



New Strahan playground a hit



Photo by Alan Jennison

For the last few months the side of Strahan Primary School has been a fenced off building site. Now however, it is a brand new playground and already proving a hit with the local children. Officially opened on Friday, May 5th by Mayor Shane Pitt it didn't take long before kids were clambering all over the

ropes or burying each other in the sand. Mayor Pitt thanked the parents for taking part in the community consultation that shaped the view for the new playground. "So I guess it's taken a little while, but we finally got there and I hope you all enjoy the playground into the future. No

doubt we'll probably be making some more changes as things progress as well. Some of you have already noticed a couple of things that we probably need to sort out which we will take back to the project manager and find out what's going on there. We hope you all like the new playground and hopefully it's here

for a long time too. A playground such as this usually has a ten year lifespan so maybe your children when they come along will be playing in another new one on this same spot" said Mayor Pitt.

More photos on page 7

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Letters to the editor...

Here at the Western Echo we love a good debate. If you have a concern, grievance, pet hate or even wish to congratulate someone for doing the RIGHT thing, then this is the place for it. Please note though, that everyone has the right to reply to your letter and we at the Western Echo are under no obligation to publish if things look like they are getting out of hand. We do reserve the right to edit letters for reasons such as clarity and length. Other than that, feel free to have YOUR say.

These views in this newspaper, political or otherwise, are not necessarily those held by the editor or anyone professionally associated with the Western Echo.

Editor: Alan Jennison 0488 2782 99 alan@westernecho.news

Whilst attending the recent launch of the Strahan playground opening I was approached by a young fellow who complimented me on the Western Echo newspaper. That was nice in itself but after speaking with the boy's parents I found out he had written a letter to the Prime Minister. Here is that letter.

Dear Tanya Plibersek, my name is Logan Saltmarsh, and I'm 12 years old.

I live in Strahan, Tasmania, and go to Strahan Primary School.

I'm writing to you about your decision, about the potential closure of the fish farms.

Imagine living in beautiful Strahan, your hometown, and then your parents jobs in the fish farm industry are lost, and you have to move to a new, scary place you've never been to. Well, this is being predicted in the near future in Strahan

Here are three reasons why the fish farms are so important to us, and what effects it will have on us the town and the West Coast.

Strahan's, major industry is the fish farm, and if you shut the fish farms down, there will be negative effects on a lot of the town.

If you shut the industry down, you'll be forcing many innocent families to flee the town to keep their family afloat. Some families will have to be separated from family members, or some might not be able to get another job, which would lead to depression, poverty or homelessness.

If you shut down the fish farms, the impacts, the impacts will be immeasurable. Hundreds, if not 1000s, of people will suffer the consequences of a total shut down of the fish farms.

Think about the people you will be taking out of the jobs that they enjoy.

Think about their children that must leave the only town they've ever known.

If you shut the fish farms, it will also have a huge impact on the small businesses of our town.

At least 50% of Strahan's population

work at the fish farms or have family that work at the fish farms. More than half of the school students and staff have family working at the fish farms.

A closure of the fish farms will result in a possible closure of the school local chops, accommodation and medical centers as one of the major industries in our town, the fish farms operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

The closure will mean that any money put into the town by workers and their families will essentially disintegrate and the economy will implode.

The fish farms take up a tiny fraction of the harbor, leaving plenty of it for the Maugean Skate and there is a way for the skate and the fish farms to coexist in harmony with each other.

It is essential that you consider the people of Strahan as well as the skate in your decision.

The fish farms must remain in operation for the town to stay alive.

Kind regards

Logan.

Dear Editor,

Another one bites the dust....

It was very sad to see Wildz Cafe in Zeehan close in June but best wishes for the future to all involved.

Although we have the wonderful Pitstop Cafe and Carol's here in town sadly, for many residents the coming and goings of a cafe in town is something we are all too familiar with.

I was reminded just this morning of a cafes importance in town. It was about 9am I was walking along Main Street and a tourist couple at the servo asked if there was somewhere to get a big breakfast.

I suggested the alternatives and they were grateful for the help, but about 10 minutes later they drove back past me still looking for a breakfast.

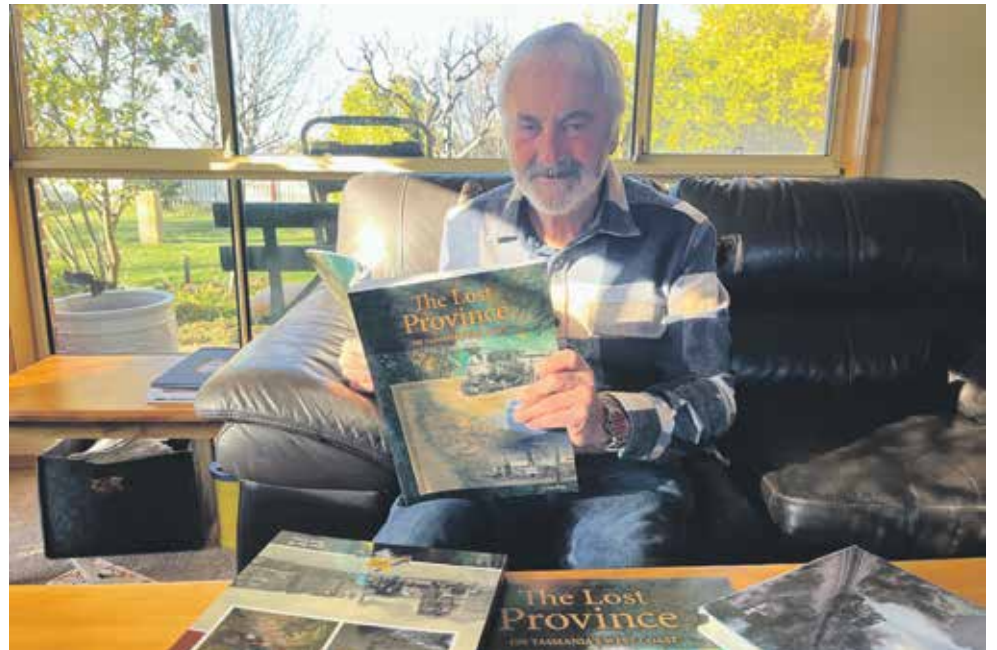
Maybe there's someone out there, already in the hospitality industry in our region that could provide Zeehan with a large full-time cafe for the high, low and no mine times.

