

SNAKE BITE INFORMATION



Issue 259

www.smokesignalscn.wordpress.com

October 2025

IS THIS OUR YOUNGEST READER?

We know that Smoke Signals has a wide audience among our local community. Every second month readers open the pages to follow our regular contributors, find out what has been happening around the area, and refer to the advertisements to find out about local resources.

What we didn't realise is that the publication has appeal to even the very youngest in our community, as demonstrated by this photo of young Arwen who appears avidly interested in the previous issue!



A Reminder Smoke Signals Information Initiative

Smoke Signals intends to run an extra special edition later this year which will include a range of information about community groups, local services, places to eat and other points of interest. As well as normal distribution, we intend to leave issues at libraries, councils, and 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 information and/or ads about your activities in the area. Advertisements will be free of charge in this special edition.

So please get on board and help make this happen by sending your submissions to smokesignals@bigpond.com

For more information contact us at the above email address.

MORE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY AED



In the August issue of Smoke Signals, we presented the good news that Smoke Signals was able to secure a grant for an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for the local area. We are now happy to announce that the AED has been located at the Windermere Jetty area, on the wall of the toilet block (see photo).

Should you require the use of the AED, it is accessible 24 hours a day. If it is used, return the AED to its location and please let us know

at Smoke Signals by emailing smokesignals@bigpond.com. This is important so that we can arrange to have any consumables replaced as soon as possible.

If you want to know more about the AED and how to use it, you can scan the adjacent QR code



Always remember that when you dial 000 for such an emergency, stay on the phone line, as Ambulance Tasmania operators will give you instruction over the phone on how to perform CPR and use the AED.

If you think someone is in cardiac arrest, follow the steps of Call, Push, Shock, also known as the Chain of Survival. Remember, any attempt at resuscitation is better than no attempt and your quick action can give them the best chance of survival.



Call Triple Zero (000) immediately

The operator will guide you through CPR and how to use an AED if there is one available.



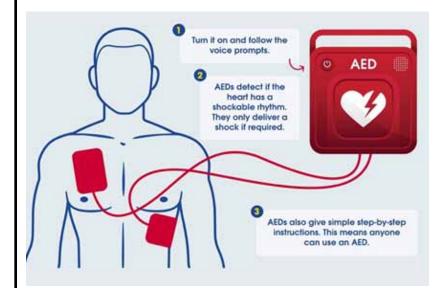
Push hard and fast in the centre of the chest

Push at a rate of 100–120 compressions per minute. Do not stop until help arrives, or an AED becomes available.



Use an AED to deliver a shock as soon as possible

AEDs are easy to use and safe for both the user and the patient.



During a cardiac arrest, an AED makes delivering a life-saving shock simple...Just turn it on and follow the prompts.

AEDs give simple step-by-step instructions and detect if the heart has a shockable rhythm.

An AED will not shock someone when a normal heartbeat is detected, or there is no heartbeat at all.

This means anyone can use an AED, even if you've never seen or used one before.

Source: https://www.heartfoundation.org.
au/shockingly-simple

Valé Sue Speed

At the end of August 2025, we sadly lost another recognised past leader and long-time contributor to the Windermere community.

Sue and her husband, John Speed moved to Windermere in 1990. The two, with a strong Christian faith, became involved in the St Matthias Anglican Church. Sue, in particular, led the Church at St Matthias for 25 years. She led the replacement of the roof at the church and the bell tower through the efforts of fundraising by community labour in picking grapes at the Native Point Vineyard, thanks to Sheena and Tim High, local vineyard owners. Sue steered the church community through difficult times, and when John died shortly after retirement in 2008, Sue stoically continued to lead the community in joining the small St Matthias congregation to the Holy Trinity Parish.

Sue moved to an aged care facility in 2020 but later recovered to seek a new life in a retirement village. Her love of big dogs together with her MGB were well known in the Windermere community.

Sue's family acknowledges the support and care that the Windermere community showed her in her years at Windermere.



