



# Smoke Signals

## Your Free Community Newsletter

Issue 253

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

October 2024

### A STORMY INTRODUCTION TO SPRING



The first of September signals the end of winter and a welcome beginning to the warmer months ahead. It seems this year however, nature had other things planned!

On August 29 there was power outage in Windermere lasting several hours, a sign of things to come! In the next few days winds certainly picked up, bringing down many trees and cutting power not only to surrounding areas of Dilston/Windermere/Swan Bay and Hillwood, but to much of Tasmania. These were certainly trying times, and local power outages lasted from 24 hours for some to over a week or more for others.

Repairs to the power network seemed to be frustratingly slow. Because of the extent of damage, work had to be prioritised. Lineworkers, electricians and emergency services had to restore infrastructure whilst working in extreme and dangerous conditions. Power was restored to most in a few days. Unfortunately for pockets of residents, difficult access to fallen wires meant some were without power for an extended period.

What really shone through everything was the effort put in by community members to help each other out. As power was gradually restored to some, offers were extended to those less fortunate and included things such as freezer space for food, recharges for mobile devices, portable generators, or even hot showers! Trees had fallen across roadways, and some were quickly cleared by locals if safe to do so. These offers of help continued throughout. The Hillwood News section of this issue has some information on the support offered in that area.

Such events are fortunately rare, but some resources are around to help plan for such occasions:

The SES website is very useful, and it has emergency plans laid out <https://www.ses.tas.gov.au>

The TasALERT app is linked to a wide range of alerts, ranging from TFS, SES and police, to Public Health and Bureau of Meteorology. This can be downloaded via app stores or through [TasALERT.com/download](https://TasALERT.com/download)



The owner of this property considers himself lucky. The fallen tree managed to neatly miss all his recently planted foliage, and a garden tap!



Some trees were quickly cleared from roadways by locals.



## Thank you Trixie

Bee Surprised is the last article for 'Bees in the Garden' by Trixie. Her insights into everything that is bees have been enjoyed by many. I am sure all Smoke Signals readers will join us in thanking Trixie for sharing her extensive knowledge with us over many years.



## Follow up to 'A Welcome Idea'

In the previous issue of Smoke Signals, reader Ian Farquhar mentioned the concept of 'Welcome Wagon', where newcomers to the area could be greeted with a package of 'goodies' including information about local activities and services.

Following on from this, Smoke Signals intends to run an extra special edition early next year which will include a range of information about community groups, local services, places to eat and any other points of interest. As well as normal distribution, issues will be left with Real Estate agents to hand out to new homeowners/renters in the area.

To help us make this happen, local groups, businesses and regular advertisers are invited to submit articles to [smokesignals@bigpond.com](mailto:smokesignals@bigpond.com) that will help promote knowledge about what is on offer. Articles and advertisements will be free of charge in this special edition.

So please get on board and help extend a warm welcome to new community members.

## A warm welcome to Anna

This issue welcomes Anna De La Rue, a recent member to the community, who is also able to offer her services as a marriage celebrant.

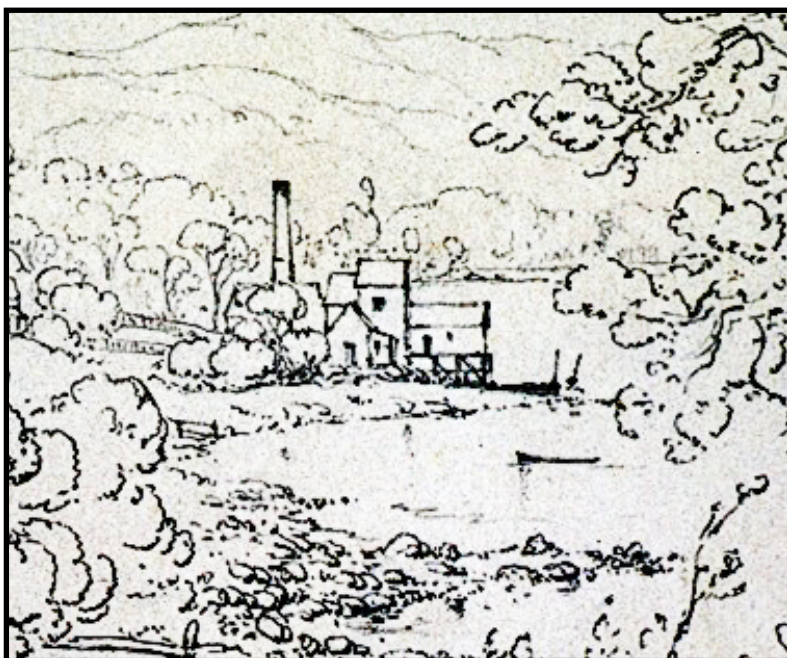
Anna and her husband sold their beef farm on King Island last year, with a move to slowing down in beautiful Dilston. Anna mentions one special delight is now having a home where one flicks a switch for heating, cooking, hot water and lighting, instead of collecting small dry wood for the Rayburn Slow Combustion Stove. Mind you – that Rayburn Stove would have been handy during the recent power outages!

