

# The Coastal VOICE

**FREE**  
**MAR 2026**  
Vol 11 No 03  
ISSN 2206-0057

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER EST. 2015



**Bree's journey to becoming  
Central Coast's Young Citizen of the Year**

**PLUS!**

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN  
a Burnie Irish Dance  
School Lesson Voucher,  
or  
Non-Violent  
Communication (NVC)  
Coaching Session  
worth \$100!

**BURNIE - PENGUIN - ULVERSTONE - DEVONPORT & BEYOND**

## New Season, Fresh Look: Coastal Heroes & Community News



**By Alicia van Ek**

As we step into autumn, it's hard not to reflect on what a vibrant and energetic summer it has been across the North West Coast. From community festivals and sporting events to family fun days and outdoor adventures, our coastline has been alive with activity, connection and celebration. It's been wonderful to see so many locals and visitors out and about, making the most of everything our beautiful region has to offer.

This edition also marks an exciting new chapter for Coastal Voice. You'll notice a fresh look and an even stronger focus on celebrating our coastal heroes — the everyday people who make a real difference in our communities. We're proud to shine a spotlight on Bree, Central Coast's Young Citizen of the Year, whose dedication and contribution truly inspire.

We're also thrilled to introduce a brand-new section, Kids' Corner! We invite our young readers to get involved by sending in their stories, drawings or achievements to be featured in future editions. This is your space to share your voice.

You'll find valued contributions from Burnie Mayor Teeny Brumby and Devonport Mayor Alison Jarman, alongside our regular update from Central Coast Mayor Cheryl Fuller, as we continue to expand our reach from Devonport right through to Burnie.

Our goal remains the same — to highlight local activities, celebrate local heroes, and keep our coastal communities connected.

Be sure to follow our Facebook page (scan the QR code) so you don't miss a thing — and read on to discover some exciting events happening this March.

Here's to a wonderful autumn ahead!



## More Than a Moment: International Women's Day



**By Tracey Clark**

March invites us to pause and celebrate International Women's Day, a moment to recognise the achievements of women, reflect on the progress we've made, and acknowledge the work still ahead.

Across the Coast, our community always shows up in meaningful ways. This year is no exception, with events like the Ignite Women 2026 Women's Day Breakfast and CTST's International Women's Day Morning Tea bringing people together to connect, learn and celebrate. You can read more about these events in this month's edition.

But International Women's Day is more than a date on the calendar or a purple-themed morning tea. It's a reminder of the everyday contributions women make in our homes, workplaces, volunteer organisations and community groups. It's about recognising the quiet leadership, the resilience, the care work that often goes unseen, and the courage it takes to keep pushing for equality. It's also a chance to listen to women's stories, to amplify diverse voices, and to consider how each of us can play a part in creating a more inclusive and equitable community.

So whether you attend an event, support a local woman-led business, or simply take a moment to acknowledge the women around you, March is the perfect time to celebrate progress and commit to continuing the conversation.

### Apology

In our previous edition of Coastal Voice, an image was included as the "hidden picture" without the appropriate authorisation. This was an oversight on our part, and we sincerely apologise to the Woodworking Guild for the unintended use of their image. We appreciate their understanding and remain committed to ensuring proper permissions are obtained in future editions.

## THE COASTAL VOICE

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We acknowledge the  
Palawa/Pakana peoples of  
Lutruwita upon whose lands  
we are on.

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# Celebrations

## Bree How Named Central Coast Council Youth Citizen of the Year

**By Eunice Horne, Scouts District commissioner for Leven**  
The Central Coast Council Youth Citizen of the Year award has been proudly presented to local volunteer Bree How — and her heartfelt acceptance speech reminded everyone why she is such a deserving recipient.

Bree shared how her journey began as a shy 11-year-old walking into her first night with the Motton Preston Scout Group after moving from Ulverstone to North Motton. Expecting a “boys club,” she instead found a second family. The once-quiet newcomer was welcomed by what she describes as some of the loudest and rowdiest — but most supportive kids she’d ever met.

Through her years in Scouts Tasmania, Bree learned lessons in courage, leadership and service values she admits she may not have fully appreciated at the time, but now lives by every day.

After taking time away to attend university and pursue her dream career working on farms, Bree returned to scouting as a Rover. That decision reignited her passion for volunteering and deepened her connection to the community.

Over the past year, she has worked alongside dedicated volunteers, giving back to a region she describes as friendly, supportive and inspiring.

From nervous scout to confident community leader — even delivering a public speech — Bree’s journey is a testament to growth, resilience and service.  
Congratulations, Bree!



## The Hazell Bros 357 Mission Zero Big Swim

**By Evie Collins**

On 7th February, the Hazell Bros 357 Mission Zero Big Swim was held at Ulverstone Surf Life Saving Club. The event was all about bringing attention to Surf Life Saving Australia’s Mission Zero strategic plan and encouraging everyone to swim between the flags.

A total of 123 swimmers took part, swimming for 357 minutes—representing every life lost to drowning in the past year. We also raised almost \$11,000 to support lifesaving programs, training, and equipment at the club. It was amazing to see the community come together, with people of all ages cheering each other on and swimming for such an important cause. Even though it was serious, the energy and teamwork made it a really fun day.

One of the most exciting ideas from the event is to create a permanent “swim between the flags” mural at Ulverstone Surf Life Saving Club. It would be a great reminder all year round about the Mission Zero goal and the importance of swimming between the flags.

A big thank you goes out to all our local sponsors, people who donated, and the volunteers who helped make the event happen. The Mission Zero Big Swim showed that communities and young people can make a difference, and even small things can help support Surf Life Saving Australia’s work to reduce preventable drownings.



## Kid’s Corner!

**By Emma (8)**



What I like about Scouts is you learn lots and have fun activities such as rock climbing, abseiling, canoeing, cubs chose and lots more. You can also go on camps and the good thing is, Scouts are everywhere so wherever you live, you can go. And no, it’s not just for boys. It’s for everyone. I go to the Turners Beach one, but there’s heaps. I’ve made lots of friends there. It’s so fun. I hope you can come to Scouts too. I might see you there — you never know!

*Do you have a fun adventure, cool hobby, awesome drawing, sports win or something exciting you’d love to share? The Coastal Voice would love to feature more local kids and the amazing things you’re doing!*

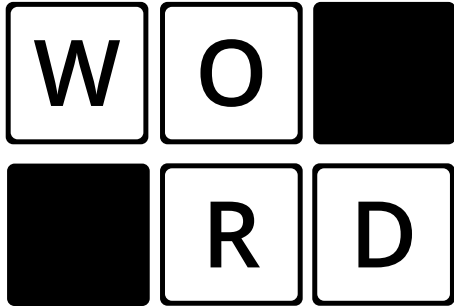
*Whether it’s surfing, fishing, dancing, gaming, creating art, helping your community or trying something new — your story matters.*

*Send your story, photos (with a parent’s permission), or even a short write-up about your favourite activity to: [editor@thecoastalvoice.au](mailto:editor@thecoastalvoice.au)*

*We can’t wait to share your creativity and celebrate all the great things happening in our coastal community!*



# Puzzles



Solve the Crozle to be in the draw for:

A Burnie School of Irish Dance Lesson Voucher!

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February Crozle Solution  
**CUPID**

**Winner**  
Dorothy Soden  
Won a Devonport City Council Arts Voucher

**How to enter:** Email or message your name and phone number along with the Crozle answer before the 21<sup>st</sup> of March to editor@thecoastalvoice.au  
The winner's name will be published in the April issue.

K C U B A T I A W U K O R E A S U  
R A I R Y S P N A L E U Z E N E V  
A I B R E S A A S P A I N E M E Y  
M P N L N P L T R A L I N A D U S  
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| Argentina | Cuba      | Iraq       | Palestine      | Sudan     | Zaire |
| Australia | Denmark   | Israel     | PapuaNewGuinea | Sweden    |       |
| Belize    | Egypt     | Japan      | Peru           | Syria     |       |
| Bhutan    | Ethiopia  | Korea      | Philippines    | Turkiye   |       |
| Britain   | Fiji      | Kuwait     | Qatar          | Ukraine   |       |
| Brunei    | France    | Lebanon    | Russia         | USA       |       |
| Chad      | India     | NewZealand | Samoa          | Venezuela |       |
| Chile     | Indonesia | Nigeria    | Serbia         | Vietnam   |       |
| China     | Iran      | Norway     | Spain          | Yemen     |       |



## HIDDEN PICTURE

Find the HIDDEN picture somewhere in the paper to be in this month's draw to win:



A Non Violent Communication (NVC) Coaching Session valued at \$100!

February Winner:  
Cindy Brazendale won a copy of Local Author Amanda Cox's Book Cookie felt Sad

**How to enter:** Email or message your name and phone number along with the page number before the 21<sup>st</sup> of March to editor@thecoastalvoice.au  
The winner's name will be published in February issue.



**Crozle Instructions:** Each word will be straight, not bent, but may go in any direction — up, down, left, right, or diagonal. Most words are joined to another word by at least one letter, so any letter may be used in more than one word. Circle the words in the graph as you find them. When all the words in the list are circled, there will be letters left over. Starting from the top line, travel left to right on each line and write these unused letters on the underscores below to discover the solution.

## Burnie School of Irish Dance

### & Bonnie Highland Dancers

A not-for-profit community dance school:  
burnieirishdance@gmail.com  
Contact: 0403 767 708

**Tuesdays:**  
Highland Dance - 6pm  
Junior Tap Dance - 7pm  
Senior Tap Dance - 7.45pm

**Thursdays:**  
Irish Beginners/Littlies - 5pm  
Junior Irish - 6pm  
Senior Irish - 7pm



## BONUS PUZZLE! CREATE WORDS

Find one Nine Letter Word PLUS words of four letters or more. Each word must include the Central Letter.

20+ Good 30+ Great 40+ Genius

S A L  
A T W  
E R T

# Council News

## A Message from Alison Jarman – Devonport City Council Mayor



Devonport continues to move confidently into the future, and I'm pleased to share some exciting updates that reflect Council's strong focus on growth, innovation and community wellbeing.

Council is progressing the next stage of our long-term LIVING CITY transformation, with plans to unlock two major development opportunities on Formby Road in the heart of the CBD. This vision includes a new commercial building with office and retail spaces, alongside a high-end multi-storey residential apartment complex built above multi-level public car parking.

