



# Smoke Signals

Your Free Community Newsletter

**SNAKE  
BITE  
INFORMATION**



Issue 261

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

February 2026

## Kicking Off Our First Edition For 2026

To kick off our first edition for 2026, we have some great news about a new community project, along with a call for ideas on future use of Dilston Hall.

One of the area's long-term locals, Bev Ernst, has previously approached Council regarding the establishment of a community BBQ to be located on the grounds of Dilston Hall. Bev has written to Smoke Signals to inform the community that:



"After following this up again with Council, I received an email from Davy Van Rooyen, Recreation and Parks Project Officer letting me know that the BBQ is a strategic priority for Council.

In a follow up phone call, he explained that the BBQ project also includes a shelter and disabled accessible path from the carpark which is fabulous news.

The Project still has to be approved by the Council's Finance Committee, but I have been assured by Davy, that his Manager, Matt and Deputy Mayor, Hugh McKenzie all see this as a priority as we do not have any such facilities in our community.

When approved in the Budget, Davy also informed me that it should be built in the Spring so hopefully we will have a Community BBQ by next summer. This is an important first step in getting our Hall utilised so that we do not lose it.

Next step is having discussions with Council about re-establishing a Hall Committee to make it easier for activities to be organised. There are quite a few ideas being floated which would firmly establish the Hall as our Community Hub, similar to the Rowella Hall which was previously put up for Sale by the West Tamar Council. It was the community who rallied to save it.

The Hall Committee there recently won a West Tamar Council Community Award, for their work to re-build and engage the community."

For more information, to share ideas for hall use, or to help work with Council to progress the BBQ project, please contact Bev Ernst at [Bernst45@gmail.com](mailto:Bernst45@gmail.com).



## Edge Lane Road Update

Readers will recall that the previous issue of Smoke Signals included a story about a Motion to Council seeking a feasibility study into an Edge Lane Road along a section of Windermere Road. The primary aim of the proposal was to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, following growing concern from local residents.

The Motion was placed on the agenda for the Council Meeting held on 11 December 2025 and was defeated at that meeting. As a result, the matter cannot be raised again for a further 12 months.

While there remains genuine concern among residents about pedestrian safety along Windermere Road, the Edge Lane Road proposal also generated apprehension and strong emotions among others, with discussion quickly spreading beyond the local area. As recently as 5th January this year, a letter published in The Examiner had one reader, who gave his location as Launceston, concerned that an Edge Lane Road could result in the possibility that: "On a dark and stormy night two cars hurtle inexorably towards each other at a closing speed of 100km/h on the winding, undulating, unlit country road!"

A more measured perspective was presented by a local resident who attended the Council Meeting on 11 December. He spoke against the Motion and shared 11.5 hours of observational data collected over a seven-day period. His findings suggested that Windermere Road does not experience high traffic volumes, with averages of approximately one motor vehicle every four minutes, one cyclist every four hours, and one pedestrian every hour.

Although the Motion was defeated, this does not prevent residents from proposing alternative safety measures where appropriate. Early community consultation could help determine the level of local support for any future initiatives.

### THE TASMANIAN CONTAINER REFUND SCHEME

The East Tamar Men's Shed has a drop off area for recyclable cans & bottles. We welcome your donations of these recyclable items. Feel free to leave your empties knowing we will have them moved to a recycling facility.

Some interesting facts:

Tasmania's container refund scheme, Recycle Rewards, has seen record-breaking participation since its launch on 1 May 2025.

Latest Performance Results (as of February 2026)

The scheme recently reached a major milestone, recording its biggest month of returns in January 2026.

- Total Containers Returned: Over 83.5 million containers have been recycled in the first nine months.
- Monthly Record: 13.5 million drink containers were returned in January 2026 alone.
- Refunds Issued: Approximately \$8.35 million has been returned to Tasmanians.
- Charitable Impact: Over \$230,000 has been donated to schools, charities, and community groups, with nearly \$47,000 donated in January 2026 alone.





## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Did you know you can join Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania as an individual community member, or as part of an existing group? To find out more, go to <https://nhwtas.org.au/join/> where there are instructions on how to join.

One of the Neighbourhood watch groups listed in Tasmania is at Hillwood, so perhaps people may also be interested in forming a group to cover the Windermere/Dilston/Swan Bay areas. If you are interested in doing so, please let us know at [smokesignals@bigpond.com](mailto:smokesignals@bigpond.com)



Kinimathatakinta / George Town Library  
Opening Hours

A friendly reminder that the Kinimathatakinta / George Town Library is open on Saturday mornings from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Bookings for all library programs and special events can be made by scanning the QR Code to access our Eventbrite page, or by calling us on 6702 6090.