The Dilston Community Book Swap.

The book swap has been working very well since it was built and located at the Dilston Hall by members of the East Tamar Men's Shed a few years ago.

Thank you to everyone for the steady turnover of good quality and interesting books available to select from. This is a reminder, however, to please only leave 1 or 2 books each time. It is a book swap, not a repository for large numbers of unwanted books. Over winter, there have been several large deposits left under the bookcase which have ended up damaged by the weather and animals. It is a shame to see wet, mouldy books which then end up in the rubbish bin. Several op shops, run by charities (located in Mowbray and Newnham) are happy to accept large donations of books.

So, 1 or 2 books only please, as this is the concept behind a community book swap.



LET'S COME TOGETHER!





Since losing our Windermere cafe, our community has lost its social connectedness. Over the years, the Windermere cafe was a hub where we celebrated and mourned together, creating a resilient community.

To attempt to re-gain our sense of community as well as creating space for various activities, such as social gatherings, arts, crafts etc., similar to the Rowella Hall, we are looking to re-start a Hall Committee and get a great new project underway: working with Council to build a community barbecue that everyone can enjoy.

This is a chance to meet neighbours, share ideas, and help create something special for us all. Whether you can give a little time or a lot, every hand and every voice will make a difference.

Let's fire up the barbecue — and the community spirit — together with Council's support!

For more info or if anyone has ideas for Hall use or would like to help out with working with Council to get action on the BBQ, contact Bev Ernst <u>bernst45@gmail.com</u>

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

AUGUST - Daffodils, Jonquils and More.....

What has become an annual late winter tradition, as well as a celebration of these glorious bulbs, was held once again at "Green



Acres" in Swan Bay. Garden Club members lunched at beautifully decorated daffodil-themed tables to honour these bright and cheerful late winter/early spring flowers. Evelyn presented us with the latest findings on their origin, history and uses (including in

a medical capacity) and later took us for a guided walk around the grounds of the property - which was once a daffodil farm. Thank you once again to Evelyn for her warm and welcoming hospitality.





SEPTEMBER - "Seton's Legacy" in Windermere was our destination in

September, named in honour of Edna's husband who had dedicated a great deal of time and effort over many years, creating this beautiful oasis of colour and wonder, high up on a hill overlooking the Tamar Estuary. The array of plant specimens and colour at this time of year was amazing and a credit to Seton.

An interesting fact of which many of us were unaware, is that the storage of water for Windermere is held at the back of this four-acre property where the water is treated on site and is gravity fed to the various residences. Thank you to Edna for hosting our shared afternoon tea and to Jamie for facilitating the guided walk around the garden.







August

Top Left: The daffodil themed table set for lunch with magnificent view of the Tamar beyond.

Top Centre: Daffodils in front of a deer garden feature.

Top Right: A swathe of daffodils and jonquils.

September

Clockwise from above: Euphorbia, Edna and Jamie leading the way, Kniphofia (Torch Plant), Hamamelis (witch hazel), and Windermere's water supply.





Dilston Windermere and Swan Bay Garden Club's next gatherings will be held in October – Arnold's Country Garden in Lilydale and November – Katy McIvor's garden "Aberystwyth" in Gravelly Beach. New members are very welcome. If you would like to join Garden Club, please contact me on 0407 447 344 or send an email to: DilWinSBGardenClub@gmail.com

How Ornamental Gardens in Tasmania Impact Native Birds and the Call for Wildlife-Friendly Landscapes

This is the 1st of 2 articles offered for thought and action in this community.

Rethinking Garden Design in Dilston and Windermere for Ecological Harmony



Golden whistler

In the quiet valleys and gently rolling hills of Tasmania's Dilston and Windermere, the desire to cultivate beauty has shaped not only our increasing human experience, but also the fate of countless native creatures. Gardens burst with lush, vivid colour—roses climbing over trellises, daffodils nodding in the breeze, and lavender perfuming the air. Yet, beneath this tapestry of ornamental splendour lies an ecological paradox: the very flowers we cherish may be starving the birds we love to watch flitting through our backyards.



