



New bike track really pumping!



In a celebration of community collaboration and commitment to the great outdoors, the Queenstown Pump Track was officially opened on Saturday January the 6th. The opening brought together bike riders and members of the community to mark the completion of a project that was born 100% from the community.

A pump track is a cycling circuit with rollers (undulating bumps), berms (banked turns) and jumps. Unlike traditional biking trails, riders navigate using a pumping motion, propelling themselves forward without pedalling. Pump tracks are a great safe place to develop bike skills for riders of all ages and skill levels, making it a particularly important asset in a com-

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



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

To the Editor.

Mining royalties.

Yes, I agree with what the mayor said wanting 30 percent of the mining royalties returned to the west coast and why not? Take West Zeehan for example, after 140 years of mining we still have open stagnant drains and no sewage, most of the mining royalties have continuously been syphoned off and spent elsewhere and I disagree with what the columnist said about the mining royalties in the Mercury.

The reason we have a declining west coast is because the mines have adopted a 12 hour 4 panel shift rosters and they advertise the jobs as drive in and drive out, 7 on 7 off, so those who travel from far away do nothing other than eat work and sleep, then when rostered off they're gone and they have taken the money with them with very little support for our mining towns.

The locals refer to them as seagulls. So, for the west coasters living elsewhere you ask what they are doing for the mining towns, answer: very little they have become seagulls.

The only way to encourage people with young families back to live on the west coast is for the mines to bring back the 8 hour shifts 40-hour week that will require more employees and more housing. This will be a lot healthier than working a 84 hour week and until that happens, which it won't, the mining towns on the west coast will remain dormant.

The Government should improve services for example Zeehan could do with a full-time residential Doctor a Nursing Home and a fully enclosed heated swimming pool and for the council to stop charging exorbitant amounts of rates and do something about cleaning up west Zeehan.

Simple basic services like that may deter people from leaving and maybe

encourage people to move back, after all Zeehan is the central hub of the west coast and we are surrounded by 4 fully operational and profitable mines. Oh, and one stagnant copper mine.

Grant Hodge Zeehan.

To the Editor.

So it's come to this now.

A 63 year old resident having to mow nature strips to mitigate the control of vermin in our town.

Overgrown and neglected footpaths hide potentially dangerous and hazardous risks like, potholes, depressions, uneven ground, exposed tree roots, and snakes etc.

Our rates increase EVERY YEAR while our council services reduce.

The current WCC does not spend its income from rates, mining royalties etc in a fair and equitable way.

The smaller towns always miss out on funds.

This smacks of hypocrisy as the current major demanded a fairer share of mining royalties for the WCC from the state government.

Our town halls/ footpaths etc are in serious need of maintenance and repair and the public toilets are disgraceful.

The proof that this council thinks little of its own workforce is that a submission to council by its own workforce to employ an OHS officer and an internal training coordinator after the tragic death of a worker recently was rejected.

I have extensive knowledge and experience in both of these roles having worked many years for regional council's and LGAQ.(now retired).

I feel that it's time for ALL rate payers/residents alike to demand a better service from this current council, after all we voted them in to work for the ENTIRE WEST Coast and not just for a couple of towns.

regards. Peter Downey.

New General Manager for West Coast council

The West Coast Council is very pleased to announce that we have secured Ms Ciara Spencer as our next General Manager.

West Coast Mayor, Shane Pitt, said that he was confident that Ms Spencer would make an outstanding leader of the Council.

"Ms Spencer is highly credentialed, having most recently been employed as the Head of the Consular and Crisis Management Division at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade," Mayor Pitt said.

"In her diverse career, Ciara has worked closely with all levels of government, including local government, and I have no doubt that she has the skills and experience necessary to undertake the role of Council General Manager with great success."

Mayor Pitt said that Ms Spencer had grown up on the North West Coast before leaving to further her studies first at the Australian National University, and then Leiden University in the Netherlands.

"It's always great when a high-achieving Tasmanian returns home and we feel so lucky that Ciara has decided to join our West Coast community."

Mayor Pitt paid tribute to outgoing General Manager David Midson.

"David has been a tower of strength in the Council during a period of considerable challenge and uncertainty, including the COVID pandemic and the

current uncertainty about the future of aquaculture in Macquarie Harbour.

"I thank Mr Midson on behalf of our community, and wish him all the best for the future."

Ms Spencer said that she was excited by the opportunities and challenges the position presented.

"In choosing to apply for the role, I was attracted to the strength of the community in the West Coast and the passion of the Council and its staff to deliver on the community's ambition for a dynamic and vibrant future, and a fair go for all.

"While there are a lot of challenges in the West Coast region, particularly in terms of housing, health care and education, each brings with it the opportunity for new ideas and different ways of doing things."

Ciara will be moving to Tasmania with her family, to enjoy the spectacular landscapes, explore more of the West Coast region and spend time with extended family.

Ms Spencer commences in the role in February.



First West Coast parkrun approved for Zeehan

We now have a launch date and an official name for the next parkrun in Tasmania and the first for the West Coast.

Zeehan Golf Club parkrun will launch on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 9:00am, starting at Zeehan Golf Club. It will be only the second parkrun in Australia to start with the letter 'Z' – a real draw card for parkrun tourists (yes that's a thing)!

A couple of trial runs are scheduled for late January iron out any issues with the course. Join the FB group for more details (Proposed Zeehan parkrun).

Now is the time to ensure you are registered and ready for parkrun!

Go to parkrun.com.au to find out how to register and get your barcode.

It is a free, weekly, timed 5km event where you can run, walk or volunteer.

The sustained success of parkrun will come down to the volunteers – around five volunteers are needed each and every week for the event to run. We will have a rotating roster so everyone gets a go and has a break as well. Thank you to those people who have already reached out to pledge their support.



Participating in parkrun can bring so many health and wellbeing benefits – physical, mental and social. The regular and reliable routine of participating in parkrun each and every Saturday can be the perfect cornerstone of a positive new year resolution to be healthier and happier.