Regular Programs

Crochet Group

Mondays | 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Come along to learn new crochet techniques or work on your own project. This is a relaxed and supportive group open to all skill levels.

Rock & Rhyme (School Terms Only)

Wednesdays | 10:30 am – 11:00 am

A fun and free morning of songs, rhymes, and movement for babies and toddlers. A great way to support early literacy and connect with other families.

One to One Adult Learning Support

We offer help with reading, writing, and everyday maths through personalised sessions with a volunteer tutor.

Contact: Simone – 0428 158 300

Tech & Tea (School Terms Only)

Tuesdays

2026 first session: Tuesday 17 February

A relaxed small group session for anyone wanting to build digital skills and gain confidence using technology.

Upcoming Events

Connected & Protected

Tuesday 10 February & Tuesday 10 March

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Join us for a free and informative session designed to help our regional community navigate the fast changing digital world. Presented by the Regional Tech Hub and NBN Co, the session will explore three essential topics:

- Improving your connectivity
- Increasing scam awareness
- Understanding and dealing with AI in everyday life

Church News. St Matthias' Anglican Church 431 Windermere Rd (part of Holy Trinity Parish)

Services held 2nd and 4th Sundays 9:30am. Other weeks at Holy Trinity CBD centre (cnr George and Cameron).



Christmas Eve Carols

It was a cool and blowy evening on Christmas Eve for our **Community Christmas Carols Service**, but we managed to squeeze 103 people into the church and, with great participation by the children, it was a truly memorable event. Thanks to Rev Mark, the music group, to those who provided flowers and refreshments, and to everyone who so enthusiastically embraced Christmas with us. Thanks also to everyone who assisted in making the **Launceston Nativity Display** at Holy Trinity so successful: nearly 1300 came specifically to view the display, plus about another 400 + who came to services in December and saw it all as well. Christmas never felt so real! Thanks also to those supporting the **ABM Produce stalls** at HT. Next dates Feb 21, March 7 and 21.



But Christmas is only PART of the Christian story. The other half is Easter which is fast approaching. On Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day (Feb 17th ), at our parish centre Holy Trinity CBD in Cameron St Launceston, we will celebrate our forgiveness with fellowship and pancakes for all (please RSVP to [Mark@htl.org.au](mailto:Mark@htl.org.au) if you wish to attend). The time of 5:30pm will allow families to join in as well. The period of Lent commences the next day (Feb. 18th) with the Ash Wednesday service at 11am (St James Youngtown) and 7pm at Holy Trinity CBD. Lent then continues for 40 days leading up to Good Friday on April 3rd. (Holy Trinity 9:30am). There will be a riverside **Sunrise Easter Sunday service at St Matthias'** April 5th 6:15am for 6:30 start to celebrate the resurrection of Christ and his triumph over death (held inside if weather demands). Without the Easter story, we would not know the hope of Forgiveness and Life. Why not embrace Easter too this year?



Easter Eggs: Symbol of new Life

**A Young Adults Group** (18-40 years old) meets every Wed at Holy Trinity. 6pm for dinner. Study group until 8:30.

**"HOPE EXPLORED"** is a 3 session series on the life, death and resurrection of Christ which examines his extraordinary claims, offering a HOPE that does not disappoint. Holy Trinity 6pm for pizza, 6:30-8 video, discussion, study. RSVP [mark@htl.org.au](mailto:mark@htl.org.au) April 8th, 15th and 22nd. Check: [youtube.com/watch?v=wf1Jr87dZjw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf1Jr87dZjw)

**Windermere fortnightly LIFE Group Bible Study.** Contact (0410033872) for details.



Pancake Tuesday

Services held 9:30am every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Rev Lee 0468 489 068 Rev Mark 0417 664 409

# GARDEN CLUB NEWS

**DECEMBER 2025 - DILSTON WINDERMERE AND SWAN BAY GARDEN CLUB** celebrated the end of a fabulous year of garden visits with a Christmas Party at The Ducks Bar and Restaurant in Rosevears.

**2026** is shaping up very well with visits already scheduled for Franklin House, Glenara Lakes and Kaydale Lodge – and that is just the first part of the year! Our Garden Club membership year will begin on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2026, so if you are considering joining us, now is a perfect time to do so to take full advantage of the year’s planned garden excursions. New members are very welcome. If you would like to know more, please send an email to [DilWinSBGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:DilWinSBGardenClub@gmail.com) or phone Kerri on 0407 447 344.