Samantha Farr, Zeehan.

'The Lost Province on Tasmania's West Coast' by Lou Rae

I was lucky enough to be sent a copy of Lou Rae's new book, 'The Lost Province' and it is a ripper! This could very easily become the new 'bible' or go-to reference for the West Coast. Lou Rae (pictured below) has done an amazing job in bringing the once lost West Coast to these 400 or so pages and it is a must read for anyone with the slightest interest in Tasmania's history.

Available in hardcover or soft, this new book will be launched at the Galley Museum in Queenstown at 2.30pm on Saturday 27 July. Come along, meet the author, have a book signed and read one of the best West Coast books written to date.



About the Author

From an early age Lou enjoyed experiencing aspects of Tasmania's early history. He was introduced to bushwalking by his father John when six, walking nearly every track on the Wellington Range by the age of ten. Sport and studies then consumed the next decade or so before a sports injury led Lou to revert to more rigorous bushwalking activities and exploring the many unique aspects of the West Coast.

His first book, A History of Railways and Tramways on Tasmania's West Coast, was completed in time for the Centenary of Mount Lyell (1983). Another six books and various reprints followed. In 1991 Lou was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study Railway and Mining Tourism in the United Kingdom. His strong interest in the West Coast continued and in 2005 Lou successfully completed his PhD on the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company, titled "The Lost Province".

The current book encompasses more than 40 years of research, numerous visitations to places far and wide and interviewing many interesting characters associated with the West Coast.

Book Summary

The Lost Province on Tasmania's West Coast begins with the early European visitation to the western shores of Van Dieman's Land. Occupation by the early settlers was marred by its difficult and dangerous access, by ship or overland, with dense vegetation, numerous mountain ranges and a lack of resources further compounding progress.

Already occupying the region were the Tasmanian Aboriginals who had learned to successfully survive the wilds over a period exceeding 40,000 years. Early encounters with the Aboriginals were limited and not many observations were recorded although English botanist Allan Cunningham does provide us with valuable insight from his January 1819 visit to Macquarie Harbour.

Huon pining activities and the development of the convict settlement at

Sarah Island followed but access to the West Coast remained problematic, the early maps of the day referring to the region as "Terra Incognita" or "Transylvania". It was not until the quest for gold began in the 1850's that visitation to the western region stepped up a gear. Small deposits of gold and other minerals were found, generally to the north of Macquarie Harbour. Without a suitable means of transport mines could not be developed nor could the area be systematically prospected.

Enter the might of the Broken Hill Proprietary tycoons in the late 1880's that saw the silver fields of Zeehan soar in value and the vast copper riches of Mt Lyell exposed to development. In the 1890's the building of railways, tramways and wharf facilities sparked a mining revolution. Fortunes were won and lost, claims were salted and leases jumped in attempts to get rich quick. Numerous small towns and settlements flourished in the bush, the men, women and children learning to cope with many deprivations.

Behind the mining and industrial revolution was the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company. Through its innovation and management expertise it was able to dominate what became known as the Lost Province. Between 1897 and 1932 the Mount Lyell Company was the major mineral exporter in Tasmania, having survived serious industrial disputes, a crippling underground mine fire and the collapse in the mineral market after World War 1.

Through its entirety share dividends, profits and company control were directed through Melbourne, the Lyell population finding it easier to travel to Melbourne for holidays, purchasing household items and for professional services. Queenstown was considered an "outer suburb" of Melbourne!

Finally, with the opening of the West Coast Road in 1932, the newspaper headlines proclaimed the reclaiming of the "Lost Province".



WESTERN ECHO

Queenstown, Strahan, Zeehan, Tullah, Rosebery Waratah - The West's own newspaper

WE MEANS COMMUNITY

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One Devil of a job

Devil facial tumour disease (DFTD) is an aggressive non-viral clonally transmissible cancer which affects Tasmanian devils.

The cancer manifests itself as lumps of soft and ulcerating tissue around the mouth, which may invade surrounding organs and metastasise to other parts of the body.

The disease poses a direct threat to the survival of Tasmanian devils as a species as the disease is almost universally fatal. In the two decades since the disease was first spotted, population of Devils (*Sarcophilus harrisi*) declined by 80% as the condition spread through virtually all of Tasmania. The Tasmanian Government, Australian

universities and zoos are engaged in efforts to curb the disease. Bill Brown (pictured at right), a wildlife biologist with the 'Save the Tasmanian Devil Program', is one of the researchers in the field and I caught up with him and his team at Granville Harbour a few weeks ago.

I asked if the disease is getting worse around the state.

Bill said "in low density populations, one year old, females will breed, and they can produce as many as four young. The average is around about three young per female devil. And that means that the population keeps ticking over at a low level, much lower than what it was prior to disease arriving. And one of the reasons why that is young devils tend to avoid conflict, so they'll avoid fighting over food.

They'll avoid older devils. Therefore they're not biting. What we find is that in the populations we monitor, we is that there's this spike in in one year old devils, and that's kind of normal in most animal populations. Get a large, number of juvenile animals, and then that decreases and in an area without disease, you'll get fewer two year olds and fewer three year olds and so on, and you get



very few five or six year old devils. In a diseased population, Females will tend to resist males they're attempting to mate with them. Often females end up with injuries from that. And once a devil's fully mature, they tend to be more combative over food. And it's this, the biting interactions, which allows the tumor cells to transfer from one animal to another."

31 Devils were captured at Granville Harbour over seven nights of trapping, weighed measured and checked for signs of the disease and then released. Six of these caught showed signs of a tumour.

Bill, who has been working with the program since 2012 travels to nine different sites around the state and said the only areas without signs of the disease are at Woolnorth in the northwest, right down in the southwest (which traditionally has a low devil population) and the Tasman and Forestier Peninsula as well as an introduced population on Maria Island.

Let's hope the work these scientists are doing brings us closer to finding an answer and hopefully a cure to this disease before Tasmania no longer has any devils.

Neighbourhood House food and games

Rosebery Neighbourhood House has welcomed a donation of goodies including a pool table and PlayStation delivered by Hydro Tasmania staff.

