



Smoke Signals

Your Free Community Newsletter

**SNAKE
BITE
INFORMATION**



Issue 250

www.smokesignalscn.wordpress.com

April 2024

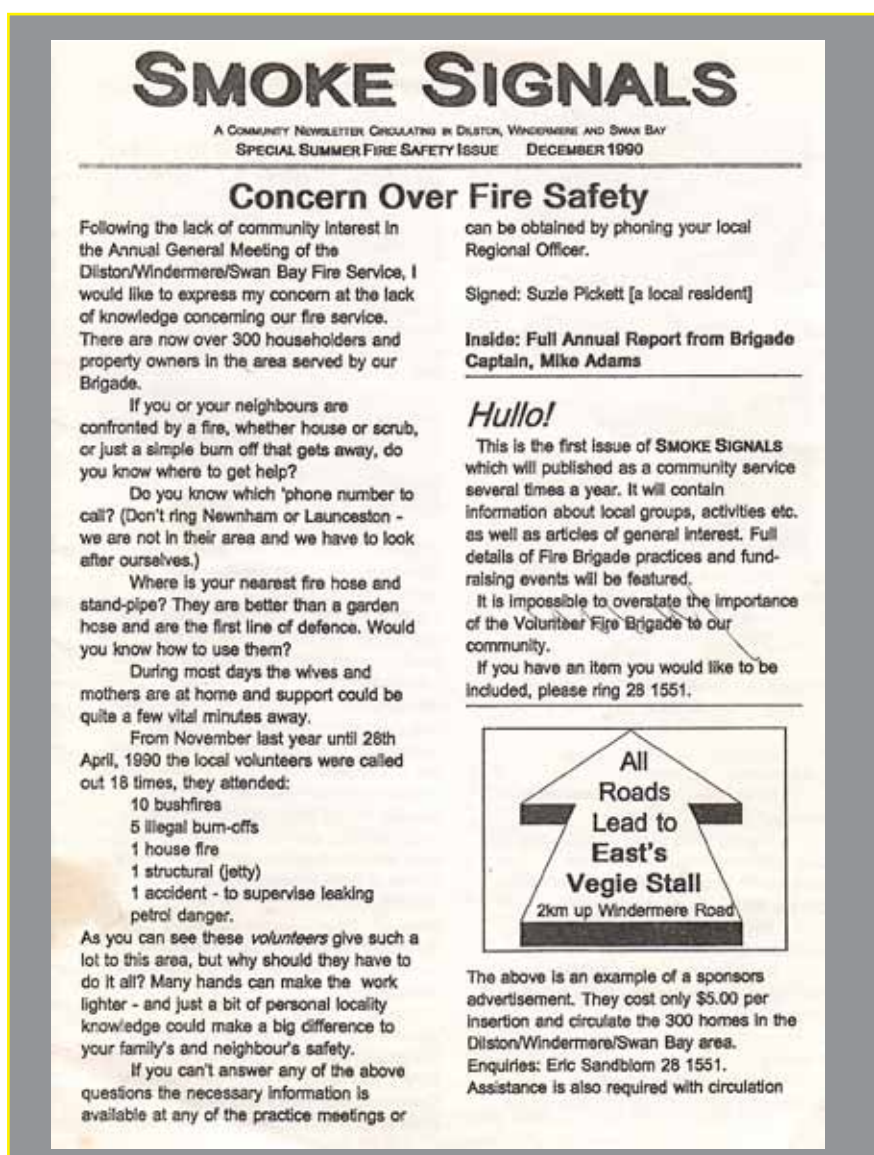
OUR 250TH EDITION!

In December 1990, we first said hello:

“Hello, this is the first issue of SMOKE SIGNALS which will be published as a community service several times a year. It will contain information about local groups, activities etc. as well as articles of general interest. Full details of Fire Brigade practices and fund-raising events will be featured.”

The writer was Eric Sandblom, the inaugural editor of Smoke Signals. Early editions carried Fire Brigade news and fund-raising events and East Tamar Garden Club and St Matthias Church were regular contributors. Early advertisers were Lees Orchards, Caltex Mount Direction, the Windermere Corner Store and the Bohemian Restaurant, which was at that time on the corner of the East Tamar Highway and Dilston Road.

In September 1996, the headline read “The last Smoke Signals?” as Eric and Noeline Sandblom were relocating to Victoria. Fortunately Gary Woodfall stepped up as Editor and produced Smoke Signals until October, 2003 when again the headline was “The end of an era approaches” with the announcement that December would be the last issue if a new Editor could not be found. My wife Sue and I had recently moved to Dilston and I put up my hand to keep Smoke Signals going. The timing was unfortunate as in 2004 I was diagnosed with prostate cancer, so the production of Smoke Signals was a bit irregular until Jon Hosford got things back on track when he took over in February, 2008. After a decade



SMOKE SIGNALS
A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER CIRCULATING IN DILSTON, WINDERMERE AND SWAN BAY
SPECIAL SUMMER FIRE SAFETY ISSUE DECEMBER 1990

Concern Over Fire Safety

Following the lack of community interest in the Annual General Meeting of the Dilston/Windermere/Swan Bay Fire Service, I would like to express my concern at the lack of knowledge concerning our fire service. There are now over 300 householders and property owners in the area served by our Brigade.

