



WESTERN ECHO

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

EDITION 27 FEBRUARY 9, 2024

WE MEANS COMMUNITY

FREE

Avebury back on care and maintenance



As a Zeehan resident and an ex miner myself, this is a story I was hoping I wouldn't have to write but unfortunately the worst has happened.

Back in September 2023 Mallee Resource's Avebury nickel mine was placed under administration with insolvency company KordaMentha, with

hopes for a buyer to come in and rescue the mine and secure its future..

On Wednesday 7th February 2024, staff were told that the mine would be going back onto a care and maintenance program due to the low nickel price worldwide.

Continued on page 3



High quality nickel but low prices worldwide

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

Dear Editor

To be honest, I'm pretty angry and sick of having to run the gauntlet of aggressive, stray dogs that wander our streets in Strahan and attack innocent little dogs; even dragging them out of their own yards and mauling them. The number of times owners are rushing their pets to vets and in some cases rushing their kids to medical treatment because of dog attack seems to be on the rise on the West Coast.

One only has to talk to neighbours or read our social media pages to know that some of dog owner community don't have control of their dogs and ducks, chickens, cats and smaller dogs as well and people are being attacked.

Most West Coasters don't feel comfortable to 'dob in their neighbour' but neighbours acting badly need to take responsibility and act like neighbours to safeguard others. Pet owners have the right to walk their loved family pet. They have the right to let their dog run around in their own back yard without worrying about dangerous uncontrolled dogs invading their yards and dragging their dogs and mauling them.

I personally don't have an issue over the choice of dog that an owner may want to have in their home; though I must admit I am not very comfortable with hunting dogs or large pit bull type breeds. For me, provided that owners are responsible and manage and contain their dogs in their own yards, I am pretty supportive of them owning their dogs and doing what they want with them. However, owners who have dangerous dogs or dogs with a history of attacking other people's pets or people need to contain their dogs or take serious steps to stop their behaviour.

Apart from the stress and distress of seeing your pet being mauled by these aggressive dogs, the stress and upset of having to travel 2 to 3 hours for veter-

inary support while your little dog is in pain and bleeding is a pretty awful experience. Then there is the expense of trying to treat your loved one and hoping like hell that the antibiotics, pain relief and treatments including surgeries will be enough to heal the dog that is part of your family.

These dangerous dogs are a real worry in our community. We have had visitors to Strahan upset and afraid of these dogs. Some neighbours are having to keep their children inside or closely supervised in their own back yards with fear that their neighbours' dogs are going to attack again. It's not good enough. At the moment it's been little pets being mauled, the fear is that the next attack could very well be a child and the consequences dire.

So to all the pet owns of the West Coast please think about your pet. If your dog has been known to hurt other animals, please take responsibility. Secure them in your own yard, muzzle them if they are out.

The message is simple- take bl@@@ responsibility of your dogs. - Stop allowing them to wander unleashed and unmuzzled in our streets. Think about the rights of others- stop your dangerous dogs from wandering into other people's yards. Start being a good neighbour otherwise don't be surprised if you get the knock at the door and your dogs are branded dangerous or are put down.

Strahan resident

Letter to the editor

I would like to thank Council for the recently endorsed Reconciliation Action Plan and the installation of the flag poles in Queenstown which allowed for the raising of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. A long overdue request finally actioned and celebrated.

It was so good to see a physical presence of these flags and their importance

in assisting to raise the visibility of First peoples and the unique recognition and respect for First peoples culture and connection to Country.

It was a very emotional morning for many of us, marred unfortunately by the West Coast resident who thought it fair and reasonable for them to drive up and down the road while our flags were being raised and yelling abuse and profanities at us. While pretty insulting and very poor form, their behaviour could not dampen the spirits of this who attended the raising of our flags nor the significance of such a day; and certainly, wasn't supported by the majority of community members who bore witness to this special event. It only proved to foster even more commitment to forging positive relationships and increasing recognition of First Nations people.

Yinaar Burrin

Democracy under threat?

Dear Editor

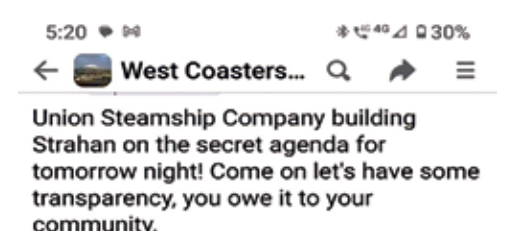
In recent years Council meetings have become for some residents an area of deep concern regarding good governance and transparency. With what appears to be an increase in the practices of limiting public participation, the ability to raise questions and for true debate to thrive publicly; significantly contributes to community members feeling anxious about the conduct and ways in which decisions are being made in local government. The example of the recent Council meeting which appears to show that a motion was moved by councillors to close off a number of agenda items does little to increase public confidence in decisions. Our Local government plays a critical role in Tasmania.: Council's help to build resilient communities, they contribute to the development of a healthy environment, and promote local economies. Good governance is critical to local government's success in carrying out these roles.

Good governance is important for several reasons. It not only gives the local community confidence in its council but improves the faith that elected members have in their own council and its decision-making processes. Good governance also leads to better and more efficient decisions, helps local government meet its legislative respon-

sibilities, and provides an ethical basis for decision-making.