Designed to transform what is currently a vehicle-dominated area near the cinema complex, the development will create a vibrant, people-focused precinct with strong connections into existing retail areas and new quality public spaces. Building on more than a decade of LIVING CITY investment, Council is now seeking private investment to help bring this important part of our CBD to life and will continue engaging with local businesses and property owners as planning progresses.

Many in our community will know Rose, the chatbot on Council's website. In mid-December, Rose was introduced to our phone service, providing an additional way for residents to access information at any time of day. Rose assists with routine enquiries, helping people get answers quickly and allowing our Customer Service team to focus on more complex matters. If Rose can't help, calls are transferred directly to our Customer Service team, ensuring there is always a clear path to speak with a person. Devonport City Council is proud to be the first council in Tasmania to introduce this technology.



A significant milestone has also been reached at the Devonport Berth in preparation for the arrival of the new Spirit vessels, with the recent arrival of the 740-tonne vehicle gantry. Momentum has built quickly, with works moving straight into production. Over the coming weeks, residents can expect to see visible progress as this important project takes shape.

Finally, I'm delighted to see the Living Well Summer Program return for 2026. This free community health and wellbeing program supports physical, mental and emotional wellbeing across our municipality. With a range of summer activities on offer, it's a great opportunity to connect with others, stay active and take time for yourself. I encourage eligible residents to register via Council's website and enjoy another great Devonport summer.

Together, these initiatives show a city that is investing wisely, planning for the future and continuing to put community first.

## Burnie City Council Mayor's Message

By Mayor Teeny Brumby



One of the things I value most about Burnie is the way our community shows up to events, to conversations, and to each other. When we create opportunities for people to gather, share ideas and feel heard, something special happens.

Over the past few years, Food and Feedback has grown into an annual tradition, and that growth is thanks entirely to our community. It has become a relaxed and enjoyable way for residents to connect with Council, share their thoughts, and be part of shaping our city's future. I want to sincerely thank everyone who has taken the time to attend, contribute and engage your voices matter.

Celebrating who we are as a city is also at the heart of A Taste of Harmony 2026, which will take place on Friday 20 March at the Burnie Foreshore from 4.00pm to 8.00pm. This free, family friendly event will celebrate Burnie's rich cultural diversity through food, music, performance and shared experience. By bringing people together to share stories, flavours and culture, A Taste of Harmony helps foster meaningful connections and strengthens the fabric of our community.

Burnie also recently welcomed visitors from across the globe for the Burnie International Tennis Event, running from Monday 23 February to Sunday 1 March. Proudly supported by Burnie City Council, this week long tournament was about more than sport. It delivered real economic benefit, filled our cafés and accommodation, and inspired young athletes across our region.

My sincere thanks go to the organisers, volunteers, ball kids, sponsors and, of course, the Burnie Tennis Club for making this event possible.

Listening to our community is central to good local government, and the recent Shorewell Park playground consultation demonstrated that beautifully. With 580 votes received, Design 3 emerged as the clear favourite. We heard your feedback loud and clear, and Council has now incorporated key community requests into the updated design, including improved safety, more shade, inclusive play features and facilities that support families of all ages. More updates will be shared as we move toward construction.

Burnie continues to grow, connect and evolve and it does so best when we do it together.

Thank you for being part of the conversation and for continuing to make our city such a welcoming place to live, work and visit.



# Next Council Meeting

March 16

Find out more [www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au](http://www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au)

## Mayor's Message

### By Mayor Cheryl Fuller

This month, we're inviting the community to provide feedback on a proposal to expand the East Ulverstone Industrial Precinct onto adjacent Council-owned land between Industrial Drive and Camp Clayton.

Many of you will have noticed recent activity in the area with Fairbrother's expansion. The remaining land through to Maskells Road represents a significant opportunity for the Coast, and we are now seeking your feedback on how it could be developed to support local jobs and investment.

The proposal sets out a productive, well-designed precinct, with a unique opportunity for premium food or beverage manufacturing that incorporates cellar-door style experiences. Extensive native landscaping and well-considered signage are central to the vision. Consultation is open from 3 March to 15 March 2026, and I encourage you to take the time to view the proposal at My Central Coast or Council's Administration Centre in Ulverstone and share your feedback.

There's also plenty happening across our arts and cultural spaces. New Life is currently on display at Hive, showcasing contemporary woodcraft by members of the North West Woodcraft Guild. The exhibition explores themes of reuse, learning and collaboration, and reflects the strength of creative skills in our community. It includes many personal stories, including that of Anne Williams, who began working with wood at the Ulverstone Community Shed, developed her skills with the Guild, and is now sharing her striking five-panel screen made from reclaimed materials such as lost timber, old Venetian blinds and local macrocarpa. New Life runs at Hive, Ulverstone until 3 May 2026.

And finally, I'm delighted to let you know that Saturday 4 July will mark our first Devils in the Dial match at Dial Park in Penguin. A VFL and VFLW double-header will see both Devils teams take on the Box Hill Hawks in what promises to be a great day of football for the Coast. I can't wait to see you there!

Until next time,  
Mayor Cheryl Fuller

YOU'RE INVITED TO A

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Got an idea, question or concern? Drop in for a chat with Councillors and staff.

Location	Date & Time
SPRENT Community Hall	Feb 26   10:00am
TURNERS BEACH Bowls Club	Mar 25   6:00pm
SOUTH RIANA Memorial Hall	May 28   10:00am
ULVERSTONE Gnomon Pavillion	Jun 25   6:00pm
PRESTON Community Centre	Jul 30   10:00am
PENGUIN Surf Life Saving Club	Aug 27   6:00pm

Light refreshments provided. No bookings required.  
[www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au/conversations](http://www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au/conversations)

CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL



[www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au](http://www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au)

[admin@centralcoast.tas.gov.au](mailto:admin@centralcoast.tas.gov.au)

(03) 6429 8900

## Penguin Probus is Back in Full Swing for 2026!

By Jenny Rowden

After a relaxing summer break, our members have hit the ground running with an exciting calendar of friendship and fun. With thanks to Karen O'Reilly for her amazing organisational skills, we've already enjoyed sweet treats at Anvers Chocolate Factory and a beautiful stroll through the Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens. Coming up in early March, we're heading to the Fortitude Tramway right here in Penguin! Members will have the unique chance to enjoy a ride as well as a sausage sizzle together. We thank tram enthusiast, Simon, for his hospitality!

We kicked off our speaker program with Netti Hulme, who gave a thought-provoking talk on Death Literacy. She invited everyone to a FREE workshop entitled 'Showing Up for Older Australians' on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March at The Hearth Studio, 30 King Street, Penguin. A range of topics will be covered. Email [nettiehulme@gmail.com](mailto:nettiehulme@gmail.com) for more info.

Jenny Rowden also spoke about the recently revived CWA Branch in Ulverstone which has exciting potential to serve the local community. Its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was well attended. Probus Members are currently exploring new, smaller interest groups including card games, walking groups, and a book club. This year marks 50 years of Probus! We are forming a working committee to organize a fun joint celebration with our neighbouring Probus groups. We are pleased to announce that three Penguin representatives have been invited to a special celebration at Government House to mark this milestone year.

Want to join the fun? Whether you're interested in the Penguin group or finding one closer to you, we'd love to hear from you. Probus is for active retired and semi-retired people. We meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in the month from 10-12 at the Penguin Railway Station.

Email: [penguinprobus7316@gmail.com](mailto:penguinprobus7316@gmail.com) or Ph. 0457 071 166

## Community Transport Services Tasmania International Women's Day Morning Tea

By Michelle Howells, People & Capability Manager

On Wednesday 11 March, 10AM - 12PM at the River Arms Hotel, Community Transport Services Tasmania (CTST) is holding a special International Women's Day Morning Tea celebrating the essential role women play in volunteering and community groups across Northern Tasmania.

The complimentary morning tea will feature a discussion panel and networking opportunity highlighting women's experiences in volunteering and community engagement. Volunteering Tasmania will join CTST to explore the benefits of volunteering - connection, purpose and belonging - as well as what is needed to sustain participation in community groups and volunteer organisations, including flexibility, safety, recognition and appropriate support.

It is an opportunity to connect, share insights and strengthen local relationships.

This gathering brings together women volunteers, community leaders, volunteer based organisations, community groups and women interested in contributing to their communities. During the informal networking session attendees will have the opportunity to connect with organisations and community groups, explore volunteering pathways and build confidence to participate more actively in community life.

## Central Coast U3A Update

By Alison McArd



Learn, laugh, live

*Our 1st semester for the year starts at the beginning of March, have you enrolled yet?*

Go to <https://tascentralcoast.u3anet.org.au> and fill out the membership form. After paying your \$40 you can sign up for as many sessions as you wish during the two semesters.

During March we will have a visit to Home Hill, start our fortnightly Pétanque games and weekly Core Strength and Balance exercises. We will be shown some useful gadgets to enable us to continue to live independently and Centrelink will give us useful information on one's eligibility for the Age Pension.

For those considering moving to a smaller residence, there will be a session on "Downsizing with Confidence (read more about this interesting topic on page 18).

"Rhyme & Reason" will give us some insights into English history from the 13th to 18th centuries and explain the meaning behind those familiar nursery rhymes. Learn about Bone Health, What our library has to offer, Stories of the Caminos and Akhenaten, the heretic king.

If you have some favourite poems, there will be a session where you can share them with others. And for those who love a bit of trivia, there will be three sessions where you can show off what you know.

N.B. Nursery Rhymes on 6th March and Downsizing on 12th March are free to members of the public. If you would like to attend these sessions please call us on 0457 411 585.



## YOU'RE INVITED! CELEBRATE WOMEN IN COMMUNITY

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MORNING  
TEA & COMMUNITY NETWORKING EVENT

Join us for an uplifting morning recognising the incredible contribution women make to volunteering and community life across Northern Tasmania.

**Celebrate Women Who Strengthen Our Communities:**

Hear from our Discussion Panel and learn how women volunteers build wellbeing, connection and resilience - while gaining fulfilment, confidence and purpose through their involvement.

**Complimentary Morning Tea**

CTST is a volunteer-led not-for-profit organisation supporting older Tasmanians and individuals with health or mobility limitations to remain independent, connected and active through safe, reliable community transport.

**Wednesday 11 March 2026**  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**River Arms Hotel, 1 Crescent St,  
Ulverstone**

Scan the QR code  
to RSVP or call 0475 795 956



# Community

## The CWA is Back in Ulverstone Serving the Central Coast!

By Jenny Rowden



We are thrilled to announce that the Ulverstone branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA) has officially been revived, serving the Central Coast, with a well-attended 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on Feb 5th. The goodwill in the room was highly evident.

