



## New GM for West Coast

As many of you will have heard, the West Coast Council now has a new General Manager, Ms Ciara Spencer (pictured at right). I had the pleasure of catching up with her last week in Queenstown.

Ciara (pronounced as Kiera, as in Kiera Knightley) was born in Ireland but her parents moved to Tasmania when she was eight, and thus, growing up in Burnie is no stranger to the West Coast.

Ciara has held a number of high positions within the Commonwealth Government including Foreign Affairs and Trade, Director of Public Prosecutions, Aviation and Maritime, Border Security and Human Trafficking and brings a wealth of experience to the local council.

After a high-powered resume like that I asked Ciara what made her apply for the General Manager position with the council.

She said "I came across the ad quite randomly and thought I had never read anything so dynamic and exciting. My whole career has been about doing things that are challenging, things that challenge me and doing things out of the ordinary.

I like going into a new area learning about it and thinking about things creatively and the ad for this role was just phenomenal. In the way that it reflected such a deep understanding of the community and what the community needed.

The work I've done has been at very senior levels in the Commonwealth Government which meant that you're quite a few steps away from the direct result of what you do. You make high level policies, but you don't actually see how that lands in a community.

So this gives me the opportunity to



have a bit more freedom but to be in the community, ready to see the challenges and the opportunities firsthand and quickly and immediately see the impact.

Having seen the ad I then went through the council websites and a lot of the West Coast branding.

It's just phenomenal and for such a small community to be able to do these things; I said to the team when I started, you know I've worked in the biggest organisations, and I haven't seen anything as exciting and dynamic.

To see the growth in the region and, as you know the region has had a lot of

ups and downs, it has changed a lot from when I was in Tasmania previously and so that opportunity to come back to have an influence on a place where what I do will have an impact is wonderful".

She continued "what I've learned from my career is, there is nothing new in the world. Everybody struggles with the same problems. And you think other people have it nailed, and they don't. So these kind of problems, the housing, the education, it is about looking around, seeing what other people are doing, see what can work here, what doesn't work here. I think the main experience from

my career is really working at all levels of government, because we can't solve education and housing, or health as a council, or even state government level, but there are levers at every level of government including the Commonwealth Government. How do we bring together those levels of government and community and academia and non-government organisations and industry?

For me, it's really about that connection piece, and learning from other people. Bringing that together and focusing,

*Continued on page 3*

## Huon Pine Gallery and Shop - Strahan - Handcrafted Huon Pine Wares



**Huon Pine**  
Shop & Gallery

12 Esplanade, Strahan  
Tasmania 7468

M: (03) 6471 7244  
E: sales@huonpineshop.com.au  
W: huonpineshop.com.au

When you walk into the gallery and workshop at Huon Pine Gallery and Shop in Strahan, you will be greeted by the distinctive smell of Tasmania's famous Huon Pine and the aromatic oil finishes that are used on the timber work.

Then you will begin to look closer at the displays of beautiful woodwork, admiring the many pieces created from Tasmania's rainforest timbers.

As your eye wanders further, you may see some of the in-house craftspeople at work or talking, laughing, creating, dreaming or imagining.

There is always something happening and there are more ideas for pieces than we have time to create them!

Not all ideas become reality, but we have fun designing and dreaming.



# 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**

## Letter to the Editor

Friday 1st March may have appeared for many West Coasters to be a Friday like so many before us and a day concluded with very little understanding on what a significant day it has been. Last Friday, one of the West Coast's most active and staunch advocates for the wellbeing and inclusion of the most vulnerable members of our community; hung up their working shoes and ventured forward to a new life as a retiree!

This special person has really been, for so many members of our community, one of the unsung heroes of the West Coast. Her assistance with so many programs and assistance provided to so many children and families and community members who have been doing it tough has been outstanding. She has made a profound positive impact to many lives and I for one can attest to this.

This special person is none other than Lyn O'Grady, formerly working out of the Anglicare office in Zeehan and shew ill be sorely missed Her tireless efforts in advocating for the wellbeing of our community, including striving to improve housing and social and mental health outcomes for so many in our community is inspiring.

Lyn has been a staunch advocate and catalyst for greater service delivery response and has a wonderful reputation for not being afraid to tackle the hard issues experienced in our community.

Her pragmatic approach to just rolling up her sleeves and getting on with the job has been a real motivator for many community workers in our region. I for one have enjoyed working with her and enjoying her quick wit and strategic thinking and actions.

Her work in fostering greater col-

laborations between service providers to come together and work together to address barriers and challenges being faced by members of our community is legendary; She has a reputation for 'getting the job done.' And her contribution to the wellbeing of our community has been significant. Her energy and drive in her roles have been remarkable.

Samples of her extensive community work on the West Coast includes work her with children and families, play-groups and the setting up of "word on the street" children's street libraries, the West Coast Suicide prevention network; Festival of the Frocks, Mental Health Week annual events; Tullah's solstice; emergency food and crisis assistance and her legendary humorous antics as host for West Coast community fundraisers trivial pursuit nights.

While so many of us wish her all the very best in her next path in life; we are pretty sure that Lyn will remain active in one way or another in our community. I as I am sure so many of us do, wish Lyn all the very best in her well-deserved retirement. Lyn didn't want any given fanfare when leaving her job but like so many of us Lyn we simply couldn't let your retirement take place without saying THANK YOU for all the wonderful work you have done and for all the lives you have so positively touched!!

**West Coast resident**

## To the Editor

During a recent serious life threatening event in Rosebery, it became apparent to the residents concerned the urgent need to re-commission the Rosebery A&E.

With an ageing population including war veterans etc and the lack of a local community emergency unit, the follow-

ing issues were brought to my attention.

1. Calling the Queenstown hospital emergency dept. for assistance was a total waste of time, especially when in this case time was of the essence.

Their response was call 000, otherwise drive to the Burnie hospital.

2. Called 000, an ambulance based in Zeehan arrived within 30 minutes.

I take this opportunity to thank the paramedic for his prompt response.

3. After stabilising the patient they then proceeded to the Burnie hospital but not before stopping 3 times to revive the patient.

If the A&E were operational then a nurse could have gone in the ambulance to stabilise the patient.

4. I believe that the infrastructure is still there it only needs suitable staffing.

I call on ALL levels of government, industry and other stakeholders etc. to set aside their petty and political differences and provide the necessary funding to re-commission the Rosebery A&E  
**regards Peter Downey**

## To the editor,

I wish to express my gratitude toward '7469 holdings Pty Ltd' for the hard work and plans they have for our community and future on the west coast.

I am excited to see what's in store for our beautiful old buildings, and to watch them be transformed to their former glory.

I speak for many in saying this is supported and welcomed - I am happy being able to boast about our town's historic buildings being bought back to life.

Well done to you, on seeing potential, bringing fresh ideas and transformations most could only dream of.

As a long term local I no longer need to feel saddened when a passer by would make comment on our run down historic buildings.

I would much rather this change than these beautiful structures left to perish for future generations.

Wishing you all the best, and looking forward to the end results.

**Aleisha Maskell**

# Have you seen Harry?

I don't normally run missing pet ads in the Echo but this one is special.

A sixteen year old shih tzu, Harry was taken from a yard in Zeehan on Sunday 25th February. There have been no sightings. He's black and white, was wearing a blue knitted jumper, recently clipped, mostly blind and deaf, microchipped, blue collar and tag with a phone number on it.