We would like to say a big thank our foundation supporters for funding the initial startup costs. Avebury Nickel, MMG, West Coast Council and Hydro Tasmania have all provided generous amounts to ensure this parkrun gets up and running! We also would like to thank Parks & Wildlife for providing permission to operate on their land – our course incorporates part of the Spray tunnel MTB track. Also a huge thanks to the West Coast Council and Zeehan Golf Club for letting us operate in this area and use your facilities.

Watch this space in the next Western Echo edition for a wrap up of the parkrun launch, including photos!

Josh Dean – co-Event Director, Zeehan Golf Club parkrun

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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WCC Annual Plan

Council's Annual Plan and Budget is an important document which guides the work of the Council team over a financial year and sets the resource allocation Council provides to projects and priorities.

It is important in any Annual Plan that priorities are clearly identified and have appropriate resources allocated that allow them to be achieved. The number of priorities or projects that are included in the Annual Plan will be limited to ensure that they are achievable within the financial year. This means that it is important to identify both areas where Council should do more, and areas where Council can do less. New ideas cannot be implemented without finding savings or increasing revenue.

To help guide Council in setting the Annual Plan and Budget, Council invites input from the Community. Priorities and projects should be linked to the West Coast Community Plan 2025 and other strategies adopted by Council. These documents can be found on our website and are available at our office. Ideas not linked to strategies are less likely to be included in the Annual Plan.

Council welcomes input for the questions in the following survey.

Please note there is no longer a separate "budget bid" process. If you have an idea that you think Council should pursue, please have your say now.

To have your say, please complete the survey by 5PM Monday 5th February 2024.



Teepookana ahead!



West Coast Wilderness Railway's summer is steaming ahead with double daily departures of the Lynchford Express undertaken throughout most of January, whilst the Rail and Infrastructure teams ready the Strahan side for departures from February 27, 2024.

Strahan's newest experience, the Teepookana and the King experience will be a 2.5-hour return journey to Lower Landing, serviced by the newly refurbished Drewry Locomotive No. 1 (D1).

"We're excited to be heading back into the rainforest in February and the team are creating new experiences, such as a guided flora walk for passengers at Lower Landing," says Ian Robertson, WCWR General Manager.

"The Lynchford experience from Queenstown has been well received as a heritage rail experience and very busy throughout January, however, there is still demand for a strong wilderness journey and we believe the Strahan experience will fit this niche very well for now," says Mr. Robertson.

The Teepookana and the King experience is scheduled to depart at 10:00am, Monday to Friday from Regatta Point Station. Prices start at \$55 per adult in a Heritage Carriage and \$95 in a Wilderness Carriage.

Work on the middle section of the railway between Lower Landing and Lynchford is ongoing.

Have your say on salmon farming

Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek announced a review of salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour. This review is examining the decision to expand farming in the harbour (although levels are now much lower than at the height of the expansion).

The outcome of the review could have significant negative consequences for Strahan and the West Coast and it is vital that all of us stand up for our community.

The Council will be putting in a submission outlining the impacts of the Ministers decision on our community, but ask all to consider doing the same.

It is important that we the people on the West Coast, those most affected by

her decision have our say, rather than those in the big cities that are noisy but are not impacted.

Submissions close on 2nd February and background information can be found here <https://consult.dceew.gov.au/epbc-macquarie-harbour> submissions can be made here <https://epbcpublicportal.awe.gov.au/.../project-decision/...>

In addition to making a submission you can also share your view with us at Council and we encourage you to talk to your local politicians as well so they know how important this is to you.

It is vital our communities voice is heard on this decision that impacts us.



Child Sexual Abuse Victim - Survivor Advisory Group

The Tasmanian Government is seeking expressions of interest from adult victim-survivors and parents or carers of victim-survivors to form an Advisory Group to inform Tasmania's approach to preventing and responding to child sexual abuse.

The Advisory Group will ensure the perspectives of people with lived experience shape our response to child sexual abuse and our implementation of recommendations from the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's responses to child sexual abuse in institutional settings.

We are seeking up to 12 individuals who will be appointed for a two-year term.



For further information or to register your interest, please visit keepingchildrensafe.tas.gov.au or use QR code.

Applications are open now and close on 19 January 2024.



**Arrival time: 10am****10:30am****Children's bicycle race**

Children must bring their own bicycle and helmet

5-7 year girls

5-7 year boys

8-10 year girls

8-10 year boys

11-14 year girls

11-14 year boys

11:00am**Tiny Tots Footrace**

Girls 4 years and under

Boys 4 years and under

5-7 year girls

5-7 year boys

Treasure Hunt #1

Children under 14 years only

Ladies Gumboot Throwing

(Adults only)

Children's Footrace

8-10 year girls

8-10 year boys

Treasure Hunt #2

Children under 14

years only

Three-Legged Race – Adults

Separate events for women

and men

Junior Footrace

11-14 year girls

11-14 year boys

Sack Race

Separate event for girls and

boys in each age group:

4 years and under

5-7 years

8-10 years

11-14 years

Treasure Hunt #3

Children under 14 years only

Senior Children's Footrace

Girls and boys

15-17 years

Three-Legged Race – children

Separate event for girls and boys in each age group:

5-7 years

8-10 years

11-14 years

Wheelbarrow Race

Separate event for girls and boys in each age group:

5-7 years

8-10 years

11-14 years

Women • Men

Horseshoe Throwing

Separate event for girls and boys in each age group:

4 years and under

5-7 years

8-10 years

11-14 years

Women • Men

Over 50's Footrace

Old Boilers (Women's)

Old Buffers (Men's)

Egg & Spoon Race

Separate event for girls and boys in each age group:

4 years and under

5-7 years

8-10 years

11-14 years

Women • Men

Treasure Hunt #4

Children under 14 years only

1pm**Announcement of the West Coast Spirit Award recipients****Lunch Break & Sandcastle Building Competition****Bicycle Stunt Show**

by *Borys Zagrocki* –
Extreme Bicycle Stunts

2pm**Miss & Master Tiny Tots**

Girls and boys under 5 years

Miss Picnic Girl Junior

Girls 5-9 years

Miss Picnic Girl Senior

Girls 10 years and over

Treasure Hunt #5

Children under 14 years only

West Coast Council Picnic Gift

Open Women's Footrace

Open Men's Footrace

Sponsored by West Coast Council

Stepping the Chain

Separate event for Women & Men.