If you or your neighbours are confronted by a fire, whether house or scrub, or just a simple burn off that gets away, do you know where to get help?

Do you know which 'phone number to call? (Don't ring Newnham or Launceston - we are not in their area and we have to look after ourselves.)

Where is your nearest fire hose and stand-pipe? They are better than a garden hose and are the first line of defence. Would you know how to use them?

During most days the wives and mothers are at home and support could be quite a few vital minutes away.

From November last year until 28th April, 1990 the local volunteers were called out 18 times, they attended:

- 10 bushfires
- 5 illegal burn-offs
- 1 house fire
- 1 structural (jetty)
- 1 accident - to supervise leaking petrol danger.

As you can see these volunteers give such a lot to this area, but why should they have to do it all? Many hands can make the work lighter - and just a bit of personal locality knowledge could make a big difference to your family's and neighbour's safety.

If you can't answer any of the above questions the necessary information is available at any of the practice meetings or can be obtained by phoning your local Regional Officer.

Signed: Suzie Pickett [a local resident]

Inside: Full Annual Report from Brigade Captain, Mike Adams

Hullo!

This is the first issue of SMOKE SIGNALS which will be published as a community service several times a year. It will contain information about local groups, activities etc. as well as articles of general interest. Full details of Fire Brigade practices and fund-raising events will be featured.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of the Volunteer Fire Brigade to our community.

If you have an item you would like to be included, please ring 28 1551.

All Roads Lead to East's Veggie Stall
2km up Windermere Road

The above is an example of a sponsors advertisement. They cost only \$5.00 per insertion and circulate the 300 homes in the Dilston/Windermere/Swan Bay area. Enquiries: Eric Sandblom 28 1551. Assistance is also required with circulation

tenure, Jon and Margaret left the district in 2019 and I was re-recruited, my health problems being resolved. Now it's time for Sue and I to move on to a smaller property in Launceston and in the next edition I'll introduce our new Editor.

Smoke Signals had dealt with a number of local issues and events over the years, notably the 150th and 175th anniversaries of St Matthias, and the successful campaign to save the church from sale in 2018, the successful community campaign for a safe access to the Dilston bypass in 2009 and the (so far unsuccessful) campaign for NBN fibre connection for the East Tamar. And who could forget the August, 2020 storm that blanketed our region with snow.

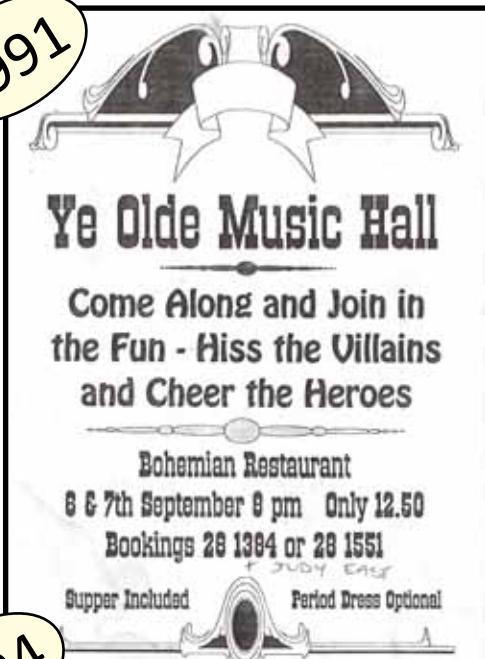
OUR 250TH EDITION Continued

Over 250 editions we have grown from a small A5 leaflet circulating to 300 homes, to a 16 page bimonthly full colour publication delivered to 900 homes and with a healthy on line circulation. This has been made possible by the generous support of local MPs Jim Cox, Brian Wightman and now Michael Ferguson, and we thank them for their support. In 2012 we added Hillwood to our circulation area, so we now cover a large part of the East Tamar.

Smoke Signals is produced entirely by volunteers and all proceeds from advertising go towards community projects. My thanks go to the present production and distribution team, Margaret Wynn, George and Jenny Chandler and Jon Hosford and to all our deliverers who ensure Smoke Signals gets to your mail box.

Tony Walker Editor

1991



Ye Olde Music Hall

Come Along and Join in
the Fun - Hiss the Villains
and Cheer the Heroes

Bohemian Restaurant
6 & 7th September 8 pm Only 12.50
Bookings 28 1384 or 28 1551
Supper Included Period Dress Optional

1993

Smoke Signals

Dilston, Windermere, Swan Bay Rural Fire Brigade Community Newsletter No.25 Nov. 1993

CHURCH CELEBRATIONS A GREAT SUCCESS

AN IMPRESSION

of the day by a local resident.

Views of tidy gardens and freshly mown lawns, the roadside verges so neatly slashed by the Council, the removal of all that litter at the approaches to Windermere Road, made a great impression on visitors to Windermere for the St. Matthias Church celebrations.

Manicured

The churchyard was beautifully manicured and flowers had been placed on the graves. Inside the church everything was spotless and adorned with vases of flowers. The sun shone and the overflow congregation, seated outside, followed the Service of Thanksgiving with the aid of a loudspeaker as the Bishop of Tasmania, the Right Reverend Phillip Norwell delivered his homily. Of special interest was the organist, Mr. Trevor



Sornell, who played the organ, then new, for the centenary celebrations. The volunteers who appeared when required to prepare, and again for packing up, were great workers. All the cakes were gratefully received as was the special book design cake with a picture of St. Matthias Church as a feature.