It was an honour to have several distinguished guests join us to mark the occasion, including Adriana Taylor - The CWA State President, Mayor Cheryl Fuller - CCC, Honourable Casey Hiscutt, MLC, Lindy Perkins - State VP and CWA shop manager, Lucy Murfet - President NW Tasmania.

Special thanks to CCC for a grant which covers the cost of the Montgomery Room venue for the remainder of this year. Our Mayor also brought along a very thoughtful gift pack for the group.

We are also grateful to Casey Hiscutt supporting this CWA venture by covering our printing costs.

Introducing our new Office Bearers which includes:

- President: Jenny Rowden
- Secretary: Helen Pratt
- Treasurer: Helen Dowse

There are also many other roles members can undertake and we welcome that. No CWA gathering is complete without a spread! We enjoyed a delightful morning tea, featuring a lovely (and delicious!) celebration cake specially baked for the occasion by our very own Helen Pratt.



Image: CWA members Helen Dowse, Helen Pratt, Lennice Wilson and Jenny Rowden

We are so excited to see what we can achieve together for the Ulverstone community. Stay tuned for updates on our next meeting and how you can get involved!

If you would like to know more, please contact us. [cwaulverstone@gmail.com](mailto:cwaulverstone@gmail.com) or phone #0457071166

## Ulverstone Surf Carnival Weekend – 31st January and 1st February

By Sam Mawer, Ulverstone Surf Club Junior Activities Coordinator

What a fantastic weekend for Ulverstone Surf Life Saving Club! For the first time since January 2019, we proudly hosted both the Nipper Carnival on Saturday and the Senior Carnival on Sunday, welcoming athletes from across Tasmania to our beautiful coastline.

With over 70 Ulverstone athletes competing across the weekend, the beach was full of maroon, green and yellow, big smiles, and incredible club spirit. It was amazing to see our young nippers and senior athletes representing the club with pride, courage, and great sportsmanship.

Saturday's Nipper Carnival was all about fun, learning, and building strong team culture. From beach sprints and flags to board and swim events, our nippers embraced every challenge and cheered each other on throughout the day. The energy, friendships, and support on the beach were outstanding.

Sunday saw our senior athletes take to the water in challenging conditions, showing determination and resilience. The level of competition was strong, and Ulverstone athletes stepped up, delivering some fantastic performances and results.

A massive thank you to our volunteers who helped across the bar, canteen, BBQ, water safety, officiating, set-up, and pack-down.

Thank you also to our coaches and age managers for their time, leadership, and commitment to developing our athletes.

We also extend our appreciation to Central Coast Council for their continued support in helping our club host such a successful and community-focused event.

Events like this do not happen without a huge team effort, and this weekend truly showed what makes Ulverstone special. We are incredibly proud of every athlete who had a go, supported their teammates, and represented the club so well.

The future is bright for Ulverstone Surf Life Saving Club. Bring on the rest of the season!



## Board Games Camp at Camp Clayton

Whether you come just for the day or settle in for the whole weekend, it's all about great games, great company, and plenty of laughs.

We will have a huge library of board games to choose from, including classics to modern favourites.

You can bring your own games to share if you'd like. Relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. Stay the weekend or pop in for a day.

When: Friday, 29th May till Sun 21st May.

All the details can be found at <https://www.coastalboardgamers.org.au>



## Celebrating 80 Years Since the Release of the Ferguson TE20



Little Grey Fergies will be having an 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party at SteamFest on the long weekend.

Harry Ferguson designed the Ferguson TE20 tractor that was first built by the

doing so became the first vehicles to be driven to the South Pole. Again proving the strength, reliability and versatility of the Ferguson TE20 tractor.

The contribution to agriculture Harry Ferguson made cannot be understated when he designed his revolutionary three-point linkage system for implement attachment and control. To this day, almost every modern wheel tractor is fitted with a Ferguson designed three point linkage system.

Tasmania's oldest and the newest Ferguson tractors will be on display over the weekend as well as many others.

*(Above information provided by Mr Phillip Gaunt from the Harry Ferguson Club.)*

Standard Motor Company in Coventry England, the first example rolled off the production line on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1946. During its production it is estimated over 518,000 tractors were made in the United Kingdom with a further 306,000 made in the United States of America. Over 51,000 'little grey Fergies' came to Australia with many of them still in everyday use.

The Little Grey Fergy or Grey Menace as it was known by the competition, soon became a familiar sight with one or more appearing on almost every farm. The tractor with its range of specifically designed implements was able to perform just about any task required. The Ferguson System as it was known, changed farming forever.

In 1957 New Zealand Explorer Sir Edmund Hillary used three Ferguson petrol TE-A20 tractors modified with flexible tracks fitted around the front and rear wheels to cross the Antarctic and reach the South Pole in just 17 days. The Fergies withstood blizzards and ice crevasses operating under temperatures down to -36 deg C, and in

We are still looking for volunteers to help run the railway during SteamFest, as carriage attendants, crossing guards and parking attendants.

If you can volunteer on one or more days, we offer free entry, free camping or caravan sites and lunch, contact [volunteers@sheffieldsteam.com.au](mailto:volunteers@sheffieldsteam.com.au)

SteamFest has been running on the March long weekend for the past 31 years in Sheffield, the town of murals and gateway to Cradle Mountain, a short drive south of Devonport in Tasmania's northwest.

## The Ultimate Pop-Up Junkyard Playground

By Geoffrey Curtis

You might be thinking much like me, what on earth is this all about? There was only one way to find out: 'to go and see'. After a chat with organiser Clare Walton, I have to admit this one outstanding woman has and continues to give to the community.

The story begins in Denmark in 1942, when members of the public had an idea to give children during World War II a chance to play. There were only bits of timber, some nails, pieces of rags, and anything else handy nearby. Lego was not fully invented until 1949, of course. The organisers suggested that the children be creative in any way they could, and so the journey began globally.

Today, we can understand how it works by those of us building a children's cubby house in the backyard. All well and good, you might say, but who was doing the creative bit?

'The Ultimate Pop-Up Junkyard' is the fancy name for getting children to put together their own creative ideas, which, for the most part, ends up with a cubby house of their design. The aim is for children not only to have fun

but also to stimulate their mental and physical activities. Melbourne has had several local junkyards operating for years, and when Clare moved to live and work in Devonport, she eventually presented the concept to the Council.

This trial Pop-Up was held in the Market Pavilion, Devonport, from January 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, with participants ranging from 7 to 16 years old, all enthusiastic budding youngsters.

If you are thinking about the safety concerns, Clare had this well covered. Thanks to the team's help offered by the Devonport Men's Shed, volunteers from Council staff, including backstage theatre crew, and the Arts Gallery. All generously supported by Nubco and Fairbrother businesses.

And what about the future of Pop-Up Junkyard, you may well ask? Clare's vision is to take this project around the State, encouraging as many interested people as possible, communities and groups to come together to support our young people. Congratulations to one and all!



Image credits: Jenny Rowden

## Welcome to a New School Year

By Emily Sass, Principal Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, Devonport

Within just a few weeks of stepping into the role of Principal at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Devonport, I can already see that I am part of something truly special. The warmth and generosity of this community have been evident from day one. I am deeply grateful for the welcome I have received from families, students, staff and our Parish. There is a strong sense of belonging here, and it feels right to now call this community my own.

We were blessed to begin the school year with our Family Feast Day and Welcome BBQ on February 11, celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Even with less-than-ideal weather, families turned out in great numbers, reflecting the commitment and spirit that define our school. More recently, our Parent Teacher conversations provided another valuable opportunity to connect, listen and continue building strong partnerships focused on each child's growth.

The charism of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart is deeply embedded in our school culture. Their legacy is visible in the care, compassion and dedication shown by staff each day.

There is a shared commitment to nurturing students not only academically, but also socially, emotionally and spiritually.

I was drawn to this school because of its strong community spirit and holistic approach to education. My hope is that every child feels safe, supported and excited to learn, that families feel connected and valued, and that staff feel appreciated in their vital work.

As a lover of the beach and the outdoors, you may see me enjoying many of our beautiful coastal spots with my young family. I value being part of the wider community and look forward to connecting with families not only at school events, but also out and about throughout my time as Principal. I am excited for the journey ahead as we continue to grow together.



## The History of Cheviot Dale - Part One

By Cheryle Laphorne

Cheviot Dale has long commanded attention on the horizon, its presence shaped by generations of history a legacy now enhanced by a new chapter rising from the land.

For those travelling the coastal stretch of Lillico, the landscape unfolds in a way that feels both familiar and timeless. Paddocks roll gently toward Bass Strait, shaped by wind, salt air and decades of careful stewardship. Long before visitors arrived to experience its newest offering, Cheviot Dale stood as a place defined not only by its beauty, but by the Lillico family who shaped it.

Established in 1856 by Scottish settler Thomas Lillico, the property was named after the Cheviot Hills of his homeland a reminder that migration carried both hope and memory. Across five generations of the Lillico family, Cheviot Dale grew into more than a productive farm; it became a place of identity, continuity and community connection.



In 1910, Alexander Lillico acquired Cheviot Dale, ushering in a defining era for the property. His leadership within Tasmania's agricultural sector and influence in national dairy and rural policy would later earn him

*Image: Sir Alexander Lillico*

a knighthood in 1965, recognising a lifetime dedicated to Australian primary industry. Today, within the new development at The Cove, the Alexander Centre stands as a tribute to that enduring legacy.

The story entered its next chapter when Frances Lillico married Noel Robinson, uniting two families bound by shared values of hard work, stewardship and deep respect for the land. Through their care, Cheviot Dale remained not simply a farm, but a living heritage passed thoughtfully to the next generation.

Today, Kim and Bruce Robinson and their family continue that legacy as the current custodians of Cheviot Dale. Through vision, determination and years of hard work, they have shaped a new future for the property, culminating in the opening of The Cove development a transformation that honours history while inviting the wider community to experience the landscape in a new way.

For five generations, Cheviot Dale has stood as a landmark on the horizon, its newest development not replacing the past, but enriching the legacy that came before it.

Discover the transformation of Cheviot Dale into the multi-award-winning The Cove and the enduring legacy carried forward by Kim and Bruce Robinson in April's issue.

