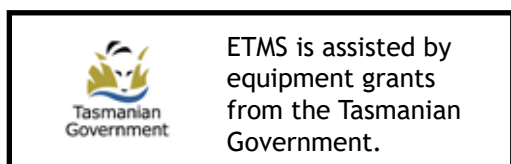
Woodwork promotes creativity and mental wellbeing whilst also providing a sense of fulfilment, but the benefits aren't just based around the act of making. The self-confidence that you will get from creating various things out of wood can have a flow on effect on life. There is definitely a strong sense of accomplishment that comes with making something with your own two hands. The more confident you feel in your own abilities to get things done, the better you will feel about yourself.

We've always been drawn to the warmth, comfort, and relaxation that wood provides to our surroundings and studies show that using wood inside buildings helps improve our emotional state and level of self-expression, as well as lowering blood pressure, heart rate and stress levels. Using wood inside the home, office, building, or classroom mimics the effect and therefore psychological and physiological benefits of spending time outside in nature.

Tasmania has beautiful native timber. Myrtle, Sassafras, Huon Pine, Celery Top and Blue Gum.

At the Men's Shed we have been very fortunate as one of our members Nick Jones has donated a large quantity of native Tasmanian timber for our use. Much of this timber was diverted from wood chip by Nick's efforts. The wood will allow us to make items for the regular Makers Market at the Dilston Hall to keep the Shed viable. (Insurance is one of our biggest costs, and financially, we are totally self-sufficient).

The men at the Shed are keen recyclers, so if you feel there is an old piece of solid wooden furniture, don't throw it out, send us a photo and let us decide if it can be restored or re purposed ([secretary@easttamarmensshed.org.au](mailto:secretary@easttamarmensshed.org.au)).



## PLAY GROUP

Dilston playgroup is such a fun way to socialize young families in the area as well as integrate a play based learning environment for our young ones. We have been experimenting with a range of different sensory play, new story books and new toys with buttons and gadgets demonstrating cause and affect and expanding childrens' vocabulary and curiosity about the world we live in.

We welcome all families to come and enjoy our playgroup as it is a fantastic way to meet and connect with other young families. We gather each Monday from 10-12 at the Dilston Hall. Sessions cost \$3. We encourage you to bring your child's morning tea and drink bottle. Contact Amy on 0413394523 if you have any questions.





Joshua Higgs Jr was a gifted artist and surveyor who arrived in Launceston in 1857. A number of his landscapes are known, including Low Head showing the new lighthouse, and Dragon's Reef, Tamar River. It was known that Joshua Higgs had visited Dilston around 1890 and had painted the bridge over Lady Nelson Creek. According to Nigel Burch in "Lost Mines of the Tamar", the painting had been "exhibited in town the following year, but seems to have been subsequently lost."

We can thank the new owners of the Friends Arms in Dilston Road, Nick and Fiona Jones, for the rediscovery of this painting, reproduced here, which gives us an image of Dilston 130 years ago. The Rostella homestead can be seen in the far distance.

As we drive over the Lady Nelson Creek bridge on John Lees Drive near the Dilston Road turnoff, we should reflect on the work of the convict labourers who created this cutting through conglomerate rock, around 1836, using only hand tools.

The purpose of the cutting was to divert the creek into the Tamar, thus draining the wetlands to the north so that they could be used for cultivation.

Convict labour was plentiful and the cutting was probably initiated by George Coulson, who owned the affected land, and William Bransgrove, his tenant.

Convict labour was also used shortly after to build the large Burnside Granary still standing to the east of John Lees Drive, so there would have been a large contingent of convicts working in the area.

The creation of the cutting naturally required a bridge on the road to George Town.

One of the first to cross the new bridge was Lady Jane Franklin with her husband John, the Governor of Tasmania, on their way to George Town. She was not impressed: "A little before coming to the inn (George Coulson's Friends' Arms) we crossed a badly constructed wooden bridge over a deep trench or drain made to drain a morass behind a tenant of Colson's (sic) who holds the land".

She was however, more complimentary about the warm welcome and ginger beer and raspberry puffs provided by Mrs Coulson.

The Joshua Higgs painting will hang proudly in the refurbished Friends Arms, returned to Dilston at last.

Nigel Burch's "Lost Mines of the Tamar" contains a chapter "The Fascinating History of Dilston". The book is out of print but freely available through Googlebooks.