Yellow-throated honeyeater

The Allure of the Exotic: How Human Choices Shape the Landscape

Since the earliest days of European settlement, gardeners in Tasmania have imported plants from far across the seas. English cottage gardens, Mediterranean courtyards, and Japanese-inspired landscapes have all found their place among the region's fertile soils. Aesthetic preference, nostalgia, and global commerce have aligned to fill gardens with species utterly foreign to the Tasmanian bush.

Ornamental exotics—daffodils, agapanthus, hydrangeas, and many more—dominate garden centres and catalogues. Their appeal is undeniable: they bloom in a riot of colours, offer familiar scents, and are often bred for resilience, disease resistance, and ease of maintenance. However, these desirable traits for human gardeners often mean the absence of what matters most to native fauna—especially birds: accessible food, such as nectar, seeds, berries, and insects.

The Consequences for Native Birds

Native birds—honeyeaters, pardalotes, wrens, and whistlers—have evolved in tandem with Tasmania's wild plants. These birds depend on the nectar-rich blossoms of eucalyptus and banksia, the insect-harbouring bark of paperbarks and wattles, and the seeding grasses and fruiting shrubs that thrive in the local climate. Crucially, many of these native plants flower or fruit at times that align with birds' breeding and migratory cycles, ensuring a steady supply of nourishment when it's needed most.



Brown thornbill

When gardens are dominated by pretty but ecologically sterile ornamentals, the intricate food web is disrupted. Exotics may offer spectacular blooms, but often lack the nectar, pollen, fruit, or insects required by native birds. Some produce flowers that are physically inaccessible or nutritionally poor for local species. Others, such as tightly petalled roses or double-flowered hybrids, are simply unusable by pollinators and their avian predators.

In Dilston and Windermere, landscapes once dotted with melaleuca, leptospermum, and native grasses have given way to sprawling lawns and flowerbeds filled with unfamiliar species. The result? Smaller, fragmented populations of birds, declining diversity, and a general shift towards more aggressive, adaptable species while sensitive specialists vanish. The dawn chorus, once a cacophony of native song, grows thinner each year.

To be continued in December



EAST TAMAR MENS SHED NEWS



Ken Martin has been elected as the new President of the East Tamar Men's Shed at the Annual General Meeting which was held on the 27th of September this year. He succeeds George Murray who has stepped down after having provided sound leadership for the last 5 years. George will continue as Senior Vice President, assisted by Vice President, Jeff Wynne. Bob Stow has also handed the Treasurer's role to Peter Mullholland after a similar length of tenure. Both members of the Executive have given many hours of their time voluntarily to ensure the smooth running of the Shed which has been much appreciated by the members of the Shed. George Cerchez will continue his role as Secretary. The other members of the Management Committee are Anthony Mason, Ric Williams, Nathan Blair, and Bob Stow.

A member of the community recently called in to see if the Men's Shed could help her by making a trolley to help her transport her harp to functions and concerts. Jeff Wynne demonstrated his excellent design and welding skills to complete the project – another very happy customer.







The members of the Shed are happy to repair furniture or build items requested by the community. Just bring in a design and we will see if it can be done. Recent items built at the Shed:







New Members are always welcome even if you feel wood is not your thing, we do metal work, welding, and will help you learn or just come for a chat. Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

ETMS is assisted by equipment grants from the Tasmani Government.

CHURCH NEWS St Matthias' Anglican Church

Welcome to Rev Mark. Mark Barry has recently been appointed to the new role of Assistant Minister with a particular focus on Community Connections across the parish. Since embracing Christ's love at University, Mark has worked as an architect, before serving as a staff worker on university campuses, State coordinator for the Bible Society in Tasmania, Community Pastor with All Saints Launceston, and more recently as Associate Minister in the Parish of Longford & Perth. He was ordained in the Diocese of Tasmania. Mark is married to Lucy and they have two adult children: Sam and Naomi. He enjoys long walks, short books, and creative projects. Above all, he enjoys helping people better understand the Bible, in order to better understand God's love to us in Jesus. He usually runs the service at St Matthias' Church on the 4th Sunday each month.