By Sandra Rowden-Rich

The guided historic bus tour from Wilmot to Waldheim at Cradle Mountain will feature again during Weindorfer Day Sunday 3 May in Wilmot. Departing Wilmot at 12:30pm, visitors on the bus hear a cheerful commentary from the local driver on special places they are passing through on the hour-long journey.

Parks Rangers meet and guide the group through the "Turning of the Fagus" forest walk near Gustav and Kate Weindorfer's grave cairn, just after a short Memorial service there.

The Nothofagus turning to its golden red autumn colours is a delightful experience. Nothofagus beech is the only deciduous plant native to Australia.

After the short forest walk the guide leads the group through the historic "Waldheim" Forest Home, originally

## Weindorfer Day Bus Tour

constructed by hand from fallen King Billy pine by Gustav Weindorfer in 1912. This was the first accommodation structure established at Cradle Mountain.

A delicious afternoon tea is prepared for the tour guests to enjoy at the Viewing Centre at Dove Lake, Cradle Mountain.

Then the bus returns to Wilmot by 4:30pm.

Bookings are essential through Eventbrite. Closing date for bus tour bookings is 27 April 2026.

[www.weindorferday.com.au](http://www.weindorferday.com.au)

*Image: Parks Ranger guiding guests through Waldheim forest walk*



## Calling All Community-Minded Legends

A brand new café is opening at Umina Park Burnie, OneCare in February, and they're looking for volunteers who might have a few hours a week to spare to help bring this beautiful, inclusive space to life.

This is about more than coffee, it's about connection, conversation and creating a welcoming place for people in our community.

What's involved:

- Flexible volunteer hours
- Helping run a friendly, community-focused café
- Making a real difference through simple human connection

You'll need:

- An NDIS-endorsed Working With Vulnerable People Card

If this sounds like something you (or someone you know) would love, please reach out for more information:

[tara.kuys@onecare.org.au](mailto:tara.kuys@onecare.org.au)

Let's wrap our arms around initiatives like this, they're what make our community so special!



## Happy New Year from TasPol!

By Inspector Andrew Hanson Central West Division and Western Marine Services – Western District



Community concerns regarding the use of e-bikes and e-scooters continue to be front of mind. These concerns follow several well-publicised safety incidents nationally and, locally, feedback from community members who report feeling unsafe due to the risk of collisions.

Since my arrival in Ulverstone—marking my one-year anniversary in January—this issue has been consistently raised by the community. Ulverstone Police regularly engage in community safety partnership initiatives and work closely with a supportive and proactive local council to address these concerns. Many will recall the visit of the Community Engagement Command's Poli Van in May, which focused specifically on engaging with the community about e-bike and e-scooter safety.

Police continue to share relevant information and legislative requirements to raise awareness, while also communicating the challenges associated with enforcement, including the need to prioritise all road safety offences that present a risk of harm. This issue has received particular attention not only on the Central Coast, but across the broader Western District.

As a result of increased awareness and the growing popularity of e-bikes and e-scooters, Western District Police have responded accordingly. In the past 12 months, more than 40 people have been proceeded against for relevant offences across the district, including in and around Ulverstone. This represents a significant increase compared to the previous five-year average of approximately seven per year.

It is important to note that the majority of these detections involve adults who are aware of the laws and are choosing not to comply. This should not be confused with the many respectful and responsible young people enjoying their summer and school holidays. Throughout this period, police have had numerous positive interactions with children riding scooters, wearing helmets, and demonstrating genuine care for pedestrians and their own safety. This behaviour reflects positively on both the young people themselves and the efforts of their parents and carers.

## Celebrating 50 years of Probus

By Ruth Marshall, Central Coast Probus Club President

As part of Probus's 50th anniversary celebrations, a group of members enjoyed a Leven River Cruise in Ulverstone on Wednesday 4 February. The cruise offered an insight into the history of



the river and the town, brought to life through Kim's engaging storytelling and historical photographs. Members also enjoyed the beautiful scenery and abundant local birdlife along the way, with sightings of eagles and hawks a particular highlight. Probus members sincerely thank Kim and the team at Leven River Cruises for providing such an exceptional and memorable outing.

## Central Coast Community Shed Seeks New Members

By Liz Clemons, Inductions Officer

Women who are interested in joining the Central Coast Community Shed are very welcome to come along on a Tuesday between 9am and 12 midday to have a look for themselves to see if it suits their interests.

The Coordinator or another friendly person will give them a tour and introduction and give them some take-home information to read before being inducted. An application form will be included.

Official inductions will take place on the SECOND Tuesday in the month, when the paperwork will be completed, the payment to the Central Coast Council will be received and the new member will be guided through making their own Toolbox, thus learning several new woodworking skills.

We are a very mixed crew of active people who enjoy the company of others whilst also being productive. See you soon at the entrance at the southern end of Braddon Street in West Ulverstone!

## Get Your Free Tickets to Ecofest

Ecofest is a two-day festival dedicated to building a more sustainable future. Set at Camp Clayton in Ulverstone, held on 11 and 12 April, 2026 from 9:00 to 4:00 Saturday and 9:00 to 3:00 Sunday.

The festival brings together food vendors, live music, interactive workshops, inspiring presenters, and a vibrant community of exhibitors. Families can enjoy eco-kids activities with their children, where every moment is designed to be fun, engaging, and meaningful.

Proudly a Zero Waste festival, Ecofest is powered entirely by volunteers and supported by a not-for-profit community organisation. This spirit of collaboration makes Ecofest more than an event—it's a movement toward a greener future.

We're inviting the community to put their hand up and help make this year a true collaboration. If you can volunteer a few hours over the weekend—either during setup or on festival days—we'd love to hear from you. Your support earns you a FREE weekend pass and helps keep Ecofest thriving.

Head to our website to volunteer!  
<https://www.ecofesttas.com.au/volunteer>

Many hands make a lighter planet captures the idea that a sustainable future depends on shared effort. It highlights how community action—small or large—adds up to real change, and how every person has a role in caring for the place we all call home.

We look forward to welcoming you in 2026 to share in this unforgettable experience.



Image: 2025 Volunteers (left to right) Meophy Smith-Williams, Wren Anderson-Dixon, Zomury Smith-William

## Opinion: How to not be Deceived by What is True

By Geoffrey Curtis

For most of us, we live in a vastly different world than ten years ago, with the use of social media. It can be puzzling as to what we see or read as correct or true; after all, most of us want to trust.

Schools, universities and other educational institutions do their best to educate the individual student. To be informed is to know, but that does not necessarily mean that what is in front of you is true. Just because your friends said it is true, or what is displayed on a website, may or may not be correct. This can lead to confusion, especially if you like to think things out in your head.

How do you know, for example, that you have been misinformed, disinformed or deceived? Can a fact be untrue? What are the differences, and most importantly, how to go about sorting truth from falsity?

This is where re-education or instruction in a subject begins to make clear what needs to be done. Individuals need to recognise facts versus fiction, truth against falsehood and rational thinking as opposed to illogical reasoning. To do that, there are several things to be aware of, including some of the following, as shown in the diagram's image.

Don't fret! This is a logical step to take and is very helpful in becoming less emotional and far more rational. For example, a falsity is something not supported by facts. A cubed cardboard box with more than four sides cannot be

called a cylinder. Climate Change cannot be true unless supported by scientific facts.

Years ago, tobacco companies put out disinformation, just like vaping today was unharmed. Medical research has shown this to be a falsity. That still does not stop people from smoking, but it gives those who wish to be informed something to think about.

And finally, children are often deceived by disinformation about Santa Claus; the falsity is perceived as true by them. Eventually, children who are capable of knowing the falsity of being false will discard this belief.

Critical Thinking is the 21st-century pathway toward a decision-making process where the individual is in control of their logical thinking, not their emotions. You learn to ask questions and solve problems by becoming less ignorant and far more empowered. It helps you with your own curiosity, your family, with work, and with friends, and it improves your self-esteem.

By now, some of you may be saying, where can I find out how to learn and use 'Critical Thinking'? Some schools offer courses, usually in the subject of philosophy. The University of Tasmania (UTAS) offers it in its humanities courses. Free short courses are available from some TasTAFE institutions, and there are short and extended online programmes locally and across the country.

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## This Month in STEM

By Brittany Trubody

### Animals

Scotland has passed legislation requiring all new homes to include “swift bricks” in their construction. These specially designed hollow bricks provide nesting spaces for swifts that migrate thousands of kilometres to Sub-Saharan Africa before returning to the U.K. each year to breed.

With swift populations, along with many other cavity-nesting birds, in steady decline, the inclusion of swift bricks forms part of Scotland’s broader conservation strategy. By making them mandatory in new dwellings, the government is helping to rebuild vital habitats directly into modern infrastructure.

### Environment

“Aquadams” are an innovative flood-fighting solution that use water to hold back water. These large, durable rubber tubes can be easily transported and unrolled around homes or infrastructure to form temporary watertight barriers. Once filled — either from a nearby river or via tanker trucks — their sheer weight and internal pressure prevent floodwaters from seeping underneath. After use, they can be drained, packed away, and stored for future emergencies, making them a practical and reusable defence against cyclones and river flooding.

### Energy

The 65 metre long Ocean 2 is a floating screw shaped construction that is designed to harness renewable wave energy. Having successfully completed its trial phase, the device captures wave motion by drawing seawater into its internal chamber and releasing it through a pipe-and-turbine constriction to generate electricity. Because it can be deployed offshore in high-energy wave zones, it has the potential to operate in some of the world’s most powerful ocean environments, offering a compact yet promising renewable energy solution.

### Infrastructure

Backyard swimming pool trends are shifting toward natural filtration systems that rely on plants rather than chemicals. These natural pools use gravel beds and aquatic plants to filter waste and control algae, reducing the need for chlorine and other harsh treatments. A dedicated regeneration zone — essentially a small constructed wetland — sits alongside the swimming area. As water circulates through plants and biological substrates, debris and impurities are removed before the water returns to the pool. In addition to protecting swimmers’ skin, these “wetland” systems enhance biodiversity by attracting birds and insects.

### History

“Bog butter” continues to emerge from peat bogs across the U.K. and Europe. Recently, archaeologists were called to a site in Ireland after a farmer uncovered a 20-kilogram lump of Iron

Age butter. Peat bogs are cold, acidic, and low in oxygen — conditions that create a natural preservation environment for organic materials such as animal fats. Wooden fragments found embedded in the butter suggest it was originally stored in a wooden container before being buried, likely around a thousand years ago.