They also brought board games, toys and the haul from a recent company food drive supported by Hydro Tasmania employees.

Executive General Manager People Culture & Engagement Ruth Groom said: "Places like Rosebery Neighbourhood House are the backbone of small communities, providing an open door to all residents regardless of their age or circumstances.

"We're proud to support the service and hope visitors enjoy the games."

Rosebery Neighbourhood House is a community-driven organisation provid-

ing a safe and engaging hub, delivering services to support the wellbeing of local youth and the wider community.

It is an agent for Centrelink and Medicare, offers food relief, supports connections for youth and seniors and is a space for kids to hang out after school and in the holidays.

Rosebery Neighbourhood House spokesperson Tania Blake said: "People can come in and grab whatever they need. We make sure the community's fed and anyone's welcome. You don't have to be in need," Ms Blake said.

"The kids are very excited. They love the pool table and the PlayStation, and I think there's few big kids looking forward to playing as well."



Hydro Tasmania Community Engagement Advisor Breandan McKeown and Rosebery Neighbourhood House's Tania Blake show off the booty of new goodies.

Neighbourhood House celebrating 40 years

On Tuesday the 25th of June, Tania and the staff at the Rosebery Neighbourhood House were joined by members past and present to celebrate their 40th Birthday. Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate this week. A big thank you to our staff, board members and volunteers who have been part of the House, without your dedication we wouldn't have achieved everything we have.

A special thanks to West Coast Takeaway for their assistance with the food and Anvers for the wonderful birthday cake



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A VISION FOR STRAHAN

Petuna's collaboration creates a stunning vision for Strahan health care.



Something groundbreaking is happening at Strahan Primary School.

Thanks to Petuna's support of the Lions Eye Health Program (LEHP), the Children's Vision Screening Program is making its debut, marking a significant milestone for the community.

The initiative couldn't come at a better time. For too long, students in Strahan have faced barriers when it comes to accessing essential eye testing. Many families grappled with the daunting prospect of traveling long distances for screenings, often resulting in missed school days and prolonged waits for appointments. But now, thanks to the collaborative efforts of Petuna and LEHP, these challenges are set to become a thing of the past.

The program's aim is simple yet profound: to identify undetected vision problems in children.

With statistics revealing that one in five children may have such issues, the importance of early detection cannot be overstated. Left unchecked, these problems can significantly impact a child's growth and development, potentially hindering their academic progress and overall wellbeing.

What sets the LEHP Children's Vision Screening Program apart is its comprehensive approach.

It offers a level of thoroughness unmatched by any other program in Australia, making it a beacon of hope for communities like Strahan.

For Principal Kathryn Leo and her team at Strahan Primary School, the arrival of the program represents a turning point.

Ms Leo said "the school felt incredibly positive about the program. "Vision problems can have a profound effect on students' learning, so having access to school-wide testing is invaluable. It's an opportunity to address these issues early on and remove barriers to learning for our children," she said.

Indeed, the sentiment is echoed throughout the community. Petuna's commitment to supporting families in Strahan has been unwavering, from providing flu shots during the pandemic to now sponsoring vital programs like the Children's Vision Screening. Their dedication has not gone unnoticed, with residents expressing gratitude for the tangible impact these initiatives have had on their lives.

For families in Strahan, the program's arrival is a game-changer.

No longer will they have to navigate the complexities of arranging off-site appointments or endure lengthy waitlists. Instead, they can rest assured knowing that their children's vision needs will be met right at their doorstep, thanks to the generosity of Petuna and the dedication of LEHP.

The Children's Vision Screening Program represents more than just a medical service—it's a lifeline for the community, a symbol of hope for a brighter future. And for the students of Strahan, it's an opportunity to see the world with newfound clarity, paving the way for a future filled with endless possibilities.



Petuna receiving the plaque from the Lions Club for its support of the Lions Eye Health Program.

STUDY HUB BLOWS OUT THE CANDLES ON 5th BIRTHDAY



Wow, what a journey it has been for the Study Hub! This July marks a significant milestone as we celebrate 5 years of growth and education success.

From humble beginnings funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education, we've expanded from one to three sites across Tasmania's Braddon electorate.

Back in July 2019, we kicked off with a memorable soft launch at our Zeehan venue,

the old Scout Hall. Despite a power outage on the day and an urgent call to West Coast Council to borrow their generator (!) we felt the power and energy in the room and made a silent vow to always have this flowing through our space.

With Nicky (Study Hub Manager) and Vikki (UTAS Regional Learning Officer) leading the charge, we transformed the space into an inviting, comfy and safe

learning environment, filled with dedication and a touch of friendly banter over who's interior design style was better.....

Those early days were defined by teamwork and passion as Vikki, Nicky, and in August 2020 Yolande (Student Services Coordinator), worked tirelessly to establish a dedicated space that went beyond education—keeping students of all ages connected to community, allowing them to learn locally and access vital support. Student numbers grew through word of mouth as we trialled projects, events and expanded our student services.

In late 2020, spurred by our success, we expanded to Smithton, where Derek (Former Bluestone Training Coordinator) joined us at the helm. Together, we poured countless hours shaping Study Centre Circular Head into a fit for purpose, educational resource for the region.

In early 2022, sadly Vikki left UTAS (and us!). Belinda's arrival in mid 2022 brought fresh energy, developing and expanding upon UTAS events, workshops, and innovative Children's University activities, providing continual support and pathway options to new and existing students.

Along the way we expanded our Smithton staff to include Patsy in Student Services and Tony, who replaced Derek at the begin-

ning of this year.

And now, looking ahead to late 2023, with the approval of our mini hub/SPOKE on King Island, the future shines even brighter. We're thrilled to extend our reach further, continuing to empower learners across Tasmania and King Island.

To everyone who has been part of our journey—our community, education and industry partners, stakeholders, politicians, West Coast Heritage Ltd, West Coast Council and the incredible onsite staff—THANKYOU. Your unwavering support has been our foundation, and together, we look forward to many more years of growth, learning, and community legacy.

Here's to five years of the Study Hub, and to the bright future ahead!



UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA UPDATE

This year is really ramping up in the learning and education space. New students have been enrolled and they are gearing up for the start of semester two, while others are continuing their trimester studies throughout the break.