## CHURCH NEWS St Matthias' Anglican Church

We are all very excited that services have now started back at St M since March 27, after 2 services were held at the Dilston Hall due to COVID restrictions (see photo below). We will, however, continue to wear masks for extra protection of our congregation. Services will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month, with an extra service on **Easter Sunday, April 17**. Remember that our heaters now make the church very cosy, even on the coldest mornings!



Best wishes for the future to Drew Duncan and Emily Brincat who plan to be married at St Matthias' Church on April 2nd after having two previous dates cancelled due to changing COVID issues and restrictions.

Thanks to the 14 cheery workers (see photo: plus 2 others) who spruced up the grounds and inside the church for the event. Thanks also to Rob M, Rob S, and David B for their regular on-going maintenance of the grounds.

The special season of Easter is now upon us:



### Sun April 10th

Palm

Sunday at St Matthias' 9am

**Fri. April 15th** Good Friday service @ Holy Trinity 10:30am.

**Easter Saturday.** Watch out in the press for the Combined Churches Launceston Alive Easter Festival. We will be helping with children's activities between 11-2 at the Riverbend Playground so please bring the kids or grandies, and drop in.

**Sun. April 17th.** Easter Sunday at St Matthias' 9am. Come and celebrate the joy of new life through the Risen Lord. Some special music is planned... and Easter Eggs of course! We would love you to decorate your mailboxes or front yards with an Easter theme again this year. They have given such a happy and warm feel to Windermere in past years; a true reflection of community.

**Sun. May 8th.** Mothers' Day. Normal Eucharist service on a special day for Mums. Bring along mum, grandma, a special lady, your daughter, or just your own personal special family memories to reflect on in church.

The weekend of May 27-29 will see the long-awaited "Tasmania Celebration with Will Graham" at the Silverdome, supported by the Combined Churches of Launceston. There will be a KidzFest on the Saturday 10am-noon, and lots of activities throughout the weekend. Watch for media coverage of these events, and get involved.

Our project to build new storage cupboards at the rear of the church to conceal our catering resources, is at the stage of near completion, almost ready for installation, except for one specialist part which is currently unavailable. Unfortunately, this is another "supply chain issue".

A few in our church community have asked us to keep their sick family members in our thoughts and prayers: Jack Rosevear, Edie Williams, Bruce Williams, Kathy Suttar and her daughter Trish. Please never under-estimate the power of prayer.

So the Spirit is alive and well here; and you are always welcome to worship with us. Second and fourth Sundays each month 9am. Rev. John Tongue 0488473973, Rector Dane Courtney 63310041. As usual, the 10.30am service at Holy Trinity will be available to watch live-stream at home or to catch up on later in the day via our YouTube channel: You can follow any updates on Facebook: stmatthiaswindermere or contact Marg Hosford 0409317806 for further details. May you all have a very blessed and meaningful Easter.

Coming soon: Have you ever wondered...?

"What would it be like to know God personally? How might I go about meeting him? Maybe someone could introduce me?"

These are some of the things we will explore in a short course being hosted by the Anglican Church. Each session is a chance to chat, watch a brief video presentation, and then discuss any matters that arise, in a non-confrontational way that everyone can relate to. It's a series of relaxed, informal gatherings we will be holding at the Dilston Hall, starting after Easter. This will be a bit similar to the very popular and successful Alpha Course which we ran in 2019. All are most welcome. Designed for everyone, of any age or denomination, at any point along their faith journey: like a gym workout for your soul! Exact day and time are still being confirmed, but check the St. Matthias' Website, regular emails or Facebook page for final details.

## GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Garden Club will be quietly winding down for the winter very soon, but not quite yet! We still have our Harvest Celebration at the end of March, a visit to Franklin House in April and to George Town Community Garden in May. Our Midwinter Celebration will be held once again in July at the Windermere Café.

Donations of fruit have been made to the Garden Harvest Project and we hope that this generous community of Dilston, Windermere, Swan Bay and Hillwood will continue to make donations to this worthwhile project.

In February, one of our members, Maryanne Mitchell, sought donations of flowers and foliage from Garden Club members and the general community for a Floristry Workshop for Connected Women. I am pleased to say that she received many donations and her workshop was a resounding success. Thank you to all those lovely people who donated flowers, and congratulations on a wonderful initiative Maryanne.