The chain is a unit of length equal to 66 feet (22 yards). It is subdivided into 100 links or 4 rods. There are 10 chains in a furlong, and 80 chains in one statute mile. In metric terms, it is 20.1168m long. The chain also survives as the length of a cricket pitch, being the distance between the stumps.

Tug O' War

- Teams of six
- Must pre-register at canteen
- Women's teams • Men's teams
- No mixed teams

PLEASE NOTE:

- All times are approximate, and the order of events may change depending on operational needs. Please listen for announcements.
- We may limit the number of people per event (to comply with distancing requirements), run multiple heats (to allow everyone to participate but in smaller groups), or combine and split groups and races as necessary. Please listen to the announcements.
- West Strahan Beach is not patrolled. Keep children within arms reach at all time.
- Raffle tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5. EFTPOS available.

Due to several factors that have delayed works through the middle section of the railway, West Coast Wilderness Railway is unable to operate the full length of the line throughout Summer. Unfortunately, this has also impacted our plans to celebrate the Strahan Picnic with the community in January 2024. We acknowledge and apologise for the disappointment this will cause and remain fully committed to providing services such as the Picnic Train once we are able.

PRESENTING PARTNERS**SPONSORS**

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Strahan Op-Shop

Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing

& Energy Council

The Coffee Shack

The Strahan Village and

Gordon River Cruises

Trevor & Megs Norton

West Coast Wilderness Railway

Westerly Seafoods

Williams Earthmoving

World Heritage Cruises

We sincerely acknowledge and deeply appreciate the generous donations made to the Picnic in loving memory of Bev Mee, Bonnie Reynolds, and Fiona Ebert.

Design donated by Soggy Brolly, Queenstown.
Supported by Western Echo, Zeehan.

New bike track really pumping!

Continued from front page
Photos by Alan Jennison

munity with mountain bike trails on its doorstep. We have constructed this pump track with the local kids in mind and it is best suited to bikes with wheels up to 26 inches.

As well as an important place for skills development, the Pump Track creates a space for residents to come together, stay active, and enjoy the great outdoors. It's an investment in the health and happiness of our community and kids.

The Pump Track is a result of true community collaboration. It's inspiring to see local businesses, community organisations, and the Council come together to create something that will benefit our residents. While the track was primarily delivered by volunteers of the West Coast MTB Club, a large number of local organisations and businesses played a part in its realisation. The Queenstown Lions Club firstly initiated the project, while Williams Earthmoving Queenstown and Gaspersics Contracting played pivotal roles in the construction, providing materials, equipment and expertise. Council is the land owner and have granted a license to the Club to develop and manage the facility. Soggy Broolly contributed the signage design.

We have initially constructed the track out of gravel and hope to take on

feedback from local kids and riders on what they like and what they'd like to see more of. We are lucky in that this approach gives us the creative freedom to modify and add to the track before we seek to get it surfaced down the track hopefully.

The opening of the track saw a remarkable turnout despite the stifling heat. Senator Anne Urquhart attended to officially inaugurate the pump track by cutting a red ribbon, after which a stream of kids on bikes eagerly flooded through. The event featured a celebra-

tory barbecue, generously sponsored by Evans IGA Supermarket, and cooked by the Queenstown Lions Club.

As the Queenstown Pump Track opens to the community, it stands not only as a space for riders but also as a commitment to the development of the West Coast as a mountain biking centre - a vision born of and nurtured by the dedicated spirit of our community.

By Alex Burgess-Norris, West Coast MTB Club

Photo at right, Parks and Wildlife Ranger, Ella Ballhausen brought a display along as part of the Discovery Rangers program. Shown here with Azaria Jackson, 11 from Queenstown



These are some of the people that helped make this happen.
Back row, L-R: Trevor Grigson, Deb Bourke, Aaron Stewart, Ben Webb
Front row, L-R: Pete Hammond, Katy Usher, Alex Burgess-Norris, Jesse Elcombe



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Please contact Amelia to book an appointment

ALTERNATING TUESDAYS
ZEEHAN: Study Hub - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
STRAHAN: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

EVERY WEDNESDAY
ROSEBERY/TULLAH: Available 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
(Community House/Rosebery Library)

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Regional Learning Pathways

WEST COAST & CIRCULAR HEAD



SKILLS | TRAINING | EDUCATION | PATHWAYS | SUCCESS

This trial project was funded in 2023 by Skills Tasmania and aimed to provide opportunities for West Coast and Circular Head residents to discover more about current and emerging learning and work opportunities in the regions, as well as provide supported learning to develop professional skills needed to access and participate in the workforce, regardless of industry.

A series of **free** sessions delivered in familiar, local and accessible venues provided local experiences and learning opportunities relevant to health, caring and social assistance, tourism and hospitality, mining, information technology, agriculture, and renewable energy.

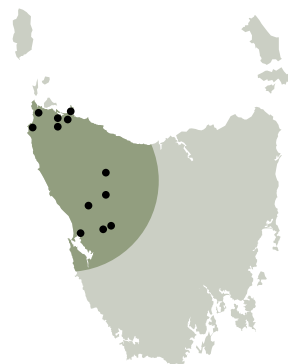


Project details

Who

The project was for West Coast and Circular Head residents aged 18+ who were not currently undertaking learning or work, or those seeking to upskill or enhance work and/or learning opportunities. In 2023 over 80 people registered for the program, with participants from:

- Zeehan
- Queenstown
- Gormanston
- Rosebery
- Strahan
- Smithton
- Forest
- Woolnorth
- Stanley
- Marrawah
- Irishtown
- Waratah



How

To encourage participation, the project team actively engaged with the community to learn directly from residents about what would enable their participation.