UTAS MENZIES INSTITUTE – Start NW Hypertension Project visited the West Coast in May/June (photos attached)

University researchers have been buzzing around the West Coast talking to community members and health professionals about blood pressure measurement and management. The community-led process enables the researchers to include the perspectives of local health practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, dieticians, other health care professionals, and the local community. A lively set of community workshops took place in late May and a second set at the end of June. Overall, the response from the community and health professionals has been meaningful, informative and insightful. The workshops will continue with West Coast GPs. Thankyou to all our contributors who are assisting with this vital research, which we hope will lead to improved blood pressure monitoring in the community and GP offices.

UTAS STUDENT DROP-IN SESSION – EXISTING AND FUTURE STUDENTS – MONDAY 29TH JULY 10AM – 2.30PM - STUDY HUB WEST COAST

The University continues to provide support to existing and future students and will be hosting a drop-in session at Study Hub West Coast on Monday 29th July from 10am. Our wonderful research librarian will be in attendance to help you with any questions relating to academic integrity, referencing, library research and how to put your best foot forward by accessing all the study tools the University has to help you. If you want to have a chat about pathways to University, scholarships, or are looking for new learning opportunities, our wonderful staff will be on hand to assist. We take pride in matching students to courses via our many pathways to University and supporting our students throughout their learning journey.

Please note that this session is open to the entire community across the West Coast and, should you have any further enquiries, contact Belinda Martin at belinda.martin@utas.edu.au, your West Coast UTAS representative in Zeehan. Morning tea will be provided!

UTAS EARTH SCIENCE TEAM BACK ON THE WEST COAST AGAIN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER AND THEY WANT TO ENGAGE WITH YOU!

Ever wanted to learn more about the geology of the West Coast, or what metals are being carried by the King River, or where do mountains come from? Then don't miss out on this great opportunity!

Once again, we have our energetic Earth Science Team running field trips with students on the West Coast in the third week of August and first week of September. If you are interested in being part of a trip out to the King River delta, or hearing from our amazing geology team, register your interest with belinda.martin@utas.edu.au. A flyer will be circulated across the West Coast in due course. This opportunity will also be made available to interested students or community members across the West Coast. Numbers will be limited. Schools are welcome to approach me directly as well as the Home School network.

SCIENCE WEEK – 19 TO 25TH AUGUST 2024 – WEST COAST AND MINI MAKER X EVENT AT THE NEWLY FURNISHED MAKERS TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION HUB – BURNIE

Welcome back to the Young Tassie Scientists (YTS) who will be visiting West Coast schools between 19th and 21st August 2024. In addition, there will be a one-off YTS session also held at Queenstown Library on Monday 19th August at 3.30pm and all are welcome.

In addition, the Mini Maker X event for science week will be held at Cradle Coast Campus (Makers Technology and Innovation Hub) on Sunday 25th August 2024. This will be a family event full of interesting, creative and fun ways to learn about STEM activities such as engineering,

science, digital technology, and of course learning to engage more around sustainability. Supporting the theme for National Science Week of 'Species Survival,' the event will include a focus on the local penguins, their habitat and ecology. Come and participate in sharing ideas and learning and be part of fun hands-on activities on Sunday 25th August, 11am to 3pm, University of Tasmania, 2 Bass Highway Burnie. Open to all families in the region!

Aligned with the Earth Science team, Jane Hall-Dadson regularly brings her Family STEM Fun activities to local events. You can catch Jane and ask about her research at school holiday sessions on the West Coast, the Future You Careers Expo in Zeehan in August, and the Mini Maker X event at Cradle Coast during Science week. More details of how you could earn \$60 for chatting about STEM are included in flyers below.

UPCOMING EVENTS LATER THIS YEAR – WATCH THIS SPACE!

West Coast Heritage Museum Open Day – October school holidays

The West Coast Heritage Museum is now in planning with UTAS for another Open Day to be held during the second week of the October school holidays. Given the success of last year's pilot event we hope to provide a fun day for families with free entry, barbecue and lots of fun activities. Children who are part of the Children's Uni-

versity program will have the opportunity to earn additional points in their passport for progressing through the events and activities taking place on the day. Stay tuned for further information!

CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY WEST COAST

The school holiday period has commenced and week two of the school holidays also sees some great Limitless Learning workshops taking place at the Galley Museum with the help of our Children's University families and our Home School families on the West Coast. The workshops are based on exploration, children and family feedback, ideas, and brainstorming to enable co-design and co-creation of activities based on children's ideas, testing those activities, then fine-tuning and finalising those activities for other families and children in the Galley Space. The University thanks Diane and the Galley Museum staff for the wonderful support of this program.

The winter school holiday activity packs have also been circulated to West Coast schools, so this is a great time for children in the Children's University program to start completing some holiday fun activities and getting those hours in their passports. Graduation is coming up in November and time will certainly fly by, so start getting those hours in now!



Participants in the hypertension study hard at work



Rosebery Mine

Community Newsletter

July 2024



Image (L-R): Dr Claire Ellis, Chair of ECO Tourism Australia, Jill Richardson, CLC MMG Rosebery and Lee Woolley, rep for the Rosebery Development Association

Global Sustainable Tourism Summit – ECO Tourism Australia

MMG Rosebery is supporting our community to develop opportunities for tourism.

MMG's Jill Richardson accompanied an MMG sponsored representative of the Rosebery Development Association, Lee Woolley to the Global Sustainable Tourism Conference last month to explore sustainable tourism measures for local tourism ventures.

Lee and Jill also made a visit to the UQ Institute of Mining and Minerals to catch up with Dr Sandy Worden Research Fellow, and Pam Burke, who have worked with our community around closure visioning.

Congratulations to MMG's Chris Winskill – Exceptional Woman in Tasmanian Resources, joint recipient

The Women in Resources and Manufacturing Tasmania Awards was held last month to recognise and celebrate the achievements of women along with inclusion and diversity champions across our resources and manufacturing sectors.

These awards demonstrate the diverse careers available to women in the sector and the industry's commitment to attract, train, encourage and promote women.