### Science

Scientists in Germany have developed a tattoo ink that changes colour in response to the skin’s chemistry. By reacting to shifts in pH levels, the ink could allow external monitoring of certain health conditions without the need for repeated blood tests.

This technology represents a large step toward non-invasive, real-time health monitoring embedded directly into the skin.



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# Margaret Hoban: Founder of Summer String Camp, Music Icon

By Jill Ball

The Summer String Camp at Camp Clayton this month completed its 36<sup>th</sup> under Margaret Hoban’s baton.

The camp attended by over 150 string instrumentalists of all ages from novice to professionals, were organised into three orchestras. Guided by tutors, and conductors, each orchestra spent daily rehearsals to produce a public attended concert, in the huge auditorium at the end of an intensive joyful week of classical music.

Margaret Hoban has profoundly shaped Tasmania’s musical landscape by her vision and dedication, recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2025 for her service to the arts, particularly through music. Her legacy is woven into the fabric of the state’s cultural life.

She is the musical director and long-time conductor of the Launceston Youth and Community Orchestra.

Her passion for teaching founded the annual Summer String Camp at Clayton near Ulverstone, founding many careers and orchestras.

In an interview she says, “you work with what you’ve got” emphasizing that groups/ensembles are where you learn an instrument for the joy of music.

Since arriving in Tasmania in 1986, from the USA, Margaret’s passion for teaching the violin, has single-handedly raised the profile of community music in Launceston, and the North West Coast thanks to her enthusiasm and high-calibre teaching expertise.

Margaret acknowledges graciously, the receipt of the prestigious OAM in recognition of her leadership. She has given opportunities for countless musicians and fostered a spirit of collaboration and artistic growth to each one she touches.

## Good Gumnuts Festival to Feature The Jungle Giants

Burnie is set to come alive on Saturday 7 March as The Jungle Giants headline this year’s Good Gumnuts Festival, bringing their signature indie-dance energy and powerful new music to the North West Coast.

Fresh off the release of their latest single, Tell Me How It Feels, the band are embracing vulnerability with big feelings and even bigger beats. Written and produced by lead singer Sam Hales, the track blends self-awareness with an anthemic chorus destined to echo across festival crowds. Hales describes the song as a return to his earliest days in music, inspired by his single mother who supported his creative journey. The result is raw, cathartic and hopeful — a reflection of healing, growth and rediscovered joy.

Following their 2021 ARIA #1 album Love Signs, The Jungle Giants have cemented their place at the forefront of Australia’s indie scene, amassing close to a billion streams and earning a reputation for electric, high-energy performances. Their live shows are renowned for connection, colour and crowd-wide singalongs — making them the perfect headline act for one of Burnie’s most anticipated community events. Festival-goers can expect soaring choruses, infectious rhythms and an unforgettable night under the Tasmanian sky.

Mark your calendar for Saturday 7 March — Good Gumnuts Festival is ready to dance. Get your tickets today: [www.Goodgumnutsfesitval.com](http://www.Goodgumnutsfesitval.com)

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## 'New Life' Now on Show at Hive

By Anne Williams



Being the product of 1970 high school education, I was refused to participate in woodworking classes at school, "That is not for Girls" was what I heard.

This attitude continued my whole life, even at home although I showed interest in my father's mower repair business.

It wasn't until I came to Ulverstone, Tasmania in 2013 that things changed.

Every time I saw the local Men's shed group out and about, I asked if they had women members. Understandably recognising their mission, the answer was no.

Eventually the Ulverstone Community shed did open their doors to women and I joined the group. There I had the opportunity to learn basic skills using machines that originally had made me feel uncomfortable and unsafe.

Gradually I became comfortable using the machines and made some wood projects and even mentored new members.

Having a very supportive partner, one year I received membership to the North West Woodcraft Guild in Ulverstone as a Christmas present.



Since joining the Guild I have realised my dream of working with wood and have participated in many workshops learning more detailed use of machines, making simple and more complex projects, pyrography, carving, kumiko, hand tool use, marquetry, and wood turning. I am ready to try anything.

In the last four years using these skills I have inspired two projects that have been part of Hive exhibitions in the Art Gallery space.

My first project was curating a quilt sampler using different wood working techniques which involved many of the Guild members contributing using their particular skills. The quilt was featured in the 2023 exhibition and can now be seen in the Guild workshop area proudly on display.

This year I have curated the making of a screen that will be used in the Guild to disguise the lunch area. It will be a central piece in the upcoming exhibition at Hive.

This year's exhibition has the title of 'New Life.'

The screen has incorporated timber from lost wood stashes, old Venetian blinds and local macrocarpa. Once again it was a team project allowing members to use known skills and learn new ones.

The screen has given new life, not only to the wood used — but continuing my second chance at working with wood.

The New Life exhibition will be open 14 February 2026 and run to 3rd May 2026.

Image credit: Dylan Proctor, 2026



## New Life

An exhibition by the  
North West Woodcraft Guild

14 FEBRUARY -  
03 MAY 2026



Image credit: 'Entrapment' by David West, 2025. Photography by Dylan Proctor, 2026.

## BAS Requirements for Sole Traders

By Karl Barhoum

For sole traders in Australia, understanding Business Activity Statement (BAS) requirements is essential to staying compliant and managing tax obligations effectively.

A BAS is submitted to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to report and pay certain business taxes, most commonly Goods and Services Tax (GST), Pay As You Go (PAYG) instalments, and PAYG withholding if the sole trader has employees.

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Not all sole traders are required to lodge a BAS. Registration for GST is mandatory once annual business turnover reaches \$75,000 or more (before expenses). If registered for GST, a sole trader must report the GST collected on sales and claim credits for GST paid on business purchases. This information is included in the BAS and is generally lodged quarterly, although some businesses may report monthly.

If a sole trader has employees, they must also withhold PAYG tax from wages and report these amounts through their BAS. In some cases, sole traders may also pay PAYG instalments toward their expected income tax liability, helping spread tax payments across the year rather than facing a large bill at tax time.

Accurate record-keeping is a key requirement. Sole traders must maintain detailed records of income, expenses, and GST transactions to ensure BAS figures are correct. Using accounting software or working with a registered BAS agent can simplify this process and reduce errors. Meeting BAS requirements on time helps sole traders avoid penalties, manage cash flow, and maintain a positive compliance history with the ATO, supporting long-term business stability and growth.

## Freedom to Move: Downsizing with Confidence

For many people, the family home holds a lifetime of memories. However, there often comes a time when maintaining a larger property no longer suits your lifestyle, budget, or future plans. Whether you're ready to downsize now or simply thinking ahead, understanding your options early can make the process far less stressful.

Freedom to Move is designed to provide clear, practical information about preparing for the next stage of life, without pressure, jargon, or sales talk. This session brings together trusted local experts to help you make informed decisions about downsizing, selling, and choosing your next home with confidence.

Downsizing often begins well before a For Sale sign goes up. You'll learn how to prepare your home to maximise its value, which simple improvements can make a big difference, and how to plan a smooth transition without feeling overwhelmed. For many people, knowing when and how to start is half the battle, and the right guidance can ease a lot of stress.

The session will also cover government grants and financial incentives available to downsizers, including common misconceptions and how to factor these benefits into your future planning. Understanding what support is available can help you make smarter decisions and stretch your dollars further.

Strata living is another popular option for downsizers. We'll explain how it works, including maintenance, insurance, shared costs, and the benefits and responsibilities involved, helping you decide whether it suits your lifestyle.

You don't need to be ready to move tomorrow. This event is about planning ahead, so when the time comes, you feel prepared, not rushed.

Event: Thursday 12th March 2026, 2pm at APEX House, Ulverstone. Please pre-register with U3A via: [u3acentralcoast@gmail.com](mailto:u3acentralcoast@gmail.com) or 0457 411 585

Presented by One Agency Collins Real Estate, in conjunction with U3A Ulverstone.

## Central Coast Chamber of Commerce Update

By Craig Heppell – President

Now I know why some of the major retailers are selling hot cross buns from Boxing Day! Blink and you miss January/February.

Inflation continues to raise its ugly head with a hefty 3.8% being recorded in late January just prior to the Reserve Bank's interest rate meeting and decision in early February. And with no surprises, the RBA hiked up interest rates 0.25% to bring the cash rate (the amount banks pay to 'buy' their money) to 3.85%, leading to bank's retail rates (how much they sell money to the public) of around 5.7%.

This added about \$1200 per year to the average mortgage. Knock on effect is that households must find ways to claw that money back to maintain their mortgage...that comes in the form of cutting discretionary spending on things like entertainment, eating out, personal products, treats... This can lead to skinnier takings for small businesses and some of them may start looking at their biggest expense – labour/employees.

Should the interest rate cycle continue its upward trajectory, primarily due to wanton Federal (and some States) Government spending, keep an eye on the unemployment rate.

But let's shift gears. What's the Chamber been up to? In mid-February we hosted the 'Battle of the Businesses' barefoot bowls tournament at the Turners Beach Bowls Club. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> years running, Hardings Hotmix took out the Trophy. Boo! I mean well done...

Come on Central Coast Businesses – who is going to challenge for the Trophy in 2027?? Great fun had by all. The Chamber's next meeting goes on the road again, and we'll be visiting Camp Clayton.

Let us know if you would like to come along, just email Tweak on [admin@centralcoastcci.com](mailto:admin@centralcoastcci.com). See you soon.



## You won't believe which suburbs are the best performing on the Northwest Coast!

**By Craig Heppell – Principal, Ulverstone Real Estate**

On recent episode of my Radio Show, A Peek Inside – 11.30am Thursdays on 7AD and 7BU – I shared the most current statistics which highlight the health of the Northwest Tassie Property Market.

From Burnie to East Devonport, here they are – and the two areas many people are quick to dismiss are the best performers!

**Burnie:** Median Price - \$502K; 12 months change - Up 10.4%, Days on market (from listing to contract) 28; percentage of properties for sale 5.27% (5-7% is the market average)

**Penguin:** Median Price - \$658K; 12 months change - Up 12.3%, Days on market 48; percentage of properties for sale 7.18% (you can see here that days on market are higher in Penguin because there is more stock)

**West Ulverstone:** Median Price - \$567K, 12 months change - Up 11.4%; Days on market 26; percentage of properties for sale 5.93%

**Ulverstone:** Median Price - \$559K, 12 months change - Up 9%; Days on market 39; percentage of properties for sale 4.9%

**Turners Beach:** Median Price - \$738; 12 months change - Up 6.4%; Days on market 34; percentage of properties for sale 5.39%

**Devonport:** Median Price - \$554k; 12 months change - Up 15.5%; Days on market 27; percentage of properties for sale 3.78%

**East Devonport:** (HOLD ONTO YOUR HATS) Median Price - \$513k; 12 months change - Up (a whopping) 21.8%; Days on market 30; percentage of properties for sale 4.26%

Devonport and East Devonport markets are being driven by extraordinary investor activity.

