



WESTERN ECHO

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

EDITION 39 FEBRUARY 13TH, 2025

WE MEANS COMMUNITY

FREE

Echo reaches further!

Many of you in the Northwest will have already seen West Coast paper, the Western Echo in your local IGA or newsagents but very soon (hopefully starting with the March edition), the Western Echo will be covering the entire West and Northwest coast areas from Wynyard to Smithton to Marrawah and down to Waratah, Zeehan, Strahan and Queenstown.

The Western Echo is just over three years old and has enjoyed bringing news and events to the West Coast people and community.

We will still call it by the same name, and it will continue to be free and bring you the news, events, sports and happenings all over the west of our state, just lots more of it.

The Circular Head Chronicle has done an amazing job for over 100 years and we can't have communities going without a local newspaper so have decided to offer this to you, the people of the Northwest.

I am very much looking forward to travelling up that way and meeting as many of you as possible, chasing stories

and taking photos of events and sports in the Northwest. This is of course a great way for businesses to let people know what they have on offer and I will be catching up with many of you in the region.

We might even have a special introductory advertising package for you - just ask. We would also like to offer community groups, clubs and organisations a free regular monthly column in the Western Echo newspaper.

You can get in touch using the contact details on the inside front page.

Don't forget, we also welcome 'Letters to the Editor' so if you have a gripe, grievance or better yet want to congratulate someone or share a happy west coast experience we would love to print it for you.

We would like to know what you think of the idea and you can either comment on facebook or email alan@westernecho.news and let us know YOUR thoughts.

We hope you enjoy it and get behind your 'new' newspaper. This will be fun!

Alan Jennison - Editor



ADVERTISEMENT



Anne Urquhart

Energetic, Hardworking, Experienced.

Authorised by Jarryd Moore, Australian Labor Party, Level 2/63 Salamanca Pl, Hobart TAS 7000





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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.

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

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Working on the Waterfront



Preliminary site works have commenced this week for the Strahan Waterfront Precinct Redevelopment project.

Temporary fencing is being erected near the original West Coast Visitor Information Centre building and adjacent to the Huon Pine Precinct area on the Esplanade.

There may be some pedestrian and vehicular diversions put in place to ensure public safety.

A construction exclusion zone will be erected around "The Ship That Never Was" so that it will not be impacted by construction works and can continue to operate as normal with full access maintained to the area.

The Reflections Exhibition is not part of these preliminary works. Council is planning a timeframe for packaging and storing of exhibition items under the guidance of a suitably qualified professional conservator and in accordance with the Heritage Tasmania permit.

A reminder that queries relating to the project should be directed to West Coast

Council via email wcc@westcoast.tas.gov.au or call 64 714 700.

More project information, including the project background and concept plans, are available at West Coast Council's website: <https://www.westcoast.tas.gov.au/.../strahan-waterfront...>

Updates will be provided via social media, on display in Strahan at the West Coast Visitor Information Centre and the Council office in Queenstown, and on the regular Mayor on Air segment on 7XS.



Letters to the editor..

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

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

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

To the Editor,

It's the 3/2/2025. 44 years to the day and there's choppers in the air and smoke everywhere. Dry lightning has started a number of fires near Corinna in the Tarkine and also Trial Harbour road.

So the residents of Zeehan have to endure another hot summer with the threat of another inferno, we remember Tuesday the 3/2/81, the town was an inferno and we lost 41 houses.

Today at the entrance to west Zeehan we have pine forests, acres upon acres of gorse, tall dry grass and lots of hoarded accumulated rubbish.

The relative Ministers have been made aware of this issue on many occasions over many years and the problem has constantly been ignored.

It seems that west Zeehan has been put in the too hard basket and it appears that they are waiting for another fire to come and do the job for them.

Grant Hodge, Zeehan



Zeehan RSL info

Zeehan RSL is a small non profit organisation run by an awesome team of volunteers.