Working in partnership with local industries and education providers, such as Study Hub West Coast, Study Centre Circular Head, West North West Working, Libraries Tasmania and the UTAS Short Courses and CODES teams, RLP sessions were delivered using a trauma-informed, strengths-based approach in working with participants to highlight their existing skills, skills they wanted to work on, and the steps to get there.

Reducing barriers to participation was a key focus, with consideration given to factors such as timing and location of sessions, and offering an inclusive, supportive and positive learning environment.

To reframe the commonly held perception that learning must be assessed, sessions did not include formal assessment tasks.

Pathways

The project team worked with participants to map out a pathway for further learning, paid work or volunteering opportunities specific to their interests, and provided further information or referral to other programs, courses, resources or services within the community as needed.

SANDRA

- **February** – enquires about RLP
- **March to July** – attends taster course and career and learning pathway sessions
- Highlights need to improve digital literacy
- **May** – enrolls in TAFE workplace computing course
- Works with RLP and WNWW to find and apply for a job that suits their needs
- **May** – is successful in obtaining goal job
- **August** – becomes a board member of a reputable local organisation

SEHRISH

- **February** – enquires about RLP
- **March to July** – attends taster course and career and learning pathway sessions
- Highlights she doesn't feel confident to study or apply for a job, believing "I'm just a mum of two girls"
- **October** – completes Certificate II in Security
- Confidence grows and begins thinking about a goal job/career
- **October** – enrolls in Certificate II in Early Childhood Education and Care

BEC

- **May** – participates in RLP session
 - Works with RLP to map steps to starting a business
 - Enrolls in Effective Communications short course & attends workshop
- **June** – applies for & receives funding from West Coast Council (Pathway Scholarship Fund – Entrepreneurial Stream)
 - Participates in Mastering Emails workshop
 - Launches small business
- **October** – completes Barista & Café Services training
- **November**
 - Enrolls in Time Management, Planning & Organisation short course & attends workshop
 - Liaises with businesses to stock products across the region



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

"The assistance was amazing and has helped me so much...I thank all of you for your amazing support."

"Thank you for all your help and motivation."

"The course surpassed all my expectations, providing an insightful and enriching overview of the skills and knowledge essential for a successful transition into the professional world."

Project learnings

- There is demand for place-based non-accredited learning opportunities offered in local, accessible and familiar environments as a stepping stone to formal learning.
- The use of social media can be an effective way to promote, recruit and communicate with participants.
- Connecting with and investing in relationships with course participants is powerful in shaping learner confidence and aspirations.
- All people have existing skills that can be useful in new and emerging learning and work opportunities.
- The ability to adapt and be flexible to the changing needs of participants, and the broader community is central in supporting regional Tasmanians in taking their next step.

Project outcomes

The impact this program has had on building learning pathways for regional Tasmanians is reflected in receiving the 2023 Community Engagement Award for the University of Tasmania, Academic Division.

Project evaluations have shown several key outcomes for participants:

- An increase in confidence to seek further learning or paid work because of participating in the program.
- Participants reported learning new and relevant skills.
- Participants broadened their knowledge of the types of skills needed and work available across industries in each region
- Over 95% of participants have gone on to paid work or have enrolled in, or completed, some form of learning/study.

Participants have enrolled/commenced, or completed:

- Certificate II in Security
- Certificate III in Early Childhood and Care
- Certificate III in Aged Care
- Responsible Service of Alcohol
- First Aid
- Workplace computing
- Introduction to Barista Skills
- Introduction to Café Service Skills
- Drone Operations short course
- Drone Safety & Regulations short course
- Effective Communications short course
- Mastering Emails
- Conflict Management & Resolution short course
- Time Management, Planning & Organisation short course
- Resume writing and cover letter skills
- Understanding Dementia short course
- Bachelor of Social Work

Participants have gained employment locally in Retail, Disability, Aged care, Childcare, Agriculture (dairy), and Security.

What next?

This program can be adjusted to suit the needs of any community where there may be barriers to participating in learning and work.

Explore the community, discover the resources, people, skills and knowledge already in place, be flexible in the approach to delivering programs and building partnerships, and a program that is place-based and driven by the people can be successful.

To learn more about how a place-based community learning program can work in your community, contact **Regional Partnerships@utas.edu.au**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/communitytastercoursestasmania>

This project was funded by Skills Tasmania

"I'm just a single mum, what can I do?"

It's a West Coast kind of Christmas



Just a few photos from the Christmas celebrations in Queenstown above with photos by Andrew Bomber Shea of Bombers Photography, (see more of his work on Facebook) .

Below we have Zeehan's Christmas parade and party (photos by Alan Jennison). Lots of smiling faces and happy people, which is the way Christmas should be.





MACQUARIE HARBOUR OXYGENATION PROJECT

Explained

The Tasmanian salmon aquaculture industry will partner with the Australian Government's Fisheries Research & Development Corporation (FRDC), in a major initiative to stimulate dissolved oxygen levels in Macquarie Harbour.

This program is called the Macquarie Harbour Oxygenation Project or MHOP for short.

The Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) will lead the scientific evaluation program to assess the efficacy and environmental response to the oxygenation. This evaluation will be critical in assessing the feasibility and scalability of the system.

The Macquarie Harbour Oxygenation Project (MHOP) will run over two years in a Tasmania-first trial of engineering solutions to enhance oxygen levels in a major waterway.

Salmon Tasmania CEO, Luke Martin, said the project could cost up to \$6 million over the next two years and represented the industry's major contribution to the Maugean Skate Conservation Recovery Plan, and would further elevate the sustainability principles underpinning aquaculture in the harbour.

"The salmon industry has been operating out of Macquarie Harbour for 37 years and the people who work of this industry care deeply about the marine environment they live and work within every day," Mr Martin said.