Members of St. Matthias Church wish to express our sincere thanks to all who helped to make the 150th Anniversary such a great day. So many people helped us in so many ways that we prefer not to name individuals, but our thanks go to all who assisted in any way. We were fortunate to have such a glorious day and with such a large crowd it was an overwhelming success.

Visitors came from Western Australia, N.S.W., South Australia and Victoria and many parts of Tasmania. It was great to see the friendships made between the descendant of our original settlers to the area and the present day inhabitants. Many photos were taken during this memorable day.

1996



WE WILL QUOTE
FOR ANY
OCCASION
28 1398

THE PROFESSIONALS
BOHEMIAN
Reception Centre
Nothing is too much
trouble, no function
too small.

Ring us now for
Bookings!

LIONS HEAD
Bar & Bistro
Simon & Karen Jordan

1994

Smoke Signals

Dilston, Windermere, Swan Bay Rural Fire Brigade Community Newsletter No.27 Jan. 1994

AT THE NSW FIRE FRONT

Bob Mallette, our Deputy Fire Brigade Captain, and one of the Tasmanian volunteers, tells of his experience fighting the worst fires in the history of NSW

1996

Smoke Signals

Dilston, Windermere, Swan Bay Rural Fire Brigade Community Newsletter No.34

Church Closure Threat

ST MATTHIAS CHURCH - WINDERMERE

Locals will be concerned and saddened to learn that a recent Anglican Church Commission has recommended that St Matthias, along with three other churches in the Launceston North Parish, be closed.

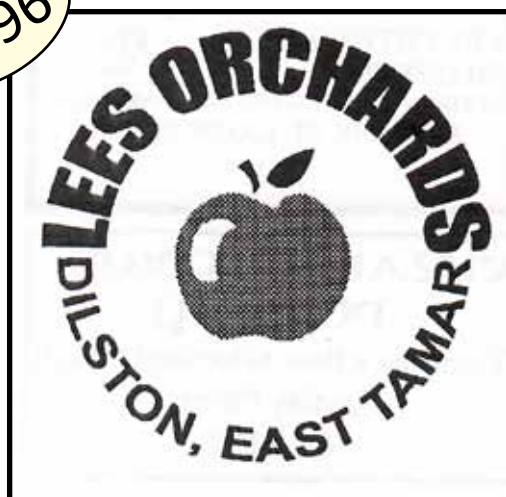
The Commission was set up to examine and make recommendations on how to consolidate the large number of Anglican Churches throughout the Launceston Diocese. This report, whilst still to be accepted by the Bishop,

local congregation to ask the Bishop to attend the next service at St Matthias on Sunday 7 July at 11:15 to allow for discussion after the service. All interested church goers are urged to attend.

There is a very real possibility that unless the local community gets behind St Matthias spiritually, by supporting and attending Church services, it will be closed. After over 150 years of continuous services and bearing in mind attendances over Christmas it would be tragic if



1996



LEES ORCHARDS

DILSTON, EAST TAMAR

2000

Tamar River Festival

Windermere Community Group

Scare Crow Workshop

2006

DILSTON BYPASS PROMISED

EXTRACT FROM MR MICHAEL FERGUSON'S BUDGET NIGHT MEDIA RELEASE- May 9, 2006

The East Tamar Highway will receive an upgrade to the value of \$60 million. Federal Member for Bass Michael Ferguson said that the delivery of the funds in tonight's budget means a new future for transport in the region.

"This announcement is clearly the most significant highway funding for Northern Tasmania in decades," he said.

"This work will mean that the East Tamar Highway will be much safer and will provide a more efficient journey for thousands of motorists. With the likelihood of a pulp mill at Bell Bay, we can also be confident of much more suitable conditions for an increase in log truck



Local residents Ron Goodes and Margo Roark (l & r), Federal Member for Bass Michael Ferguson and Federal Minister for Transport Warren Truss exploring possible routes for the Dilston bypass.

2007



Smoke Signals

SPECIAL EDITION

Dec 2007

Dilston, Windermere, Swan Bay Community Newsletter

No. 103

RESIDENTS CALL FOR ACTION OVER UNSAFE NEW HIGHWAY ACCESS

2020

A SNOWY SURPRISE



OUR HERITAGE CHURCH IS ON THE BISHOP'S LIST TO BE CLOSED & SOLD

This
Garden
Communi
Church
Fire B
Hillwo



... in Switzerland? No, Dilston under snow. What an experience,

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU MICHAEL



This year marks ten years that Smoke Signals has been produced by our local member (and Deputy Premier) Michael Ferguson's Launceston staff, at no cost to us. Their expertise and generosity has allowed us to move to the 16 page, full colour, stapled publication that you now receive every second month. It is a huge commitment for them both in resources and staff time. So we'd like to say congratulations to Michael on his recent re-election and a very big Smoke Signals thank you for your ongoing partnership. We couldn't do it without you.

WCF MARKET AT DILSTON HALL



Windermere Church Forever held a very successful market day at the Dilston Hall in March, raising almost \$3,800 for the Church preservation fund. This represented a huge effort from all the volunteers from booking the hall, arranging insurance, advertising, letter box drops, collecting donations then moving to the Hall the evening before, ready for the setting up early on the morning of the market. And of course there is the big clean up afterwards, taking two to three days distributing left over items to Charities.