Opening hours are
Thursday & Friday 12pm-2pm
Friday nights 5pm-8pm
Saturdays 10am-2pm
Bar is always open during opening hours.

Friday nights we offer a weekly special (roast, Chinese, Italian) along with our usual menu, which includes burgers, pizzas, Parris, steak plus loads more, including our new desert menu

We are also offering delivery in Zeehan for a \$5 fee by calling 64716466 during opening hours

Don't forget the RSL can be utilised for private functions

Memberships are now due and if not already a member please consider becoming one

So come along and support your local RSL, whether for a drink, meal or volunteering we look forward to seeing you

Health and Wellbeing strategy

West Coast Council's first Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030 will guide the work of the Council team over five years.

The strategy will provide an opportunity to strategically plan a future our community can work towards together.

To ensure this strategy still reflects our communities priorities, Council invites input from the Community.

The strategy can be found on our website here; www.westcoast.tas.gov.au/.../health-and-wellbeing or is available at our council office and from our agencies.

Feedback to be provided prior to 5PM Monday 24 February 2025.



ANSWER THE CALL

Volunteer with Tasmania SES

Join Tasmania SES and be part of a community that stands strong together. We need ordinary people to be extraordinary volunteers.

Will you answer the call?

www.ses.tas.gov.au/volunteer

A sky full of choppers on the West Coast



At time of going to print there were over thirty firefighting planes and helicopters flying around Tasmania helping to contain the fires on the West Coast.

Caused by dry lightning strikes, these fires have devastated huge areas of the West and the latest news has the residents and visitors from Corinna being evacuated south to Zeehan.

The Fires, Parks and Wildlife staff, SES and Tas Police are doing an amazing job in hot, windy conditions in areas that are very hard to get into.

I am sure you will all join me in wishing not only a quick cessation of the fires but congratulations to all of the people on the ground and in the air helping in these trying times.

I went out to the Parting Creek Lake to photograph the choppers filling up with water and was in awe at the skill these pilots have.

Now we have helicopters and planes from the mainland helping out and to all of you I say a huge thank you.

Alan - Ed

New manager for council

West Coast Council Mayor Shane Pitt is thrilled to announce that Scott Riley has been appointed the next General Manager. Mr Riley brings more than 30 years' experience in the local government sector to the role. His most recent appointments include Director Planning and Environmental Services at Southern Downs Regional Council in Queensland and General Manger at the Circular Head Council in North West Tasmania.

Mayor Pitt said Mr Riley would be a great addition to the council and the West Coast community. "Mr Riley has a tremendous background in local government leader, and I'm thrilled that he is joining us," Mayor Pitt said. "He has been a regular visitor to the West Coast, and is a huge fan of our region, its natural beauty and our people.

"Having worked for a neighbouring council, he has a really strong understanding of the critical role that local government plays in a regional community like ours. "He brings great experi-

ence in leadership, strategic planning, community relationships, commercial undertakings, financial management and infrastructure management."

Mr Riley moved to the West Coast prior to commencing in the General Manager position on February 3.

Mayor Pitt thanked outgoing Interim General Manager Barry Omundson.

"Mr Omundson provided council with a steady hand while we finalised Mr Riley's appointment, and I'm very grateful for his experience and expertise," Mayor Pitt said.



Western Regional Strategic Partnership

NETWORK EVENT

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

INDUSTRY PROJECT UPDATES

**WEDNESDAY
19 FEB**

5pm - 7pm

**STUDY HUB
WEST COAST
Frederick Street
Zeehan**

LIGHT SUPPER & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

RSVP liz.youd@rdatasmania.org.au
BY COB Thursday 13 February

Are you an Aboriginal person living in Lutruwita/Tasmania?



We'd like to hear your ideas on how Hydro Tasmania can:

- protect and care for Country
- create social and economic opportunities that enable Aboriginal people to thrive
- foster a culturally safe and inclusive workplace

To get involved scan the QR code.



connect.hydro.com.au/hobartyarns



Rosebery Mine

Community Newsletter

February 2025



Image (L-R): Jill Richardson, Holly Grant, Madison Lello

Supporting local students

Madison Lello and Holly Grant were the recipients of \$500 scholarships of merit from MMG.