Somebody must know something! 'Harry' can be dropped in to the Western Echo newspaper office in Zeehan's main street and no questions will be asked. Please return Harry.

Alan/Editor



# Steamship building sold

West Coast Council would like to announce the sale of the Union Steamship Building Strahan, to 7469 Holdings Pty Ltd (Timbersea).

The building holds an important place in Strahan's history and is a beautiful structure in a perfect location. However, it is in poor condition with both cosmetic and structural issues which require a significant amount of work and resources to bring the building back to a structurally sound and usable condition. With current budget allocations Council cannot afford to undertake these works.

The sale includes structural rectification of the building and development of the middle floor as a leased community

space (museum/tourism related initiative). Refurbishment of the top level will be undertaken for visitor/long-term accommodation and the shopfronts will remain as retail frontage. The new owners have a demonstrated commitment to the West Coast, experience with heritage buildings and are excited to commence the restoration project.

The sale of building has been a very considered decision, with Council pleased that the final sale outcome will provide long-term benefits to Strahan and most importantly, will ensure the enhancement and preservation of this important historical building for generations to come.

## The following numbers may be useful

**Snake Catcher - Ange 0409 164 394**

**Emergency 000**

**SES 132500**

**TasNetworks**

**132004**

**Trees across local roads (West Coast Council) 6471 4700**

**Trees across main roads 1300 139 933**

**Tas Police - non emergency 131444**



# WESTERN ECHO

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

## WE MEANS COMMUNITY

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

The Western Echo is available from IGA's and newsagents (as well as some other outlets) in Queenstown, Strahan, Zeehan, Rosebery, Tullah, Burnie, Stanley, Wynyard, Somerset, Ridgley, Smithton, South Riana and Waratah.

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# New GM for West Coast Council

*Continued from front page*

having people understand at all levels of government that yes, we're small, yes, we're remote, but it really matters what we do here".

I asked Ciara if she had a message she would like to share with the people of the West Coast.

"I'm here to serve the West Coast people. I want to understand, and I want to be able to engage with the community, I'm happy to take meetings, I'm looking for opportunities to be able to come out and have drop-in sessions and things like that.

We (the council), are here to do the best for the community. The way we can do that is by understanding what the community needs and what the community wants.

It doesn't mean I can always deliver it. But I will always have an honest conversation about what we can do and what we can't do."

## We meet again...

I caught up with Ciara at a drop-in meeting at the neighbourhood centre in Zeehan this week and listened to what some of the residents had to say. Drainage and streetlights were discussed as was the gorse problem and associated fire risks. Abatement notices and salmon farming were also talked about, and Ciara was kept busy taking notes. As a newspaper editor, I am not usually meant to have a public opinion and try to stay as neutral as Switzerland, but in this case, after having met and talked with Ciara, I am very confident that we have a council manager that will get stuck into the issues and do her very best for the community, someone who is passionate about our little part of Tasmania. I wish her all the best in what is surely one of the biggest jobs on the West Coast. Good luck Ciara.

*Ed*



## West Coast oval upgrades

The renowned Queenstown gravel football oval is set to undergo a significant redevelopment and transformation under the plans of the West Coast Council.

During its February session, the council greenlit designs for the future enhancement of both the Queenstown and Rosebery ovals, contingent upon potential government funding.

To spearhead this endeavor, the council enlisted the expertise of consulting and design firm STRI Australia. Their task involves revamping the ovals to enhance drainage and irrigation systems, while also installing lighting that meets Australian Standards.

According to estimates provided by STRI, the total construction costs for this project are projected to reach around \$3.2 million, with approximately \$1.8 million allocated for the Rosebery Oval and \$1.4 million earmarked for Queenstown.

A staff report presented to councillors highlighted the pressing issues plaguing both ovals, including poor drainage and inadequate lighting. It noted that the Rosebery Oval, in particular, suffers from irrigation infrastructure failures during the peak summer season, hampering maintenance efforts.

The report also underscored the significant manpower devoted to maintaining these facilities during winter, draining internal resources.

Furthermore, the council resolved during the meeting to commission designs aimed at enhancing the surroundings of both ovals.

Notably, the Queenstown Oval boasts a rich history, dating back to 1895. Its cultural significance was recognised when it was inducted into the Tasmanian Football Hall of Fame in 2007.

## Bay of Fires season two



WEST COAST TAS

WESTCOAST.TAS.GOV.AU

The West Coast Council would like to welcome back Marta and her team for Season 2 of Bay of Fires!

The cast and crew will be on the beautiful West Coast soon. Thank you to the State Government for their commitment to the film industry on the west, and we look forward seeing everyone once again.



*Queenstown oval can certainly get a bit wet but it doesn't stop the fun.*



"We asked for help."

Without the help of Carer Gateway, life would be really difficult.  
**Taya & Kathryn, Carers**

Kathryn and her daughter Taya are both carers for Kye, their son and brother who has autism.

Through Carer Gateway's support they were able to go on a retreat to connect with other carers in a supportive environment and take a break.

Care2Serve is the local tassie team connecting Tasmanian carers to Carer Gateway.

If you are a carer and would like help too, contact us.

Support is free, inclusive, and confidential.

**Call 1800 422 737 (press 1) or visit [carergateway.gov.au](http://carergateway.gov.au)**



# MAC HARBOUR



Science leading the way in Macquarie Harbour



**Teams of scientists, operational crews and marine specialists are encouraged as the Macquarie Harbour Oxygenation Project goes from strength to strength following the successful start to stage 1 trials.**

Following a successful fit out, the research team and salmon companies have moored the oxygenation barge in place. In initial trials the barge has been drawing water from the sea at depth. Highly concentrated micro and nano bubbles of oxygen are then injected into that water, before releasing it back into the deeper water sections of the Harbour, elevating dissolved oxygen levels through passive diffusion and natural mixing.

Dr Jeff Ross, Associate Professor, at the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) said “installation of the scientific monitoring and sensor operations over the past two weeks have been very productive. We have a

live sensor array and live deck and underwater cameras operating and despite some initial teething issues with pump operations, which we have now overcome, the oxygenation looked good on camera with no evidence of too much vertical movement of the plume or bubbles.

“The provisional plan where we pumped 500kg/day for 3 days has gone very well. We will now increase this to 720kg/day over the weekend, take a breather before the next trial so we can process and digest the environmental and performance data and we then expect to progressively increase both the oxygen dosage and duration over the coming trials”, said Dr Ross.

Salmon Tasmania CEO, Luke Martin, said “We are the one industry that is showing leadership in responding to the threats to the skate amongst a myriad of inputs into the harbour and

we are proud of the teams of scientists and operational crews who are leading the charge.

“The project will cost upward of \$7 million over the next two-years and represented the industry’s major contribution to the Maugean Skate Conservation Recovery Plan. We stand up for a responsible and science led aquaculture industry that is so critical to Tasmania’s economy and hundreds of Tasmanian families said Mr Martin.

“Our objective is to test whether the MHOP could form part of a long-term strategy to improve the Macquarie Harbour environment for the skate, while responding to the challenge of warming waters and other climatic factors.

“At a minimum, we aim to offset the total oxygen drawdown of our own salmon aquaculture activities in the Harbour, and further reduce the impact of our operations on the environment.”

“Whilst initial trials will use diesel to run the equipment, 100% of diesel used will be offset through carbon initiatives and once proven, we will be seeking a long-term renewable energy source.