I've been saying this ever since we kicked off here on the northwest of Tassie around 8 years ago....

"East Devonport and West Ulverstone are the most undervalued and underestimated areas in almost the whole of Tasmania."

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Karen & Craig Heppell

## New Website Showcases Central Coast as a Smart Place to Invest

**By Tracey Clark**

Tasmania's Central Coast is telling its economic story in a new way, with the launch of the Make it Central website, a key initiative flowing from Council's 2025 Economic Development Strategy.

Designed to showcase the region's strengths and attract new investment, the site highlights the people, businesses and opportunities that are driving growth across the Coast.

Through real stories from local entrepreneurs, the website paints a picture of a region where lifestyle and business success go hand in hand.

Hannah Lewis from The Penguin Pantry, who moved from Melbourne in 2020 to take over the beachside business, describes the lifestyle as "magic", while Buttons Brewing founder Josh Roberts says the Coast offers the perfect balance of opportunity and family life.

Mayor Cheryl Fuller said the website plays an important role in positioning the Central Coast as a place to invest, work and grow.

"Young business owners don't want to choose between opportunity and lifestyle. On the Central Coast, they don't have to," she said.

Council Director Strategic Growth Daryl Connelly said Make it Central is about amplifying local success stories while helping attract new businesses and future investment.

Visit [www.makeitcentral.com.au](http://www.makeitcentral.com.au) to explore the stories and discover why Tasmania's Central Coast is a smart place to invest.

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I'll meet you there"  
Rumi

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## MND North West Tasmania Support Group – Supporting Our Community with Strength and Hope

### By Junene Stephens, Secretary

The MND North West Tasmania Support Group was established in 2017 by Wendy and Geoff Cox following Wendy's diagnosis with Motor Neurone Disease (MND). What began as a deeply personal journey has grown into a compassionate and practical support network for families across the North West Coast.

Since its formation, the group has provided financial assistance and meaningful social connection to people living with MND and their families. At one stage, six local families attended meetings together, supporting one another through shared experience. Today, around 60 people across Tasmania are living with MND, and the need for community awareness and support remains significant.

The group is powered by a small but dedicated team of volunteers who work tirelessly to raise funds and provide assistance. Much of the group's fundraising comes from the generous support of local businesses that host collection tins on their counters. The members are sincerely grateful for this ongoing community backing. The Lions Club has also contributed through valued donations to the branch.

A recent fundraiser held at The Pier in Ulverstone raised an incredible \$5,000. The Pier has been exceptionally generous, offering the venue free of charge and providing entertainment support. Another fundraiser is planned for

5 July 2026 from 2:00–4:00pm, again at The Pier. The event will feature guest speaker Adam Walker, Chair of Pharmacological Sciences at the University of Sydney, whose research focuses on MND. The group looks forward to welcoming community members to what promises to be an informative and inspiring afternoon.

Monthly support meetings are held at the Ulverstone Returned Servicemen's Club at 11:00am on the last Friday of each month. Anyone affected by MND—whether living with the condition or supporting a loved one—is warmly invited to attend.

The group also now has MND Support Group t-shirts available for purchase at Small Change in Alexandra Road, Ulverstone. If your size is not in stock, it can be ordered. Shirts are \$35, with all proceeds going directly to the MND North West Support Group.

For further information, please contact Junene Stephens (Secretary) on 0427 252 763 or via email at [jstephens@berendsen.net.au](mailto:jstephens@berendsen.net.au) Debbie Reid serves as President of the MND North West Tasmania Support Group, and Shirley Bassett as treasurer.

Through generosity, collaboration and community spirit, this local group continues to make a meaningful difference for families facing MND across the North West Coast.

## Chaos, Confusion and a Crash Course in Perimenopause

### By Tracey Clark

Perimenopause. It's one of those words you vaguely know exists, but quietly hope will tiptoe past without making too much noise. Sadly (or reassuringly, depending on the day), it doesn't always work like that.

For me, it arrived with what I can only describe as emotional plot twists. One minute I was fine, the next I was tearing up at an ad for laundry powder, then irrationally irritated because someone was chewing too loudly. Add in disrupted sleep, brain fog, random hot flushes, and periods that seem to be following their own chaotic calendar, and suddenly you start to wonder what on earth is going on. Turns out, I'm not losing my mind, it's hormones. And honestly, some days I feel very in tune with my hormonal teenagers!

Perimenopause can show up differently for everyone, but there are some common signs that many women recognise once they know what to look for.

### 1. Mood swings or increased anxiety

You might find yourself feeling more reactive than usual, teary over things that wouldn't normally faze you, or snapping quicker than you'd like. Some women notice a low-level anxiety humming in the background, even when life feels relatively steady.

### 2. Changes to your menstrual cycle

Your once-predictable cycle can suddenly become a bit of a wildcard. Periods might be heavier or lighter, arrive earlier or later, or skip altogether. It can feel like your body has quietly thrown away the calendar.

### 3. Sleep disruptions

Falling asleep might be harder, or you may find yourself wide awake at 3am with a busy mind and no clear reason. Poor sleep can then ripple into your days, leaving you feeling flat and foggy.

### 4. Hot flushes or night sweats

Sudden waves of heat, a flushed face, or waking up feeling far too warm (sometimes drenched) are classic signs. They can be mild and occasional or frequent enough to be disruptive.

### 5. Brain fog and fatigue

Forgetting simple things, losing your train of thought mid-sentence, or feeling unusually tired even after a full night's sleep can be frustrating, especially if you're used to being on top of everything.

The tricky part is that many of us don't realise what we're experiencing until we start talking about it. And the more we talk, the less alone (and less confused) we feel.

You can join the conversation on Sunday 28 June at the Tasmanian Menopause Summit, or tune in via livestream for just \$15, and hear from experts and lived-experience voices helping us navigate this stage with confidence.

For tickets, visit <https://events.humanitix.com/tasmanian-menopause-summit-2026>

Together, we can navigate the chaos with a little more grace (and maybe a fan in our handbag).



# Health & Wellbeing

## Grief Support Is Not Optional. It Is Foundational. And We Need Your Help.

By Kelly Dernehl, CEO of New Mornings



Every community carries grief. The question is whether that grief is supported early or left to deepen quietly beneath the surface.

Over the 2025 Financial Year, 116 local people accessed New Mornings' Grief Support services. Our Moving Forward programs, community seminars, and ongoing Connect gatherings provide structured, evidence-informed support for people whose loss is significantly impacting daily functioning.

In our most recent women's group, 100 percent of participants reported improved mental health, confidence, and capacity to process their grief. The men's group reported similarly strong outcomes. This service has been funded by the Tasmanian Department of Health. That funding concludes in June this year – in 4 months.

There is currently no other dedicated, face-to-face grief support program operating locally on the North-West Coast. Without continued financial backing, this program is at risk of closing.

Unresolved grief does not simply disappear. It contributes to increased GP visits, workplace absenteeism, mental health decline, family strain, and social withdrawal.

Early intervention reduces long-term community cost. Relational group support strengthens resilience, restores functioning, and reconnects people to work, family, and community life.

Grief support is not a "nice extra." It is preventative mental health care.

New Mornings operates through grants, partnerships, and local sponsorship. Over the past year, our broader programs have delivered thousands of volunteer hours and supported hundreds of community members across mentoring, mental health peer support, and grief services.

We are now actively seeking conversations with local businesses, philanthropic organisations, and community leaders who understand that healthy communities require sustained investment.

If you as a community member, or you as a business are looking to make a measurable local impact, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss program sponsorship, partnership options, or direct contributions to ensure this service continues.

To arrange a conversation, please contact Kelly Dernehl at [kelly.dernehl@newmornings.org.au](mailto:kelly.dernehl@newmornings.org.au) or call (03) 6411 6212.

Supporting grief support is not charity. It is community leadership.

## New local Service Empowers older North West Tasmanians and their Families

By Kylie Dobson

I am excited to introduce you to my new business called Navigating Aged Care. A unique service designed to provide support alongside older people as they navigate aged care and community services, enhancing understanding and wellbeing through pathways to care and meaningful connections that inspire positive change.

I created Navigating Aged Care after seeing, time and again, how hard it is to make sense of systems, services and next steps, especially during times of stress or change. I believe everyone deserves to feel supported, informed and empowered as they age and that belief sits at the heart of everything I do.

I have intentionally designed the business in response to a genuine community need. Informed by my years of professional experience in aged care and community services and further validated through my tertiary study findings.

I enrolled in university for the first time in my 40s, successfully completing a Diploma of Applied Health and Community Support at the University of Tasmania. Evidence of my commitment to bring contemporary, evidence-based practice to local families. It is never too late to pursue study when you're driven by wanting to make a difference for your community!

Navigating Aged Care offers in-home initial consultations and ongoing tailored support. Whether you are at the beginning of your aged care journey or it is simply just not working for you, I can help you understand your options and take the next steps with clarity and confidence.

My practice is independent, operating on a private fee-for-service basis and I travel throughout North West Tasmania. Above all, I have compassion for my local community. Being local matters. Local knowledge helps build meaningful connections that support wellbeing. 0499 25 93 09 [kylie@navigatingagedcare.com.au](mailto:kylie@navigatingagedcare.com.au) [www.navigatingagedcare.com.au](http://www.navigatingagedcare.com.au)



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# Health & Wellbeing

## Head lice (Nits)

By Alec Azar, Priceline Pharmacy

Head lice are small, wingless insects that live, breed and feed on the human scalp. The eggs are firmly attached to the hair fibres, within 1.5 cm of the scalp, and rely on warmth from the head to hatch.

People catch head lice from direct head-to-head contact with another person who has head lice. This can happen when people play, cuddle or work closely together.

If your family has head lice, tell anyone who has had head-to-head contact with them, so that they can check and treat their family if needed.

There is no need to treat the whole family, unless they also have head lice. Concentrate on treating the affected person's head. There is no evidence to suggest that you need to clean the house or the classroom. The only linen that requires changing is the affected person's pillowcase. Wash it in hot water, or dry it in a clothes dryer set to warm or hot.