Having already conducted one wedding here in Dilston, after many on King Island, Anna really enjoys her role as an Authorised Marriage Celebrant. She is also a Registered and Practising Psychologist.

Anna's past interests have included volunteer work with the church, Red Cross, St Vincent De Paul, the Lions club, teaching Tai Chi, and learning the Ukulele. For Anna, the move to the Dilston/Windermere/Swan Bay/Hillwood area has been both challenging and rewarding, and those she has met here have been incredibly friendly and engaging.

Should you wish to talk to Anna about her services as marriage celebrant, her email is [annadelarue29@gmail.com](mailto:annadelarue29@gmail.com)





Gaunt Flour Mill  
Sketch by Francis Nixon  
(Tasmanian State Archives)

Matthias Gaunt is best remembered locally as the creator of Saint Matthias Church at Windermere.

Dr. Gaunt arrived in the colony in 1830 and was granted 2,500 acres on the East Tamar which he named Windermere. The church was built to fulfil a promise to his wife who was still in England.

Dr Gaunt never practiced medicine in Tasmania but he was an enterprising businessman and one of the first in the colony to utilize steam power.

In 1837, he imported a 15 horse power high pressure steam engine, just the second in the colony, and, in partnership with George Coke, set up a steam powered sawmill in Windermere, advertising:

*the UNION STEAM SAWING MILLS are now in full work, and that they will execute any orders in native timber, New Zealand pine, or cedar. — Ship's spars as usual. — Veneers.*

There was a shortage of flour in Launceston and in 1838, Dr. Gaunt apparently decided that the steam engine might be better used for flour production and advertised for an experienced miller, producing the first flour in July of that year.

The Union Steam Flour Mill at Windermere was very successful and was to remain in production for more than 30 years, run first by Gaunt and later by his sons.

In association with John Raven, whose company distributed the flour from the Union Steam Flour Mill, Gaunt decided to build a steam mill in Launceston. They ordered equipment from England, bought land on what is now The Esplanade and erected a four storey mill building, but no flour was ever produced.

The second flour mill on the East Tamar was at Dilston on Barnard's Creek. Charles Barnard brought out mill equipment with him from England. In 1846 he built a mill on the creek but, although he constructed a large dam, found that the ground was too porous to hold water and the project was abandoned. The stone and brick mill building was converted into the Landfall homestead and is still occupied by the Archer family. The equipment was sold to the Cataract Mill. The stone lined mill race is still visible.

The Burnside Granary, the large brick building opposite the Windermere turnoff is listed in the Australian Heritage Register as the Burnside Flour Mill, but this seems to be an error and there is no evidence of a mill on that site.

The definitive study on Tasmanian flour mills, A Thematic Study of the Tasmanian Flour Milling Industry, by Jill Cassidy and Keith Preston is available to download from QVMAG.



# GARDEN CLUB NEWS

## AUGUST

**Daffodils, Jonquils, Camellias and the Humble bee!** Fifteen members met for a very pleasant lunch at **"Green Acres"** in Swan Bay, where we were given an update on the use of daffodils in the continuing scientific study for the treatment of Alzheimer's Disease. Winter flowering camellias were also covered, as well as an interesting and informative discussion on the humble bee!



**"Green Acres"** commands a stunning view of the Tamar Estuary in the distance and the daffodils and jonquils in the foreground completed a beautiful late winter picture. Due to the many frosts and cold weather this winter, which had delayed the flowering of many of the daffodils and jonquils, we all

agreed that there were enough to create a fabulous display. Thank you to Evelyn and Jamie for making us feel so welcome.