There have been several comments made in social media where community members have expressed fears that Council and Councillors appear to have failed to engage the community in a meaningful way over its decisions regarding social housing, workplace safety and the sale of community owned assets such as the USCCO building in Strahan. Like so many making comments on social media, what I don't understand is how closing meetings in the absence of legitimate safety concerns is acceptable and in keeping with our democratic rights of transparency and rate payer rights. There are real risks that the decision by councillors to close extensive agenda items alienates the people of the community from participating in the democratic process. Councillors already have their 'workshop meetings' which already raise anxiety of unacceptable democratic practices which while these workshops may be legal appear for many to be questionable ethically and raise questions about whether these 'workshops' are in keeping with the initial intent of council and council meetings for the purposes of robust debate and transparent decision making and good governance.

West Coast resident



CLOSED MEETING
Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, Regulation 23

Recommendation
That Council RESOLVE BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY to go into Closed Session to consider the following matters:
The time being:

Item Number	Matter	Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations (Meeting Closure Reference) 2015
363/23	Confirmation of Meeting Minutes	33(2)
364/23	Leave of Absence Request	33(2)(i)
365/23	Council Decision Status Report/Action Items	33(2)(k)(ii)
366/23	Committees of Council	33(2)(e)
367/23	Cradle Coast Authority/ LGAT/TasWater	33(2)(e)
368/23	General Managers Report	33(2)(a)(ii)
369/23	Correspondence	33(2)(i)
370/23	Councillor Request for Re-empowerment For Internet	33(2)(e)
371/23	Union Steamship Building Strahan	33(2)(e)
372/23	Existing General Manager New Contract	33(2)(e)

Moved:
Seconded:
Outcome:

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

Horsetail Falls upgrade

The Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service will have contractors completing stage 2 of the Horsetail Falls short walk near Queenstown NW Tasmania.

Planned works will take place over the coming months with preparations starting from February and works continuing through autumn.



The walking track will remain open to visitors with potential for short temporary closures while lifting operations take place. The area beyond the current end of the track will be fenced off so the works can take place.

West Coast Council is pleased to partner with the state government on this project.



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127 Main Street, Zeehan, Tasmania 7469 www.westernecho.news

All published material is published in good faith. 3000 copies printed monthly.

Raise the flags for reconciliation



West Coast Council is proud to announce the REFLECT Reconciliation Action Plan has been formally endorsed by Reconciliation Australia. This Plan outlines the foundational frameworks that will guide Council in more deeply engaging with First Nations Peoples and the wider community to assist in promoting important healing processes, raising awareness and partnering where possible in health, well-being and community development projects.



It was a very proud day for the West Coast with new flagpoles erected at Miners Siding to enable the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island flags to be flown alongside the Australian and West Coast Council flags. Well done Margie Dare and all involved in making this day come to reality and to West Coast Council for assisting. *Senator Anne Urquhart*

West Coast Spirit Award recipients

The West Coast Council is pleased to announce that the recipients of the 2024 Australia Day West Coast Spirit Awards are Elizabeth (Liz) Sayster and Geraldene Halton, both from Queenstown.

The successful recipients are recognized as valuable community members who give their time willingly to assist others. Awards were presented at the Mt Lyell Strahan Picnic on Friday 26 January by West Coast Mayor Shane Pitt.

Liz was nominated for her continued advocacy for the health and wellbeing

of the West Coast community, and her enthusiasm and determination to do right by the community. She has been nominated for her vision, enthusiasm, innovation, belief in others, peer respect, courage and determination. Her dedication to her community work within the Rural Health Tas Queenstown office not only involves clinical support for clients but also includes charitable efforts to improve the lives of vulnerable West Coasters. She is active in advocating for improved health services in the region, in particular, for aged, frail aged and the disabled in the community. Liz is also active in other community groups and initiatives including the Queenie Quoir and contributing to her local church on Sundays.

In the words of her nominator "Liz embodies the true spirit of our West Coast community and is undoubtedly deserving of this prestigious recognition."

Geraldene was nominated for her tireless and selfless work in the community including: being instrumental in opening Penghana House to the wider community, being a life member of Mountain Heights School, her 20-year involvement with the Queenstown Golf



Club and participating as an 'Ageing Angel' for raising funds for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Queenstown Hospital Auxiliary. Geraldene is also the Chair of the Queenstown Cancer Group, and volunteers at the Queenstown market making and selling food. Geraldene quietly assists a variety of community members, generously makes herself available if anyone is in need and provides an immeasurable service to the community.

In the words of her nominator "Geraldene provides an immeasurable service to the community, always helps others and is very generous."

Avebury on care and maintenance

Continued from front page

The LME nickel price is currently about \$15 000/t to \$16 000/t, more than 50% lower than the start of 2023.

The oversupply of low-quality nickel from Indonesia means the higher quality, but higher cost ore from Australian mines can not be competitive on the world market.

KordaMentha had received a lot of interest from overseas mining operators looking at potentially buying the Avebury nickel mine but these nickel prices make the chance of a white knight coming in to save the day highly unlikely.

Until low carbon, battery-grade nickel is valued accordingly Avebury and other high quality nickel mines around the world will be at a disadvantage.

It came as a shock to all at Avebury, including Mallee Resources Limited's managing director John Lamb as the decision was announced.



Farm Business Resilience Program

Giving you the knowledge, resources and tools to get the most out of your farming business.

The Farm Business Resilience Program subsidises learning and development opportunities for farmers, farm managers and employees – focused on improving strategic farm management capabilities that lead to making better decisions, more often.

www.nre.tas.gov.au/fbr



The Farm Business Resilience Program is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Tasmanian Government.