Here is Maryanne's report:

"In my role as the Northern Suburbs Project Officer for the City of Launceston, I attended the first session of Connected

Women, Tasmania, a new program being facilitated by the Red Cross. This program provides an opportunity for migrant women and new arrivals in Launceston to connect with others and create friendships.

They plan to meet every week with different activities to undertake. I volunteered to do an "Introduction to Floristry" workshop for them on 14 February 2022.

In preparation I reached out to the Windermere/Dilston/Swan Bay Garden Club and the local community group via Facebook for flowers and foliage. As a result, I was inundated with responses from lovely people who could assist! Snips in hand I went around to gather them all!

The workshop was great. We knew eight people had confirmed that they were coming, however 16 ladies attended! They were taught how to condition the flowers - by taking the leaves off the stems, cutting the ends on an angle and taking off any damaged flowers. Everyone made their own lovely bouquet of local flowers and foliage and walked away with a new understanding of how easy it is to put a bouquet together.

The smiles in the group photo below say it all!"



If you would like to participate in Garden Club activities, please contact me. New members are very welcome.

Kerri Curtis – Email: [kerridwen51@gmail.com](mailto:kerridwen51@gmail.com) Phone: 0407 447 344



### 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](mailto: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!



# THE BEES IN MY GARDEN

## WASP THREAT TO BEES



### WASPS INVADE BEEHIVES

The wasps target the entrance to the hive, which has to be protected and defended by worker bees. Wasps will not only sneak into a hive to steal the honey but will also bite a bee in half and fly away with the abdomen to feed to their colony. If a hive is left unprotected, wasps can quickly outnumber the bees and overrun the colony destroying the hive. So there are always casualties amongst the worker bees, who may be weaker than they are in the summer months, as there are fewer sources of pollen and nectar at this time of year. And, a fact that surprised me, a bee's lifespan is only 65 days.

Some of our senior residents might remember a time when there were no wasps to pester us, and our friends, the bees. The feral European Wasp was introduced into Tasmania in 1959, and has since spread throughout many parts of Australia. It builds large papery nests that are normally underground or in a cavity. Each nest may contain thousands of wasps, that come and go through a small single entrance hole. So, if you want to do your bit to help protect the bees in your garden, put out a wasp trap, if you have one.

### HOW YOU CAN GIVE BEES A LATE SEASON BOOST

You might look around to see are there any suitable spots to add more autumn and winter flowering plants and bushes, to provide not just a welcome splash of colour to your garden beds, but also a boost of nutrition for the bees.

This is all part of Nature's cycle, as explained to me by one of our wonderful local apiarists, Malcolm Giles. In beekeeping terms, the summer season got off to a late start, but has been reasonably good in terms of honey production. I'm looking forward to sampling some of their Malbren Leatherwood honey. He sounds very pleased with it.

If you would like any advice about bees you can contact Malcom Giles on 0408064550 or

email [bigmal128@gmail.com](mailto:bigmal128@gmail.com)



### THE CONTRIBUTIONS SO FAR – THANK YOU!

Evelyn has been kept very busy with donations to her project for school children in George Town. This is such a worthwhile project and the children have been so very grateful for the donations.

Just before Christmas, cherries were donated, which Evelyn combined with donated grapes for Mrs Petty's combined Years 3 and 4 class. A thank you was received by Evelyn to say that the children enjoyed the fruit immensely and were "covered in juice"! One young boy exclaimed that it was "the best day ever"!

At Christmas, home-made Star Shortbread biscuits were donated, as well as Red Velvet Cupcakes, and six kilos of small apples and pears.

Since the start of Term 1 in February, blackberries have been donated, which Evelyn stewed with apples, and sent individual vanilla yoghurts for the children to eat with the stewed blackberries.

There have also been donations of two boxes of freshly picked apples and a box of apples and pears, a bowl of red grapes, and a box of grapefruit (teachers enjoyed these!). On occasions fruit has been sufficient to provide for two classes - Years 4 and 5. Amy & her students are most grateful for the wonderful support to date.

A huge thank you to Evelyn for continuing this work and thank you to our lovely community who have contributed so generously. I am sure that many of us will continue to be able to make contributions in the next few weeks, including at the Harvest Celebration.