A big thank you to all the volunteers and stallholders, and special thanks to Helen Jelbert for the amazing Easter Bonnet Cake for the raffle, to Lizzie Benstead and her team for the Devonshire Teas, a great money-raiser, and to the Men's Shed for the BBQ and many items for sale.



Raffle winners were:

Cake Raffle

- 1st Easter Bonnet Cake - Debbie Tickner
- 2nd Mrs Bridges Preserves - Jenny Chandler
- 3rd Oven Mitt - George of Kings Meadows

Devonshire Tea Raffle - single prize

- Tea Cosy with teapot, dome bee cake and honey - Rose of Newnham

Garden Raffle

- 1st Bonsai Landscape by Green Harmony - Rhonda Mercer of Latrobe
- 2nd Bird House/Nest Box - Edwina Brown
- 3rd Eagle Carpet Cleaning \$30 Voucher - Jenny c/- J Fenton, Dilston

Elizabeth Rainbird selling tickets for the Easter Cake



COMMUNITY SCARECROWS

The Community Scarecrows launched at the Market were a huge hit with far too many for us to feature in Smoke Signals – to see the full collection featuring many amazingly creative and original scarecrows on line go to the Smoke Signals website

www.smokesignalscn.wordpress.com



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Senior service provider genU is looking for volunteers for its Aged Care Volunteer Visitor Scheme. This involves visiting an older person on a weekly or fortnightly basis for a friendly chat, a coffee date or perhaps a board game.

Volunteers report that it is an enriching experience making meaningful contact with someone in need, and adds laughter, conversation and heartwarming experience to their lives.

If you'd like to find out more ring Chantelle Hodgetts on 0448 649 964 or email volunteers@genu.org.au

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

What a wonderful way it was to celebrate the changing of the seasons in our beautiful East Tamar region (kanamaluka) – with our week of events beginning with the Giant Easter Market at the Dilston Memorial Hall, to raise funds for Windermere Church Forever (WCF). Those visiting the market contributed willingly (and with some fabulous creative touches) to decorate “Reggie”, our Community Scarecrow. Reggie stood at the gate of the Dilston Hall for the next week, regaling all who witnessed the presence of this magnificent community work of art, to join in “Our Scarecrow Story” with the creation of individual scarecrows displayed at front gates, in paddocks and on fences for all to see and enjoy. The scarecrows became many and varied, and some imaginative stories emerged – amusing, inspiring and always joyful!

Our week of festivities was completed with the Harvest Celebration held in the grounds of our local and historic St Matthias’ Anglican Church, Windermere. The event was hosted by Dilston Windermere Swan Bay Garden Club and sponsored by the Parish Council. We thank the Parish Council for this sponsorship and for permission to use the beautiful park-like grounds.



For a more comprehensive look at all the scarecrows check out the web site

The weather was kind to us and it was a stunning autumn day. The trees in the churchyard provided a delightful shaded and sheltered ambiance for our local artisans, honey-related producers and a crop swap. The table of fruit, vegetables, preserves, biscuits etc. groaned under the weight of the locally grown produce for swapping, and there were many bee-friendly plants to swap. Visitors took turns to guess the number of lima beans in the jar with several prizes for the closest guesses. There were free tours of the church, and a history table inside the church. Dilston Fire Brigade displayed two of their fire trucks for an up-close view and some wonderful photo opportunities with our fabulous local Fire Brigade, who do a marvellous job.



Stephen, from Wanderer Mead, provided many a happy visitor with tastings of his locally produced mead (Did you know that mead is the first known alcoholic beverage consumed by mankind, AND it is believed to predate wine by nearly three thousand years! For those who didn't know, it is made using honey rather than grapes, as its source of sugar).



Florence, our youngest exhibitor at just nine years old), is a beekeeper who lives in Dilston, and has learnt how to care for her Mum's bees at all stages of the process. Florence provided taste tests of several different honeys on the day, and displayed honeycomb and her pink beekeeper's protective suit.

Malcolm, also a local beekeeper, provided taste tests of his honey and had two (currently uninhabited) beehives to view up close.



The Community art work continued (Reggie watched with interest!) with a "mural" of tiles which were decorated with a harvest theme, by those attending the Harvest Celebration. The mural is taking shape and will eventually be framed and coated in resin to preserve it for the future, as an artistic "snapshot" of Autumn in the East Tamar in 2024.

Thank you to all who attended and participated.



Our local fabulous volunteers at the Dilston Fire Brigade exhibit – two trucks and lots of interest! Would you like to volunteer? Please contact them if you would like to know more.

Dilston Windermere Swan Bay Garden Club's next gathering will be in April – a visit to the Tasmanian Arboretum. If you would like to be a part of Garden Club, please contact me or send an email to the address below.

New members are very welcome.

Email: DilWinSBGardenClub@gmail.com

Telephone: 0407 447 344

BEES IN THE GARDEN



WHETHER YOU START EARLY OR LATER IN LIFE BEEKEEPING IS MAGIC.