OPPOSITION LEADER HON PETER DUTTON MP



On Sunday 28 January, Salmon Tasmania had the pleasure of welcoming opposition leader, the Hon Peter Dutton MP and Premier, Jeremy Rockliff MP to Strahan.

Accompanied by Senator Jonno Duniam, Senator Richard Colbeck and Gavin Pearce MP, Mr Dutton toured a Macquarie Harbour aquaculture farm for the first time before sitting down with Strahan salmon workers and their families to hear first hand the importance of our industry to this community, along with their uncertainty about the review process initiated by the Australian Government.



SCAN TO WATCH THE VIDEO:

or go to: bit.ly/DuttonVisit



Driver mentor training on coast

The North West Driver Mentor Program has officially launched. The program will provide young people with access to a driver mentor to support them accrue the 80 hours required to sit their provisional driver's licence test.

Two driver mentors have been recruited and sessions are now available for young people aged between 16 and 24 who need to get their licence to pursue work and/or training opportunities.

A partnership between West North West Working (WNWW) and Youth, Family and Community Connections (YFCC) has resulted in this pilot program aimed at addressing one of the main barriers impacting young people accessing employment on the North West Coast.

The inability to obtain a driver's licence is a major barrier for young people trying to gain employment or training.

A survey conducted by WNWW in 2023 backed up the anecdotal evidence that not having a driver's licence has

long been an issue for young people, particularly in rural and remote areas of our State. Many jobs require a licence, and work is often found some distance from home and outside the availability of bus services.

76% of WNWW survey participants indicated they are impacted by barriers towards obtaining their licence. These barriers include having access to a suitable vehicle and finding someone to sit next to them while they build up their hours and the cost of lessons and driving tests.

The pilot program includes all areas of the North West, including the West Coast. A driver mentor is scheduled to travel to the West Coast once every 8 weeks.

Danielle Kidd, Program Manager of West North West Working said, "We are excited the program is scoped to deliver across our whole region, including the West Coast."

"The program is accessible to young people, and I encourage those who may

have family or friends on the West Coast who meet the program criteria to apply."

Young people aged between 16 and 24 who are interested in participating in this program to increase their employability skills, can contact West North

West Working at www.wnwworking.com.au/north-west-driver-mentor-program/ or YFCC at <https://yfcc.com.au/north-west-driver-mentor-program/> or call 6423 6635.



Danielle Kidd(WNWW) Graham Marshall (YFCC) and Parker Tuckett

Parkrun is official!

Zeehan Golf Club parkrun will officially 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'

What is Zeehan Golf Club parkrun?

A free, fun, and friendly weekly 5k community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate – it's up to you!

When is it?

Every Saturday at 9:00am.

Where is it?

The event takes place at Zeehan Golf Club & RV Camping, Fowler Street, Zeehan, TAS 7469. See Course page for more details.

What does it cost to join in?

Nothing - it's free! but please register before you first come along. Only ever register with parkrun once and don't forget to bring a scannable copy of your barcode (request a reminder). If you forget it, you won't get a time.

How fast do I have to be?

We all take part for our own enjoyment.

Please come along and join in whatever your pace!

Zeehan Golf Club parkrun needs you!

It is entirely organised by volunteers - email zeehangolfclub@parkrun.com to help.

Safeguarding

parkrun is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk. For our full safeguarding processes and policies, including how to report a concern, please see our Safeguarding Hub.

We're friendly!

Every week we grab a post parkrun coffee at Wildz Café or Pit Stop Café - please come and join us!



Josh Dean – co-Event Director, Zeehan Golf Club parkrun (second from left) with volunteers that have helped make the parkrun an official event.

Zeehan gym closed for renovations

West Coast Council will commence the redevelopment of the Zeehan Gym & Multi-Purpose Centre on 14 February 2024.

The Zeehan Gym will be closed from Tuesday 8 February from 8:30AM to allow equipment to be moved to the Zeehan Football Clubrooms where it will be temporarily available until the redevelopment has been completed.

Zeehan Football Clubrooms will be accessible from 10:00AM Wednesday 14 February 2024.

Please update your swipe card on the gym door before 11 February 2024.

After this time you will need to update your card at the following locations: Rosebery Gym, Queenstown Gym or Queenstown Council Office

During this time the Queenstown, Tullah and Rosebery Gym will still be available to use.

DO YOU OWN AN ANTIQUE FIREARM?

A new process now applies

Due to the cancellation of Exemption No.4 under the Firearms Act 1996, licensing, registration and storage requirements are now in place for some previously exempt antique firearms.

Act now to remain compliant with legislation.

OPTION 1

Apply for and obtain a time limited individual exemption.

OPTION 2

Apply for a firearms licence now or upgrade an existing licence.

OPTION 3

Sell your firearms through a licensed dealer.

OPTION 4

Surrender your firearms to police for destruction.

Visit the website or contact Firearms Services about the new requirements.

Visit: fas.police.tas.gov.au

Email: antique.firearms.transition@police.tas.gov.au

Call: 6173 2225





Rosebery Mine

Community Newsletter

February 2024



Image: L-R Nigel Coulson, Faith Coulson, Dean Emmerton, Makenzie Emmerton

Family tradition

Two Father and daughter duos are making mining at MMG Rosebery, a family affair.