## SEPTEMBER

**GRAVELLY BEACH** - September saw eighteen of our members gather for lunch at the Tamar Valley Wine Centre. It was a great opportunity to discuss our "storm



experience" after the successive days and nights of gale force winds and heavy rain. Some had suffered significant damage to their gardens. Our plan to visit **"Aberystwyth"** at Gravelly Beach was cancelled because of the wetness (rescheduled for November next year). At short notice, Rosemary Verbeeten agreed to open her garden **"Stoneacre"** at Gravelly Beach, which Garden Club has visited a couple of times before.



**"GREEN HARMONY"** by Lilli. . As an additional gathering in September for



Garden Club, we visited Lilli who provided us with a very tasty morning tea/lunch and described how she creates her magical landscapes. The ferns, orchids, trees and mosses are all native to Northern Tasmania and "turned over" by the native wildlife (Mr Snuffy the echidna). Lilli is an artist in the truest sense – she creates wonderful miniature landscapes from found materials and recycled objects. These miniature landscapes are truly a labour of love for Lilli. Lilli can custom make a landscape to suit your personal style or theme and is happy to take orders for Christmas. If you are interested in a private viewing, please let me know (see below) and I will put you in touch with Lilli. Thank you so much Lilli, for your delightful hospitality.

**Dilston, Windermere, Swan Bay Garden Club's** next gatherings will be held in **October** – Wendy's Garden in Dilston with afternoon tea at **"Windsong"** in Windermere, and **November** – Fran and Ken's Garden in Swan Bay. If you would like to join Garden Club, please contact me or send an email to: [DilWinSBGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:DilWinSBGardenClub@gmail.com). Kerri: 0407 447 344

## BEES IN THE GARDEN



### ***Bee Surprised!***

#### **Did you know that bees have five eyes?**

Three of those act as light receptors, helping the bee keep track of the sun at all times, even during cloudy days. Their two more developed eyes are composed of 6900 facets each, making the bees extremely good at perceiving movement. How good? The human eye can perceive movements separated by 1/50th of a second. Bee eyes can detect movements separated by 1/300th of a second! If a bee watches a movie, it would be a very slow slideshow to it.

#### **Honeybees can recognise and remember human faces.**

Their brains make out faces the same way as us – By identifying the shape of parts like eyebrows, ears, nose and put them together to make out the whole face. I've thought that ever since the time I rescued over a dozen bees that were suffering from hypothermia. Maybe they shared their story when they got back to the hive, because I get the feeling every year when the bees are back that they seem to know me.

#### **Bees are exceptional navigators.**

Bees have exceptional memory and learning, even though their brain is the size of a sesame seed. They calculate the distance from the hive by using the sun as a guiding point. Their maximum speed is 25 km/h. with their wings beating up to 190 times per second. That's 11,400 times a minute! This speed allows the worker bee to visit fifty to a hundred blossoms in one trip, which can be up to 10 km away from the hive.

#### **The honey-making process is more than 100 million years old.**

The way bees create their honey hadn't changed since when the species first appeared, which was around 100 million years ago. This is the only insect produced food that humans eat. Half kilo of honey = 2 million flowers. If you were to imagine that one bee could make that amount of honey, it would have to travel 145 000 kilometres. That's three times the circumference of Earth.

Let's make it easier for them by planting a profusion of bee-friendly flowers, herbs and shrubs in our gardens. **Check out these useful sites:**

Photo source: Canva

<https://www.lovethegarden.com/au-en/article/10-native-plants-thatll-attract-bees>

<https://www.ecoorganicgarden.com.au/gardening-tips/how-to-attract-bees-and-pollinators-to-your-garden/>



## CHURCH NEWS     St Matthias' Anglican Church

St Matthias' Anglican Church 431 Windermere Rd.     Services 9:30am 2nd and 4th Sundays.

Do you own a "different" nativity set? Christmas will be upon us before the next Smoke Signals, so I'm asking NOW!