“With farmed salmon being one of the world’s most carbon friendly proteins, the importance of the success of our industry should not be understated,” said Mr Martin.

## ABOUT OUR EPBC SUBMISSION

Salmon Tasmania has publicly released its submission to the Federal Government’s review of a 2012 decision on salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour.

The Submission details clearly that there is no scientific evidence that demonstrates removing aquaculture from Macquarie Harbour will ensure the future of the Maugean skate in

its endemic habitat, and there is absolutely no legal justification for the Australian Government to reverse its 2012 decision on salmon farming in the harbour.

The submission also includes new scientific analysis demonstrating the minimal impact of aquaculture on oxygen levels in the natural environment for the Skate.

SCAN TO READ THE SUBMISSION



OR GO TO:

[SALMONTASMANIA.AU/SUBMISSION](http://SALMONTASMANIA.AU/SUBMISSION)

SCAN TO WATCH THE VIDEO



OR GO TO:

[BIT.LY/MHOP](http://BIT.LY/MHOP)



# Taking flight at Queenstown airport

The rarely used Queenstown airport came to life last weekend with planes flying all over the countryside. These were of course radio controlled flying machines, but that didn't take away from the fun watching them zoom around the airport with the mountains in the background.

Members of the Northwest Aeromodellers club took the trip down from the top of the state to come and fly their aircraft and were joined by Steve from Queenstown who has been flying these aeronautical masterpieces for many years. Steve apparently has a Boeing 737 as well so I am very much looking forward to seeing that one in the air at some stage (subtle hint there Steve...),

If you are interested in building, flying or just watching, contact the Northwest Aeromodellers on facebook.

I can't wait until they come back and fly some more.

**Ed**

*Photos by Alan Jennison*



*Members of the Northwest Aeromodellers club, left to right, Anthony, Derril, John, Heath and Steve from Queenstown on the right.*



**LABOR WILL  
PROVIDE MORE  
AFFORDABLE  
CHILDCARE  
SO PARENTS CAN  
GO TO WORK AND  
PAY THE BILLS.**

**DANIELLE  
KIDD**

LABOR CANDIDATE FOR BRADDON

It's time for

**A Better  
Future** 



Tasmanian  
**Labor**

Authorised by Jarryd Moore, L2/63 Salamanca Place, Hobart 7000



Rosebery Mine

# Community Newsletter

March 2024



Image: L-R Matthew Phillips, Faith Coulson, Xander Scott

## Rosebery Mine welcomes new apprentices

MMG's Rosebery Mine is future proofing its workforce to prepare for new and emerging technologies.

Faith Coulson, Matthew Phillips and Xander Scott recently started their 4-year electrotechnology apprenticeship.

The trio will work a 7/7 roster while studying their Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician at TAFE.

MMG Rosebery provides employment opportunities through cadetships, apprenticeships, graduate and vacation student programs.

## Celebrating Rosebery

MMG Rosebery was proud to once again sponsor the Rosebery festival, in its 31st year.

The event which ran from the 15th- 18th February provided an opportunity for locals to get some insights into mining.

Our people took locals on bus tours, where they discussed current mining practices, changing technologies, the community history of Rosebery and saw the 2/5 tailings storage facility.

Thank you to everyone involved in the tours.



Image: Tour of Rosebery Mine

## MetFest Tasmania

MMG Rosebery's Manager - Surface Operations Laura Moore and Metallurgist Katie Ramage presented at this year's MetFest Tasmania event held in Burnie.

The event run by AusIMM brought together industry specialists and local metallurgists from across the state.

Laura provided participants with an overview of Rosebery Mine with Katie then presenting on our acid installation for pH control and the success that we've had with it.



Image: MMG's Laura Moore at Metfest



Image: MMG's Katie Ramage at Metfest

## MMG pop up shop

Thank you to all the Rosebery locals that came down to speak with us at our pop-up store late last month. It was a great opportunity to catch up with our local community and discuss what's happening across the mine.



## Don Rocks

Many people ask me "What does a Geologist Do?" At Rosebery Mine, the geologists look at where the rocks are, that have mineralisation in them to mine from underground.

To do this, we map the ground, locating what we can see on the surface, then we diamond drill those parts that look good. Using this information, we can build a 3D map, and the mining engineers work out how and when we can get those good rocks out of the ground.

1800 767 664

ROSCOMMUNITY@MMG.COM

MMG.COM/HOME/ROSEBERYFUTURE

MMG.COM/CAREERS

# PressWEST workshop held on February weekend

PressWEST, the Queenstown Art Centre held its first workshop for 2024 on the weekend of 23/25 February. Titled 'Ecotone- West Coast Transformational zones' the workshop unfolded across five sessions with the emphasis on the art techniques of painting and collage. A Friday evening launch and exhibition was attended by 50 plus including West Coast Council's Deputy Mayor Robert Butterfield.

Tutors for the workshop included 2023 Glover prize winning artist Jo Chew with support from painters Amber Koroluk-Stephenson, Anne Morrison and George Kennedy. The participants were local and intrastate artists coming together to create new work in response to the 'Ecotone' title.

Ecotone is a term coined in the 19th Century by the naturalist Alfred Wallace to describe the 'zone' where two biological communities meet and integrate. The 'tussle' between rainfor-

est and eucalyptus species in the mountains and valleys of the West Coast is an example of this concept. The workshop developed this concept as a metaphor for both micro and macro aspects of the West Coast environment.

Local business provided great support. Joy from the Paragon cooked several great meals, Neil drove the RoamWild bus to take us on a field trip to Zara's Linda Hotel Cafe and Emma and Mark from Moonscape Cafe were their immaculate hospitable selves. Generous support from Arts Tasmania and the West Coast council has enabled the 2024 program.

Forthcoming workshops include drawing with local artist Jenny Groves coordinating in March and a 'Soft Sculpture' workshop with Rosebery artist Grace Garton in April. Contact Helena at [presswesttas@gmail.com](mailto:presswesttas@gmail.com) for more information



## Thank you Ruth, for all your hard work and service

Long serving Volunteer Ruth Mawer has retired after serving on the Rosebery Development Association Committee for over 25 years.

She isn't actually sure how long she has been supporting the efforts of the Development Association but has loved what they have achieved over the years.

She has served as President and Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Project manager and member.

Of all the programs that have been supported by the Rosebery Development Association, Ruth said that her love of history made volunteering at the Rosebery Heritage Centre the best place to volunteer as she enjoyed interacting with the Community and visitors to the Centre and sharing the history of Rosebery with them.

When asked what was the best thing she could remember the Development Association doing, she mentioned that the Development Association were instrumental in providing the seats, tables and shelters on the "Old bottom pub block" and worked with the Council to get a BBQ there for everyone's use.

In her retirement she is looking forward to her Art Journalling and Travelling, her first trip is to the UK and Ireland in May this year.

Ruth wishes the RDAI well with their new Committee and where ever they go from here.

Jo Bracken the new President and Chairperson is pictured with Ruth (at left), who was given a certificate of appreciation and flowers on her retirement.



## CAREER, EDUCATION & TRAINING SUPPORT SESSIONS

Looking for work?  
Not sure on the next steps?  
Want to upskill through study or training?  
Are you looking for a different career path?  
Re-entering the workforce?