The Hellyer College students have been provided with the funds to assist them travelling from Rosebery to school in Burnie.

We wish them well in their academic endeavours.

Chinese New Year celebrations

We would like to wish the Chinese community a happy and prosperous year of the snake.

MMG Rosebery celebrated with some decorations which recognise the diversity of our workforce.



Round 2 2024 sponsorship results

Congratulations to all the recipients of sponsorships from MMG Rosebery in 2024.

Each year, MMG provides two rounds of community sponsorships.

In the final round of 2024, 19 community organisations, schools and associations shared in more than \$55,000.

The money will be spent on various activities including school camps, uniforms, Christmas events, building works, a healthy lunch program and awards nights.

MMG Rosebery is proud to be able to support our community organisations.

2025 applications are now open for round 1 sponsorships.

If you would like to apply, please contact Jill on 1800 767 664.

The Rosebery Community Consultative Committee will review applications for recommendation to the General Manager after April 15th, with notification of success in May 2025.

Community Bus Working Group

We are exploring the possibility of introducing a community bus to provide better access to transport for Rosebery locals.

The need was identified by members of our community due to the remote location of Rosebery.

MMG Rosebery Community Liason Coordinator Jill Richardson will facilitate a working group to examine all the different options.

The working group will provide agreement on access, expectations, qualifications and regulations.

If you would like to join this group, please contact Jill on 1800 767 664 or emailing ROSCommunity@MMG.com.

MMG Pop up Shop

As part of MMG Rosebery's commitment to engage with the local community, we have an upcoming opportunity to ask questions about our current operations.

Join us for a chat:

Date: Wednesday 19 February and Thursday 20 February

Time: 10am - 3pm at 2/15 Agnes Street, Rosebery.

1800 767 664

ROSCOMMUNITY@MMG.COM

MMG.COM/HOME/ROSEBERYFUTURE

MMG.COM/CAREERS

New CEO for NW council



Please welcome your new CEO, Vanessa Adams!

With great enthusiasm and open arms, Mayor Mary Duniam extends a warm congratulations to Vanessa as she accepts the role of Chief Executive Officer (formerly General Manager), of Waratah-Wynyard Council.

A resident of North-West Tasmania, Vanessa brings with her extensive experience in local councils, most recently serving as the General Manager of Circular Head Council. Her familiarity with Tasmania's North-West region and her existing working relationships, with Mayor Mary, recently departed General Manager Shane Crawford, and our Acting General Manager, Daniel Summers, are what give Mayor Mary the confidence that Council will continue to execute projects that align with our community's values.

With Vanessa, our Council's identity remains rooted in community wellness, accessibility, creativity, and recreation. Welcome, Vanessa!

A dose of fresh air for West coasters

Tasmania's west coast Neighbourhood Houses have received a timely air quality boost, with a donation of air purifier units thanks to Asthma Australia's partnership with Rentokil Initial and the support of Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania.

The units have been donated by Rentokil Initial to the majority of Neighbourhood Houses across the state, where they will help support people with asthma and other respiratory conditions that are made worse by poor air quality.

Zeehan Neighbourhood Centre manager Mel Sullivan says the units mean Houses can provide a healthier space for locals with asthma, providing essential support to people in their local community.

Asthma Australia Health Projects and Partnerships Coordinator in Tasmania, Jess Tyler, says the air purifiers are an important ingredient in providing a safe, clean air space, especially on smoky or high pollen days.

"Bushfire smoke and pollens pose significant health challenges for those with hay fever and asthma, making it important for Tasmanians with these conditions to stay alert throughout the season and seek 'air shelter' if needed."

Rentokil Initial in Tasmania says that the partnership reflects a shared commitment to improving air quality and supporting the health and well-being of communities across Tasmania.