**WINDERMERE ROAD - AVENUE OF TREES - PROGRESS REPORT** - In 2019, I reported to Smoke Signals on the planting of the avenue of trees at the start of Windermere Road, organised by one of our former Garden Club members, Carolyn Riley (Carolyn now lives in Evandale). Carolyn and I had some fun (and lots of laughter!) trying to water them with buckets and a long hose in their first summer! They have since been surviving on their own. Here is a progress report. I think you will agree that the introduction of these trees has made a beautiful addition to our area, and the progress is remarkable!

## **SMOKE SIGNALS - OCTOBER 2019 - NEW AVENUE OF TREES ON WINDERMERE ROAD**

*Many of you will have noticed the lovely avenue of trees which has recently appeared opposite the café near the junction of Windermere Road and John Lees Drive. This beautiful addition to our local landscape is the result of two years of negotiations by Windermere resident – Carolyn Riley.*

*Carolyn contacted the Launceston City Council about two years ago asking them to plant some trees to improve the landscape along this stretch of road, and to mirror the plantings on the other side. Jason, who is a Launceston City Council Arborist, was very supportive, and after removal of blackberries, approvals were given by the LCC and Roads Department. The result is what you see now! Congratulations Carolyn and thank you from all of us!*



**THEN:**

**2026 UPDATE:** The trees have increased in size and are looking very healthy. There were originally ten trees – now eight. One disappeared after Council Contractor mowing several years ago, and the second one disappeared last December, also after Council Contractor mowing. The remaining eight trees are a good size now, and it would be unlikely that they could be mowed or knocked over by mistake in the future. They have certainly enhanced the entrance to Windermere Road, and we look forward to seeing them grow into a lasting avenue to complement the trees on the opposite side of Windermere Road. Aren’t they beautiful?! Look at the difference!!! I like to refer to them as “Riley’s Avenue”



**NOW:**

## **ARE YOU READY TO CREATE YOUR SCARECROW FOR THIS YEAR’S “OUR SCARECROW STORY”?**

**We can’t wait to see the wonderful and imaginative creations (and their stories) which will appear this year. Get ready for Harvest time in March! Keep an eye on our local Facebook groups for more information.**



At the East Tamar Men's Shed our members work with wood or metal to create repair, or build. We have the professional machines and tools, which we can happily teach any new member to use if they need help or guidance.



Woodwork and working with metal are great hobbies because they combine creativity, practical skill, and personal wellbeing. Working with wood and metal encourages patience and problem-solving, as each project requires planning, precision, and adaptability. From measuring and cutting to shaping and finishing, it develops fine motor skills and spatial awareness while keeping the mind actively engaged.

As a hands-on activity, they also provide a powerful balance to add variety to daily life. They offer a sense of calm and focus, helping reduce stress and improve mental health through mindful, purposeful work. Completing a project brings genuine satisfaction and confidence, especially when the finished piece is both useful and well made.

Both activities also connect people to tradition and sustainability. Repairing, reusing, and creating items from timber or metal promotes respect for materials and reduces waste. One of the benefits of the Men's Shed as a community workshop, is that it builds skills, friendships, and a lasting sense of achievement.



Come and check it out. Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 8.30 am to 1.30pm behind Dilston Hall.

**For membership enquiries, please contact our President, Ken Martin on 0412 46 42 49**

ETMS is assisted by equipment grants from the Tasmanian Government.



## Dusky Woodswallow

I no longer live on the Tamar these days, yet I am still a weekly visitor to note what is happening with the wildlife. In early January I visited Windermere Road to notice a Dusky Woodswallow gliding across the road above my car.

Smoky brown plumage with almost transparent wings, these birds are not easily recognised for what they are by many, as they are summer migrants to Tasmania. They breed opportunistically by building a scanty stick nest on a tree branch against a tree trunk or using flaking bark to contain their nest.

They feed on insects, but unlike other swallows and martins, they usually use a dead tree for a perch to feed from, opportunistically taking passing insects and beetles.

They are members of a large family species of which no others venture south to Tasmania.

When they fly, their wings are almost transparent from observation below and their white tail marking clearly defines the species. A tail wag upon alighting is typical for this bird.

Look up or listen occasionally within the garden. Their call is an incessant cheep.