## JUMP INTO THE UNKNOWN WITH WEST NORTH WEST WORKING



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

TULLAH / ROSEBERY / ZEEHAN  
QUEENSTOWN / STRAHAN

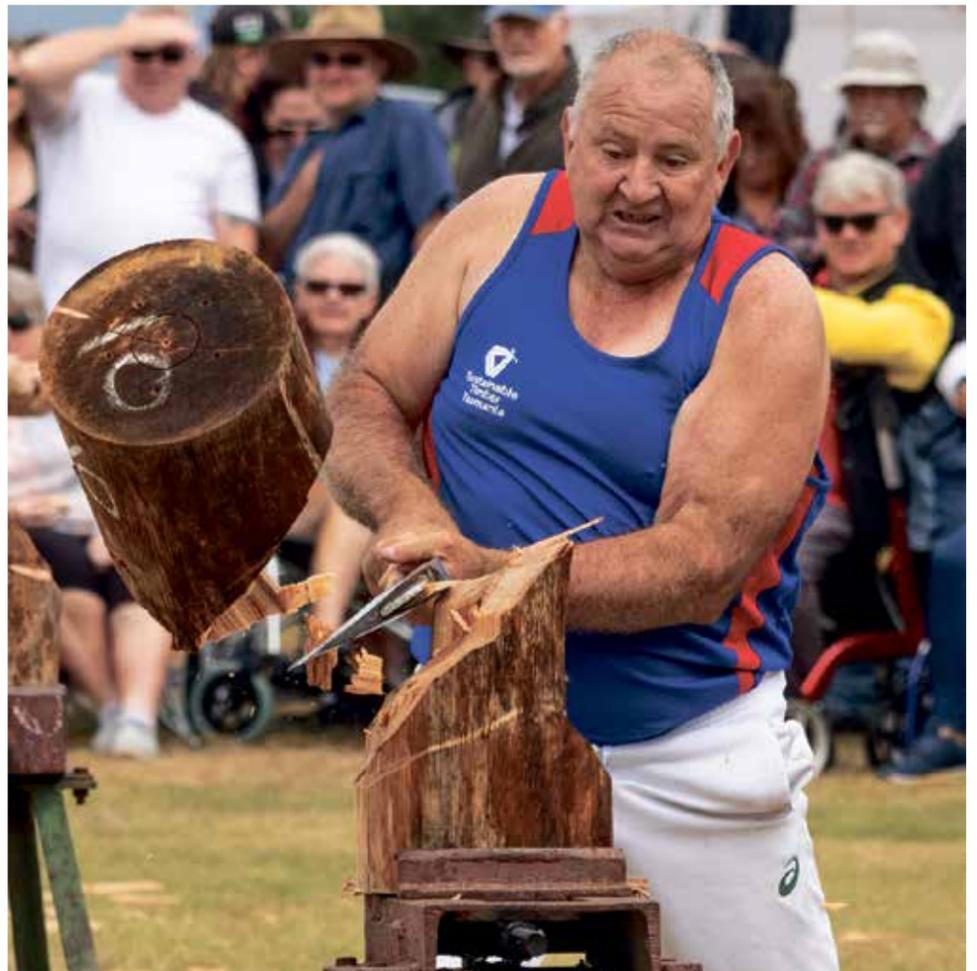


# Waratah Woodchopping Carnival

I recently dropped out to Waratah for the woodchopping carnival and had a great day talking to people and taking photos. Make sure to put this one in your calendar for next year as this is an event that should not be missed. With steam engine rides for the kids, lots of food to choose from, a car show, market stalls and of course woodchopping, it makes for a really fun day out. It's not just chopping wood with axes

though as there are singles and doubles (Jack & Jill) sawing competitions and chainsawing competitions. These people are fit and tough and slice through their logs in no time. As usual, I will let the photos tell the story and hope to see you all there next year.

*Ed*  
**Photos by Alan Jennison**



ADVERTISEMENT



## Roger Jaensch

Liberal Member for **Braddon**

Vote 1 and vote 2-7 for the other Liberal candidates in the order of your choice.

I support the

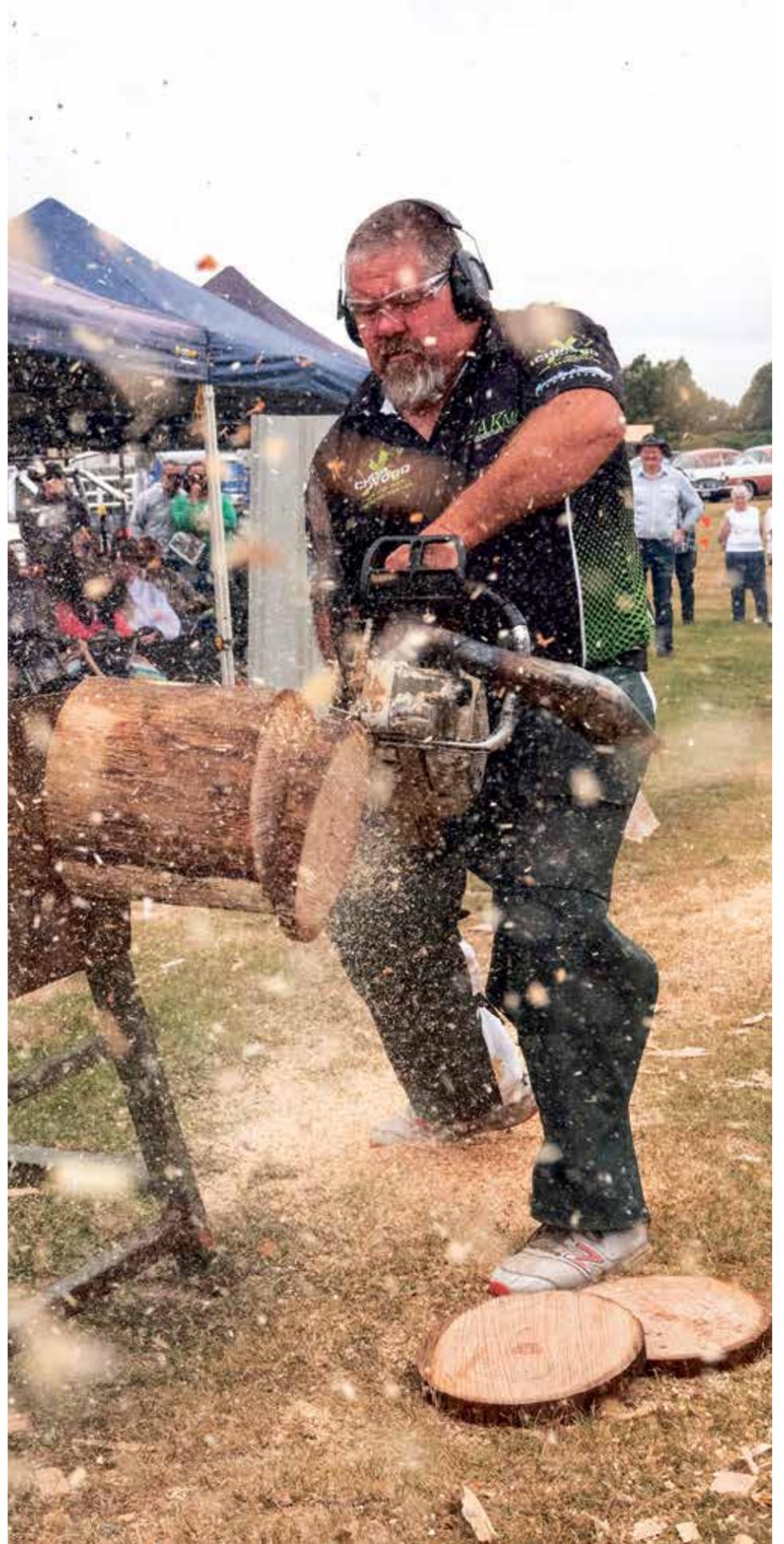
West Coast,

its community, economy and environment.