If you would be prepared to lend it to us, we hope to amass a feature collection of Nativity Sets, from different countries around the world or made in different media (eg. Knitted, clay, paper, big ones, tiny ones,.....) for display at Holy Trinity CBD during December, for supervised public viewing, to keep the true Christmas story alive. Please send a text/photo to 0409317806 if you would like to contribute to this special event.

### Upcoming special events at St Matthias'

**A Service of Remembering. Sat. Nov. 2nd 7:30pm.** This annual evening candlelight service will be held to remember past family or friends who have been significant in our lives and faith journey, and to light a candle in their memory. Please spread the word, so that others may share in this significant service. Candles will be provided.



**Sat. Nov. 9th** Church and community working bee at the church 9am, to do once-a-year extra jobs such as topping up woodchips, weeding, pruning, and cleaning headstones, and any cleaning needed inside the church as well. Please confirm with Marg Hosford 0409317806 or Rob Montague if you can attend. Rob M does a wonderful job regularly mowing and whipper-snipping, and we all appreciate his commitment to maintaining our beautiful and peaceful

**Sun. Nov. 10th** Defence Sunday. 9:30am at St Matthias. Bring your stories and family medals to share afterwards. Commemorative boxes of ANZAC biscuits will be on sale. Proceeds go to ABM Mission projects.

**Sat. Dec. 7th.** It is hoped to join a group from Holy Trinity to travel to Smithton, for Mannalagenna Day which is a significant event for Aboriginal Cultural Awareness and Reconciliation. Contact 0409317806 if interested.

Our regular services continue on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 9:30am, with inspiring worship, fellowship, music, fresh flowers and morning tea. We thank everyone who makes this a joyful community to be part of.

Rev Lee Shirvill 0468489068     Facebook: stmatthiaswindermere



### Saving Money on your Power Bills.

The East Tamar Men's Shed has engaged in a project which is being sponsored by Aurora and TasNetworks to help the community save money on their power bills. Over the coming weeks, we will hold 2 sessions which aim to empower people with the knowledge and skills to understand their energy usage, manage costs effectively, and make informed decisions about their power usage.

The sessions will provide people with easy and simple ways to manage and reduce their energy bills.

Several other Men's Sheds around Tasmania are already running the sessions, which have been well received by the communities they operate in, so watch for announcements about a time and a place.

Native bird breeding boxes made by the Shed have been very popular this year and can be made to order for different types of birds. We also have different styles and natural looking hollow log entrance ones which can be built.

We are also happy to fix or build things wooden or metal. Call into the Shed sometime Monday, Wednesday or Saturday 8.30am to 1.00pm or email: [secretary@etms.org.au](mailto:secretary@etms.org.au)



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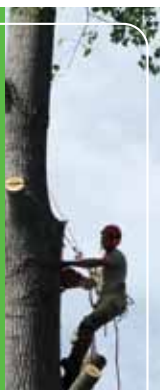
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Tasmania Fire Service

# 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!

## SEASON 24/25...

...is taking a more lazy start to this time last year, with recent wet weather largely limiting the start of fires. That being said, the vegetation dries out very quickly following a day or so of wind, and both Dilston, Windermere, Swan Bay and Hillwood areas are prone to the prevailing NW winds.

This was demonstrated just recently with an area of vegetation catching alight on Solis Rise, and whilst fire activity was relatively benign, the ground coverings provided enough fuel that continued burning was a given if not for the intervention of the fire brigade.

This brings the conversation to accessibility, and you will note we have reposted the CAN WE FIT graphic. Notable as we still see property access as being a significant issue for some residents if large emergency

service appliances need to make access. More on that below.

## CAN WE FIT!

Both brigades would like to ask our respective community members to once again have a check of the entrances to their properties to ensure we (and other emergency services) can easily gain access should the unfortunate need arise. It is worth noting that we don't just respond to fires, but also to other call such as medical emergencies, and to assist Ambulance Tasmania. Our

larger appliances are quite large as shown below, and so your help would be greatly appreciated!!



.../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
Andy Kendall	0427 818 282
Leon Hodges	0409 169 288





Tasmania  
Fire Service



# BUSHFIRE-READY CHALLENGE




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BUSHFIRE PLAN

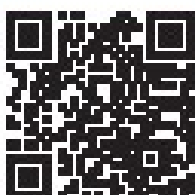


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# PLEASE HELP MY SURVIVAL !