We were represented at the Awards by Katie Ramage as a finalist in the Exceptional Young Woman in Mining Resources, Kasey Mathewson as a finalist in the Outstanding Tradeswoman, Operator or Technician and Chris Winskill who was joint winner with Leita Patten of the Exceptional Women in Tasmanian Resources Award, sponsored by Bell Bay Aluminium.



Image (L-R): Kasey Mathewson, Chris Winskill and Katie Ramage



COTA (Council on the Aging) Long Table Lunch – supported by MMG Rosebery through sponsorship and attendance and organized through the Rosebery Neighbourhood House.

Vickie Odgers - Admin, Chris Winskill - CRA and Molly Hazame, Project Geologist (pictured above) at the COTA Long Table Lunch.

Rosebery Seed Library

Run by the Rosebery Development Association, sponsored by MMG Rosebery, constructed by Mt Black Men Shed and situated at the Neighbourhood House Rosebery – an excellent example of our Community Together Project, engagement plan. The seed library is available to the whole community.



Dave Runciman, Supervisor Site Projects and Wiaan Kapp, Senior Project Geologist attending the opening of the Rosebery Seed Library.

Rosebery Neighbourhood House 40th Birthday

Last month, we celebrated 40 years of the Neighbourhood House being the central hub of our community.

MMG supported the event that drew around 80 people including community members, service providers, politicians and recipients of the Neighbourhood Houses support.



Image (L-R): Tania Blake, Rosebery Neighbourhood House Coordinator and Steve Scott, General Manager MMG Rosebery.

Strahan playground

Continued from front page



There is a lot happening around Strahan at the moment and you will see all the details in the Western Echo over the next few months. In the meantime I hope you enjoy these photos as much as the children enjoyed the new playground and we won't mention which councillor face planted the sandpit will we Annie.

Children clean up on West Coast

Forty inner Sydney grade 10 school children paid their own way to return to Tasmania wanting to help those who are unable to medically help themselves. Guttering was replaced on houses, yards were cleaned and general cleanups were carried out. The kids are well supervised and tradespeople from the school help and teach students the tricks of the trade. This gives the year ten students an insight into the trade that they may like to pursue. Students are not scared of hard work, of getting dirty, and love seeing new areas like our beautiful West Coast and meeting new people.

Stormco is a part of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, which was founded in 1993 in Queensland. They started visiting Outback communities because students wanted to put their faith into practice, not just learn about it. The life changing experience inspired others to follow in 1993 and within a few years, stormco teams were in every Australian state.



Children clean up on West Coast

On June 29 thirty four people from all congregations of the West Coast came together for a luncheon. Each town was allotted soup, mains, a dessert, and a packed table was enjoyed by all. We had people travel from as far away as Burnie, who were welcomed with open arms. It was a great way to communicate what is happening in each of our communities, and being able to assist where possible. For example, Stormco was visiting in early July.

Shoebboxes are starting in September and a free concert in the gaiety theatre on the eighth of September with complimentary bag which will contain singer Stephen Atkin's CD. We look forward to the next gathering in Rosebery, Queenstown or Strahan. Everyone is welcome to join us and have a nice chat and lunch.

A huge. Thank you to Helen Johnson, who had the thought and drive to make this all happen.



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Biggest Morning Tea

The student leaders from RDS participated in raising funds for the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea. Students had a huge selection of delicious sweets and savouries to choose from thanks to all staff and students who cooked for our fundraiser.



West Coast Chess Tournament

Students in grade 3-10 from RDS participated in the West Coast Chess tournament in Strahan. Students played 6 games against people within their division. A challenging yet enjoyable day for all.



Superhero Day

On Tuesday the 6th of June staff and students at RDS raised awareness for bullying by dressing as a superhero or someone they look up to.



ZEEHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

TERM 2, 2024

Winning for Knowledge



SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Thank you to our School Association Committee for fund-raising efforts this term!



SIMULTANEOUS STORY TIME

Thank you to the Zeehan Neighbourhood Centre for the donation of books for this year's event—the book title: Bowerbird Blues!



WCC CROSS COUNTRY

Representing ZPS at WCC Cross Country at Hogarth Falls. Emily and Skyla also ran in NW event!



UTAS PRAC PLACEMENTS

We often have UTAS education students undertaking their placements here at ZPS. Recently we have welcomed Thea!



WALK SAFELY 2 SCHOOL

Many students joined us on our National, Walk Safely 2 School Day, raising awareness of road safety and healthy choices.



BAY OF FIRES FILMING

Lights, camera, action! ZPS was treated to front row seats, quite literally, for Bay of Fires filming right on our doorstep!



GROUNDING GARDEN

Working in our garden is always a great option that is mentally grounding, collaborative and inclusive.



ROBOT MAN

All of our students were engaged with Robot Man's activities when he visited earlier this Term.

Horsetail Falls worth a new look

Works are now complete on stage two of the Horsetail Falls walk in Tasmania's North West.

The new section of track is now open to the public, where visitors will benefit from an improved experience compared to the previous walk.

The new platform, which now extends right to the edge, provides excellent views from above the falls looking towards Queenstown and the coast.



Meet and greet for council manager

Granville Harbour is the location for our next community meet and greet session, providing an opportunity for Ciara Spencer, the General Manager of the West Coast Council to meet with the local community.

You are invited to come along on the day.

Thursday 25 July 2024 2.00pm – 3.00pm

Venue: 868 Granville Harbour Road, Granville Harbour



Off Road Strategy input wanted

You now have eight weeks to have your say on the draft West Coast Off Road Vehicle Strategy.

The draft strategy aims to protect the important natural and cultural values of the area, while allowing safe access, improved facilities and enhanced recreational experiences within the Arthur-Piemann Conservation Area and West Coast more broadly.

Submissions and comments can be made on the draft strategy through the Have Your Say page on our website: <https://parks.tas.gov.au/be-involved/have-your-say>



Tales from a Zeehan graveyard

MAN INCINERATED IN HOUSE FIRE ON OONAH HILL. OTHER INHABITANTS HAVE A NARROW ESCAPE

In the early hours of Sunday morning, November 29, 1908 John Edward Lynch, aged 31, died when his residence caught fire. Also living there were Mr and Mrs Michael Cooney, their two young children, and Miss Jupp, a sister of Mrs Cooney.