Authorised by P. Coulson, 185 Invermay Rd, Invermay TAS 7248.

# Waratah Woodchopping Carnival



Visiting the West Coast  
on Thursday, March 28th

As your local Member, please contact me  
if I can be of assistance 64308400  
or [murchison@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:murchison@parliament.tas.gov.au)  
32 Goldie Street, Wynyard  
[www.ruthforrest.com.au](http://www.ruthforrest.com.au)



Hon.

**Ruth Forrest** MLC

Independent Member for Murchison

# Liberal's strong plan to revitalise the West Coast

A majority Liberal Government has a plan to revitalise the West Coast, with the single largest suite of measures for the West Coast in a generation.

"The West Coast has been through the wringer, with Labor threatening to shut Macquarie Harbour aquaculture, and 200 jobs lost at Avebury Mine," Premier Jeremy Rockliff said.

"We want to end this uncertainty, and restore confidence to the West Coast so it can continue to thrive for generations to come.

"As part of our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, we will back in the West with the single largest suite of measures in a generation.

"We will back its competitive strengths from aquaculture to mining to forestry.

"My first commitment is that Macquarie Harbour will not shut on our watch, we will also unlock native forests to support sawmillers and invest in new mining opportunities, including standing up for Mt Lyell.

"We will invest \$5 million into the recently announced Western Tasmania Strategic Regional Partnership, that will shape our investment for the next decade.

"This includes \$3 million for Key Worker Accommodation and \$2 million for a new Rosebery Emergency Services Hub.

"Key roads and safety upgrades will also be a priority of our Revitalise the Region investments.

"We will provide \$10 million for improvements to the Murchison and Zeehan Highways, \$10 million towards the Ridgley Highway, and \$19 million to improve the Lyell Highway.

"Having reliable health services is critical to our regions. We will upgrade telehealth at the West Coast District Hospital, recruit two new community paramedics, and extend our partnership with the Royal Flying Doctor service to fund the regional dental services.

"We will work with the West Coast Council on its plan to adapt the Rosebery Health Care Centre to deliver outreach health services and the Federal Labor Government for more aged care beds on the West Coast.

"Tourism will be championed too, with an additional \$600,000 for the Zeehan Heritage Centre, over three years to 2028, to continue to manage and maintain its unique collection of mining heritage that helped build Tasmania.

"My Government is committed to ensuring that the West Coast gets as much as it gives to our State, and that's what this Revitalising our Regions package will deliver."

# Labor's plan to boost our regional teacher workforce

A Rebecca White Labor Government will act to improve educational outcomes with a plan for the recruitment and retention of high-quality teaching staff in regional government schools.

Josh Willie, Shadow Minister for Education said "Labor's plan will broaden incentive payments from eight isolated, rural and regional schools to a total of 40, and increase the amounts of incentive annual payments currently paid to rural and regional teachers.

A Labor Government will also provide regional housing incentives, with stamp duty waivers on buying a home in a regional area, in return for a regional teaching commitment, as well as providing more rental accommodation dedicated to key workers, including teachers.

With a teacher shortage impacting every state, the Federal Government's National Teacher Workforce Action Plan is expected to lift the number of graduates to meet demand, but there is still a need for experienced educators, particularly in regional and hard-to-staff locations.

Braddon Labor candidate, Danielle Kidd, who has worked across the region supporting people to access employment, education and training opportunities, said teachers were often left distressed because of their limited time to offer students information and experiences to help them make decisions about their future.

"Our teachers do an amazing job but right now they have a lot on their plate," Ms Kidd said.

"This initiative will enable teachers to become ingrained within the community they are working and allow them to take time and ensure students are equipped with valuable skills to make them job-ready."

Fast facts – Labor's plan to boost regional teacher workforce

- Broaden annual incentive payments from eight to 40 isolated, regional and rural schools
- Increase rural and regional teach incentive annual payments
- Provide stamp duty waivers on buying a home in a regional area in return for regional teaching commitment
- Provide more rental accommodation to teachers

Schools to benefit in North West/ West

- King Island District High School
- Mountain Heights High School
- Redpa Primary School
- Rosebery District High School
- Strahan Primary School
- Zeehan Primary School
- Edith Creek Primary School
- Forest Primary School
- Mole Creek Primary School
- Smithton Primary School
- Smithton High School
- Stanley Primary School
- Wilmot Primary School

"I have loved seeing all of my teachers and friends again.  
Bailey (Grade 6)



"School has been dramatic, crazy and super fun. I have enjoyed learning about how to write persuasive texts again and how to solve maths problems by using the written algorithm. My favourite part of the day is listening to Miss Raimondo read our class novel which is called 'Gangsta Granny by David Walliams'."  
Stevie (Grade 6)



"I have enjoyed drawing at school and my favorite thing to do is play with my friends. I have learned how to make pizza"  
Ariana (Prep)



Four weeks have already passed here at Rosebery District School and students have been settling into the new school year. Here are some photos and quotes from students as they share their thoughts and experiences of the first few weeks of school this year.

"I have been enjoying HASS with Miss Pat and some science. I have been looking forward to having a good year with friends and class mates."  
Ruby (Grade 7)



"It's been amazing getting to know my new routines and learning activities. I really like how nice people are in Team 3-6. My favourite thing to do in the class is Maths."  
Sam (Grade 3)



"I have enjoyed learning at school. I like getting food from the canteen and playing with my friends."  
Lorelei (Prep)



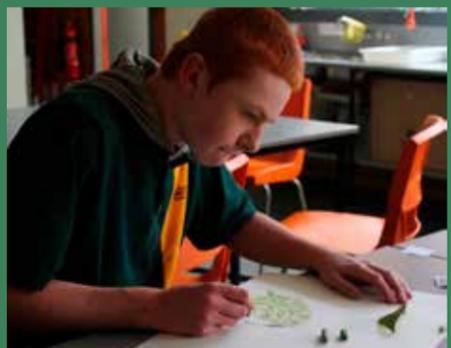
"I have been enjoying P.E. We learned how to play volleyball."  
Blaine (Year 10)



"I have enjoyed learning in all subjects."  
Zavier (Year 9)



"I have enjoyed meeting new people. I have really liked learning about history."  
Ryan (Grade 8)



# A Teepookana train treat

Who am I to argue when I get invited to take a trip on the newly opened West Coast Wilderness Railways trip out to Teepookana?

Smoked salmon, pumpkin scones, wine, great company and a day 'click-clacking' along the rails to this historic township area make for a great day out.

The journey is a 2.5 hour experience that stops at Lower Landing Station on the banks of the King River for approximately 45-60 minutes.