Itchiness may not disappear immediately after treatment. Persistent itch without evidence of persistent infection is not a reason to repeat the treatment. There are other reasons why your scalp might feel itchy.

### Finding head lice

Head lice eggs are oval, and the size of a pinhead. They are firmly attached to the hair shaft and cannot be brushed off. Anyone can catch head lice.

### Treatment for head lice

The two preferred treatment options available for initially treating head lice are the 'conditioner and comb' method, and the use of an insecticide.

### Using insecticide products

If you use a lotion, apply the product to dry hair. For shampoo products, wet the hair, but use as little water as possible. Head lice live in the hair and go to the scalp to feed. Therefore, head lice products must be applied to all parts of the hair. Once the treatment has been done according to the instructions on the packet, comb through the hair again with the fine tooth head lice comb. This will help to remove the dead eggs and lice, and possibly any eggs still living.

Care should be taken when using head lice treatment products if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, or in children less than 12 months old.

All products can cause reactions. If you are unsure, check with your pharmacist or doctor. No topical insecticide treatment kills 100 per cent of the eggs, so treatment must involve two applications, seven days apart. (This kills the lice that hatched from the eggs that didn't die the first time around.)  
Insecticide resistance

Insecticide resistance is common, so you need to check that the lice you comb out are dead. If the insecticide has worked, the lice will be dead within 20 minutes. If the lice are not dead, the treatment has not worked and the lice are resistant to the product and all products containing the same active compound.

The active compounds in head lice products are pyrethrins, synthetic pyrethroids (permethrin), organophosphates (maldison or malathion), and herbal, with or without natural (non-chemical) pyrethrins.

If a product with one of these active compounds has not worked for you, you can try another, or speak to your pharmacist or doctor.

## The Undistracted Life (Or: How I Stopped Letting My Phone Babysit My Brain)

By Jenelle

Lately, I've been thinking about attention – our most undervalued, over-given-away resource. Not money, not time... attention. The thing we hand over to tiny glowing rectangles as if they're royalty and we're the humble peasants paying tribute.

It snuck up on me, this distraction. One innocent scroll here, a "just checking" there, and suddenly my screen-time report was serving up cold, hard truth. Four hours a day? That's a part-time job. Except the only thing I was producing was a vague sense of dullness and a very well-trained thumb.

So, I began my own little "distraction detox." No shame, no dramatic declarations – just a gentle homecoming to myself.

I started noticing how often I reached for my phone to escape boredom, feelings, or the sacred human art of seeking dopamine as enthusiastically as my dog seeks snacks. And every time I caught myself, I chose something from my Life Menu instead: a five-minute stretch, a walk with Chi Chi (my dog), reading three pages of a book, or finally conquering that drawer that's been silently judging me.

What surprised me wasn't the extra time – it was the extra life. Colours felt brighter. My thoughts came back online. I started inhabiting my days instead of scrolling through everyone else's.

Living an undistracted life isn't about perfection. It's about presence. It's about remembering that the moments that matter most never happen on a screen – they happen right here, in the everyday, lovingly imperfect now.

What part of your life is quietly waiting for your attention – and how might it change if you offered it a little more of your time this week?

Warm regards – Jenelle



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# Environment

## Dial Range Logging Community Update

At the time of writing (Feb 21), it appears that roading into coupe DL011C at the end of Cookes Road has been completed and clear fell logging could commence at any time.

The Dial Range is accessible and valued by all. Hundreds of locals representing a broad spectrum of the community have been campaigning for two years to protect the Dial Range from logging. Protect Our NW Forests, has held three community events across Ulverstone and Penguin.

- A community event at the Big Penguin in Penguin
- A Love the Dial Valentines Day gathering at the Ulverstone Wharf where people were invited to write cards on why the Dial is important to them.
- A gathering outside Felix Ellis's office where the Valentines cards were presented to the minister.

The Central Coast Council voted to end logging in the Dial Range and advocated this position to the state government. Saul Eslake's Value of the Dial Range report showed the Dial Range contributes \$3.3 million to the economy every year. Logging would contribute less than one percent of this as an annual value and jeopardise recreational activities, tourism opportunities and the jobs that come from this, as well as compromise the natural values that make it so special to visitors.

The coupe is 17.6 ha in size and will be clearfelled. Up to 60% of the carbon will end up discarded, heaped in piles and burnt at high intensity. Of what is removed from the coupe, at the overwhelming majority will end up as woodchips to be exported and pulped into low value paper. Research clearly shows that bushfire risk to surrounding communities will be increased because of the logging. Wildlife cameras have captured healthy tumour-free Tassie Devils and spotted tail quolls in the coupe. This is an important catchment for the Leven River and our drinking water.

The government has ignored the community, ignored Council and ignored top economists. We continue to call on Jeremy Rockliff and Felix Ellis to scrap these logging plans and celebrate the Dial Range as a nature-based destination for locals and visitors alike. The Dial Range is worth more standing. What can you do?

- Get active
- Join Protect Our North West Forests
- Visit and write to politicians
- Lend your support and join actions.



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# Environment

## The Threatened Species of the Dial Range: What We See & What We Don't

By Craig Broadfield

At dawn in the Dial Range you might hear a masked owl. As the day progresses you may see a wedge-tailed eagle riding thermals, a white bellied sea-eagle or a peregrine falcon cutting through the sky.

These are the species we notice — large, powerful, visible. But they are only part of the story.

In its creeks lives *Astacopsis gouldi*, the Giant Freshwater Crayfish, needing cold, clean, undisturbed water. In those same waterways survives the tiny threatened aquatic snail *Beddomeia phasianella*, dependent on stable flow, clean substrates and intact riparian vegetation. Sediment, heat and disturbance can erase entire populations.

The forest also shelters Tasmanian devils and spotted-tailed quolls, both requiring connected, intact habitat. On the forest floor grow threatened orchids — *Pterostylis atriola* and *Chiloglottis valida* — species bound to underground fungal networks that are easily destroyed by soil disturbance. Ferns like *Blechnum cartilagineum* and *Blechnum spinulosum* signal long-standing forest stability. And we are still discovering more.

The forests of the Dial Range are surprisingly poorly surveyed for their smaller inhabitants — the less conspicuous plants, invertebrates, fungi, mosses, lichens

and micro-species that call this refuge home. Every year new records are added.

In 2024, a new *Caladenia* orchid was recorded in the Range. In 2026, the sickle fern, *Pellaea falcata* was added to the Tasmanian Natural Values Atlas. If new species are still being documented, what else remains unseen and undiscovered?

Clear-fell and burn logging resets entire ecosystems — altering water, soil, canopy and the delicate web beneath our feet.

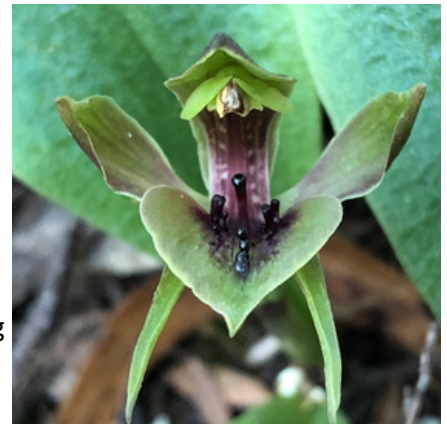


Image: *Chiloglottis valida*

The Dial Range is more than scenery. It is a living laboratory for future generations.

What we see is only part of the story. What we don't yet know may be the most important of all. The Forest of the Dial Range is worth so much more to us all standing, not logged for very little return.

By Geoffrey Curtis

Plastics are both organic and non-organic materials, including cellulose, coal, natural gas, salt and of course, crude oil.

Making plastic involves a complex process of linking chains of monomers to create a large molecule called a polymer. Poly, therefore, is the relationship of many linking compounds, much like a DNA chain, bonded together into a substance that can be used. Examples include polyethylene, PVC, PET, nylon, all of which can be either hard or soft objects, such as a water container or a thread of polyester.

Polyester is a synthetic material derived from petroleum that is often blended with natural fibres such as cotton. An example is shirts, both made wrinkle-free and for quick drying.

And it is here that our journey begins.

Take one polyester thread that has been woven into a shirt and spun hundreds of times in a washing machine at the same time. Tiny fragments of the polyester thread fall out of the machine into the water disposal pipe and travel to the nearest sewage farm.

In a case study in Wales, 1% of all the sewage sludge contained plastic. This sludge, as many Tasmanian farmers know, is a bonus to spread on the soil, acting as fertilizer to feed the next farm crop. What the farmer does not know, much like everyone else, is that the contaminated soil is now acting as a reservoir for the food chain ecosystems. Insects, birds, mammals, including humans, are now affected by microplastics that persist throughout their lifetimes.

It works like this. The affected worm, much like the butterfly, slug, beetle and caterpillar in the contaminated organic matter, finds it difficult to digest its food.

## Environmental Corner


In turn, the bird, having eaten many insects from the same soil, is also affected. This may result in weight loss, stunted growth, and the bird may become a food source for predators such as foxes or cats. You can see where this is leading.

Now, you may think this does not affect you. Unfortunately, science has found nano ( $10^{-9}$ ) plastics in the vegetable leaves we eat, as well as in fruit and water channels and cells in plants. Microplastics have been found in lungs, the placenta, in meat and milk and in places as far away as polar regions.

When plastic was first produced in the 1950s, 2 million tonnes had been manufactured. Globally, by 2050, it is projected to reach a figure of 34bn! And a United Nations Report found more microplastic pollution in our land soils than in all of the oceans!

So where do we go from here? Is it too late to ban plastics, and are there no substitutes? Do all life forms now contain nano plastics in the food chain? The jury is still out regarding the long-term future effects. Do you have any ideas what can be done?

### Leven District Scout Association Book Fair!!



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By Craig Dunham



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## **CRADLE MOUNTAIN. - Lady Travellers' Visit. (By C.F.E.)**

*"During the Christmas and school holidays of 1919 two ladies from Penguin, Mrs. E. Stott and Mrs. Ellis, started from that town for Cradle Mountain. They were joined at West Kentish by Mrs. James Stott, a State school teacher. The travellers had two jinkers between them.*

*The first night after leaving West Kentish was spent at "Erriba" at Mrs. Smith's farm, she being a sister of Mrs. James Stott. They left "Erriba" at 7 o'clock next morning, and travelled on, passing en route the Bismuth mine, Middlesex, and Pencil Pine Creek, where the two jinkers were left. The luggage and provisions were packed on the horses to "Waldheim." It was a little after 5 p.m. when the three ladies, tired and weary, were received by the host of "Waldheim" who put the horses in the stable and regaled the wearied travellers with cups of refreshing tea.*

*Early next morning they were ready for the visit to Cradle Mountain. They spent three busy days going up the mountain and visiting the Dove, Lilah and the Crater Lakes and other interesting mountain scenes.*

*On the fourth day they started for West Kentish and Penguin. They had no guide either way, and the host of the mountain chalet said it was a wonderful feat for the three ladies to undertake without a male escort." From The Advocate 7 May 1929 page 6.*

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## From the Archives...