"We are proud to see the InspireAir 72 air purifiers being offered through Asthma Australia to Tasmania's Neighbourhood Houses.

"We are delighted that these devices will help create safer environments."



Kayla Ling – Project Officer, Zeehan Neighbourhood Centre switches onto clean air.

Coordinators appointed



MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS APPOINTED

- Aaron Stewart appointed Municipal Coordinator and Bill Hutcheson appointed Deputy Municipal Coordinator
- Council's have an important role in Emergency Management, working alongside specialised organisations to respond effectively

Last week Mayor Pitt presented Aaron Stewart (Manager Infrastructure & Operations) and Bill Hutcheson (Manager Organisational Performance) with certificates acknowledging their appointment as Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators.

Aaron will serve as the Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator, and Bill as the Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator in accordance with the Emergency Management Act 2006.

In presenting the Certificates of Appointment, signed by the Minister for

Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Council recognises the responsibilities and contribution made by Municipal Coordinators to the wellbeing of our communities.

Council's have an important role in Emergency Management through resource support, local information, recovery and relief coordination, and being a support agency, working alongside specialised organisations to respond effectively.

Congratulations and thank you Aaron and Bill!

Pool going swimmingly

Work to complete repairs to the Zeehan Swimming Pool have been progressing well this year:

- the deep end concrete floor has stabilised and reinforced
- new pipework has been pressure tested
- concrete will be poured in the coming days
- following the concrete pour the new vinyl liner will be installed

We are working towards a completion date for the pool of early March. When the new changerooms have been completed and inspected by the building surveyor the pool will then be operational.

Once completed the pool infrastructure will have been completely upgraded, including placement of a disability hoist for those patrons who may have mobility issues.

Along with the community we are keen to see the finished product and enjoy a swim in the pool.



This ship has sailed... or has it?

We came together, jubilant strangers. We were ushered to fill a seaside, creative space on the land of the Palawa People. We're all here, to hear an irreverent, true story of potential piracy and plunder. The gentle (strangely familiar) scent of Huon pine is relished. The sea breeze tickles the skin, reminding us we're inside/outside. The impressive set consists of extensive timber and polished, perfected props. The mood is expectant: we Aussies love a story about sticking it to the man! The stage is set: an enthusiastic audience participating with an improvised Pink Panther theme. The phrase "promised pantomime" is wielded early-(whoops-no: "pants are mine" apparently). We, the audience, know what we're in for! (And just because you're in the

back row, don't think you'll escape any breaking-fourth-wall shenanigans from the eagle-eyed actors, as I discovered). Both children and older men in the audience are enlisted, in supporting roles, replete with (freshly sanitised) props. The sheer delight of this experience is obvious to all, though some embraced their roles with more abandon than others. The girl who played the cat embodied her skittish ways perfectly! Youngsters remind us how to improvise. No Fear! I mean...how WOULD a cat, on a boat, out at sea, FEEL? A tad TETCHY, me thinks! And don't get me started about the spray bottles and trigger-happy pre-teens! Key phrases were repeated by the audience, at various intervals. Notably: "Liberty-OR DEATH!" with ever increasing gusto!



A comedic request for dramatic tension via "creeping in time to the music" means educational content is met and all age groups are suitably entertained. Nice.

Any home-schooling parent could include a visit as part of the fam's creative and performing arts mandatory hours. And the HSIE content means it ticks a few boxes, eh what? A clever use of timber costume/sets (and the talent and versatility of the actor that played them), meant other (occasional) characters were convincing! (And who wouldn't want to play a drunken sailor ear-lie in the mornin')?

The phrase "admiralty law" is flexed, towards the end. The players are embroiled in a court hearing where words and their meanings are scrutinised. (A timely lesson for all, in the importance of knowing "common law").

The ship is effectively "ghosted" by its own bureaucratic bungling! Tardy record-keeping saves the day! Perhaps this old tale will prove useful as a blueprint for freedom.

The dedication of the performers to the story and its legacy was clear, when it was announced that all actors were part of past or present father/daughter performance teams.