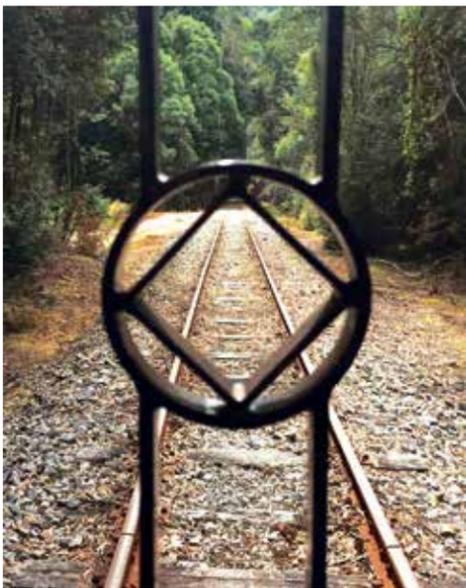
The commentary has been redeveloped to tell the story of the once thriving port of Teepookana and how life would have looked for those that lived out along the line

At Lower Landing Station passengers can read more about life at Teepookana and Camp Spur or head down to the riverbank to chat with WCWR guides about the local flora

Teepookana and the King journeys are led by heritage Drewry locomotives and depart five days a week throughout the shoulder and peak seasons and three days a week throughout low season (journeys depart Queenstown on the 'off days', ensuring up to six departures a week across the business throughout low season).

WCWR has launched the timetable for the remainder of 2024 and intends to run Teepookana and the King through until April 2025.

WCWR is currently in discussions with the Tasmanian State Government regarding funding of work needed to reopen the more remote sections of the line.



## From the old to the new, spotted in Zeehan recently

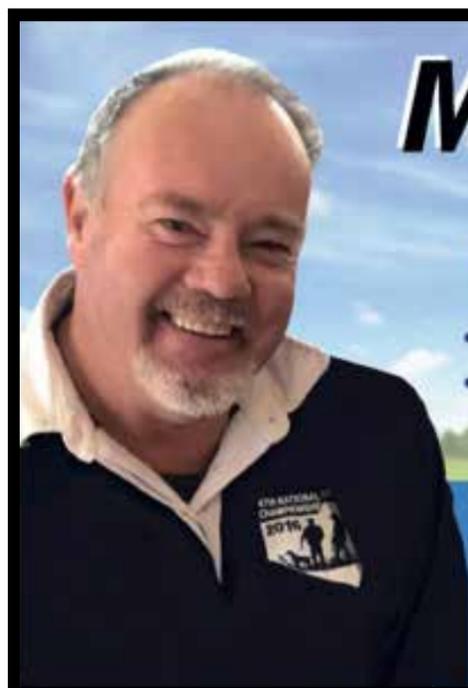


# parkrun Zeehan is off and running



Zeehan Golf Club parkrun was officially launched on the 10th February and was an immediate hit with the parkrun fraternity. Approximately fifty people turned up to run, walk and volunteer for the start of the regular Saturday morning parkrun.

One of only a handful of parkruns beginning with the letter Z in the world, this is the latest in over 2300 parkruns in over 22 countries around the globe. Some parkrun fans travel the world to run the letters of the alphabet! Those that participate even have their own language to describe the runs and how many and where they have run. What are you waiting for? Get into parkrun!

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- # No Marinus link
- # No Robins Island wind farm
- # Abolish land tax on second property for Tasmanians only
- # Medic helicopter for NorthWest/ West Coast
- # Supporting Mining, Fishing and Timber industries

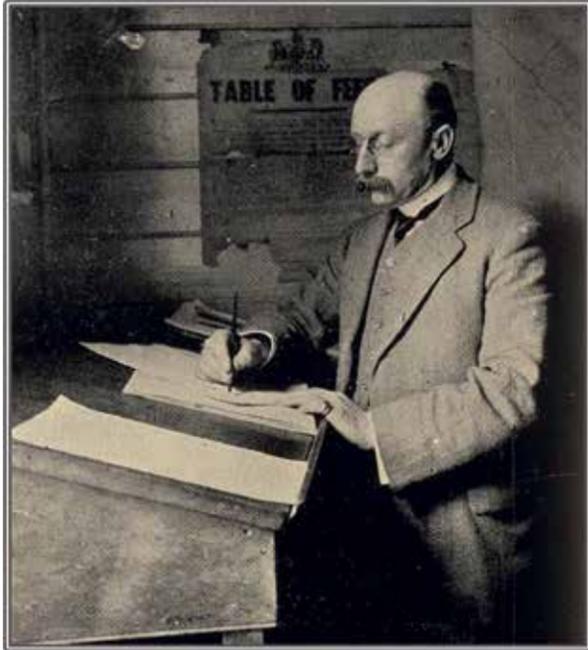
authorised by Lorraine Bennett, 536 main road Granton

# Tales from a Zeehan graveyard

## MAN'S BODY FOUND AT ZEEHAN RACECOURSE. DEATH BY HIS OWN HAND

Mr. Everard Vaughan Goldsmid held many responsible positions at Zeehan, including Registrar of the Court of Requests; Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Commissioner of the Supreme Court; Coroner; Registrar of the Court of Mines; Clerk of Petty Sessions; Chairman of the Zeehan Fire Brigade; Justice of the Peace and Secretary of the local Masonic Lodge.

On Thursday, February 26, 1914, aged



57, he took his own life.

The deceased was born in Edinburgh in 1857, into a well-to-do military family and was educated at Harrow and Sandhurst. He served with the British Army in India where he suffered sunstroke, which caused him to leave the army, and eventually he came to Australia. He was married with two sons and had lived on the West Coast since 1890.

A coronial enquiry was held the next afternoon.

The first witness called was Sergeant Patrick Francis Lonergan, who deposed that he last spoke to the deceased in his office in the Courthouse buildings on Thursday morning about 9:30am. The deceased appeared to be in his usual state of health. At about 10:00am he saw the deceased again when he was coming away from the Post Office and going in the direction of the Council Chambers. That was the last time the witness saw

him alive.

The witness returned to his office at about 2:25pm where he found a letter on his writing pad. The letter read as follows: "Zeehan, February 26, 1914. Sergeant Lonergan, Zeehan.

'Sir, You will find me in the grandstand at the racecourse. You had better send a couple of men out, as in all probability they will have to bring my corpse in. Please deliver the letters found in my pockets, and break the news as gently as you can to my wife. Yours faithfully, E.V. GOLDSMID.'

After reading this he rang Dr. Best, Mr A.J. Douglas (a solicitor), and Mr Clements (a Carter), and together they went to the racecourse, arriving there at about 3:30pm. They found the body of the deceased in a room underneath the grandstand. He appeared to have died without any struggle. On the left side within arm's length, there was a bottle and

a glass. The glass contained a small amount of liquid, and the bottle also contained a small quantity of liquid. The bottle was labelled "Solution of Potassium Cyanide, 10. A.P. Miller and Son, Pharmaceutical Chemists, Zeehan."

In the presence of Dr. Best, Mr Douglas, and Constable Lawther, the witness searched the deceased's body where he found the following property: Two gold rings on left little finger, an empty whisky flask, two pipes in cases, box of matches, and tobacco pouch, memorandum book and pencil, notice meeting Fire Brigade Board, Zeehan, a watch with a gold double chain with an empty sovereign purse attached, pencil, 9s 3d. in silver and 3d. in copper, two keys, penknife, silver matchbox, three Yale keys, one fountain pen, one card case containing visiting card, and a note about some public moneys received, pair of scissors, two pairs spectacles in cases, "The Zeehan

and Dundas Herald" of February 26, 1914, four office keys on chain, one silk handkerchief, one letter addressed to Mrs Goldsmid, one addressed to J.S. Munro, and two to A.J. Douglas. On a window



sill he found a writing pad and envelope.