Faith Coulson and Makenzie Emmerton joined as cadets in February last year following in the footsteps of their fathers Nigel Coulson and Dean Emmerton, who are both long serving Rosebery mine employees.

They have welcomed their daughters into their work lives and watched on proudly as they have thrived in their new roles.

Faith has this year moved into an electrical apprenticeship and Makenzie has taken on project work in the mill.

Prioritising a high school education

MMG Rosebery is proud to support two local students continue their school education through to years 11 and 12.

Last week we awarded two \$500 scholarships at the Hellyer College of Excellence night to Keeomee Prouse and Anthony Reid.

Keeomee is enrolled to study TCE subjects along with Hair and Beauty while Anthony will study Automotive and Health & Recreation while completing TCE subjects.



Image: Anthony Reid



Image: Keeomee Prouse

Come and chat to us

MMG Rosebery employees will be available to speak to our local community at a pop-up shop in Agnes St, Rosebery this month.

The team will provide an update on what's happening at the mine and can answer community questions.

It will be open from 27 - 29 February.

Community sponsorships

Applications for round 1 of Rosebery Mine's community sponsorship is now open.

Organisations are encouraged to contact Jill Richardson at roscommunity@mmg.com to apply. Applications close on 15 April 2024.

Project updates

- The realignment of the entrance to the TSF 2/5 dam has been completed. The new road is already in use.
- Repairs have begun on the Heritage Centre in Rosebery after it was damaged by a bushfire. It is expected to be completed by March.
- Work on restoration of the Replica Miner's Hut has been completed.

Expressions of interest open



MMG Rosebery is supporting Coastal Family Day Care to deliver a new childcare centre in the local community.

Expressions of interest are open for locals who would like to put their children on the wait list.

To express your interest, please email: admin@coastalfdc.org

PressWEST - Launch of 2024 program in Queenstown

PressWEST is an art centre 'for' Tasmania's West Coast. Situated in Queenstown it held the launch of its 2024 program of workshops/exhibitions and events on Friday evening 26 January. Big storm fronts alternated with bright sunlit vistas as approximately fifty patrons gathered to mark the event. Amongst the gathering were artists involved in the program and distinguished attendees such as Senator Anne Urquhart, Councillors Vikki Iwanicki and Deputy Mayor Robert Butterfield and the new '10 Days on the Island' director Marnie Karmelita.

PressWEST has developed its 2024 program around a series of exchanges between professional artists, the West Coast community and a broader cohort of 'cultural pilgrims'. It is doing this 'on the back' of a successful series of workshop events at PressWEST during 2023.



Cath Chick & Nick Mills

Artists contributing to the 2024 program include Jo Chew, Amber Krokoluk-Stephenson, Anne Morrison, George Kennedy, Jenny Groves, Michael Schlitz, Tom O'Hern, Matt Calvert, Liam Ross Baker, Penny Mason, David Marsden, Emma Magnusson-Reid, Michael Muruste, Joy Allison, Leigh Rigozzi, Tony Thorne, Joshua Santospirito and Jess Fodor. A generous grant of \$56,000 from Arts Tasmania is supporting their contribution. The West Coast Council is also extremely supportive.



Councillor Vikki Iwanicki, Anne Urquhart's husband Graham, Senator Anne Urquhart & Councillor Robert Butterfield



Emma Magnusson-Reid & Raymond Arnold



Michael Muruste & Jo Chew



Tom O'Hern & Paul Eggins



Dianne and Joy from the Paragon Theatre, Queenstown with George Kennedy paintings in the background

PRESS WEST 2024 WORKSHOPS

PressWEST Tasmania is an incorporated organisation based in Queenstown. We are building sustainable infrastructure focused on art practice to service the remote and regional communities of the West Coast. We believe our developing initiative, a type of creative lab, is unique and will confirm the increasing presence of the arts within the West Coast community.



Amber Krokoluk-Stephenson

23-25 FEBRUARY PAINTING/COLLAGÉ

Ecotone - West Coast Transformational zones

Artists: Jo Chew & Amber Krokoluk-Stephenson

Workshop artist in residence: George Kennedy

Guest speaker: Anne Morrison

A weekend of painting, drawing, collaging, some dining, walking and discussion.



Michael Schlitz

24-26 MAY PRINTMAKING

The Anthropomorphocene - West Coast Animalia

Artists: Michael Schlitz & Tom O'Hern

Workshop artist in residence: Liam Ross Baker

Guest speaker: Matt Calvert

A weekend of working with ink, paper, wood and metal conjuring animal spirits.



Joy Allison

12+13 OCTOBER BOOKMAKING

The Book of Queenstown

- Panoramas within Panoramas

Artist/bookmaker: Joy Allison

Joy Allison is following up her successful 2023 workshop and building new skills for participants.



Grace Garton

6+7 APRIL SOFT SCULPTURE

Sew, Stuff and Paint

Artist: Grace Garton

Make and paint your own fabric soft sculptures. The workshop coincides with Grace's solo show at Soggy Brolly Gallery, 20 Orr St Queenstown.



Penny Mason

23-25 AUGUST MULTIMEDIA/PRINTING/PAINTING

Pigment equals Mass - Winter world's collide on the Lyell Fault!