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!

## Pipers Brook Fire

Both brigades had crews committed for an extended period of time at the recent Pipers Brook fire. Fire behaviour was of an unpredictable nature early on despite condition suggesting any fire would be easily managed. This simply wasn't the case for this fire with Crowning (fire burning through the tops of trees) occurring at 2am in the morning! This isn't 'normal'! None the less, the extensive and committed work by the many brigades that attended led to the fire being pulled up at ~1700 hectares, and deemed safe after 10 days for work. Not a huge fire by some comparisons, but one that committed many resources.

The local community also pulled together and supported the effort and we thank all those that gave their time to assist in the fire fighting effort.

## HOME FIRE SAFETY

As the season starts to change, the temperatures drop and we find ourselves looking towards a



few small jobs that need doing as we approach the coldest months.

The TFS advised that drying clothing be no closer than 2M to heat source, and preferably greater. If hanging clothing out overnight to dry, then is it best placed well clear of any heating device, and of course, we recommend that smoke alarms be fitted in the house..

On the topic of drying clothes, ensure lint filters are kept clear

Are you electric blankets in good condition?? Replace them if you find any damage, and remember never place heavy objects on them!

Don't forget also to change your smoke alarm batteries if applicable at each change of daylight savings!

## WOOD HEATERS | CHIMNEYS AND FLUS

As the colder weather sets in, a reminder to everyone to ensure your wood heater flue is cleaned prior to being used this year. The build up of soot and creosote is the major cause of chimney and flue fires, and can in worst case lead to surrounding roofing materials catching fire.



## END OF PERMIT PERIOD

By the time this issue is delivered the permit period is likely to have ended. Please keep an eye out for the removal of the permit signs and the notification in the various forms of media. Thankyou to all residents that asked for permits this season and for the registering of burns in general. Please continue to register you burns and it helps us keep a track on fires in our area.



Dilston Member Peter getting his first media interview under his belt!



.../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





**30  
secs**

So close, smoke alarms should have detected the fire and alerted you!



**60  
secs**

Within 60 seconds, the fire will catch on to the sofa & will spread to the TV.



**3  
mins**

The fire has reached a ceiling of 200 degrees. All of the contents of the room are now at risk.



**Make a plan in  
case of fire**

Sample Plan





## HAPPY NEWS:

YOUNG, Lincoln Roy was born on 17th February, 2022, a son for Sarah and Travis Young and a sister for Aurora, grandson for Sallie and David, and nephew for Eden. Welcome little Lincoln.

## SAD NEWS:

WEST, Charlotte died on 23rd January 2022. Charlotte was a resident of Hillwood for many years. Wife of Arthur (deceased) and mother of Lisa, Fiona, Karen, Jo-anne (dec), Maxine and John. Our sympathy to Charlotte's family.

CLAXTON, Robin died on 8th February, 2022. Robin and his wife Pam moved to Hillwood some years ago where Robin became involved in the Hillwood community holding office in several groups. Pam and Robin built a new home in Hillwood, moving a few years ago to Dilston.

Robin's funeral was held in the garden of their home in Dilston on Tuesday 15th February. Our sympathy goes out to Pam and their families.

TAYLOR, John died on 8th March 2022. John was born in Hillwood to Jean and Eric Taylor. Before John died, he wrote his story for the Hillwood History collection. His step-daughter, Irene read this at his funeral and it was quite moving to be able to hear it in this way. After the funeral, guests were invited to continue his memorial at the Hillwood Football Clubrooms where the Football Club served the afternoon tea. Thank you for your help, Merryn and Geraldine.

Apart from running his own business, owning a fleet of buses at the time of his death, he was also responsible for the popular tractor pulls which were held in Hillwood for a number of years.

Our sympathy to John's wife, Jennie, his son Eric and step-daughters Jacinta, Irene and Ivona.

SNOWBALL, Lexie died on 13th March 2022. Lexie, wife of Don (deceased) lived for many years in Hillwood and raised a family of six here, Max (dec), Sheryl, Peter, David (dec), Leanne and John. She was a popular member of the community, and was involved with Hillwood Red Cross and Hillwood Football Club. Our sympathy to Lexie's children and their families.

FAIRLIE, Homer died on 16th March, 2022. Homer and his wife Noreen managed the Mt Direction Service Station some years ago. Our sympathy goes out to Noreen and their children Julie-ann, Alistair and Shane.

**HILLWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB:** Shark Café held on Mondays and Tuesdays, was trialled during the off-season. It proved popular and successful. Trish said thank you for your support, see you next year from October.

The usual off-season Friday night meals for the community were also again popular. By the time this newsletter is out, the football season will have started and all of this changes. During the season meals are available on Thursday night training nights. They are called player's teas but are available

for the community while players are training. So come along at 6.00 o'clock or a little earlier and have a night off from cooking.

The Football Club is on Facebook: Hillwood Sharks Football Club.

and are now on the web

<https://www.hillwoodsharks.com/>

## HILLWOOD GARDEN CLUB:

The February meeting has for many years been combined with GEORGE TOWN & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION and a speaker is organised. The speaker this year was Mike Turner of Environex who delighted us with his stories of the wonderful work Environex carry out with re-cycling. They produce many products and this is one example: items from Hospitals that are used once then thrown out. These are collected and re-cycled into another product that the hospitals can use. These are also one-off use, so are collected and re-cycled again.

## LOCAL GROUPS and their CONTACTS:

**HILLWOOD FIRE BRIGADE:** Meet every second Thursday night at the Hillwood Fire Shed at 6.00 p.m. CONTACT:

**FIRE CHIEF ELAINE BURNS** on 0417 540 665. Hillwood Fire Brigade news is now combined with that of Dilston Fire Brigade.

**HILLWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB:** Monthly meetings on first Wednesday of the month at 7.00 p.m. at the Clubrooms. A member of the NTFA Premier League. Both Men's and Women's teams. CONTACT: BOB McLEAN 63 948124 or 0418 130 901 or JAYNE DONNELLY on 0417 415 292.

**HILLWOOD GARDEN CLUB:** Meet monthly on third Monday of the month in the Hillwood Hall at 7.30 p.m. Sometimes have speakers or demonstrations. A fun group. CONTACT: GERALDINE GOODWIN on 63 948267.

**HILLWOOD HISTORY GROUP:** This group looks after and collects Hillwood memorabilia which is stored in the History Room at the Hillwood Hall. To visit the History room or donate items CONTACT: JULIE AIREY on 0408 275 539.

**HILLWOOD LADIES GROUP:** Meet Wednesdays from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon at Hillwood Meditation Centre. Do craft work or sit and chat, bingo once per month, occasionally go out for lunch. Contact: GAYLE LAVERTY on 63 948213 or 0418 590 564.

**HILLWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION:** Meetings monthly on third Tuesdays. Committee meetings alternate with general meetings. Liaise with George Town Council, responsible for History Room, hold Anzac Day events, other community or fund-raising events. CONTACTS: President: ROBYN WHEELER. Secretary: ANNE GREEN. Email: [HillwoodPA@outlook.com](mailto:HillwoodPA@outlook.com)

# THE HILLWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

(Provided by President, Robyn Wheeler)



## History Room Open Day

The first open day for the year for the History Room at the Hillwood War Memorial Hall was held Saturday 26th February 2022 from 9:30am till 2pm. A second open day on Tuesday 10th March and again on Sunday afternoon on 20th March.

Our plan is to have future open days to coincide with the Hillwood Football Club home games.

So we have pencilled in future open days:

April 9 and 30

May 14 and 21

June 4

July 2 and 16

Aug 6

We also plan to be open on Anzac Day morning when we hold our Anzac Day Breakfast. Keep your eyes open for our Hillwood chalk board updates or on our Hillwood Progress Association Face Book page.

A huge number of volunteer hours have been spent collecting stories and setting up the room, with a shoe-string budget. Learn about the Hillwood State School, orchards, oyster farming and much more. You might like to contribute to our award winning project "Whose been living in my house?" and become part of the living history of Hillwood.

Consider sharing some of your memories or donating items.