My own father introduced me to a love of theatre, so this fact resonates, especially.

Also, as a creative and performing arts teacher for more than twenty five years, I am a passionate advocate for the wonders of creative collaboration, for shared healing and healthy communities.

More please! More! Encore, encore! Here's to another thirty one years!



www.hydro.com.au/grants



Community Grants now open!

Grants up to \$5,000 are available for not-for-profit community organisations across Tasmania.



Grants bolster small businesses

Builders, distillers, cafes and a swim school are among the businesses to benefit from a round of Tasmanian Government grants aimed at supporting small business.

Minister for Hospitality and Small Business, Jane Howlett, said the Enabling Small Business Grant program was very popular, with the grants applications fulfilled within 24 hours of opening.

"The \$1 million Enabling Small Business Grants program provided up to \$10,000 to eligible businesses for capital purchases," Minister Howlett said.

"This includes things such as new technology, small-scale manufacturing equipment, computers or electronic payments terminals.

"The successful applicants were required to contribute at least 30 per cent towards the total capital purchase cost."

Minister Howlett said key to the Tasmanian Government's 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future was supporting our State's small businesses, who are the backbone of the economy.

"These grants highlight the benefits of 2026 Small Business Growth Strategy and are producing real and tangible outcomes for small businesses across Tasmania," the Minister said.

Successful recipients from round two of the Enabling Small Business Grant program can be found on the Business Tasmania website.

West Coast Paddle Club report

I joined the West Coast Paddle Club late last year as I was really keen to get out onto the amazing waterways surrounding Queenstown. Paddle Club week in early Jan gave me the opportunities I was waiting for.

On Sunday 12th Jan, the kayak trip started at Macquarie Heads, paddling across the waterway known as Hells Gates to Cape Sorell. I had always thought Hells Gates was named because of the dangerous mix of tide, waves, strong winds and river water flowing out of the harbour creating whirl pools, eddies and strong currents to mess with incoming or outgoing boats.

And there are plenty of shipwreck stories to back up that idea, but no, apparently it was so named by the convicts coming to the penal settlement on Sarah Island, their point of "entrance to Hell". Anyways we were blessed with modest wind and tide conditions so paddled successfully across via Bonnet Island.

Although we tried to cut through the Macquarie Heads breakwater to get to Pilot Bay, the tide was too low and we aborted that idea. We pulled up our kayaks on Outer Bay instead, then bush bashed our way across the land to Pilot Bay for our picnic and swim.

The Breakwater is one of the late 19th century feats of engineering – and was built to help keep the channel into Macquarie Harbour free of silt so the ships could make it across the entrance

when going by ship was the only way to export the Mt Lyell copper.

Although the return paddle was a little more testing against the tide, we made it back successfully, packed the kayaks onto the vehicles and headed back to Queenstown feeling well exercised and content after a good day on the water.

On Tuesday 14th Jan – Paul and I set off in a double kayak across the southern part of Lake Burbury towards the gorge where the Governor River enters the lake. It took us just over an hour to paddle there, and omg, what a gorgeous day it was for a paddle. Sunshine, blue skies, hardly any wind, and we had the place to ourselves. Can it get any better than that?

Wild natural beauty, endless waterways, little islands popping up here and there, happy chirping of birds, good company. Lake Burbury, is not really pristine environment although it occurs as such. It is a man-made reservoir created by the Crotty Dam inundating the upper King River valley. And covering up the old mining centre of Crotty. The John Butters Hydroelectric Power Station runs off the water discharge.

More picnics, swimming in quite surprisingly warm waters and another highly satisfying day on the water. Thank you Paul and the West Coast Paddle Club. Can't wait to go out for another trip.

Annie Venables, Queenstown resident



Phil Vickers retires

After 25 years of dedicated service with West Coast Heritage Ltd we today say goodbye to our General Manager, Phil Vickers and wish him well on his retirement.

Phil has been the driving force behind the company over those 25 years, guiding it through some tough times and ensuring that the West Coast Heritage Centre evolved and developed.