Artists: Penny Mason & David Marsden

Artist in residence: Emma Magnusson-Reid

Guest speaker: Michael Muruste



Leigh Rigozzi

22-24 NOVEMBER SCREENPRINTING

I Told You So! - Stencilling Community

Artists: Leigh Rigozzi & Tony Thorne

Workshop artist in residence: Jess Fodor

Guest speaker: Joshua Santospirito

Wet, but loads of fun at Strahan picnic

In true West Coast spirit, a little rain didn't stop the fun and excitement at the recent Australia Day, Strahan Mt Lyell Picnic.

A lot of people ended up very wet (including this photographer) but we were all there to enjoy the day and that is exactly what we did.

Just look at the determination on the faces of some of these people compet-

ing in events from egg and spoon races to tug of war.

One again the event was very well run with our very own 'Skirvo' from 7XS on the microphone for the day so a huge shout-out and thank you to organisers and volunteers is called for.

Enjoy the photos, you are probably in one of them.

Photos by Alan Jennison



Wet, but loads of fun at Strahan picnic



CAREER, EDUCATION & TRAINING SUPPORT SESSIONS

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 Not sure on the next steps?
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**TULLAH / ROSEBERY / ZEEHAN
 QUEENSTOWN / STRAHAN**

French traveller talks about cycling the West Coast



A few weeks ago, I disembarked the ferry in Devonport with my new travelling buddy, a gravel bike that I had purchased second-hand in order to travel around Tasmania. For some reason, I had decided to start with the West coast.

I must be honest here: I'm not a strong cyclist, I don't do well in cold and windy weather, and I feel miserable when it rains. It doesn't sound like a good start, but I really wanted to discover the famous rugged West Coast of Tassie, even if I had to suffer a bit to get there.

The first few days after I left Devon-

port, I fell in love with the beauty of the region, the contrasts of colors, the ever-changing light, and the way the kelp shines in the sun. I also was fortunate enough to spend New Year's Eve there. Just a fire on the beach with a few other campers, a beautiful display of stars in the sky, and one of the most impressive moonrises that you can dream of.

I continued towards Arthur River, where I fell in love a bit more with this part of the world. Sometimes, I simply could not believe my eyes.

From there, I took the road through the Tarkine forest. One of the nice things about being a slow cyclist is that I had plenty of time to appreciate

the beauty and the quiet of the forest. It is also a good way to enjoy wildlife, because you don't feel like a danger to animals crossing the streets or grazing on the sides.

Since I had to split the Tarkine drive in two days, I also found myself doing some hikes in the late afternoon or early morning, which means that I was the only human around, making the atmosphere really special.

After that, I "cheated" and took a bus to Strahan, before setting off for the next part of the journey: leaving the coast and crossing the plateau towards the East.

I will certainly remember the "99 bends" after Queenstown (luckily there was not much traffic in the early morning) and I was really happy about the

downhill afterwards! From there, I had a wonderful time cycling through the Franklin-Gordon rivers national park. The main downside was that I was leaving the West behind.

Thanks to this trip, I realized that Western Tasmania is a great place for cycling, as long as you get lucky with the weather. The roads are quiet, there are plenty of rivers to refill your water bottle, and the people you meet are amazing: people gave me water, chocolate, invited me for a coffee at their house, offered to let me camp in their garden, or simply gave me a hug...

I feel very grateful for all these acts of kindness and for this unforgettable trip.

Emeraude Antille (pictured below)



Tales from a Zeehan graveyard

MAN WANDERS OFF FROM COMSTOCK HOTEL AT 2 a.m. BODY FOUND ALMOST TWO WEEKS LATER

Police at Zeehan were informed on Wednesday, 5 October 1910, that Michael Francis (Frank) O'Dea was missing after staying the previous Sunday night at the Comstock Hotel. O'Dea was described as a stout man of about 44, and was well known as a barman at both the Central and Club Hotels, Zeehan.

He was last seen about 2 o'clock on Monday morning when Mr Frank Thurstans, the proprietor, heard O'Dea walking about, who said he wanted to go outside as he was restless and could not sleep. About an hour later and about 200 yards closer to Zeehan a lady heard him walk past her house arguing with himself over which way he should go.

On the previous Saturday he had spoken about some mental health issues, and when he wasn't seen on the following Monday it was assumed he had either gone to see a doctor in Zeehan or returned to his camp. But after a few more days there was still no sign of him so the police were alerted.

Search parties were sent out for over a week but no trace was found until Sunday the 16th of October. It had been decided that day was to be the final day of searching and a large party of civilians, police and Boy Scouts went looking. Three men who

were delayed and missed the official search party, Charles Connors, Charles Murphy, and John Cotton, found the partially clothed body only about 300 yards from the Hotel amongst dense timber and almost impenetrable scrub.

Later that afternoon the deceased's coat and hat were found about 30 yards away nearer the Hotel, where they had been placed on a stump. The body was removed to Zeehan Hospital and an inquest was held the next day at 3p.m. before Mr E.V. Goldsmid.

After Sergeant Lonnegan had formally thanked all those who had assisted with the search, Dr. Butler deposed that he had examined the body and that there were no external marks of violence, but the throat, nose, portion of the ears, and other parts had been eaten away. O'Dea had also suffered from heart and kidney disease. The body was clothed only in a waistcoat, shirt, and singlet. These were all wet

through. Deceased had no trousers on, but his boots and socks were in a good condition. His opinion was that death was due to exposure and want of food, and had occurred at least 10 days before.



Charlie Murphy and Charlie Connors, two of the three men who found O'Dea. (Tasmanian Mail, 27 October 1910.)