"The industry has been raising concerns about the decline in the Maugean Skate for some time and funded much of the research into the species.

"It's important to recognise there are a range of factors influencing the oxygen levels in the Harbour and the decline of the skate, which is widely accepted as now extinct in Bathurst Harbour where there is obviously no aquaculture.

"The industry has also more than halved its biomass levels in Macquarie Harbour since 2017, and this has had no apparent impact on the dissolved oxygen levels in the water system. Clearly the issues are far more complex than simply removing the salmon.

Mr Martin said the Australian Government had recently announced funding for the establishment of a captive breeding program, as recommended by its Species Conservation Task Force.

"We will now take the lead in the second priority outlined by that Task Force: an initiative to directly improve the oxygen levels in the harbour to support the Skate and further offset the impact of our operations on the marine environment," Mr Martin said.

"The only thing removing the aquaculture from the Harbour is certain to achieve is the total and unacceptable devastation of the West Coast community, with economic shockwaves and the loss of hundreds of jobs right across Northern and North-West Tasmania. With no surety this would make any difference for the Skate.

"These oxygenation projects are proven to work in other marine environments, and is potentially a long-term solution to improve the harbour for the skate, and secure the economic lifeblood of a number of communities.

"We can strike a balance here between conservation outcomes and the economic and social wellbeing of regional Tasmania, and the industry is determined to lead this path.



TO WATCH THE VIDEO:

Scan the
QR code



OR

go to:

www.bit.ly/MHOP

Tales from a Zeehan graveyard

TALES FROM THE ZEEHAN GENERAL (PIONEER) CEMETERY. MUCH LOVED AND ADMIRERED YOUNG SCHOOL TEACHER PASSES AWAY

On Friday, February 14, 1913, at the Zeehan District Hospital, Eleanor Rosamond Millnott (Nellie) Barker, dearly beloved eldest daughter of Alfred Herbert and Helen Margaret Barker, passed away aged just 19 years and 6 months. She had been taken to the hospital some three weeks before, and had been suffering from a number of ailments, against which she had fought bravely, and, although she had rallied on several occasions, there was very little hope from the beginning of her illness.

Nellie was very well known and liked by a large circle of friends. She was born in Zeehan and educated at the East Zeehan State School. As a child she was an accomplished singer, and like most females of those times, good at sewing. In 1910 she passed the examination entitling her to enter the Teacher Training College at Hobart, where she studied diligently, and after two years there she was appointed teacher at the school where she received her primary education. In addition to this, she was involved with the Presbyterian Church as a Sunday School teacher.

She continued her studies in the matriculation course at the Zeehan School of Mines evening classes. After the University examinations in November 1912, she became ill, and as her condi-

tion gradually became worse, causing grave fears, she was admitted to the Zeehan hospital on the 21st of January where an operation by Dr. Terence Butler revealed the full seriousness of her condition. Despite however, the most unremitting care and nursing, she gradually sank, passing away peacefully at about 6.30 in the evening on Valentine's Day. The exact nature of her illness was not recorded in the newspaper. Nellie was of a sensitive and loving nature, and popular with her students and her fellow teachers.

Nellie's funeral took place on the following Sunday afternoon at 3:30. Before the funeral left her parents' house in Hunter Street (which was in the area of Stops Street and Fowler Street), a short and impressive service was held by the Reverend



C.W.T. Headen, and at the graveside he was assisted in the burial service by the Reverend C.C. Dugan, M.A. The cortege was headed by the members of the United Ancient Order of Druids, (the U.A.O.D.) where her father was an adherent, the pall-bearers being fellow-employees of her father at "The Zeehan and Dundas Herald" office. About sixty children of the Presbyterian Sunday School and scholars from her State School class followed carrying the floral tributes.

The very large attendance of about 500 people (about 10% of the total population of Zeehan at the time) was an eloquent testimony of sympathy with the bereaved parents; and the many beautiful wreaths and crosses of flowers sent by

friends gave silent expression to the general feeling of sorrow at the early demise of a young life so full of promise forever to be unfulfilled.

"The Zeehan and Dundas Herald" compiled a list of 75 families or individuals who sent wreaths, and there were several more from school children whose names they were unable to ascertain.

That evening at the service held in the Presbyterian Church the Reverend C.W.T. Headen again referred in feeling terms to their departed sister, and the "Dead March in Saul" was played by the organist, Miss Jennie Reid, while the congregation remained standing.

Sadly, the exact whereabouts of Nellie's grave isn't known today, due to record keeping errors in the past 110 years. She is certainly buried in what was the Presbyterian section amongst the trees to the left of the main entrance road to the cemetery, but her plot number as recorded is probably incorrect.

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

Congratulations to young West Coast Visitor Centre team leader

Congratulations to our Team Leader Bron, who recently notched up fifteen years working at the West Coast Visitor Information Centre,

Under Bron's leadership the Centre has maintained a strong presence within the Tasmanian tourism sector over the last decade - a massive feat given impacts from covid, budget restraints and changes to how people plan their travel.

Bron's extensive skills and experience ensure the Centre is a key component in the visitor journey, working with operators, regional organisations and government agencies to promote the West Coast as a key destination. Guiding a small (but mighty) team, Bron has placed the Centre as a must

for visitors, providing valuable local tips, quality customer service and help with planning experiences across the West Coast (and Tasmania).

Under Bron's guidance the Centre has become a champion of the award-winning West Coast Tas regional brand, sharing its development with visitors and interested people from across the world, as well developing awesome brand merch and expanding the Centre's services online via the westcoasttas.com website and online store.

Thanks for your service Bron, you're a gem!

Photo at right shows Bron at the West Coast Tas brand launch merchandise stand, 2018



Exciting news in Zeehan

Work has started on the Central Hotel's new beer garden, watch this space for more! Don't forget, the hotel is open on Tuesday and Friday nights too.



Take your heart for a walk

Would you like to join a weekly walking group in Zeehan?