A coronial enquiry was held at the Court-house at 10 o'clock the next morning before Coroner E.V. Goldsmid.

Michael William Lynch, brother of the deceased, deposed he had seen the charred remains of a body at the morgue, which were burned beyond recognition. He had last seen his brother on Saturday night at about 7.30 o'clock. His brother suffered from a rupture on the right side, and used to wear a truss.

Michael Cooney stated he had been with deceased in Main Street between about 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. on the Saturday night. After that he went home with his wife and family. When they arrived home, they lit a fire in the front room and afterwards had a cup of tea. They sat up until about 11 o'clock, and the fire was out then. His wife went to bed with her sister, Miss Jupp. He and deceased usually slept in one bed. When he went to bed on Saturday night deceased was not in the bed.

After falling asleep he was awakened sometime later when he heard someone call out "Fire" twice. As flames were blocking the door, he knocked out a window, threw out a few items, and then got his wife, sister-

in-law, and the children out of the burning house. He believed the voice which cried "Fire," was Lynch's. He did not see him, but he thought Lynch had got out of the house. Dressed only in a singlet and under-pants he ran to John Hall's house about 300 yards away and raised the alarm. He believed that a candle placed in a miner's "spider" which Lynch always used was the cause of the fire. He was present when the charred remains were recovered from the room where he had heard Lynch call out "fire."

Dr. G.E. Butler said he had examined the remains and found them to be quite unrecognisable. However, the right shoulder had the remains of a brace clasp upon it. On the trunk of the body were the steel remains of a truss used for supporting a rupture. The greater portion of the arms and legs were missing. John Lynch had consulted him about a rupture on the right side. He had seen him wearing a truss similar to the remains of the one he had seen on the body.

Constable John Matthews deposed he was

on duty in Main Street and about 2:30 a.m. he noticed a fire on the Oonah Hill. He immediately proceeded to the house which had practically burned down by the time

he arrived. He met Michael Cooney, who reported that Lynch was missing. A dark object was pointed out to him as having the appearance of a body. Some water was obtained, and thrown on the coals round the remains. The firemen laid down some galvanised iron on the burning embers, which enabled the body to be removed. This was about 3:40 a.m. The

body had some clothes adhering to it, and the remains of a metal truss were around the waist of deceased, towards the right side.

He returned later to the scene of the fire in company with Fireman Dhu and Mr John Hall, and they found several pieces of bone, a threepenny bit, a pocket knife, and part of a rosary. Both the first two witnesses identified the pocket knife as belonging to Lynch.

Roderick Dhu said he was a fireman in the Zeehan Fire Brigade and had gone to the burning house about 2:30 o'clock. He had

assisted Constable Matthews in removing the remains from the fire. He had noticed something around the waist of the deceased. When he threw some water on the body earlier it had been partly clothed.

Edward Schaeffer said he had met the deceased at 11.20 o'clock Saturday night at McDonald's Venezia Hotel. They had a drink and a conversation, bought a bottle of beer each and then started walking home together. They bumped into Alex Tengdahl and had a drink from their bottles. He considered Lynch was a little tipsy but capable of looking after himself when Tengdahl and he left Lynch between 12:30 and 1 o'clock, about half a mile from Lynch's home.

The coroner briefly summed up, and then said it was the duty of the jury to find out who the deceased was, and how, when, and where he came by his death.

The jury, after a retirement of five minutes, returned with the following verdict: "We find that the deceased, John Edward Lynch, accidentally came to his death by being burnt in a house which caught fire on the Oonah Hill, Zeehan; and that no blame is attachable to anyone." His funeral was held the following day, with Father B. Murphy officiating.

This is an abridged excerpt taken from books edited by Malcolm Ready, Burials at the Zeehan General (Pioneer) Cemetery.



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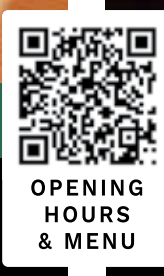


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Welcome to the NEW Western Echo Directory!

This will eventually consist of five pages, 'Where to Eat', 'What to Do', 'Where to Stay', 'Where to Shop' and 'Who can Help' and be THE guide to the West Coast.

If you would like to place YOUR message on here it is only \$100 per month (six month contract but invoiced monthly) for the standard size ad seen at left but you can extend your ad size if you wish. We can also design your ad for you at no extra charge. Please send an email to alan@westernecho.news if interested in being a part of this directory.

WEST COAST-DIRECTORY-WHO CAN HELP?




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**Huon Pine
Shop & Gallery**

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Tasmania 7488

M: (03) 6471 7244
E: sales@huonpineshop.com.au
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**RAILWAY EXPRESS
Queenstown**



We work very hard to put our customers first, providing quality on focus. As a community-driven business, we pride ourselves on supporting the local community and its events.