New Parish Councillor: Jon Hosford has been elected as a Parish Councillor at the recent Parish AGM. He can be contacted on 0419317808. Margaret has stepped down from this role.

Upcoming special events at St Matthias'.

A Service of Remembering. Sat. Nov. 1st 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.



Sun. Nov 9th Defence Sunday. 9:30am at St Matthias. Bring your stories and family medals to share afterwards.

Sat. Nov. 22nd Church and community working bee at the church 9am- 12, 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 and Rob S do a wonderful job regularly mowing and whipper-snipping, and we all appreciate their commitment to maintaining our beautiful and peaceful grounds.



Hope in a Suitcase: We encourage you to support this wonderful cause providing basic needs for children going into emergency foster care. See article in Aug. Smoke Signals or ring Bernadette on 0434066699.

2nd Launceston Nativity Display: Do you own a "different" nativity set? Would you like it to be part of our 2nd Launceston Nativity Display to be held at the CBD Holy Trinity Church, open daily throughout December?







We are seeking any spare representations of the Christmas nativity setting, whether sewn, knitted, classic porcelain, wood, paper or book...tiny or big. If you would be prepared to lend it to us for supervised public viewing, to keep the true Christmas story alive, please send a text/photo to 0409317806.

St Matthias' Church. Part of Holy Trinity Parish Office/minister 63314460.



Dilston and Hillwood Fire Brigades

Tasmania Fire Service



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

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

Brigade Updates

As spring rolls in across Tasmania, the Hillwood and **Dilston Fire Brigades are gearing** up for the upcoming fire season. Over the past month or two, our volunteers have participated in Brigade based training that includes advanced hose drills, pump operations, burn over drills, navigation, and brushed up on radio operation procedures. Those members trained in Breathing Apparatus have also completed their skills maintenance training and others are set to do chainsaw skills maintenance in coming weeks.

Both brigades are pleased to welcome six recent new members, two at Hillwood (Adrian and Tom), and four at Dilston (Erin, Ronan, Tyson and Gaby). They are all advancing steadily through their induction and basic training, to be ready to go for the coming fire season.

Hillwood Brigade has 2 teams entering the upcoming Trivia Night hosted by the Hillwood Progress Association. The rivalry is fierce but may the best team win!

Now's the time to clear gutters, trim vegetation, and review your bushfire survival plan.
Remember: a well-prepared property is easier to defend and safer for firefighters.

The 2025 Bushfire Ready Challenge is now available, see over for a flyer and QR code to get involved!

Above all stay safe, stay alert, and stay connected.

CAN WE FIT!

We mentioned this a couple of

issues ago, however 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





BUSHFIRE-READY CHALLENGE



COMPLETE YOUR
BUSHFIRE PLAN



PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY



KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE

Take it on. Be Prepared.



Scan to get started, or visit:

fire tas gov au





HILLWOOD NEWS

HAPPY NEWS:

John & Jess Nesbit are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of Katie Lee Nesbit, born 22.09.2025 weighing a healthy 4.04kg (8.9 pounds) A sister for Leo.

Congratulations also to proud grandparents Craig and Fiona Jenkins of Hillwood on the arrival of Archee Craig Murfett born to Sarah and Jamie Murfett on 18/09/2025 weighing 3.04kg.

A brother for Flodie.



Earlier this year, local writer, Gillian Marsden, was delighted to be long-listed for the Peter Carey Short Story award with her story 'The Mizzling'. The Peter Carey Short Story is an Australian Literary award organised by the Moorabool Shire Council, Bacchus Marsh. It is run annually in honour of the highly regarded Australian author, Peter Carey, who grew up in the Shire's Bacchus Marsh.