Our community's youngest beekeeper is now nine years old! Florence Jeffery's interest in beekeeping began when she was just five years old when her mother, Emma, was presented with a beehive by her husband. Inspired by a book about beekeeping, Florence was soon engaged with helping spin the honey extractor, filling the jars with honey from the settling tank after it had been strained, and weighing and calculating the weight and total of the harvest. Provided with a bee suit, Florence progressed to holding the smoker and puffing out the smoke to calm the bees when they inspected the hives and extracted the frames. That was when the family lived on Flinders Island. Last year they moved back to Dilston, bringing their bees on the plane with them! Today they have three hives, and young Florence is now a capable beekeeper with the experience to help with all the steps in the honey process.

Having watched her friends on Flinders have their own veggie stall outside their house, Florence was excited to have a honey stall with the honey she harvested this season. After thumbs up from Launceston Council she and her younger brother Alex had their first honey sales over the fence at home. Having her own stall at our community Harvest Celebration at St Matthias' Church was the end of a perfect summer for Florence.



By contrast, local beekeeper Malcolm Giles, who lives on Los Angelos Road, got into producing honey when he was given a beekeeping kit for his fiftieth birthday. Deciding he was going to take this opportunity seriously Malcom enrolled in a beekeeping course in Hobart. This entailed Malcolm driving to Hobart after he finished work, attending the evening course, and driving home that night. His three evening sessions and one full day session paid off handsomely, and Malcolm is a fully qualified beekeeper and member of Tasmanian Beekeepers Association.

CHURCH NEWS St Matthias' Anglican Church

Services on 2nd and 4th Sundays each month at 9am

Easter is now over and what wonderful attendances we have had of late. We have welcomed our new Rector Rev Lee Shirvill, but sadly will soon be saying farewell to Rev John Tongue and his wife Shirley and adult family Peter and Kimberley. They have contributed so much to St Matthias' and we'd love a great turn-up for his last service on May 12th and the farewell retirement dinner on May 17th. (book on 0409191483)

The last 2 months have been busy and exciting with:

Rev Lee's Commissioning Service at Holy Trinity Feb 28th, when our own St Matthias' Music Group led one of the hymns, and George Chandler handed Lee a Bible as a symbol of The Word. Then Rev Lee conducted his first St Matthias service on March 10th. He is keen to meet everyone and get to know our community.



Thanks to our "flower ladies" who produce stunning fresh arrangements for every service, especially to Judy East for her wonderful sunflowers which featured recently in a magnificent painting by local artist Eleonora Pulcini as a fundraiser for community group Windermere Church Forever.

The Harvest Community Picnic organised by the local Garden Club was held in the church grounds Sat. March 23, with both our church and our "Parable of the Sower" scarecrow getting lots of attention.



We were saddened recently to learn of the passing of both Max Jansson, long-term active parishioner and Lalla Smethurst, local historian and past resident. Their contributions over many years have been treasured.

Special services coming up will be around ANZAC Day and Mother's Day, though with our growing congregation, every service seems very special!

Unfortunately our 2 large gas cylinders were stolen recently, so a cage will be installed soon to ensure their security before the heaters are needed in winter.

This may be of interest: Holy Trinity have in storage approx. 1500 slates (approx. A4 size) suitable for roofing or flooring, excess from roofing project approx. 80 years ago! Contact Grahame (0413629500) if you are interested

Facebook: stmatthiaswindermere or Ph. 0468489068 Rev Lee Shirvill, or 0409317806 Marg Hosford

The Black Currawong is a medium-sized bird endemic to Tasmania. It has a heavy, black bill, black body and white tips to the flight-feathers and tail. It has a bright yellow eye. Immature birds are similar but duller in appearance.

In Tasmania, the 'Black-winged' subspecies of the Grey Currawong, *S. versicolor*, is similar, but can be distinguished from the Black Currawong, by having white in its wings, a different call and a less massive beak. The Forest Raven, *Corvus tasmanicus*, lacks the white tail markings of the Black Currawong.

In the Autumn, many of these birds leave their home in the highlands and migrate to the milder weather of the Tamar Valley and coastal areas. Their musical call, 'kar-week, week-kar', is often heard of a morning and evening echoing along the valleys.

The Black Currawong is an omnivore, feeding on young birds, lizards, worms, insects and berries. It can be quite bold and has been

known to snatch food from people. Walkers in the highlands need to be careful of leaving packs at open stations for side walks, as these birds are known to manipulate pack zips in search of tasty morsels.

Grape growers in the Tamar Valley are a keen target for these birds which are skilled at getting under netting to share ripe grapes in March and April.

They breed in the highlands high in the canopy of eucalypt forests. Both parents actively feed 2-4 chicks in the early summer months.



OUR HISTORY

Tony Walker

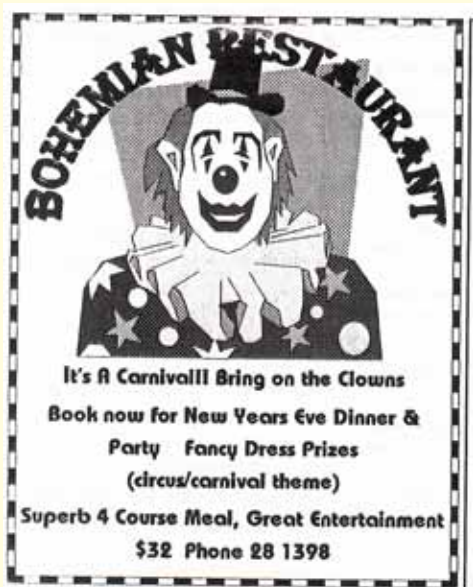
REMEMBERING THE BOHEMIAN

One of the first advertisers in Smoke Signals was the Bohemian Restaurant, on the corner of Dilston Road and what was then the East Tamar Highway. Many older residents will have pleasant memories of nights out at what was then our local restaurant.