Would you like to improve your heart health and fitness, meet people and explore the local sights? Zeehan has a Heart Foundation walking group called the "Zeehan Seahens". Walks are usually one hour.

For more information, you can:

- (1) Search for "Zeehan Heart Foundation Walking Group" on Facebook
- (2) Emailing Liz Martin: spirobunny@hotmail
- (3) Look at website: <https://walking.heartfoundation.org.au/walking/group/zeehan-seahens>

If you join on the Heart Foundation page, you can win prizes and receive incentives from the Heart Foundation!

We're also starting a gentle exercise group, e.g. tai chi, for people with mobility and joint issues. Get in touch to find out more!

walking.heartfoundation.org.au



Community Newsletter

January 2024



Image: Geo bash Event at Tullah Lodge

Geo Bash Event

MMG Rosebery sponsored the 13th Annual Tasmanian Geoscience Forum

Held in Tullah the purpose of this forum is to gather geoscientists in one place to share their progress in exploration, mining and research.

The event was attended by Senior Manager of Development - Kevin Robinson, Superintendent of Geology – Don MaCansh, Project Geologist – Molly Hazame and Mine Geologist Thialene Guaigu. Superintendent of Exploration, Corey Jago presented.

Presentation School Assemblies

Ensuring quality education, access and life-long learning is important to MMG.

Craig Singleton, Manager of Maintenance Operations attended end of year presentation day at St Joseph's School. to present awards sponsored by MMG Rosebery.

General Manager, Steve Scott, attended and presented MMG Sponsored awards at the Rosebery District School end of year Presentation Day.



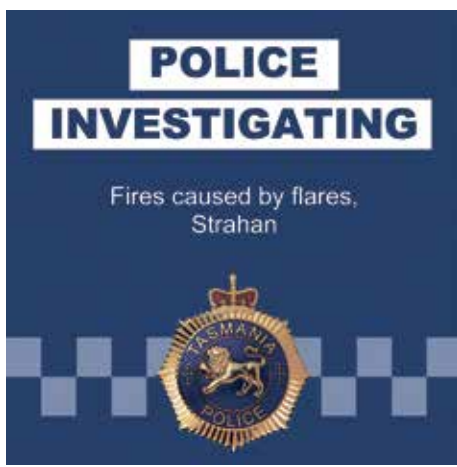
Image: Rosebery's Craig Singleton presenting an award at St Joseph's presentation assembly.

Rosebery Christmas parade

MMG Rosebery took part in the Rosebery Christmas Parade.

Entering their emergency vehicles, driven by ESOs Craig Robinson and Molly Krushka. The parade is organised and sponsored by the Rosebery Lions Club and MMG Rosebery appreciate the opportunity to participate and support these festivities.





Police are investigating three significant fire outbreaks in the Strahan area on New Year's Eve.

Investigations suggest the fires were caused by the unlawful discharging of flares from several locations across Strahan, and the matter is now being investigated by police.

Several of the flares were observed being discharged within the township of Strahan at midnight and from West Strahan beach during the early hours of the morning.

These incidents had the potential to put homes and infrastructure at risk.

Remember, it is an offence to activate an emergency distress flare unless during a genuine emergency.

Anyone with information about those responsible should contact police, with investigators particularly interested in any CCTV or mobile phone footage capturing the offences.

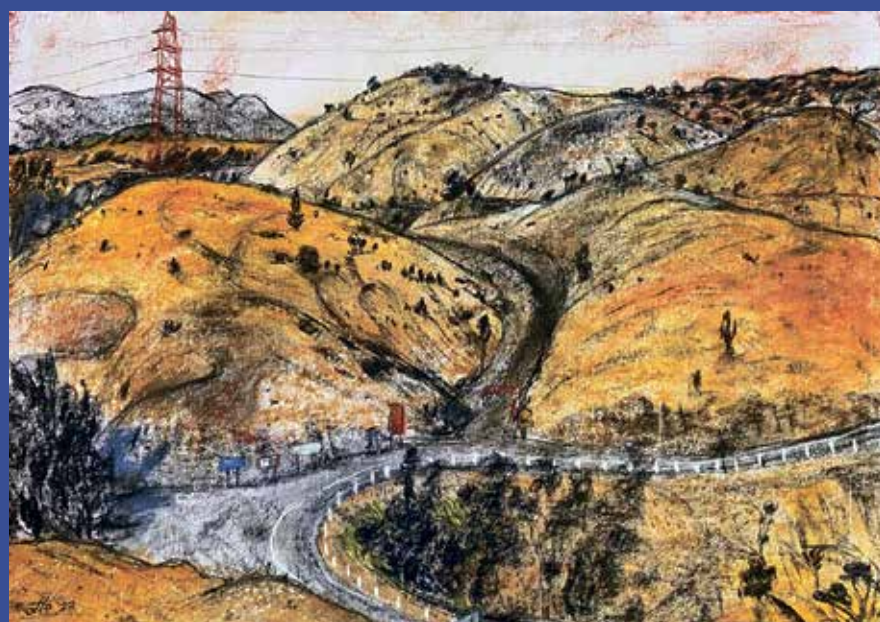
Information can be provided to police on 131 444 or Crime Stoppers Tasmania. You can stay anonymous.

North West Driver Mentor Program Launch

The North West Driver Mentor program will provide two driver mentors based at either end of the region. Their primary role is to enable young people to build or complete their minimum 80 hours driving time required to sit for their P plate test. Once driver mentors are trained, sessions will be booked for young people across the region, including the West Coast. These sessions will commence in the first part of 2024. If you are aged between 16 and 24 and interested in participating in this program to increase your employability skills, please contact West North West Working at www.wnw-working.com.au/north-west-driver-mentor-program/ or YFCC at <https://yfcc.com.au/north-west-driver-mentor-program/> or call 6423 6635.



QBank Gallery artist exhibition



You're invited to QBankGallery to view an exhibition of work created by Otto Macpherson during his residency. The exhibition and open studio is on from 2pm this Friday 12 January in Queenstown.