Gillian of Mount Direction says 'After another long hiatus, I decided to get a bit more serious about entering writing competitions. Their deadlines work well for finessing a story I might have had rattling around for years. It was a series of unexpected events. Firstly, to receive an email letting me know that I had been long-listed. I literally jumped up and down in one of our paddocks when I read that email. And secondly, when I realised that a long-list is only fifteen stories out of three hundred entries. I still quite can't believe that. It's just that little bit of validation that keeps me plugging away at other stories.' Well Done Gillian

Armchairs - Hillwood

EVENT DETAILS

- Fridays 11am 12pm September to January
- ◆ FREE

EVENT LOCATION

Hillwood Memorial Hall 278 Hillwood Jetty Rd Hillwood Tasmania 7252



Low impact activities designed for anyone doing little to no physical activity. Armchairs will include exercises that can be done in your armchair at home.

Please wear comfortable clothing, bring a drink bottle and arrive 15 min before the start time.

HISTORY ROOM

Come learn about the history of Hillwood. Lots of stories, still more being collated. Like to check out our History Room? Phone Julie Airey on 0408 275 539 or we are at the Hall, most Thursdays from 10am till 12

Clean up Australia!

Hillwood Progress organised a clean-up day in Hillwood on Saturday 4th October in line with Clean up Australia.

Last year it was decided it was too long between cleanups and plan to do it twice a year. By the time of printing, we will have enjoyed a Sausage Sizzle after the event. More details next edition.

Hillwood Football Club News

Well our season has sadly come to an end. It has been a year of ups and downs We started the year off struggling with numbers across both the men's and women's teams. Fast forward to the last rounds to some incredibly close contests. Our reserves men's team had a high turn over of players (51 I believe). However, what they lacked in numbers, they definitely made up for with enthusiasm and spirit. Supporting both the senior's and women's teams to urge them into the finals.

Sadly our women's team missed out on making it by one last game, finishing in 5th position (women's finals made up of the top 4).

Our senior men found their feet, their belief in themselves and passion for the game to go all the way to the Grand Final. Finishing in 4th spot, they secured a home final against their new rivals St Patricks. They went on to beat Bracknell and then Lilydale to make it to the big day against Rocherlea. Unfortunately we didn't get a win, but they all made us so proud to get so far after a shaky start to the year. Congratulations to all 3 teams for the year. On Friday, 19th September the Hillwood Football Club held their Annual Dinner and Trophy Presentation. The following trophies were awarded to players from the Seniors, Reserves and Women's teams.

Senior Best & Fairest Senior Runners Up Best & Fairest Reserves Best & Fairest Reserves Runners Up Best & Fairest Senior Women's Best & Fairest Senior Women's Runners Up Best & Fairest Best Club Person Leading Goal Kicker - Seniors Best Team Man - Seniors **Best Utility - Seniors** Most Potential - Seniors Most Improved - Seniors **Best Utility - Reserves** Most Improved - Reserves Coaches Award - Reserves Best Backman - Reserves Leading Goal Kicker - Reserves Leading Goal Kicker - Senior Women's Emerging Player - Senior Women's Coaches Award - Senior Women's Most Consistent - Senior Women's Best Team Woman - Senior Women's

Hamish Leedham Isaac Thompson Sam Scott Luke Reardon Siofra Clarke Sian Beeton Jorja Barron Nash Digney Jordy Bennett Tvson Miller Mitch Donnelly Harrison Edwards Christopher Watson Jack Harper **Kade Jenkins** Logan Payne Kieran Fullard **Courtney Saunders** Isobelle Woods Janaha Beeton Jessica Murphy Rubi Apted





In addition to these trophies Jackie and Barry Hume were presented with a gift of thanks for their outstanding service to the club. They have been dedicated, loyal supporters and volunteers for many years and have decided it's time to hang up their aprons and take a step back. They will be dearly missed, but we're sure to see them around the club still supporting where they can.