Wood swallows on mainland Australia are typically colony breeders and flyers, however the Dusky Woodswallow is a paired visiting nester between October and March, when they return to the warmer weather on the mainland.



## GET SMOKE SIGNALS ON LINE

We rely on volunteers for the distribution of Smoke Signals, so can't guarantee that you will receive it in your mailbox every time. Why not subscribe to our on line version and be sure to keep up to date with local happenings (you'll still get the printed version if we have a deliverer in your area).

Just email [smokesignals@bigpond.com](mailto:smokesignals@bigpond.com) with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line and we'll add you to our online subscription list.

**Smoke Signals is also available from:**

George Town Library

Hillwood Berry Farm

Mt Direction Service Station

Marigolds on the Tamar-Hillwood



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!

## HILLWOOD FIRE BRIGADE CHRISTMAS BREAK UP AND PRESENTATION NIGHT

It was smiles all round when Maurie, Peter and David received their 5 year service pins, presented by Field Officer, Scott Anderson at the Hillwood Fire Brigade Christmas Breakup and Presentation Night. Brigade Chief Elaine Burns received her TFS long service medal with 20 year clasp.

Paul and Adrian received their Jubilee medals presented by Brigade Chief Elaine Burns and 2nd officer, Sharon Clarke. Robyn received her TFS Volunteer Medal for 10 years diligent service with integrity, presented by Group Officer Andrew Taylor.



## DILSTON CHRISTMAS BREAK UP

A note of appreciation to the community for the seasonal cheer shown to the brigade as they escorted Santa around the area. It is a sense of communion to see you all out there, with the welcomed gifts to the brigades being well received afterwards! A range of medals and awards were presented to brigade members,

in appreciation and recognition for all their efforts throughout 2025.



.../DilstonFireBrigade  
.../TasmaniaFireService

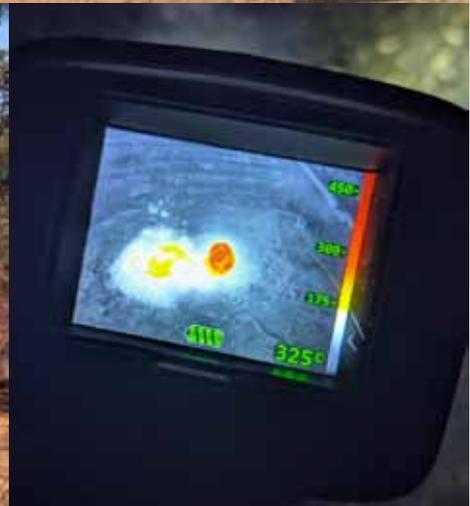
### Dilston Fire Brigade Contacts

Raoul Stow	0417 351 423
Paul Blakie	0417 592 424
Ben Jones	0417 877 001

### Hillwood Fire Brigade Contacts

Elaine Burns	0417 540 665
Sharon Clarke	0417 600 571
Leon Hodges	0409 169 288
Andy Kendall	0427 818 282

Since the Christmas break both brigades have been kept busy responding to incidents across Tasmania, deploying to Western Australia, and more recently to fires more locally in both our areas of responsibility. Summer isn't over yet!!



# HILLWOOD NEWS

## HAPPY NEWS:

Congratulations to Sophie Brimfield and Will Ponting on the arrival of their son Huxley Ernie Ponting born 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2025. First Grandchild for Nadia Hyde and Great Grandchild for Leonie Hyde (nee Voss)

**SAD NEWS:** Friends and Family gathered at the Signal Station Tavern to remember Terry (Fred) Glover who passed away in December. Terry and wife Lyn were long-time residents of Hillwood, only moving to Newnham in their later years. Terry leaves behind his wife Lyn, children, Brendan, Michelle, Karleen Dean and Leah, 14 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. A life well lived.

## HILLWOOD GARDEN CLUB:

Members of the Hillwood Garden Club were delighted with a tour of a fellow members garden recently. What looked like a photo greeted them on arrival with stunning views of the Tamar River. Irene showed us around her very extensive garden and we were in awe of the work she and Charlie have done. We rounded off the morning with a very delicious home-made morning tea. Thank you for your lovely hospitality. The Hillwood Garden club meet on the third Monday of the month at 7:30pm at the Hillwood Hall Supper Room.