Another of Phil's achievements has been overseeing the creation and develop-

ment of Study Hub West Coast, Study Centre Circular Head and now Study King Island.

The list of Phil's achievements is too long to mention them all, such is his dedication to the West Coast and it's community.

Management, staff and everyone at West Coast Heritage would like to wish Phil all the very best for the future.



MAL HINGSTON
LIBERAL FOR BRADDON

Authorised by C McQuestin, Liberal Party 185 Invermay Rd, Invermay, TAS 7248

Community spirit shines at picnic

The 127th Mount Lyell Strahan Picnic saw locals and visitors come together at West Strahan Beach on Australia Day for a day of traditional games, family-friendly entertainment, and community connection.

With around 300 attendees, the crowd was smaller than in previous years, but the atmosphere remained lively. "We had a great Picnic this year," said Leigh Styles, Secretary of the Mount Lyell Strahan Picnic Committee. "It was a really enthusiastic crowd – a nice mix of locals and visitors – and a great chance for neighbours to catch up while giving newcomers a taste of West Coast hospitality."

One of the standout moments of the day was the sandcastle building competition, which saw children get creative with over 200 tonnes of sand delivered to the beach. "The kids made some fantastic creations," said Mr Styles. "It was a highlight for a lot of families."

The event's success was largely due to the efforts of dedicated volunteers, who worked behind the scenes to set up the day before and ensure everything ran smoothly. "The Picnic is a well-oiled machine, and that's thanks to the hard work of our committee members and volunteers," Mr Styles said.

The West Coast Spirit Awards were

also presented at the event, with Mayor Shane Pitt announcing the recipients, recognising those who have made outstanding contributions to the community.

As the Picnic Committee looks ahead to next year's event, feedback from attendees is being gathered to help shape the 128th Mount Lyell Strahan Picnic in 2026. "We've invited feedback from patrons, and we'll be reviewing it at our February meeting as we start planning for next year," Mr Styles explained.

The day was not without its lighter moments. Mr Styles, who also took on the role of race announcer, inadvertently sent children on a wild goose chase during a treasure hunt mix-up. "I was handed a phone with the clues, but I accidentally read out the first thing I saw – which turned out to be a committee member's shopping list," he laughed. "So, we had kids running around looking for a 'plank of wood 500mm or longer' before I realised my mistake and gave them the actual clue!"

With another successful Picnic in the books, the event continues to uphold its legacy as one of the West Coast's longest-running traditions, bringing people together through fun, competition, and community spirit.





Study Hub/UTAS Feb update - West and Northwest

2025 is definitely off and running in the learning and education space!

More collaboration and communication around learning and education can be found in one location!

Study Hub West Coast, Study Hub Circular Head and Study King Island will be providing regular monthly updates in collaboration with University of Tasmania ('UTAS') Regional Learning Officers each month regarding upcoming activities and learning opportunities across these regional areas. Western Echo newspaper is increasing its coverage to the entire West and North West Coast areas now that the Circular Head Chronicle has disbanded after 100 years of service.

West Coast news!

A welcome to 2025 event was held in January at Study Hub West Coast for students, industry and business to come together and connect as well as to chat about future collaborations. The afternoon was relaxed, enjoyable and a great way to launch into the New Year. In particular, we extend a sad farewell to Phil Vickers who retired as GM of West Coast Heritage recently and a warm welcome the new General Manager for West Coast Heritage, Samantha Eley and Study Hub West Coast Manager, Tracie Philips. Thank you to all those who attended.

First aid and CPR courses were run in January as well as STEM activities with UTAS staff at Queenstown Library.

In February we welcome back our resident educator in Snake Handling as well as the return of courses in working at heights and confined spaces. In addition, UTAS is working with Study Hub West Coast and TAFE to host a drop-in day for any future students, existing

students and interested community members who would just like to come and chat to us about opportunities for learning and education generally. Our UTAS research Librarian Cathy will be on hand to talk about the best ways to tackle learning challenges, build confidence in researching as well as hot tips for writing essays and referencing. This event is open to all current and potential new students and will be held on Wednesday 5th March 2025, including a casual morning tea. Further details of these events will follow shortly on Study Hub West Coast facebook site and across other West Coast media sites.