The building was originally constructed in the 1970s as the Dilston Church of Christ. This congregation was commenced by Gerald Pace in the early 70's, but by the time Smoke Signals was launched in 1990 Simon and Karen Burden had converted the building to the Bohemian Restaurant and the Lion's Head Bar and Bistro.

This lively restaurant and function centre was a feature of the East Tamar, with events like a 60s Rock 'n Roll Party, a fancy dress New Year's Eve and an Australia Day barbeque on the lawns. In 1996 it was the venue for the farewell to Eric and Noeline Sandblom when they moved to Victoria. Eric was the founder and first Editor of Smoke Signals. For more than 10 years it was the venue for local Neighborhood Watch meetings.

Sadly, the Bohemian closed in March, 2000 and, apart from a brief period when the Rostella Restaurant was trading, locals have had to drive further for their dining out. We miss it even more when we look at the ad – a superb four course dinner for \$32!



There has been a lot of activity at the Men's Shed recently with the preparation for the Market held on March 16th followed by the sausage sizzle when the election was held at the Dilston Hall on the 23rd. The combined events proved quite financially successful and will soon be well spent, as we are finally building our mezzanine floor in the Shed.



With the Support of the Tasmanian Department of Communities and the Federal Government Men's Shed grants program we will be able to increase our work area by storing wood and projects above floor level on the mezzanine floor. Plans have been drawn by ARTAS (generously donated) and the foundations have been dug in the existing Shed floor thanks to Andrew from Swan Bay Excavations who generously donated his time and machine. It has been a long process with planning, building approvals, engineers all done and steel fabrication now underway.

A great team and community effort for which we are very grateful.



ETMS is assisted by equipment grants from the Tasmanian Government.



- Experienced and reliable
- 5t excavator and tipper truck
- Trenching & drainage, rock breaker, post hole boring and more
- General site works
- Landscape works
- Livestock/pet burials

Chris Grant

📞 0487 033 787
✉ groundbreakingexcavations@outlook.com



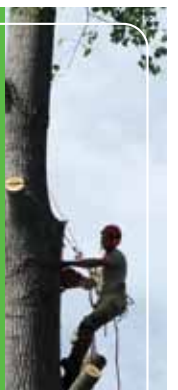
15 years experience

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





Tasmania Fire Service

Dilston and Hillwood Fire Brigades



Register your burn offs and fires by calling freecall 1800 000 699

By letting us know, you will help to prevent false alarms!

Fire Season hits again!

As reported last issue of smoke signals, the early start to the fire season in October 2023, didn't result in any significant activity...that is until just after the February smoke signals was published.

Since then both Hillwood and Dilston Brigades have been extremely busy in support of a wide range of incidents, most notably the very visible fires in Rocherlea and Ravenswood. Both incidents consumed a large number of resources from a wide range of brigades, including those sent from the south to support us in the north.

In addition, both brigades have deployed crews to support a great number other challenging incidents including Waterhouse, St Leonards, Trevallyn, West Tamar, Port Latta, Ouse, Dee and Bronte Lagoons, not forgetting the early season deployments to the East Coast and Flinders Island.

Brigade Chiefs Elaine and Raoul are immensely proud of the efforts their brigade members have been putting in, and thank their members for continuing to heed the call when the pager goes off!

Both brigades always have room for more, so please, if you feel you might be able to lend some of your valuable time, we would love to chat about the rewarding role TFS volunteering play in the Tasmanian community.



SMOKE ALARMS

With the change from daylight saving, it's a good time to check and change your smoke alarm batteries if applicable.

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

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 your burns and it helps us keep a track on fires in our area.



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



.../DilstonFireBrigade
.../TasmaniaFireService



CONGRADULATIONS!

A huge milestone for Smoke Signals having reached 250 issues!

It has been a long road from the early days when the newsletter was produced by the fire brigade as a means to bring the community together!

And it is still doing so under the very watchful and committed eyes of the editorial team.

Many thanks from Dilston Fire Brigade for the hard work behind the scenes by Margaret, Jeff, Jon and Tony....and a whole many others including the ever faithful delivery volunteers.

And a final shout out to Michael Fergusen for his generosity in printing the newsletter every 2 months.

We look forward to issue 500, in what ever format that might be!!

HILLWOOD NEWS

GOOD NEWS:

Darling little **Scarlett Rose** born 19th February 2024 to parents Jasmine Latham and James McElwee. Welcome little Scarlet Rose, our newest member of the community.

SPORT:

Hillwood Touch Football: Our young team won the Grand Final on 26th Feb in their first year with Touch. Best on Ground **Angus Jefferies**. Well done, Angus.

A good win for our Women's team in their Practice Match against St Pat's on 15th February 2024.

In their third year, they are improving nicely. Go girls.

Meals at Footy Club are now on Thursday Player's tea nights. Each week. Community very welcome. Meals from 5.30 p.m. – eat in or take away. Phone to book or just turn up. Phone: 0437958788.

HILLWOOD LADIES GROUP:

Has recommenced and meet on Wednesday's at the Meditation Centre at 10am.