New members always welcome. For any queries phone Geraldine on 63948267



## SCAM AWARENESS SESSION

**WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**7PM**

**@ HILLWOOD FOOTBALL CLUBROOMS.**

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**MANAGER OF THE GEORGE TOWN COMMONWEALTH BANK.**

**All welcome**

## ANZAC DAY

The Hillwood Progress Association will again be holding an ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE at the Hillwood Fire Shed, at 6am 25 April 2026.

This will be followed by a Breakfast at the Hillwood War Memorial Hall. This years theme is Women in Service.





100TH YEAR CENTENARY 2026  
HILLWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB

## HILLWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB FAMILY FUN DAY

Bring the whole family and join us for a day filled with games, activities, food and live music for all ages.

Tassie Devils clinic Appearance from Rum 'Un

Kids VS Parents Match Live Music Dancing

Family Activities and Competitions Food Vans

Major raffle to be drawn

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2025

11:00am – 9:00pm

Hillwood Football Ground

HILLWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB

## GOLF DAY Tournament



4 BALL AMBROSE

\$480 a team

- Food and drinks included

LOCATION @LAUNCESTON GOLF CLUB

📅 27TH FEB, 2026

🕒 TIME TBC

JOIN NOW

Contact Mack Blazely on 0456 994 004  
or Email [mackenzie.blazely@gmail.com](mailto:mackenzie.blazely@gmail.com)  
to enter your team.



Volunteers needed for the coming Footy Season. You don't have to be mad keen on footy to come and give a hand. Meals will start again late February / early March. Keep your eyes on the chalkboards for details.

### Hillwood History Room 5 Year Anniversary

Young and old gathered at Pontoon Park to celebrate 5 years of the Hillwood History Room. Volunteers usually meet at the Hillwood Hall History Room on a Thursday at 10am. If you are interested, call in and meet the volunteers, or contact **Julie Airey** on 0408 275 539



The **Hillwood Progress Association Inc.** is an organisational member of **Neighbourhood Watch Tasmania**. The theme this year is **"DO ONE THING" or DOT**.

So still thinking about your New Year's Resolution? Then make this year your **DOT** year. Check on a neighbour. Pick up rubbish on your daily walk. Report any littering or hooning. Volunteer as a once off at a community function or event.

If everyone can make this year their **DOT** year, think about what could be achieved. 😊

It was all happening at the Hillwood Recreation Ground in November.

The Hillwood Progress Association held a **Makers Market & Family Fun Day** and the Motorbike Riders Association (**MRA**) had their **Awareness Ride** arriving at the Footy Grounds just before midday. A children's entertainer, face painter, and gym equipment were all part of the fun activities for the younger generation. Thanks all to Chilli Willi icecream van and Fishcare for the young and not so young! To the musicians, stall holders, history room and the Fire Brigade, a big thank you.



Great to see so many families enjoying the day. The Motorcycle Riders rode in just before 12 and what a sight! About 250 bikes made the trip from Perth to Hillwood Footy ground to raise awareness and funds for the WP Holman Clinic. Thanks to all those involved, it's what makes a great community.



## Wedding Celebrant

Your wedding ceremony should feel personal, meaningful and unmistakably you.

Anna De La Rue is an authorised Marriage Celebrant with more than 25 years' experience creating beautiful, personalised ceremonies. An ex King Islander, Anna is known for her warmth, professionalism and genuine care for every couple she works with.

Whether you're planning an intimate elopement, a relaxed wedding celebration or a vow renewal, Anna will guide you through the process and craft a ceremony that tells your story — your way.



Anna De La Rue  
0439 394 794  
[annadelarue29@gmail.com](mailto:annadelarue29@gmail.com)

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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**  
Jess: 0428 658 988  
[Jess.Panday@education.tas.gov.au](mailto: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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**Friday, 27th March**

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**sharon@key2.com.au**

## Federation Home on 2.17h

- Old Federation home with heaps of character 223 m2 on 2.17 hectares of pasture in a private setting
- Orchard, covered veggie garden.
- Lovely sunny north facing home with wrap around verandas.
- Home has been well cared for and in very good condition.
- Built around 1900 and renovated in 1985
- Large double garage with workshop, multiple sheds

**38 Sheppard Avenue, Hillwood**

3 -bedroom, 2-bathrooms, 2 - living areas. \$750,000



101 Galvin Street, South Launceston 7249

NEWSLETTER PRINTED BY COURTESY OF

# Michael Ferguson

Liberal Member for BASS



Tasmanian  
**Liberal**

**P: (03) 6777 1032**

**PO Box 537 Launceston 7250**

**michael.ferguson@dpac.tas.gov.au**



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