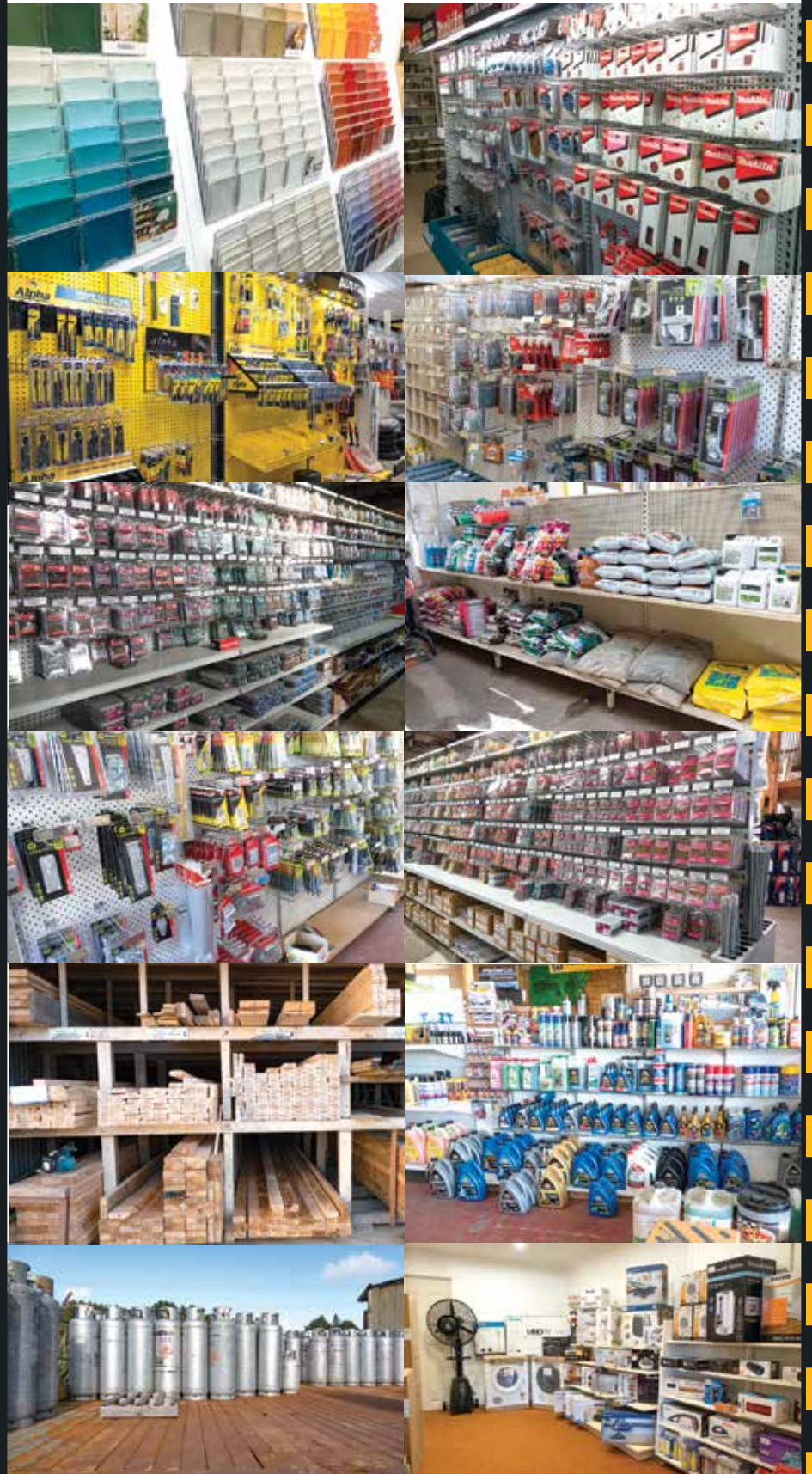
 **Lotto now in store!**
30 Orr Street, Queenstown,
6471 1025

**Rosebery
OP-SHOP &
SALVAGE YARD**

11 Karlson St,
Rosebery
Thursday
Saturday
Sunday
11am - 3pm
Pick up
or delivery
Cash or card
Buy, sell, donate
Budgie
0421 735 693

 **Hardware Zeehan**

For all your hardware needs



Timber, Gas, Appliances, Hardware, Auto, Garden, Cleaning, Paint, Oils, Power Tools, Plumbing, and much more



**Zeehan Hardware
64716201**

128 Main Street, Zeehan Tasmania 7469

Email: zeehanhardware2@bigpond.com

8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday - Saturday 10am to 12pm

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE COAST?

If you have an event, a function, anything happening at all, please let us know at the Western Echo.

We can help spread the word and tell your tale. Shout it from the rooftops - use the Echo!

Invitation to the range of NAIDOC and school holiday program experiences on offer on the West Coast.

These free activities are provided to our community from the combined efforts of the West Coast Council, Libraries Tasmania, Child and Family Learning Centre, University of Tasmania, Hydro Tasmania, Local Community centres/houses, Galley Museum, members of the West Coast Reconciliation Working Group and volunteers.

Come along and enjoy the program on offer for both adults and children.

Our community spaces are warm and comfortable and bushtucker morning teas are on offer as advertised in the program.

We have aimed to provide something for everyone.

There is also a wonderful, practical workshop on offer for community members who would like to gain more skills in recording their family or friends oral histories. Members of the State Archives will be joining us to share their expertise on how to access the State archives and historical records, as well as sharing the exciting work being done in increasing the digital access to historical information and records.

So if you know of a history buff or you have an interest in finding out more about our incredible and diverse history of the West Coast or other historical areas of interest or you would like to learn more about how to record your family's oral history, come along to the workshop session being held on Tuesday 9th July at the West Coast Community Hub- Queenstown library at 11am

During NAIDOC we also have a daily screening showcasing a range of short films ranging from fire stick farming, to the cultural connections of First Nations people to the West Coast, cultural practices such as shell string beading, making kelp baskets, mutton birding and making of shelters, artefactual materials including stone tools and tool making, the life and important contribution by First Nations people like Fanny Cochrane Smith, The films celebrates Tasmanian Aboriginal people and the interconnections between Country, culture, identity, and Community.

School holiday program includes exciting fun and learning experiences- STEM activities, Storytime, craft, Pokémon hunts, code breaker activities, limitless learning program, whirly birds and exploding popcorn, Rosebery basketball and Fire Wind and night sky, story time and musical movement use of our Library services and collections and so much more!



NAIDOC 2024 activities across the West Coast

All activities on offer are FREE- come in and enjoy the warmth and comfort of our libraries for a range of fun and interesting activities and cultural experiences.

Queenstown Library and Community & Family Learning Centre (CFLC) - West Coast Community Services Hub		
	Flag raising/bushtucker morning tea	Monday 8 July 10:00am
	2 short films- fire stick farming and First Nations people's connection to the West Coast	
	Foyer exhibition	
	Libraries Tasmania Storytime	11:00am
	R&R Music and movement	11:30am
	Short films explore sea country- shell beading, muttonbirding, kelp basketry and morning tea	Tuesday 9 July 10:00am
	Acknowledgement - birthday of the creation and first flying of the Aboriginal flag.	
	Literacy oral history workshop recording and archival retrieval	11:00am-1:00pm
	CFLC Move N Groove	11:30am-12noon
	CFLC Story Time	1:00pm-1:30pm
	Short films Stone tools and shelters and morning tea	Wednesday 10 July 10:00am
	CFLC Story Time	1:00pm-1:30pm
	Short film Ochre and morning tea.	Thursday 11 July 10:00am
	CFLC Move N Groove	11:30am-12noon
	CFLC Story Time	1:00pm-1:30pm