John McIntyre, a woodcutter, stated he knew the deceased, who had been living and working with him for about six weeks. McIntyre also stated that O'Dea was not in good health when he first came to the camp, but he improved after a while. He went back to Zeehan, and stayed there about a fortnight. He then returned, and, after being at the camp for a couple of days

witness noticed he was suffering from the effects of drink. On Sunday he had no boots on, and said he had spent the night in the bush. He was suffering from hallucinations. McIntyre told O'Dea he could not keep him any longer, and took him to the Comstock Hotel about 6 o'clock on the Sunday

evening, and left him there for the night. O'Dea was wearing the hat and coat produced.

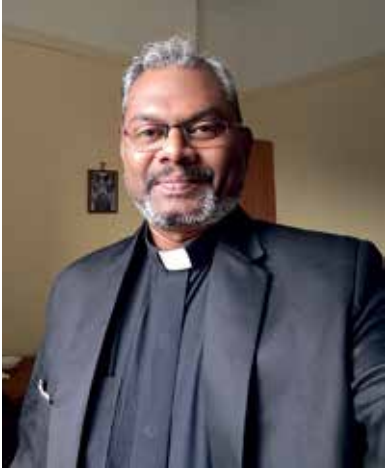
Frank Thurstans deposed that the deceased, with Mr McIntyre, came to his hotel on the Sunday evening. Deceased had been at the hotel earlier in the day, asking him to ring up Dr. Butler, and stating he had the "D.T.'s." O'Dea said he had been out all night. When O'Dea came the second time he had tea, and went to bed about 9.30p.m. He got up about an hour later, and witness put him back to bed. About 2 o'clock witness heard O'Dea again, who this time was fully dressed. Deceased said he could not sleep, and wanted to go outside. Following some discussion, Thurstans informed him that the front door was open, and he could come back in whenever he liked. He didn't see him again after that.

After hearing from some more witnesses the Coroner returned a verdict in line with the evidence. "Frank" O'Dea was buried later that afternoon. There is some doubt over his actual burial plot, but wherever he lies he does so without a headstone.

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

Newly appointed Priest at West Coast Catholic parish

Fr. Arokia Aruldas became a newly appointed priest at the West Coast Catholic Parish, Queenstown on 8th January 2024 by the Archdiocese of Hobart for the pastoral service of the people of God.



He hails from Bangalore, India and has brought his passion for evangelisation and preaching the Word of God to this land of Tasmania.

Having arrived in Hobart in September 2023, Fr. Arokia said that he is keen to carry his priestly ministry in this new surroundings of the West Coast i.e., Zeehan, Strahan, Rosebery and Queenstown, with an aim and goal of bringing God's people closer to the heart of Jesus through his pastoral care for the people.

Born and raised in a catholic family in Bangalore in southern India, Fr. Arokia joined the Precious Blood

Congregation in 2000 and was ordained a priest on 14th April 2010. Following his ordination, he served in several parishes and positions in the Archdiocese of Bangalore and Archdiocese of Pondicherry and Cuddalore, Southern India.

He has been a social worker, administrator, political analyst, lecturer and a researcher in the field of Geosciences. He also taught subjects of socio-economics, Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary sciences related subjects in India and has been in research under the Department of Geography, Bangalore University. Being into Geospatial Technology, and specialised in Coastal Geomorphology, he is interested in Conservation and Preservation of Ecology, Ecosystem, Environmental Protection for a better habitat of living.

He has a deep interest in the field of pastoral care, networking with people, socio-political-communitarian concerns, social welfare at large. Helping to build a community of unity and that of the kingdom of God becomes his priority. In his term at the West Coast parish, Queenstown, he desires to achieve these above said goals in the best way possible.

Fr. Arokia can be contacted for any Pastoral Care Assistance at the following email : westcoast@aohtas.org.au and Phone number : 64711731

STUDY HUB WEST COAST/ UTAS NEW YEAR UPDATE

We wish our students a warm welcome back to the 2024 study year. Study Hub West Coast, UTAS and Study Centre Circular Head have been working on our planning calendar for 2024 with exciting events and activities to support and encourage students in 2024. In addition, we kicked off the year with launching Study King Island which is a Study Hub spoke to support the very remote community of learners on King Island. The other great news is that we have welcomed our new Study Centre Supervisor in the northwest to our team, Tony Mc Gillvery.

February is packed with several courses including first aid training, snake handling and leadership essentials, in this regard don't miss out we still have some spaces available for enrolment in these courses.

As part of our school's outreach/engagement and the continuation of the Children's University Program on the West Coast we are meeting with all school Principals in February to discuss how we can further support our West Coast schools with new initiatives and opportunities for engagement throughout the year. Lots of exciting things are happening in this space with a geology outreach event currently in the planning to take place this month at Trial Harbour and the Mobile Antarctic

Classroom being an exciting addition to events coming to several West Coast schools in March.