ZUMBA in HILLWOOD:

classes were held at the Hall on Thursdays at 6:30pm & Sundays at 10:30am. \$10 per session.

For future classes in Term 2 check out the Hillwood Zumba facebook page.

If you have any Hillwood news you would like to include, please contact Nancy Donnelly on 0431 613 484

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Oliver Breeze for co-ordinating and completing the Long Patrol 96km walk on a very hot day to raise funds for Soldier On. For those wishing to donate, this may be done through the Long Patrol Facebook page. Well done Oliver and all of your crew.

Ollie and Paul Herron of Hillwood Whisky for being nominated for the World Whiskies Awards 2024 for the third time. They qualified when they were announced as Australia's best single cask, single malt with no age statement in February. Ollie sold his restaurant Prickly Cactus after ten years to help his father, Paul. Well done and good luck.

Shelby Miller has been announced as Captain for the Cavaliers in Netball again this year. Coach Katie O'Neill said she would likely be her ever-reliable self, but her increased focus on marshalling a completely new and inexperienced back-line would bring out the best in her. Go Shelby.

Cavaliers have started the season with a win against Kingston 59-41, with co-coach stating that Shelby was impressive in this side's maiden win of 2024.

90th birthday celebration: A lovely party was held in the football clubrooms to celebrate the 90th birthdays of **Lindsay Millar and Nancy Donnelly**.

THE HILLWOOD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

(Provided by President, Robyn Wheeler)

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA



The weather was good, but the numbers were few for our Clean up Australia Day at Hillwood. We still managed to clean up the bus stop area, the pontoon site, Egg Island Reserve and around as far as Craighburn. While we still delivered a full ute load to the George Town Council tip, it is evident that residents are picking up rubbish in their daily walks. Thank you to Derek, Sue and Rachelle, and thanks to all those who do the right thing. Please report any dumping of rubbish on the EPA website or you can also call the Litter Hotline on 1300 135 513 to request that a littering report form be sent to you.

HEALTHY HILLWOOD



Healthy Hillwood Exercises, run through the George Town Council's Healthy George Town program. Sessions are currently running on Fridays @ 11am, continuing through until June. Entry is free.

THE WAIT IS OVER - THE HILLWOOD ROCK CLIMBING AREA REOPENS



Hillwood's Rock Climbing site has been re-opened!

The George Town Council have negotiated a lease agreement with the landowner, and as part of the Wild Tamar Project, this amazing volcanic rock formation is sure to attract international interest once again. The project was made possible by grant funding under the Recovery for Regional Tourism program administered by Austrade.

A soft opening was held on Monday 11th March, when the climbers met at the footy ground to carpool. Steve Postle, (pictured below) Vice president of Rock Climbing Club of Tasmania, was excited about the area re-opening. Steve, who is also vice president of Crag Care of Tas, is interested in the environment side of rock climbing and is keen that all parties look after the area, so these cliffs are available for people in the future.

Steve can be contacted on 0437 321 218.

We were also keen to hear that Gerry Narkowicz, who has recently written a book on the history of rock climbing in Tasmania has been named the Crag Steward of Hillwood.

The Hillwood Rock Climbing Area is arguably the best sport climbing crag in Tasmania. There are over 150 routes of excellent quality, with unrivalled accessibility. The highly featured rock is a change from the vertical

dolerite found elsewhere around northern Tasmania and the cliffs face all directions making it climbable most of the year.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY Access times are daylight hours from dawn to dusk.

Users of this area do so at their own risk and take full responsibility for their own safety.

George Town Council does not inspect or maintain the climbing hardware. If you notice any damaged or missing hardware, please contact the Northern Climbers Club of Tasmania on ncct7250@gmail.com.

Vehicles must remain on the designated roadway and only park in designated carparks.

No pets, woodcutting, or overnight stays, and users must not trespass into the neighbouring farmland or interfere with livestock. Please use the toilet and rubbish bins provided. For any maintenance or general enquiries, please contact George Town Council on (03) 6382 8800.



The Cruising Yacht Club of Tasmania (based in Hobart) stopped at Marigold's for lunch on Saturday 2nd March 2024. The yacht's moored overnight in Spring Bay on their 2 week tour around Tasmania. Ex-serviceman Captain Rick Allen, Chief Engineer Craig Smith, 2nd Engineer Chris Schott, Executive Engineer David Jones, and Crew Member Malcolm Towney, joined the floatilla on the Southern Explorer, as part of their 5 weeks circumnavigation of Tasmania. Part of Mates 4 Mates, they organise fishing trips, with Malcolm training participants in all aspects of water safety. Great work guys, keep it up.





HILLWOOD WALKWAY COMPLETED!

Have you walked the new trail in Hillwood? The new trail can be found over the bridge near the footy ground leading to Egg Island Point. A long time in the planning, it is finally finished! Walk or ride, and enjoy the view.

Pictured: Hayden and Shane from Tazz Builders and Diggers, finishing off the walking trail.

SUPER SNIFFERS AT THE HILLWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB

At the end of February, you might have seen lots of dogs sniffing and searching their way around the football club. Just like the police drug dogs or the airport quarantine dogs – but without the drugs! The Tasmanian Dog Training Club held a two day Scent Work Workshop, training dogs to find four specific odours – birch, anise, clove & cypress – which are infused onto cotton bud tips, then hidden and left for an hour or so, ready for the dogs to search and find.