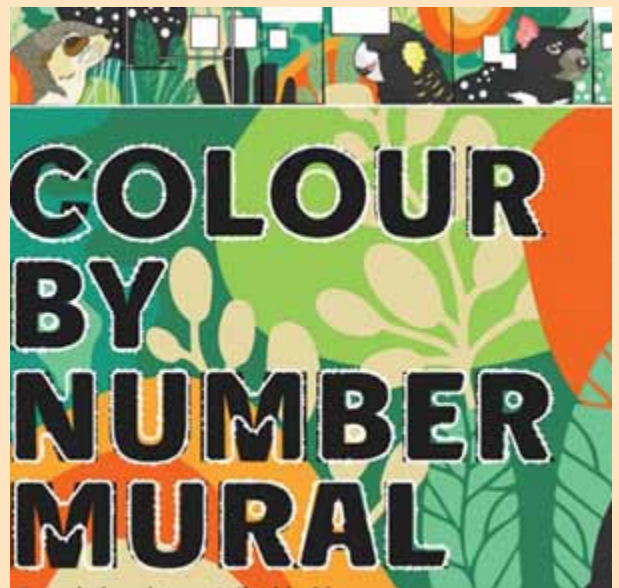
For further information, please contact via email to [HillwoodHistoryRoom@outlook.com](mailto:HillwoodHistoryRoom@outlook.com) or phone Julie Airey 0408 275 539.



## PAINT BY NUMBERS

The Hillwood Progress Association hold bi-monthly meetings open to the general public. At our recent General Meeting held on the 15th of March at the Hillwood War Memorial Hall we had a special guest, Thelma Demesa Meraz, Community Officer- Arts, Culture and Experiences at the George Town Council. Thelma spoke on the George Town Council's Placemaking Committee's suggested project of the beautification in public spaces and is contemplating a project of a painting by numbers in the public toilets. The invitation was given to provide feedback about what we would like to see in the design and to later invite the community to be involved in the painting with an artist.

If you (or your children) would like to be involved, please contact Thelma via email: [thelmad@georgetown.tas.gov.au](mailto:thelmad@georgetown.tas.gov.au) or phone 0437 333 650.



## HILLWOOD



### ANZAC DAY

Planning for our 2022 ANZAC Day Hillwood Dawn Service and Breakfast has already commenced. The service is held at the Hillwood Fire Station commencing at 6am.

This is followed by breakfast by donation at the Hillwood War Memorial Hall. The event is funded by donations and raffles from the previous year, and your donation goes towards next years event. Any funds raised above the cost of the breakfast are donated to charity. Last year donations were split between Speak up, Stay Chatty and the Hillwood Community Fund.

All members of the community are invited to attend. You are welcome to lay a wreath, please register on the morning. If you or some-one you know has any military memorabilia you would like to display, or if you would just like to help on the day, please contact us via email: [HillwoodPA@outlook.com](mailto:HillwoodPA@outlook.com)

### MEET THE NEIGHBOURS

By the time of printing, we will have had our Meet the Neighbours Sausage Sizzle held at the Hillwood Pontoon site on Sunday 27th March 2022. If you miss this event don't fret, we will continue to have "Meet the Neighbours" events on a regular basis throughout the year. Keep an eye out on our Hillwood Progress Association Face Book Page or on the Community Chalk Noticeboards. Of course, we will advertise in the Smoke Signals if time permits.

If you have ideas for future events that you would like to be involved in please contact us via email: [HillwoodPA@outlook.com](mailto:HillwoodPA@outlook.com)



Working from a ladder? Cleaning the roof, gutters, solar panels, flue?  
Do it safely with a Ladder Safe Leash.  
Go to [laddersafeleash.com.au](http://laddersafeleash.com.au) to order online.

Enter the discount code "Smokesignals" for free delivery.



## LJ Hooker

**Selling Your Home?**  
**Contact Justin Goebel**  
**0458 435 062**





## Advertising Rates

Casual Placement

1/9 page (55x93mm) \$30

6 editions

1/9 page \$150

For other size ads please  
contact Smoke Signals  
Advertising copy is  
preferred in .pdf



**NORTH  
GRADE  
PLUMBING**

Reliable plumber available for:

- Maintenance
- Hot water cylinders
- Drain cleaning
- New Builds
- Renovations
- Light Commercial

Contact Francis on 0400 144 219  
[northgradeplumbing@gmail.com](mailto:northgradeplumbing@gmail.com)

Please like us on Facebook!  
[facebook.com/NorthGradePlumbing](https://facebook.com/NorthGradePlumbing)

## FOR SALE



**Ex food industry**  
- very clean inside.  
Water storage for animals,  
fire fighting or gardening  
\$90 each  
PH 0400 637 202