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 on the below emails:

Nicky Bolt, Regional Manager Study Hub West Coast – nicky@studyhub-westcoast.com.au;

Yolande Welms, 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



WEST COAST CATHOLIC PARISH Easter 2024

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMING (14th February, 2024)

9:00 am - St. Fursaeus' church, Zeehan
11:30 am - St. Joseph's church, Rosebery (School term)
2:00 pm - St. Joseph's catholic school (school term)
5:00 pm - St. Joseph's church, Queenstown

HOLY WEEK MASS TIMING - 2024

Palm Sunday (24th March, 2024)

5:00 pm (Saturday vigil) - St. Joseph's church, Queenstown
9:00 am (Sunday) - St. Fursaeus' Church, Zeehan

Maundy Thursday (28th March, 2024)

5:00 pm (Only Mass) - St. Joseph's church, Rosebery
7:30 pm (Only Adoration) - St. Joseph's church, Queenstown

Good Friday (29th March, 2024)

9:30 am (Stations of the Cross) - St. Fursaeus' Church, Zeehan
11:00 am (Stations of the Cross) - St. Joseph's church, Queenstown
3:00pm (Passion of our Lord) - St. Joseph's church, Queenstown

Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil (30th March, 2024)

7:00 pm (Saturday Vigil) - St. Joseph's church, Queenstown

Easter Sunday (31st March, 2024)

9:00 am - St. Fursaeus' Church, Zeehan
11:00 am - Holy Trinity Anglican church, Strahan

Administrator

2 Pontifex Street, Queenstown - 7467. Phone: (03)64711731

Teach your children snake safety

This advice is for parents to teach snake safety to their children.

Never touch a snake or lizard! snakes and lizards can be very grumpy and snakes can be dangerous. If you see a snake or a lizard there is no need to be afraid. They don't want to bite us. We are much bigger than they are. They just want to be left alone.

If you see a snake close to you, stop and stand still, do not panic and remain calm. Snakes react to sudden movement. That's why it's important to stand very still until the snake has moved on. When the snake has moved away from you slowly and calmly walk away. Tell a grown up like a parent or teacher or carer straightaway and showed the way you saw the snake.

If you see a snake well ahead of you do not panic standstill and slowly but very calmly back out of harm's way. If you're walking along with a snake and it's very close to you, follow the above advice, do not panic. take nice slow breaths, remain calm. they don't want to bite us but if we annoy them they will defend themselves. Children can also call out to their caregiver or parents 'SNAKE!' whilst still following the above, general advice.

Get all people and pets out of harm's way.

Call your local Snake Catcher. From a safe distance, keep an eye on where the snake is until the Snake Catcher arrives.

Snake Handling

with renowned snake expert Chris Daly



DATE: 15 February

TIME: 8am-4pm

VENUE: Study Hub
6 Frederick St, Zeehan

COST: \$130 p/p
Lunch included

12 SPOTS AVAILABLE

STUDYHUB WEST COAST



To register contact Yolande
yolande@studyhubwestcoast.com.au

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just a snack or a
complete meal, and a
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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
Queenstown**



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

We look forward to assisting you on your next visit!

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6471 1025



BOOK A LOOK We'll open just for you!

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE COAST?



VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED
HELP US TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

All Training & Equipment Provided

The Tasmania Fire Service & your local brigade facilitate all required training for your basic to advanced firefighting skills. Training is held every second Wednesday evening at 7pm, attendance is flexible to accommodate work & family life balance

Fighting Fires & More

We train & attend a wide range of incidents including vegetation, structure, car & boat fires as well as motor vehicle accidents & are active with community fire safety engagement activities



0417598011 | @StrahanFireTas | 18 Lyell HWY Strahan

Live in Tullah? Have some spare time?

The Online Centre needs volunteers, go and see the two Geoff's and register your interest!
The centre operates on volunteer time - They need YOU!

Playgroup 2024

Zeehan Playgroup commences on:

Monday, 12th of February, 2024

10.30am - 12.00pm

Connection Centre, Fowell St, Zeehan

All welcome to join in for our first day: A Teddy Bears Picnic.

Children are welcome to bring along a treasured Teddy, adopt one of the Teddys on the day, participate in a "cupcake decoration station" and enjoy some fairy bread. (Healthy snacks also available.)

Zeehan Playgroup encourages children to engage in "free play adventures" that are only limited by their imagination.

Parents, Grandparents, Carers are all welcome to play too - or simply have a cuppa and chat.



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!

If you have something happening on the West Coast, please let us know at the Western Echo! alan@westernecho.news



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!

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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

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

For Pastoral Care Assistance please contact the Administrator

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. We want to start training 22nd of Feb and weekly after that. 4 to 5pm with all ages welcome to training. Also look out for our Easter raffle tickets around town. We have some awesome prizes donated.



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



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From Monday 5th Feb
Call 1300 368 992 to Get Your Voucher

Please check eligibility requirements to see if you're eligible for a voucher.

rosebery festival

15th - 18th Feb 2024

Sponsors: TASRAIL, TITELINE UNDERGROUND, MIMG, WEST COAST COUNCIL, William Adams CAT, TMEC, IMPRESS, KEEN PARTIES, DE BRUYN'S TRANSPORT, IGR Rosebery, PowerTalk, Top Dub Rosebery, ROSEBERY R.S.L. CLUB, 7XS, ALPHA

A message from the Tasmania Fire Service

There is nothing predictable about bushfire season, but what you can control is planning and preparing as well as possible. Ensuring you understand your bushfire risk and having a bushfire plan to match your circumstances is very important, and it is also critical to prepare your property as best you can. Read on to find out more about the TFS's recommended 8 aspects to property preparedness.

1. Defendable Space

Defendable space is a 20m-30m area around your home where the vegetation is managed to reduce the intensity of any potential bushfires. The radius of defendable space increases with the degree of slope your house might be on, and for some, your defendable space boundary may reach into neighbouring property, meaning it's important to work with neighbours to ensure your property is bushfire ready.