Scent Work is a dog sport where the dogs can compete in trials from novice to masters level, gaining titles as they progress. The dogs love to do it, as do the handlers. As can be seen from a few photos from the weekend, any breed, size, shape of dog can enjoy this game.

The dogs search in four different elements, containers (like postal service dogs), interiors, exteriors and vehicles.

Everyone had an enjoyable weekend, and all admired the Hillwood venue and football club facilities. Thanks to the committee for letting us use the football club.

The Tasmanian Dog Training Club has its training grounds at Churchill Park Sports Complex, Invermay. We have classes for puppies, basic obedience, agility, tracking and scent work. We are there every Sunday morning and anyone is welcome to come to visit. Find us on our website or facebook.

Chris Pontin Vice President TDTC



Cricket - border terrier - searching changerooms.



Billie-Jean – British Bulldog – checking suspicious toolbox



Reminder that the Royal Flying Doctors are funding Mental Health Support Workers in our area.

Adult Mental Health Support Worker:

Kate Gray can be contacted on 0448 854 479 kate.gray@rfdstas.org.au.

For anyone under 18: Joseph McLennan 0447 388 755 joseph.mclennan@rfdstas.org.au.

You can self-refer, or you can organise a referral from a health professional. This is a free service to those living in rural and remote Australia. Remember it's okay to be not okay.

Anzac Day Dawn Service and Breakfast



The Hillwood Progress Association will again be holding a Dawn Service at the Hillwood Fire Station starting at 6 am followed by a breakfast at the War Memorial Hall. More volunteers are needed to help with the breakfast, if you can assist in any way, please phone Robyn Wheeler on 0409 420 877.

Paint the Poppies The community are also invited to paint some poppies for display on the day. Gathering at the Hall on Saturday 13th April at 10:00am. Wear your painting gear, and bring a brush or two. Sheets and paint provided.

Sausage Sizzle A bbq will be held on the same day 16th April at 12 o'clock. Come meet the people in your community.

History Room Open : The history room will be open on the day.

Good Neighbours Create Safer Communities



The Hillwood Progress Association Inc. is now an organisational member of the Neighbourhood Watch, a Community-based crime prevention program which aims to improve the quality of life within a neighbourhood by minimising preventable crime and promoting closer community ties. One of the best crime prevention measures is having good neighbours and keeping an eye out for each other. All going well, we are hoping to have a representative from the George Town Police attend with a crime report and to answer any queries at our:

Next general meeting: Tuesday 11th June 7pm at the Hillwood War Memorial Hall.

What would you like to see happening in Hillwood? If you are interested in being involved in the community or would just like to have a voice on what you would like to see happening in our area, come along and have a say. We are hoping to have an update on the Hillwood Structure Plan and also our submissions to the George Town Council budget. All Welcome.

For upcoming events keep an eye on our chalkboards, or for more information contact Robyn Wheeler 0409420877 or check out our Hillwood Progress Association Facebook page.

HILLWOOD GARDEN CLUB

At its meeting in February Gerald and Lou Archer of "Landfall" provided a fascinating overview of the history of the Archer family in Tasmania since the 1820's to the present day. The family hailed from Hertfordshire in England and settled initially in the Longford and Cressy area. "Woolmers" estate was founded in 1817 by Thomas Archer and "Brickendon" was settled in 1824 by William Archer. A lot of the land around "Woolmers" was subsequently sold over the years. Subsequent land holdings included in Bothwell and Quamby, Pipers River, Windermere and Sway Bay. Subsequent properties were the "Landfall" property on the Tamar, bought in 1876, and "Greenhythe". The acquisition of "Landfall" was to be the foundation upon which Frank Archer (1846-1902), and his descendants were to build one of the most extraordinary pastoral empires in Tasmania.

Also in February Anne Green of Green Flower Farm hosted members to a tour of the wonderful farm where she and husband, Tom, grow a wide range of flowers notably for the Harvest Market. A huge amount of hard work with beautiful results. See photo.

At the March meeting members held a poetry night with many inspirational, heart felt and amusing poems being read out.

The Club meets on the third Monday of the month at 7.30 p.m. in the Hillwood Memorial Hall. All welcome.

Sue Overton, Secretary
63948127/0467670897



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Raoul Stow 0417 351 423

Hillwood Fire Brigade

Elaine Burns 0417 540 665

SES

132 500

Marigolds Cafe Hillwood
6311 0686

Dilston Hall

Launceston Council

St Matthias Church

June: 0411 567 029

Jenny: 0419 544 266

Playgroup

Corrie Summers 0448 259 863

**Dilston/Swan Bay/Windermere
Garden Club**

Kerri: 0407 447 344

East Tamar Mens Shed

Secretary:: **George Cercez**

secretary@etms.org.au

Book Discussion Group

Jess: 0428 658 988

Jess.Panday@education.tas.gov.au

Scrabble Group

Kerri, 0407 447 344

Justice of The Peace

Nick Jones : 0439 986 698

**Copy For NEXT
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Email address:

smokesignals@bigpond.com

Editorial decisions for publication
will be made by Tony Walker:

tony.walker@y7mail.com

Smokesignals on the web:

www.smokesignalscn.wordpress



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P: (03) 6777 1032

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