## Community Contacts

FIRE:000

**Dilston Fire Brigade**

Raoul Stow 0417 351 423

**Hillwood Fire Brigade**

Elaine Burns 0417 540 665

**Windermere Cafe**

6328 1303

**Marigolds Cafe Hillwood**

6311 0686

**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**

Secretary:: **George Cercez**

[secretary@easttamarmensshed.org.au](mailto:secretary@easttamarmensshed.org.au)

**Book Discussion Group**

Jess: 0428 658 988

[Jess.Panday@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:Jess.Panday@education.tas.gov.au)

**Justice of The Peace**

Nick Jones : ?

**Copy For NEXT**

**ISSUE Due**

**Friday, 27th May**

Email address:

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

Editorial decisions for publication

will be made by **Tony Walker:**

[tony.walker@y7mail.com](mailto:tony.walker@y7mail.com)

**Smokesignals on the web:**

[www.smokesignalscn.com](http://www.smokesignalscn.com)




**MARS**  
CONTRACTING TASMANIA





0417 351 423  
[dig@marscontracting.com.au](mailto:dig@marscontracting.com.au)

**CAT 301.8 Mini Excavator**  
available for hire for  
those smaller jobs


**Metal Art  
by  
Broady**



- Animals
- Man Cave
- Fire Pits
- Cars
- Privacy Screens
- Signs
- Garden and Home Decor
- AFL
- NRL
- ANZAC
- Custom Orders



0427 833 090



**Precision  
Tree Care**

15 years  
experience

All aspects of tree care including:

- Tree removals, trimming, shaping and on site mulching.
- Climbing arborist and cherry pickers up to 28m.
- Excavator, PosiTrak, wood splitter and mobile sawmill.

Qualified - Reliable - Fully insured  
Jesse Eastman, 0490 192 377, [ptctasmania@gmail.com](mailto:ptctasmania@gmail.com)



## Are you considering selling your home?

Sharon Fahey has been a real estate agent since 2002. As a Sales Consultant, she deals with owners and purchasers within the North East areas of Tasmania as well as Launceston.

She has lived in Windermere, in the East Tamar since 2002 and prior to that moved from Karoola. She particularly loves the sense of community in country areas, knows many people, and the diversity of those who live there.

Sharon has sold everything from lifestyle properties, acreage and your typical suburban home in the Launceston area. Sharon has been recognized a number of times as being a 'top 100 sales agent' Australia-wide for Elders, most recently in January 2022!

Sharon loves the challenge of marketing unusual properties and helping her vendor's property stand out in a busy market, also working closely with buyers to match them with their ideal homes. She always strives to achieve the best price the market is prepared to pay.

A unique blend of professionalism, personality and drive has been the key factor that allows Sharon to say that she certainly has the runs on the board when it comes to her performance as a top consultant at Elders Towns Shearing.

**For an obligation free appraisal, call Sharon today on 0409 188 249.**



Towns Shearing

58 Elizabeth Street, Launceston  
e: Sharon.fahey@elders.com.au

NEWSLETTER PRINTED BY COURTESY OF

# Michael Ferguson

Liberal Member for BASS



Tasmanian  
**Liberals**

P: (03) 6777 1032

PO Box 537 Launceston 7250

michael.ferguson@dpac.tas.gov.au



MichaelFergusonMP

www.michaelferguson.com

Authorised by M. Ferguson 53 St John St Launceston 7250



### THE CARPET & UPHOLSTERY STEAM CLEANING SPECIALISTS

We clean with the latest innovative technology, truck mounted machines that generates its own hot water.

Superior drying in less than 6 hours.

Real Estate Approved

Brett and Lilli are husband and wife team with over 30 years experience

This technology is also environmentally friendly, and safe for pets

- Lounge Suite steam cleaning
- Mattress steam cleaning
- Vehicle upholstery steam cleaning
- Boats steam cleaning

Ask Lilli about our FREE RUG CLEANING offer.

No additional charges for basic cleaning that may occur on the job

- Book with a friend and save \$10 each
- Senior and concession card discounts
- Custom packages available on application

P. 6394 9135 M. 0438 778 577

Launceston, surrounding Suburbs

ABN: 9643 104 1939



Like us on  
Facebook

eaglecarpetcare.com.au