2. Vegetation Management & Landscaping

Managing vegetation is critical to property preparedness. It will reduce the chance of direct flame contact, impact of radiant heat, and protect your home from ember attack. This includes the types of plants you have around your home, where they are situated and being smart about garden beds against your home, as well as other considerations.

3. Water Supply

Water supply is crucial to preparing your property so that you can ensure it is defendable during a bushfire incident. Before leaving early, you may choose to defend your property. But once you are gone it is important that your local brigade can access water to fight any fires impacting your property.

4. Access

There isn't a fire truck to defend every home, but there may be a situation where your property needs one during an emergency, so you need to make sure they can find you and get in!

A truck should be able to identify your property, get through your driveway, and turn around safely and quickly to leave. If fire fighters see any risk in entering your property, they will move on.

5. Building Improvements

You may need to make improvements to your property to ensure it has a strong defence against bushfire. Ember proofing will be your main consideration and you should look to seal any gaps in your roof, windows, vents or deck.

6. Maintenance Activities

Prior to and during the bushfire season there are maintenance activities that can help keep your property bushfire ready. These are tasks such as keeping your gutters clean, raking leaves around the property, trimming bushes and maintaining firefighting equipment.

7. Awareness of Personal Capacity to Defend Your Property

Your physical and psychological capacity needs to be considered when making your bushfire plan. Our strong advice is always to leave early. However, if you decide to stay and defend, please understand that it will be hot, scary, tiring, hard to see and difficult to breath.

8. Potential Hazards

Always be aware of potential hazards on your property. Whether it be you or responding firefighters at your home, you need to ensure everyone can move around

as safely as possible. This includes gas, electricity supply, firewood storage, etc. Preparing your property can be a big task, and it is important to understand your personal capacity to complete tasks. You may need to work with family, friends and neighbours to assist, however at the end of the day, be mindful you can only do as much as practical. Regardless of what you can complete, make sure you have a plan to leave early in a bushfire incident, keeping you and your family safe.

For more information on the 8 aspects of property preparedness, you can also check out the Community Bushfire-Ready Challenge program which is available to all Tasmanians via <https://www.bushfirereadyneighbourhoods.tas.gov.au/bushfire-ready-challenge-program>. Simply look for 'Challenge 3' to find out more about bushfire planning.

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@big-pond.com**

Tullah Neighbourhood Watch – Sonya Gerwin tullahnhw@gmail.com



From small things, big things grow

Here's some exciting news for Rosebery! We will soon have our own seed library, conveniently located in the community garden at the bottom of the main street. Seed libraries are amazing spaces for communities to share their gardening knowledge, seeds, plants, produce and other gardening bits and pieces and all for free. The seed library motto is "take what you need and leave what you can" if you don't have seeds or plants but would still like to donate you can help in other ways like making seed envelopes or tags and packing seed. You can start helping already by saving seed from your plants at home, saving milk cartons to make plant tags, growing some cuttings or planting some seeds to share. Keep an eye out for the Rosebery seed library Facebook page in the coming weeks and for more updates! Please feel free to ask any questions!



Zeehan RSL Sub-Branch Annual General Meeting

Sunday 11th February 2024

11am

139-143 Main Street

All Welcome to attend!



ROSEBERY TENNIS CLUB
SUMMER PENNANT
APPROX START DATE 03TH FEBRUARY

TEAM NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN:
TEAMS TO CONSIST OF 2 FEMALES AND 2 MALES
MATCHES CONSIST OF:
1 FEMALE DOUBLES
1 MALE DOUBLES
2 MIXED DOUBLES

INDIVIDUALS WANTING TO PLAY CAN BE PLACED INTO A TEAM OR ONTO A SUBSTITUTES LIST

GAMES PLAYED TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT ROSEBERY TENNIS CLUB

FOR ENQUIRIES OR TO REGISTER A TEAM CONTACT JACK 0458 580 376 OR THERESEA 0409 179 478

Local and qualified
SNAKE CATCHER
Call Angie on: 0409 164 394

WE SWIM IN QUEENSTOWN



Queenstown Amateur Swimming Club held an Australia Day-themed time trial on 25 January, open to all members. It was fabulous to see swimmers laughing and enjoying their swims. The event kicked off with a 50m Freestyle handicap, where swimmers entered the water at various times with the aim that everyone would finish at the same time.

The "Build a Sandwich" relay in the middle pool was full of laughs as teams made their way across the pool to build a sandwich with onion rings and sausages -kickboards were the bread, swim rings the onion rings and pool noodles the sausages!

Some great efforts in the 50m Breast before heading back into relay-mode for the "Late for the BBQ" race. Again, lots of laughs as swimmers made their way down the pool with various items, including thongs, hats and balls.

The evening finished off with some free play/swimming, a drink and sausage from the BBQ.

Thank you to everyone who came along, including parents for timekeeping and supporting the swimmers.

Congratulations to Tarrant Elkin for winning first prize in the raffle (donated by Kaylah McCarthy) and Calin Jones for winning second prize (donated by The Grays).

Swim lessons/training are back in full swing, with the following events left in the season:

Thursday 1 February – time trial

Thursday 8th February – time trial

Thursday 15th February – time trial

Thursday 22nd February – Swim-athon – open to all members and the public

Thursday 29 February – time trial

Thursday 7 March – time trial

Thursday 14 March – time trial

Thursday 21 March – Championships session 1

Thursday 28 March – Championships session 2

CHRISTINE GRAY