	Short film Fanny Cochrane Smith and morning tea	Friday 12 July 10:00am
	CFLC Story Time	1:00pm-1:30pm
	Sea of hands- flames- art installation 'keep the fire burning'	On display all week All week
	Display	
Royston Library		
	Notice board exhibition	On display all week 8 th , 9 th , 11 th July
	Sea of hands- flames- art installation 'keep the fire burning'	Mon/Tuesday/Thursday 3pm to 5pm
Rosebery Library		
	Notice board exhibition	On display all week 8 th 9 th 11 th July
	Sea of hands- flames- art installation 'keep the fire burning'	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 1pm-5pm
Devon Library		
	Notice board exhibition	On display all week 8 th 11 th 13 th July
	Sea of hands- art installation- flames- keep the fire burning	Monday & Thursday 9:30 to 12noon Saturday 10am to 12noon
	NAIDOC bush tucker morning tea and films- fire stick farming and First Nations cultural connection to the West Coast	Thursday 11 July 10:00am-12:00pm
<small>All sites will take photos of displays, activities and people (with permission). This will be collated into a photo/video montage post NAIDOC week to share with the community.</small>		

Watch out for our School holiday program- delivered in partnership with UTAS and West Coast Council; Hydro Tasmania, local Neighbourhood centres and volunteers!



2024 DATES

MEMORIAL HALL, ORR STREET, 11AM-1.30PM

SUNDAY 1 SEPTEMBER
FATHER'S DAY!

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER
MAKERS & CREATORS

SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER
LOCAL & VISITING STALLHOLDERS

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER
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WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE COAST?

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Live at the Paragon
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Presale \$15
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Take a romp in the swamp with the greatest sounds from the underground!

THE STRIFE



Monday July 15	Tuesday July 16	Wednesday July 17	Thursday July 18	Friday July 19
Limitless Learning - UTAS Galley Museum, Q'town To enrol, please contact Jesse - 0428 505 502	Kids Exercise Zeehan School Stadium 1:00pm - Ages 6-12	Rosebery O'ball and Games Rosebery Stadium 11:00am - 2:00pm Children under 12 years must be accompanied by a parent.	Whirlybirds & exploding popcorn, Fire Wind & Night Sky, Squishy Circuits - UTAS Queenstown Library 10:30am - 1:00pm - All ages	Stem Program R'bery N'hood House 11-1pm To register call 6473 1497
Pokemon Hunt Rosebery Library 1:30 - 4:30pm - All ages	Limitless Learning - UTAS Galley Museum, Q'town To enrol, please contact Jesse - 0428 505 502	Limitless Learning - UTAS Galley Museum, Q'town To enrol, please contact Jesse - 0428 505 502	Limitless Learning - UTRS Galley Museum, Q'town To enrol, please contact Jesse - 0428 505 502	Limitless Learning - UTAS Galley Museum, Q'town To enrol, please contact Jesse - 0428 505 502
Codebreaker and Library Tree Queenstown Library 10:00am - 4:30pm - All ages	Pokemon Hunt Rosebery Library 1:30 - 4:30pm - All ages	Codebreaker and Library Tree Q'town Lib 10:00am - 4:30pm All holidays - All ages	Flip Books & Thaumatrope Queenstown Library 10:30am - 11:30am and then at Strahan Library 3:30 - 4:30 pm	Codebreaker and Library Tree Queenstown Library 10:00am - 4:30pm - All ages
	Gamer's Day R'bery N'hood House 11am-2pm To register call 6473 1497		American Afternoon Zeehan Connection Centre 10:30am-12:30pm - Ages 6-12	
	Winter Desk Pet Queenstown Library 10:30am - 11:30am - All ages			

All activities are free unless stated otherwise. For more info, please contact growthandchange@westcoast.tas.gov.au or call (03) 6471 4700.



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For more information and to register with VeteranHub scan the QR code



VeteranHub is a free service available to Veterans and their families throughout Tasmania.

RSL Tasmania is proud to announce the launch of VeteranHub, Tasmania's new one stop shop for Veteran Services.

Our VeteranHub Navigators engage with Veterans and their families, bringing them into a network that provides information, service navigation and multiple levels of assistance.

These services are delivered by the VeteranHub Team, or by referral to one of our Community Partners or Ex-Service Organisations.

Delivered by:



Where - Connection Centre

Time - 3pm - 4pm

Dates - 25th July

Date - 1st August

Date - 8th August

Date - 15th August

Date - 22nd August

Cost \$4

Book on 64716108

• Welcome to Our House

WE PLAY FOOTBALL

Photos by Alan Jennison

ROSEBERY TOORAK VS NORTH MOTTON

It wasn't the best weekend for Rosebery-Toorak football teams when they met Motton Preston on the grass at Rosebery last Saturday.

The reserves score was 129 - 22 in Motton Preston's favour with the seniors game even worse with a final score of 345 - 0.

The boys of Rosebery-Toorak threw a lot into both games but to no avail. It doesn't help that many of the reserves players have to play the seniors game as well - back to back games would be hard work in anyone's language. Better luck next week Rosebery-Toorak when you take on Forth.



WE PLAY

FOOTBALL

ROSEBERY TOORAK VS NORTH MOTTON

Photos by Alan Jennison



Zeehan Neighbourhood Centre BIG FREEZE

If ever a headline said it all this is the one. Saturday 22nd June was the 'Big Freeze', a fundraiser held by the Zeehan Neighbourhood Centre to raise much needed dollars for research into Motor Nuerone Disease (MND), and the turnout was fabulous.

There were 'Big Freeze' beanies for sale, raffles and 'bidding' to see one of the local celebrities jump into a pool full of iced water. Everyone that threw themselves in the pool had such a unique style from a quick dip to a crazy dive in not a lot of clothing.

I can vouch for the coldness of the water as this photographer ended up drenched from standing too close to the contestants.

The event coincided with the Zeehan Golf Club 'Ambrose' golf game and this just added to the fun and excitement on the day.

Throw in food and drink, kids activities including facepainting with jewels and a selection of weird and wacky bikes to ride around and there really was something for everyone. The event raised almost \$3500 for this most worth of causes.