STUDY HUB WEST COAST/UTAS COLLABORATION CONTINUES

Well, what a year 2023 has been in education and learning on the West Coast! Together Study Hub West Coast and UTAS have tested and piloted lots of great new initiatives this year, including events such as the Mining Roadshow, Careers Expo, lots of training initiatives for industry and community across the West Coast, as well as facilitating and delivering schools outreach activities such as the attendance of the Young Tassie Scientists, Girls and Boys Wellbeing programs and student support workshops. We have also enrolled and supported new students as well as continued to support our ongoing students.

The roll out of childcare and disability support courses, working with the UTAS Regional Pathways program as well as a large number of university staff and academics and registered training organisations has really helped to grow our student success. Our highlight has been sharing these experiences and learning with the West Coast Community – this makes our work so rewarding!

2024 is looking just as exciting and we hope to build on existing programs, events and our schools outreach program as well as developing our King Island spoke, facilitating and delivering more workshops with the assistance of registered trainers, UTAS staff and academics. This year has been so refreshing as we have been approached for so much more assistance in the education and learning space which means our West Coast Community is really engaging and wanting to know more about new learning opportunities.

We congratulate all of our students who have worked tirelessly to achieve

such wonderful goals and to those adult students and children who have graduated this year either as adult graduates or Children's University Graduates – we remain proud of your achievements. We also thank all of our stakeholders, trainers, university colleagues, local industry, local council, our schools and Learning Destinations as well as the West Coast community who supported us in 2023.

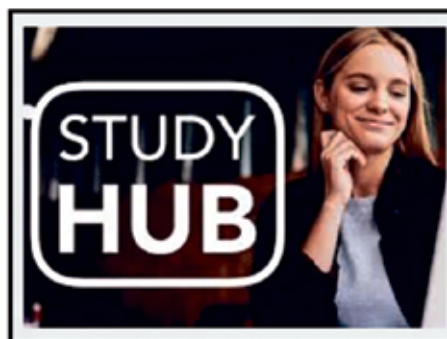
Nicky, Yolande and Belinda (pictured), hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful and safe holiday period and we are keen to return refreshed and ready for new challenges in 2024. Once again, we will be partnering with local service providers, libraries, community groups, schools and West Coast industry and stakeholders to foster and strengthen our existing partnerships as well as grow new partnerships. Our focus remains on respectful and meaningful engagement as we know this is the key to the West Coast Community engaging in learning and education.

If you would like to connect with us about education and learning opportunities on the West Coast then do not hesitate to contact Nicky, Yolande or Belinda. Open for business from Monday, 8 January – can't wait to see you!

Nicky Bolt, Regional Manager Study Hub West Coast
nicky@studyhubwestcoast.com.au;

Yolande Welmans, Student Services Co Ordinator, Study Hub West Coast
yolande@studyhubwestcoast.com.au;

Belinda Martin, Regional Learning Officer, University of Tasmania
belinda.martin@utas.edu.au



**STILL UNSURE ABOUT
WHAT AND WHERE TO
STUDY IN 2024?**

If you're considering studying this year, you're probably feeling a bit overwhelmed by all of the choices available to you.

The best thing to do is speak to one of us at the Study Hub, centrally located in Zeehan. Let us help you explore options so that you can start 2024 feeling positive about your education goals.

Nicky - nicky@studyhubwestcoast.com.au
Yolande - yolande@studyhubwestcoast.com.au
Belinda - belinda.martin@utas.edu.au

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Thursday	8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Friday	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,
1st, 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

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WEST COAST TAS

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Porker packs available. Orders for Full/Half Pork & Lamb are essential

**17th Jan, 14th Feb
13th March, 17th April**

Pickup locations & times
Queenstown 10-11am 7XS Radio Station
Strahan 12-1pm Carpark - opposite Post Office
Zeehan 1.30 - 2pm Carpark Heemskirk Hotel
Rosebery 2.30-3pm opposite Top Pub
Tullah 3.30-4pm opposite Post Office

Email: prestonridgepork@gmail.com
Mobile: 0492 171 373
Facebook: Preston Ridge Free Range Pork



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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.

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AUSSIE BOGAN PARTY

**SATURDAY
JAN 20
6PM TIL LATE
FREE ENTRY**

**AUSSIE BANGERS
PUB GRUB & COLDIES
PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS**

Crikey, drongos! Crack open a stubbie, cos the Empire Hotel's chucken' a fair dinky Aussie Bogan bash on Saturday, Janno the 20th

From 6pm onwards, it's gonna be a top arvo filled with:

- Classic Aussie hit's that'll have you screamin' like Barnsey on a bend-er!
- Pub grub that'll knock your socks off, fair suck of the sav.
- Coldies galore! We'll have enough XXXX, VB and Coopers to fill a swag, so no one's gonna go thirsty
- Prizes for the best dressed bogan! Crack out your flanny and pluggers

let's see who has what it takes to win!

It's gonna be a ripper night of fair dinkum Aussie fun!

PLUS, it's as free as a kookaburra's laugh!

calling all musical enthusiasts!

**held monthly starting:
SUNDAY | 14/01/24
2.30pm - 6.30pm**
REGISTER AT THE DOOR

Open Mic
musicians club
'sharing our musical talents to
develop a vibrant musical community'

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE COAST?

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!

New year, new market dates!

If you've ever considered having a stall or showcasing your business or community organisation, we're keen to welcome new people to our stallholder community!!

We're particularly keen to have a stallholder offer fresh produce - if this is something you might be able to offer, please get in touch!

There will also be one space available at no charge at each market for a community group or organisation/not for profit to promote their services, raise awareness etc - limited places available, groups are encouraged to contact us as soon as possible to request a space.

- For general market queries email queenstowncommunitymarket@gmail.com

- All stall bookings must be made through Robyn - call 0428 466 445

*reminder, any stalls providing or selling food must display a current food permit and provide the Market Committee with a copy of the permit when booking the stall.