## The Green and Gold Frog - *Litoria raniformis*

by Jon Hosford



This month I have chosen to appeal to locals to aid the survival of a beautiful frog.

The Green and Gold Frog in your Tamar Valley garden is the sign of a healthy ecosystem.

It lives in weedy ponds, dams and streams and is most common in northern Tasmania, with some occurrences in the east and south of the State. We have several small populations locally. Green and Gold frogs are active in the warmer months during both day and night.

They can sometimes be seen basking out of the water on logs or water vegetation.

They have a varied diet of insects, lizards and other small frogs. The number and distribution of these frogs is declining as much of their habitat is disappearing. This may be due to such practices as draining land for other purposes, including agriculture and housing development. Ponds and creeks are being polluted by chemicals such as fertilisers and insecticides which runoff into our waterways after rain.

Introduced predators to Tasmania, such as the Kookaburra, are having a significant effect on the survival of populations. I can remember watching a Kookaburra consume at least 30 emerging frogs one morning on my dam. Not sure they were all green and gold frogs, but a high proportion at that time were most likely so.

Frog populations are in decline worldwide due largely to loss of habitat. This frog spends a significant proportion of its life out of water in damp and shaded areas of the garden.

You can help the survival of this great little animal locally in your garden by providing suitable cover in moist and shaded areas. Ponds need to have good vegetation cover on the edges and these frogs enjoy matted vegetation on the surface on which they can bask.

They call at night and during clear sunlit days. Their call is quite distinctive: The mating call of the adult male green and gold frog is described as a long growl of several seconds duration, followed by a series of short grunts: 'cr-a-a-aw-a-a-awk, cra-a-a-awk, crok, crok'. It is one of the few frogs that call during the day.



A Skink tail makes a tasty snack



# HILLWOOD NEWS

**HAPPY NEWS:** Congratulations to Jarrod and Khalia Scott on the birth of Shannon Aileen Scott born in August. First Grandchild for Anthony and Helen Scott.



Left: Future Firefighter Noah celebrates his 2nd Birthday at the Hillwood Hall.

Noah was excited to have the Hillwood Fire Truck arrive for a short visit to his birthday party in August.

Right: 1st Officer Sharon Clarke hands out some colouring books and pencils.



These lovely yellow flowers may look nice, but the plant is very invasive. Kay Bailey (Tamar NRM) has been involved in the Boneseed Blitz's in the TAMAR for many years. Each year we pull a lot of Boneseed and this year a couple of chainsaws helped with the process. We do believe we are making a huge impact on our foreshores. If you find any on your own property, or on reserves, you can pull and leave as long as the seeds have not formed. Large plants, cut and paint the cut with Roundup or similar, (using gloves of course). To thank our large no. of volunteers we had a sausage sizzle at the Pontoon after the event. Thank you to Robyn and Andy for organising the BBQ.



## HEALTHY HILLWOOD

Join our Armchair Low Impact Sessions designed for those doing little to no physical activity.

**TIME:** 11am - 12pm

**WHEN:** Friday Mornings (September through to December)

**WHERE:** Hillwood Memorial Hall

Armchair Exercises: Perfect for doing at home or anywhere with a chair!

Low Impact: Gentle on joints, suitable for all fitness levels.

Inclusive: Everyone is welcome, regardless of age or ability.



## POWER OUTAGE

A large no. of residents in Hillwood had their power out for nearly a week! We were fortunate that power to the Hall was restored on the Tuesday, which enabled the Hillwood Progress Association and the Hillwood Fire Brigade, with support from the George Town Council, to be able to man the Hillwood War Memorial Hall as a recharging centre. People could call in and get a cup of tea or coffee, keep warm and have a chat or do a puzzle. Thanks to the George Town Neighbourhood House for their support in providing supplies of water, food, and power banks.



Left: Geoff enjoys a cuppa while charging his phone.  
Top Right: Millie & Chris take a rest with David, after walking their dogs.

Right: Beth, Stewart, Sharon, Bob and Elaine appreciated the warmth and company.  
Bottom : The jigsaw puzzle helped to while away the time.



Paul constructs a gourmet burger.