Alban Best, medical practitioner, deposed that on arrival at the racecourse he saw the body of the deceased. There were no marks of violence and he felt the deceased had not been dead for more than a few hours. From the amount of poison the bottle would have contained he believed that death would have taken place in a matter of minutes. There were indications consistent with cyanide poisoning.

Hedley Todd, chemist, deposed that on January 31 he had sold Mr Goldsmid one ounce of 10 per cent. cyanide potassium solution. Deceased said he wanted the solution to remove stains caused by marking ink. He thought ingesting 30 minims (about two millilitres) of the solution would cause death.

Hector Vistarini, barman at the Caledonian Hotel, deposed he last saw deceased alive between 9:00 and 9:30 on the morning of the 26th when he supplied him with a shilling's worth of whisky in a flask. Deceased appeared to be the same as usual.

Frederick Batt, a Tasmanian Government audit inspector, deposed he last saw deceased alive about 10:30 a.m. on February 26 at his office in the Courthouse. Deceased appeared

to be in good health and in his normal condition.

George Steadman, Council foreman, stated he saw deceased at about 10:30am on the day of his death on the King

Extended Hill. As he passed witness he said "Good morning, Steadman," and appeared to be as usual. Deceased was carrying a book or a writing pad. He was going in the direction of Wilson Street, which led towards the racecourse.

William Wade, Tasmanian Government Railway Department porter, deposed he saw deceased pass Raynah Junction on the line between Zeehan and Dundas between 11:00 and 11:30. Saw him turn off the line and go in the direction of the racecourse.

The evidence all pointed to the suicide of Mr Goldsmid and the Coroner agreed. The funeral took place on the following Sunday afternoon.

Indeed, an extremely mysterious, sudden and sad demise of a very well respected citizen of early Zeehan.

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



# Giovanna Simpson

Liberal for Braddon

VOTE 1

Tasmanian Liberals

Authorised by P. Coulson, 185 Invermay Rd, Invermay TAS 7248

# STUDY HUB AUTUMN UPDATE

It's been a pretty exciting February with heaps happening at the Study Hub. We've run some diverse workshops over the month including snake handling (!), Leadership Essentials and First Aid.

We have to say that every year we dread having our Snake Handling instructor Chris visit us with his venomous reptiles. Staff squeal and run at the sight of them but at the same time we acknowledge the need to respect our native critters – we'd just prefer to respect them from far far away! Well done to everyone who participated, we were in awe of you all – especially those of you quaking in your boots at the beginning!

First Aid with Derek is always fun and participants come away with new knowledge and skills. In our remote region, we feel that EVERYBODY needs practical first aid skills. Scary, but true – your skills could save the life of someone near and dear to you until an ambulance arrives. Next course is April 4. Keep an eye on our Facebook for details.

With so many emerging leaders in the workplace, the Leadership Essentials course run by Transtegic Workforce Development provided introductory leadership principles, skills, knowledge, confidence and a basic toolkit to effectively lead others.

We had a good turnout and look

forward to running small related workshops across the year.

Our Childcare students are going really well. Many of them have completed placement and some have successfully gained jobs before their course has even finished. We are so proud of their dedication to the course and their creative input. Big claps from us!

What are you planning to study this year? There are so many interesting, diverse courses out there ranging from Certificates to Masters degrees from education providers Australia wide, there's bound to be one that stands out and shouts "PICK ME!" If you have an interest, but not sure what to do next we can sit down with you one on one and offer different options.

Are you already studying? The Study

Hub is here to support your education journey with friendly, knowledgeable staff on hand to offer academic support and student services.

Don't forget UTAS also has a Regional Learning Officer based at the Study Hub for all UTAS questions.

Please contact us for any study requirements. It's great to see so many registered Hub users and we celebrate everyone's achievements, graduations and disciplined commitment to study.

**Nicky – Regional Manager**  
[nicky@studyhubwestcoast.com.au](mailto:nicky@studyhubwestcoast.com.au)  
**Yolande – Student Services Coordinator**  
[yolande@studyhubwestcoast.com.au](mailto:yolande@studyhubwestcoast.com.au)



## They breed em tough on the west coast

**BITTEN BY A SNAKE.**  
**A HEROIC REMEDY.**  
**ZEEHAN, Friday.**  
 A middle aged woman named Smith, living at Trial Harbour, was bitten by a snake to-day on the finger while at a creek washing. The snake clung to the finger, but Mrs. Smith knocked it off with a stick, and, hastening to the house close by, requested her father to chop the finger off, which he did with a tomahawk. She then started to ride to Zeehan on horseback, a distance of 12 miles, and attended at the hospital. At the present time (9.45) she is very sleepy, and has to be kept walking about, but fatal consequences are not feared, as directly the bite occurred she tied a string tightly round the finger and wrist. When she arrived at Zeehan she was very weak from loss of blood.

Launceston Examiner, December 1897

**DESPERATE REMEDY**  
**Shot Off Top of Own Finger**  
**After Snake Had Bitten**  
 By promptly shooting off the top of his finger, Howard Bennett, of Zeehan, probably saved his life when bitten by a snake.  
 When Bennett, working at Powell's siding, on the Strahan line, entered his bunk after two days' absence at home over the week-end, he noticed a rat in a trap set under his bunk. He reached down, and was bitten on the third finger of his right hand by a snake.  
 Bennett was alone at the time, so immediately seized a shot gun and removed the top of the finger. He was later conveyed to hospital.

Launceston Examiner, December 1932



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**Vonette Mead** *Vote* **1**

Liberal Member for **Braddon**

and vote 2-7 for the other Liberal candidates in the order of your choice.

Tasmanian Liberals

Authorised by P. Coulson, 185 Invermay Rd, Invermay TAS 7248.

# Festival time again at Rosebery

The photos on this page show just how much fun you can have at the Rosebery Festival. With markets, facepainting, rides, a pet show, demonstrations, stalls and a colour run there is always something for everyone. Enjoy the photos and see how many friends you can spot in them. Will we see YOU there next year?

*Photos by Alan Jennison*



# WEST COAST-DIRECTORY-WHERE TO EAT?

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Hours*

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Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Thursday	8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Friday	8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Saturday	8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Sunday	8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

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**Now open in  
Zeehan!**

The West Coast history in miniature display 'Western Echoes' is still a work in progress but now open. Come along and see the dioramas, play with the trains and discover the West Coast's history like you have never seen it before

**Opposite the Heritage Centre  
museum in Zeehan  
Entry is FREE**

**STANLEY  
SEAFOOD**

Delivering FRESH FISH to the West Coast every 2nd Thursday

18th January,  
15th & 29th Feb

**Pickup locations & times**

Waratah - 9 - 9.30am Opposite Roadhouse  
Tullah 10 - 10.30am Opposite Tullah Cottage  
Rosebery 11am - 12pm Opposite Top Pub  
Zeehan 12.30 - 1.30pm  
In front of Heemskirk Motor Lodge  
Queenstown 2 - 3pm Train Station Carpark  
Strahan 4 - 5pm Carpark - Strahan Woodworks

Orders welcome by text to:

**0419 271 136**

Follow us on facebook

**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 here 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.**



**RAILWAY EXPRESS  
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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 it's events.