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
MAKERS & CREATORS

SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER
LOCAL & VISITING
STALLHOLDERS

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

BOOK A STALL

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Waratah Woodchop
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Indoor and Undercover Market

Market Stalls from \$10

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Waratah Museum

Waratah SES & Fire

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2024 APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

Zeehan RSL Sub-Branch Annual General Meeting

Sunday 11th February 2024

11am

139-143 Main Street

All Welcome to attend!



ZEEHAN COMMUNITY KIDS FUN DAY TRIVIA NIGHT

FANCY DRESS

SAT 10 FEB

6:30PM FOR 7:00PM START

\$15.00 PER PERSON INCLUDING SUPPER

MAXIMUM 6 PER TEAM

BEVERAGES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE - NO BYO

ZEEHAN GOLF CLUB

REGISTER YOUR TEAM - 0438 716 248

BRING GOLD COINS FOR BRIBERY

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JOIN US FOR A BBQ LUNCH

SATURDAY 27th JANUARY
Howard's Park, Zeehan

Join us for a casual, family friendly BBQ lunch; an opportunity to get together and spend some time hanging out and meeting some new people. We will have BBQ basics, but please bring along something to share with the group if you can. We will be setting up in the BBQ area of Howard's Park from around 11:30am, so come join us. Look for the Pride Flags!

MORE INFO: MESSAGE US ON FACEBOOK OR EMAIL NWPRIDE@OUTLOOK.COM

A message from Tullah Neighbourhood Watch & your West Coast Fire Brigades

As the days get increasingly hotter and our risk for bushfire increases, it is incredibly important that we keep a close eye on our local bushfire risk. Knowing our bushfire risk allows us to understand how we can appropriately plan, prepare and act ahead of, or during a bushfire emergency. This will ultimately help you keep yourself and your family safe.

What are the signs of bushfire risk that you can pay attention to?

Most of us get out and about during a lovely, sunny morning and that is just the opportunity take notice of the signs of bushfire risk. Whether it be walking the dog, heading to grab the paper, or pottering around the garden, you can pay attention to some key things to ensure you're ahead of the game when it comes to bushfire. Quite simply it's about taking note of the wind, the temperature, humidity levels and also consider the time of year you are in. For example, this year, bushfire season is demonstrating evidence of arriving a little earlier than usual, and it is important that we are all aware of that. Understanding these factors will help you develop an idea for what kind of day you might be in for, and then take the time to back this up with key resources available from the Tasmania Fire Service.

What are the resources available to view bushfire risk?

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System is an excellent place to start. This resource is designed to tell you just how dangerous a fire could be if one started in your area. We can never predict when or where a fire will start, but we do have some great measures for how bad things could be, allowing you to make bushfire planning decisions accordingly. The greatest thing about our newly updated Australian Fire Dangers Rating System is that it now comes with calls to action, meaning you know exactly how you should act depending on the rating provided.

To check your fire danger rating, please visit <https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/fire-danger-rating/summary/>.



Once a bushfire has started, we then have the Australian Warning System in place to provide critical alerts and warnings. These are to help you keep up to date with the incident, allowing you to take early action. The Australian Warning System is a user-friendly resource that is now consistent no matter the emergency, whether it be flood, storm, fire or anything else, and you will see the same icons providing you with important information regarding the incident. To keep up to date with the alerts and warnings in Tasmania, please ensure you become familiar TASALERT, which now features a new map for easy engagement and access to information. You can find this via <https://alert.tas.gov.au/>.

To ensure you have a complete idea of your bushfire risk, it is important to familiarise yourself with this information which can be found in many different places, inclusive of those mentioned above. However, to keep it simple, for all fire safety information, warnings and updates, please refer to the Tasmania Fire Service at www.fire.tas.gov.au or by listening to your local ABC radio emergency broadcaster.

For Sale

Working maramma pups ready for new homes and duties as of 1st of February, preferably around Valentine's Day 14/2 at ten weeks old.

Purebred parents with excellent temperaments from separate pedigreed lines, vet checked, well socialised and working in small farm environment including chickens.

These puppies have been exposed to chickens, cats, visitors, children and have sheep and cows in neighbouring paddocks.

Rudolph (male), Dancer (female), Prancer (female), Comet (female), Donner (male), Vixen (female), Blitzen (male) and Olive (female). All full of vim, already barking when the shed door opens, playing with each other and wagging tails in response to voice at 4 weeks old. These puppies are very well loved and handled and are looking for rural homes where they can fulfill their guardian potential. They will come microchipped, vaccinated and treated for parasites. Puppy packs will include food samples, paperwork, collar and lead, photos, toy from home, blanket from home and useful information.

Please contact Emma on 0431058569 for an opportunity to view in home environment. Registered Breeder Number: RPBA 15480



Lastly, don't forget to put together a bushfire plan! You can either jump on <http://bushfire.tas.gov.au> or SCAN TO PLAN using the QR code.

Remember, when it comes to bushfire, we all play a part.

For further information or advice on bushfire preparedness, you can contact your local fire brigade (if an emergency, please call 000)

Strahan Fire Brigade Chief

Mark McDermott reservations@marsdencourt.com.au

Queenstown Fire Brigade Chief

Daniel Kremmer daniel.kremmer@v.fire.tas.gov.au

Zeehan Fire Brigade Chief

Jacob Papworth jacob.papworth@hotmail.com

Rosebery-Tullah Fire Brigade Chief

Wayne Wooley waynemwooley@bigpond.com

Tullah Neighbourhood Watch

Sonya Gerwin tullahnhw@gmail.com



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WE PLAY ROSEBERY ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Saturday 16th December and it was on at Rosebery!

Athletics, wood chopping and rock drilling were all on the program (unfortunately the cycling was postponed due to rain for safety reasons) and what a jam packed day it was. I would rather put photos on this page than results but you can check out the winners at www.tascarnivals.com.au/Rosebery

Photos by Alan Jennison