Our current President Max Pearce was also acknowledged for his many years of service to the club, not just as a President, but also past coach and player. He was presented with a gift and also elevated to "Living Legend" status at the club. He joins a select few that had also in the past, been awarded the living legend status. Max is retiring as Club President at the end of this year and will be dearly missed as well. No doubt he will still be at some if not all games next year as a passionate supporter, watching both his son Jake and daughter Halle play for the Hillwood Sharks.

Senior Coach, Jake Pearce had also decided he would not continue as coach for 2026, but will continue to play for the Sharks. His commitment and dedication to the club has been phenomenal. He has been such a wonderful role model and inspiration to our younger players, both men and women. Jake will take a step back and spend quality time with his young family, business and hopefully get some well earned rest.

We were delighted to have local politician Nick Duigan join us for dinner. Nick has been a supporter and sponsor of our club for many years. We took the opportunity to have a photo with the Pearce family and Nick before he had to slip away to watch his mighty Geelong Cats win their final that cemented their place in this years AFL Grand Final. Thank you Nick for your attendance, it's always a pleasure catching up and have a chat

Keep an eye on the Hillwood Sharks Facebook page over the next 12 months for exciting events and news as we celebrate our 100th year anniversary in 2026. We have some exciting events planned so watch this space. Thank you to the Hillwood Community for your support over the 2025 season. Also thank you for your understanding and patience during the months of August and September, when we hosted a final at the football ground which, no doubt created a lot of traffic in our beautiful little village.

Thank you to all our loyal and dedicated supporters, your passion keeps us all going. Thank you also to our volunteers who continually turn up, cooking chips, serving customers, selling raffle tickets and keeping our facilities in top shape.

Hillwood Progress Association

Hillwood Progress Association AGM was held 9
September. Congratulations to the new committee:
President Robyn Wheeler, Vice President Julie Airey,
Secretary Robyn Marsh, Treasurer Bron Davies and
Committee members Elaine Burns, Sharon Clarke,
Leon Hodges, Alf Waters and Don Barrett.

Whether your interest is in Events, Roads, Landcare, Environment, History, or Neighbourhood Watch this is your association, come have your say.

Our expected meeting schedule for 2025-2026 is 14 October, 11 November, 10 February, 10 March 9 June and 11 August with our 2026 AGM 9 September.

Motorcycle Riders Assoc. of TAS

The Motorcycle Riders Association of Tasmania will again be doing their Awareness Ride from Perth to Hillwood on Saturday 22nd November.

They will arrive around 12pm

Live music, food, beverages, show and shine and raffles.

Same day as the Makers Market!







BONESEED BLITZ

Hillwood were again involved with Tamar NRM's Boneseed Blitz. Groups all over the Tamar have been gathering to eradicate this invasive weed. With the rain the night before helping to make the pulling of the smaller plants much easier, and the use of handsaws and chainsaw for the larger plants, a large amount of weed was removed. We finished just as the rain made its way to Hillwood again! Thanks to the smiling band of volunteers (Jason who took the photo) Robyn W David, Jo, Rachelle, Adrian, Bill, Phil, Robyn M, Ian, Rose, Geraldine and Kaye. A job well done. Thanks all to the landowners getting in and clearing at this time of year.



2174 East Tamar Highway Mt Direction Tas **TDY Caltex service station**

Mon-Fri 5.30am-6pm 7.30am-5pm Sun 8am-3pm

Public holidays (times may vary) 7am-3pm

24-hour fuel

Post office agency

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TDY Enterprises

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Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm

We offer pre-split firewood sales and landscaping supplies with delivery available Certified inspection station (cars, Trailers and motorbikes)

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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 ShedSecretary: **George Cerchez**

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

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Smokesignals on the web:

www.smokesignalscn.wordpress.

Reserve frontage to river at Bellingham



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