We look forward to assisting you on your next visit!

30 Orr Street, Queenstown,  
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**BOOK A LOOK  
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If the bookshop is closed and you're keen to browse, please call Rick on 0499 848 893.

Or you can always catch us open 12-3pm Wednesday to Friday.  
19 Orr Street, Queenstown TAS  
Email missingtiger@outlook.com

**WEST COAST TAS**

## WEST COAST SNIPPETS

### Having trouble with TV reception lately?

Works are currently under way on the tower at MT Owen that could affect Free to Air TV and ABC Radio, they are installing a new power supply etc, this work is expected to be completed and commence commissioning next week. If you are experiencing issues it is probably not your home installation.

### West Coast MTB Club

We now have a bin installed at the pump track/skate park!  
Thanks West Coast Council!  
We also have a pump there donated by West Coast Ride to get everyone's tyres up to speedy pump track pressures! By all accounts the pump track has been getting plenty of use? Let us know on our facebook page if you've been enjoying it and if you have any feedback for us!

### Missing bayonets

It is with great disappointment & sadness that the Queenstown RSL seeks information regarding the whereabouts of two World War 2 bayonets missing from our Sub Branch. The two Standard issue bayonets for 303 rifles were kindly donated by Ulysses Castle, better known to us locals as Bodgey decades ago. Useful information regarding their removal from the Sub Branch during the period of the 29th of September 2023 to the 2nd of November 2023 can be given directly to Queenstown Police or the Queenstown RSL..



### Friends of Tracks and Tramways update

The Late Mr Joe O'Brien took over the freighting service in the early 1900 until it was decommissioned in 1933. The records show that he always carried spare timber rails to replace broken ones. Not much evidence remains of the timber rails? I'm guessing that after the tramway closure they were taken for fire wood, another reason for their disappearance could be that they became over grown in the natural bush and button grass and became victim to many of bush fires. The photo below shows a straight section of the Tramway formations at the 6 mile straight and some remnants of the old timber rails that had been removed / probably swapped out and were preserved in the button grass Peat .



# WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE COAST?

Canaries for Sale, Queenstown  
phone Brian 0438 634 263

The Central Hotel, Zeehan is open  
Tuesdays from 4.30pm  
and Fridays 4.30 till late  
Drop in for a drink or two. This is YOUR pub!



## 2024 DATES

MEMORIAL HALL, ORR STREET, 11AM-1.30PM

~~SUNDAY  
4 FEBRUARY~~  
LOCAL & VISITING  
STALLHOLDERS

~~SUNDAY  
3 MARCH~~  
LOCAL & VISITING  
STALLHOLDERS

SUNDAY  
7 APRIL  
LOCAL & VISITING  
STALLHOLDERS

SUNDAY  
1 SEPTEMBER  
FATHER'S DAY!

SUNDAY  
6 OCTOBER  
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SUNDAY  
3 NOVEMBER  
LOCAL & VISITING  
STALLHOLDERS

SUNDAY  
8 DECEMBER  
CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

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If you have something happening on the West Coast, please let us know at the Western Echo! [alan@westernecho.news](mailto:alan@westernecho.news)

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## WEST COAST PARISH CATHOLIC CHURCHES MASS TIMES

St. Joseph's, 2 Pontifex Street, Queenstown  
5 pm Saturday vigil  
9:00 am Friday school term  
St. Joseph's, Evans Street, Rosebery  
11:30 am Thursday School term  
St. Fursaeus', Zeehan  
9 am Sunday

## GO BULLDOGS!

It's that time of year again for the Bulldogs to show the West Coast what we are made of. The first game is on the 21st of March at Queenstown. Zeehan Mini League is run by a volunteer committee made up of parents and helpers. In saying that, we're always in need of help with home games, such as canteen, goalkeeping, umpires and scoring, help with training and much more.

If you are able to help please contact Christy



## Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Strahan

11 am, 4th Sunday  
**CONTACT**  
Fr. Arokia Swamy Aruldas  
Administrator  
2 Pontifex Street  
PO Box 272  
Queenstown, TAS 7467  
Phone: 03 64711731  
Email: [westcoast@aohtas.org.au](mailto:westcoast@aohtas.org.au)  
For Pastoral Care Assistance please contact the Administrator

## Tasmania Football

On Monday 18 March, Tasmania Football Club will be hosting six events across Tasmania to launch the Club colours, name, logo, foundation jumper and Founding Member offer.

These events will be a significant milestone for Tasmanians, an opportunity to be a part of the historic unveiling of key elements of your Club.

Events will be held in Devonport, Hobart, Launceston, Oatlands, Queenstown and St Helens, starting at 6pm on 18 March.



## PRACTICE CLOSURE PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Monday 11th March

Please be aware that all four Ochre West Coast Practices will be closed THIS Monday for the 8hr Day Public Holiday. Open as normal from Tuesday 12th @ 9am.



**OCHRE HEALTH**

**Easter Raffle**  
Queenstown crows JUNIORS fundraiser 2024  
\$150 worth of Easter Eggs  
\$1 per ticket  
1 Prize Only  
DRAWN 28TH MARCH

You are cordially invited to celebrate the past 3 decades of The Mighty Queenstown Crows! We would love for you to join us

**DATE:** Friday 12th April  
**TIME:** 7pm for 7:30pm start  
**WHERE:** Queenstown Crows Clubrooms

Come along and celebrate 30 years of the Queenstown Crows Football Club. There will be panels of past and current members talking about their experiences of the club throughout the years.

1994 2024  
First home game of the year will follow the next day against Cuprona. We hope to see you there.

Supper will be provided

Rosebery Development Association  
**AUTUMN MARKET**  
Stallholders wanted  
Rosebery RSL Club  
March 23rd 10am - 2pm  
To book call Jo 0417 849 543  
Or email [joannepowell1972@gmail.com](mailto:joannepowell1972@gmail.com)

**Wanting to join the disability support workforce?**

Starting in Queenstown on the 26th & 27th of March  
With program dates to be announced in other regional areas

**The Program:**

- 2 days a week
- Tuesdays and Wednesdays, over 6 weeks
- Times: 10am to 2:30pm
- Venue: Queenstown Library
- Work Experience within industry organised for you

**NO COST** - This activity is supported by funding from the Australian Government through the Local Jobs Program

Places are limited!  
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Phone: (03) 6339 2813

**KARAOKE KARAOKE**

8:30PM | MARCH 8TH  
FREE ENTRY

TULLAH



# WE SWIM IN QUEENSTOWN



The annual Swimathon was held on Thursday 22nd February, with 27 members of the Queenstown Amateur Swimming Club swimming non-stop for one hour to raise funds for the club. Members took to the 25m & middle pool, swimming many laps before enjoying a sausage from our sausage sizzle.

Awards for Most Laps Swum (25m pool) & Most Money Raised will be announced at the QASC presentation evening at the end of the season. The final tally for funds raised will also be announced at the presentation evening. The Club continues to see its younger swimmers progress through to time trials and achieving their 25m Learn to Swim Certificate.

With the season coming to an end we encourage our swimmers to attend their last lessons for coaches to finalise their Swim & Survive assessments, which members receive their Certificates at our Annual Presentation evening.

The following events left in the season are:

Thursday 14th March - Time trials

Thursday 21st March - Championships session 1

Thursday 28th March - Championships session 2

**CHRISTINE GRAY**

*Photos by Alan Jennison*