When there is a time of crisis, a community like Hillwood come together to support each other. With power out for a week for some residents, the George Town Council provided meat and salad for a BBQ on the Friday 6th September and the Hillwood Football Club opened their clubrooms and cooked the BBQ. Thanks also to the Football Club volunteers who opened the club for showers and assisted those eligible to apply for the government grants. Most of the volunteers were also Hillwood residents who were trying to juggle work and no power. Some residents/ volunteers had not been able to leave their properties due to power lines being down across their driveways for over 3 days. Thank you to all who helped in any way.



Singer, song writer, Tony Newport entertained us all with his Bradshaw Autoharp.

### Hillwood Progress Association Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 10th September

The new Committee:

- President – Robyn Wheeler
- Vice President – Julie Airey
- Treasurer – vacant
- Secretary – Robyn Marsh
- Committee Members– Jo Osborne (meetings secretary) · Conor Kaukenas · Sharon Clarke · Eileen Burns
- Leon Hodges · Reserve Committee Member – Hayley Perkins

Membership is open to those who live or have a proprietary interest in real estate in the wider Hillwood area.

Membership is just \$5. to get involved, just come and bring along your ideas. For further information please email [HillwoodPA@outlook.com](mailto:HillwoodPA@outlook.com) or phone Robyn on 0409 420 877.

### Hillwood Road Meditation Skills Centre: 362 Hillwood Road, Hillwood.

**ZUMBA** classes continue in Term 4 at the Meditation Centre on Tuesday and Thursday 6:30pm & Sundays at 8am. \$10 per session. Check out the Hillwood Zumba Facebook page for further details.

**Yoga:** Mondays 5:45pm- 7pm

**Hillwood Ladies Group:** Wednesday's at 10am till 12pm.

Phone Gaylene Laverty for more information on 0418 590 564.

For update information on programs, follow the Hillwood Road Meditation Skills Centre Facebook page or the Website via [gracejunction.com.au](http://gracejunction.com.au)



## TRIVIA NIGHT SATURDAY OCT 19TH 2024

Hillwood War Memorial Hall. Doors Open: 6:30pm Games start: 7:00pm  
\$100 per table, maximum of 8 people per table. BYO Drinks and Snacks.  
To register or for any queries please email [HillwoodPA@outlook.com](mailto:HillwoodPA@outlook.com)  
Or text 0409 420 877.  
Groups with less than 8 people can be assigned to a table.  
For a great night of fun and games, Donations to our balloon tree welcome.



Saturday November 23rd 2024

The Northern Motorcycle Riders Association of Tasmania (Inc) are having their annual charity event to raise awareness of motorcycling in Tasmania. They leave Perth and ride through the streets of Launceston on a green light thoroughfare and continue onto Hillwood around 12noon where there will be live music, food, beverages, show and shine and raffles. Entry fee is gold coin donation with this year funds going to Magnolia House.



## The HPA will be holding a Christmas Makers Market and Christmas Party

at the Hillwood War Memorial Hall

**Saturday 7th December 9am till 100pm**

Face Painting, Kids Activities, Food, Music and Santa.

History Room Open



Anyone wanting to have a stall or be involved in any way, please contact Elaine Burns on 0417 540 665

## HILLWOOD GARDEN CLUB

The Hillwood Dear Garden Club met on 16 September.

The guest speaker was Peter Voller of the West Tamar Landcare Group. The group is tackling cat management with a "guerilla" project in the Greens Beach-Kelso area, to give bandicoots and devils a chance to recover. So far, they have removed over 100 'colony cats' that live completely independently from humans. "We use an Australian-made footplate trap baited with fried chicken wings, and if the cats are feral we euthanise them on the spot. Now we're catching more devils than cats, lots of quolls and bandicoots and seeing more shorebirds." As well as clear environmental and biodiversity benefits, Peter said people benefit by reconnecting with their communities and with nature. "People's lives are impacted by their surroundings and regenerating the environment saves people's lives. Gardens create a beautiful place for your community. There are incredibly talented people in the matrix. So get out, get active and connect with nature." The Garden Club meets on the third Monday of each month. All welcome

Sue Overton, Secretary  
63948127/0467670897

## ROYAL PARK CROQUET CLUB

Park St Launceston



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or Alice 0437193040

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## Community Contacts

FIRE:000

**Dilston Fire Brigade**

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](mailto:secretary@etms.org.au)

**Book Discussion Group**

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