### **Additional notes**

Two of the ladies were in their early fifties, the other late fifties. Mrs Elijah Stott was Mary. Mrs James Stott was Margaret, sister of Agnes Smith. They were the McFarlane sisters.

Laura Ellis was the wife of C.F.(Fred) Ellis, the author. She was a talented artist noted for her "beautiful oil painting of the Cradle Mountain, which has been painted and loaned to the library committee.... Mrs. Ellis' artistic ability is well known, and the picture mentioned is one of the very best of. a large collection of fine paintings which that lady has executed." Advocate, Wednesday 1 October 1924, page 4. Laura died 26 May 1950 aged 89.

Mrs E. Stott was Mary Olivia Stott née Badger, wife of Elijah Stott. They married 9 Dec 1895 at Strahan. Elijah was born 30 June 1863 at Northdown son of Joseph Stott and Lucy Hall. They had one son, Stafford, born 23 Sept 1896 Zeehan. Elijah ran a newsagency and general store at Penguin but died 20 Feb 1918.

Mr. Charles Frederick Ellis, passed away on August 1, 1938, at his late residence, "Melita," Penguin. The late Mr. Ellis was the eldest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Ellis, who settled in the Penguin district in 1866. Since that time, the late Mr. Ellis had almost continuously resided in and around the Penguin district. Mr. Ellis was the first inspector and manager of public works at King Island, where he built important jetties and other public utilities, including roads and bridges, and was one of the most experienced road contractors on the N.W. Coast. About the year 1881 his gang of sturdy men, under his management, grubbed, cleared, formed and metalled Reibey street, Ulverstone.

Having a most remarkable memory, the late Mr. Ellis was for many years one of the ablest writers on historical, financial and legal matters on the North West coast. The late Mr. Ellis married Miss Laura Templar in January 1884. She was the youngest daughter of the late Mr. John Templar, Customs Officer for the N.W. Coast. Advocate Monday 8 August 1938, page 2.

Image: Fred and Laura Ellis



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## Tas Gravity Enduro Series Penguin Round

On the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of January the Tas Gravity Enduro Series made a return to Penguin after a 5-year break. With the more beginner focused “Re-Run” event on the Saturday and the main race on the Sunday.

For those that don't know, a mountain bike Gravity Enduro is almost like a cross between a Cross Country race (XC) and a Down Hill race, with competitors riding a specified course with sections that are majority down hill as race stages that are timed and a liaison sections in between those stages that are untimed. Most races have between 4 to 7 stages and can range between 15 to 60km for the whole course loop. It replicates what you might ride with your mates where you ride up the climbs at a steady pace, have a rest at the top, before blasting back down on the descent and tends to be a more social type of racing.



The Re-Run was held out of the new Montgomery Road trail head facilities, with the racing being run on around the Montgomery Loop trail in the Dial Range. The Main Race moved to the Penguin Mountain Bike Park and home of the Cradle Coast Mountain Bike Club, with the race using both the Park trails and Dial Range trails all the way up to the summit of Mt. Dial. Over 130 riders from all over the State participated, with riders from the ages of 10 to 60+.



The weather was perfect for the weekend, and racing was fast and furious. Brad Bellotti took out the Elite Men's category and Isabel Walton took out the Women's. All the other classes were hard fought with some of the places being taken by hundredths of a second. It was great to have racing back in Penguin and to showcase what an amazing area we have here on the Northwest Coast.

## New Leadership Kicks Off Next Chapter for Northern Futsal Tasmania

By Tracey Clark



Northern Futsal Tasmania is entering an exciting new era, with Devonport locals Bayleigh McDonald and Rowena Curtis stepping into leadership as the organisation's new directors.

The pair say they are thrilled to take on the role and build on the strong foundations already in place, with a shared vision to grow participation, strengthen player pathways and

continue fostering a positive futsal community across the region.

Bayleigh brings more than a decade of experience to the position, having played futsal for 14 years. His passion for the sport, particularly in player development, is a driving force behind the new leadership team's plans for the future.

“We both bring passion, love and a strong vision for the future of our sport, and we couldn't be more excited for this opportunity,” the pair said in a recent announcement.

As part of the transition, Bayleigh and Rowena acknowledged the contribution of outgoing leadership, thanking Nathan Turale for his dedication and the impact he has had on both the organisation and the broader futsal community.

Northern Futsal Tasmania has seen steady growth in recent years, with increasing participation across junior and senior competitions. The new directors say they are committed to continuing that momentum while creating more opportunities for players, referees and volunteers to get involved.

Their focus will include supporting player pathways, strengthening competitions and ensuring the organisation remains welcoming, inclusive and community-driven.

“A new chapter begins. New ownership, same passion,” they said. “We're excited for what's ahead and look forward to growing this community and our game together.”

With strong local roots and a clear vision, Bayleigh and Rowena say they are eager to work alongside players, families and supporters to continue building a thriving futsal scene in Northern Tasmania. The leadership change marks a positive step forward for the organisation, with plenty of enthusiasm about what the future holds for the fast-growing sport.

As part of this next phase, the organisation is also seeking reliable and confident individuals to join its growing referee team, welcoming both experienced officials and those keen to learn something new. With training provided and no prior experience required, the opportunity offers an accessible way to get involved in the sport.

Refereeing provides a range of benefits beyond the whistle, including the chance to stay active, earn extra income and be part of a supportive and energetic sporting community.

Matches are held across multiple evenings each week, running on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 5.30pm at East Devonport Primary School and Devonport Primary School, making it a convenient option for locals looking for flexible involvement.

Northern Futsal Tasmania says the program is ideal for anyone who loves the game and wants to contribute to its continued growth in the region. Those interested in joining the referee team can message Northern Futsal Tasmania directly or email [northernfutsal1@gmail.com](mailto:northernfutsal1@gmail.com) to express their interest.

## Join the Magpies as Forth Football Club Prepares for New Season

Forth Football Club is welcoming new and returning players as preparations get underway for the upcoming season, with pre-season training now in full swing at the Forth Recreation Ground.

Known for its strong sense of mateship and community spirit, the club is encouraging anyone thinking about playing footy this year to come along and get involved. Whether you're an experienced player, returning after some time away, or pulling on the boots for the first time, there's a place for you at the Magpies.

Club representatives say it's about more than just football, with a focus on building a supportive environment where players can enjoy the game while being part of a close-knit community.

Training sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5.45pm, commencing from 24 February 2026.

The club invites interested players to send a message for more information or simply head along to training to meet the group and see what the Magpies are all about.

# Events to look out for

Please send your activities to us by the 21st of the month



**Festival of Colours**  
Burnie Nepalese Community, Burnie Park, 12pm onwards. See Burnie Nepalese Community Facebook for details.



**Tough Guy Book Club**  
Lighthouse Hotel Ulverstone, 7pm. Visit Mystery on the Orient Express 4-6<sup>th</sup> Dec email info@toughguybookclub.com



**Ignite Women 2026 International Women's Day Breakfast**  
The Pier, Ulverstone, 6:45am. See Facebook for details.



**The Man Walk**  
Ulverstone, 9am from McCarthy's Bread Lounge, Ulverstone. Email [mencairetoo.greg@gmail.com](mailto:mencairetoo.greg@gmail.com) for details.



**Info & Chat Your Pregnant and Postnatal Body**  
Australian Breastfeeding Association, Alexandra Road, Ulverstone, 10am-12noon. Email [tasbp@breastfeeding.asn.au](mailto:tasbp@breastfeeding.asn.au) or ph 0407 864 767



**Priority Weeds Workshop – Identifying & Managing Priority Weeds**  
Ulverstone Rowing Club. 10am-1pm. RSVP: [https://www.landcaretas.org.au/priority\\_weeds\\_cc](https://www.landcaretas.org.au/priority_weeds_cc)



**North West Relay For Life**  
Penguin Athletics Track. Starts 9am. Event contact: Jo Porteus [jporteus@cancertas.org.au](mailto:jporteus@cancertas.org.au) or 6419 4240



**Easter Twilight Market**  
Ulverstone Rowing Club, 4-8pm. Something for Everyone! See Facebook for details.



**Day for the Dial Social Ride/Hike**  
**Cradle Coast Mountain Bike Club.** Mount Gnomon Farm, 10am. 8km return ride with good gradient and not too technical. Ph 0407 254 255

**LUNCHEON**

**FRIDAY, 27 MARCH**

St Stephens Anglican Church Hall,  
Penguin

**12 Noon**

**\$25 per person**

Lucky Door Prize – Raffle  
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RSPV Mary on 6437 2420

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6th - 7th - 8th  
March 2026

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YOUNG FRANCO - SNEAKY SOUND SYSTEM - DRAPHT - DICE

RUM JUNGLE - BEDDY RAYS - ART VS SCIENCE - KIM CHURCHILL - PLAYLUNCH

LETTERS TO LIONS - ADAM NEWLING - KIRA PURU - DIZZY DAYS - JOEL LEGGETT - BIG WHEELS

GRUXE - FUR BLOSSOM - THE SUNDIALS - イミエミ (EMI EMI) - BABY LEMUR - LASCA DRY - CAPTAIN O'BRIENS CRAIK

BONAI - NICE HOUSE - BACKYARD BUSINESS - JAMESLANE - GLASS MEDIA - KATE RIGBY - RIVIERRIA

SAM McMEEKIN MIA BARRON - PANNED TO THE LEFT - AINA - HIPPOPOTAMUS LOBOTOMIST - CREST

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### JP SIGNING CENTRES

Devonport: 24 Edward St - Tue & Thur, 10:30am - 12:30pm  
Penguin: 11 Sports Complex Ave - Mon & Fri 10:30am - 12:30pm

[www.thecoastalvoice.au](http://www.thecoastalvoice.au) - March 2026 - The Coastal Voice

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