In the upcoming weeks, a survey will be distributed to all users of the Hub, accompanied by a link shared on our social media platforms, to gather insights on how we can assist the West Coast.

As previously noted, this year marks the arrival of a new Manager to the West Coast Study Hub.

Tracie possesses over 15 years of experience in both the Mining Industry and Community Services and is a Human Resource professional who has a passion for learning and development.

Having lived on the West Coast most of her life, Tracie has a deep affection for the West Coast and everything it provides, and she understands how the isolation of living here can appear intimidating. However, with current technology and facilities like the Study Hub, the isolation is diminishing. Throughout the years she has achieved several qualifications through distance education and understands the difficulties of networking and connection to others.

We look forward to what 2025 will bring.

Circular Head news!

Study Centre Circular Head hosted the second of three Youth Employment, Education and Training Working Group meetings in collaboration with West North West Working and other stakeholders, seeking ways to empower young people through exposure to career opportunities, practical experience and industry connection. Justine and Danielle from the University of Tasmania were busy assisting new and continuing UTAS students with enrolments and timetabling.

In other news at the Study Centre, McCain Foods made use of our training rooms to conduct a Work Process Study. TasTAFE provided an Agricultural Chemical Skill Set course, and NSTA led a Job Ready Skill Set training course. The Study Centre is looking forward to hosting a Student Orientation Day for all new and continuing students on Thursday 13th February. See on our Study Centre Circular Head Facebook page for further information about this event and other upcoming events.

King Island news!

January was a busy month for Study King Island, with exciting developments and strong community engagement. Our drop-in session on January 29th welcomed registered students, new students and community members with great discussions about study opportunities. We're also preparing to move into our new space within the Annexe of the Hub, pending the official go-ahead. This dedicated space will enhance our ability to support students and facilitate training on the island.

Looking ahead, we are actively working on bringing new training opportunities to King Island, consulting with local businesses to identify key areas where further education and upskilling are needed. We're also preparing for the King Island show in March, where we'll be attending to connect with the community and share more about what Study King Island has to offer. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to expand learning opportunities on the island!



The nature connection



I caught up with Jen from the 'Nature Connection Project' at the Mt Lyell Picnic the other week and asked for more information about her project. This is what she sent me.

How Australians experience a sense of connection with nature, and the impacts of that connection, are the questions at the heart of The Nature Connection Project.

This University of Tasmania-led research is born from Australia's Strategy for Nature, with its Number One Goal "To Connect All Australians To Nature". However, the majority of nature connection research has happened overseas, and there are some real gaps in our understanding in the Australian context. The Nature Connection Storytelling Pod This is where The Nature Connec-

tion Project steps in. Firstly the project analysed a national survey completed by just over 4000 Australians from diverse backgrounds. The results show, among other insights, that those who identify as being strongly connected to nature are 81 times more likely to engage in 'pro-environmental' behaviours than people who report having low levels of connection.

Statistics such these are important in giving broad, sweeping understandings, but the project also wants to gain deeper insights into the complexities of human connection with non-human nature. The second part of the research is therefore focussed on gathering stories of people's experiences in nature. Stories like 'Grey Fantail'



"This photo was taken at the end of the most difficult year of my life. Watching this young grey fantail fledgling reminded me that there was light

at the end of the tunnel, that I had not only survived unimaginable emotional, psychological, and financial abuse ... I had healed from long-term chronic pain and had made a new life for myself. It was almost a new year, a new beginning, just like for this young little fantail fledgling".

Most of us have had moments that awaken a feeling of connection with other living or non-living things around us. If you have a story, photo, poem, painting or other creative offering of connection that you want to share, please visit the project website at www.thenatureconnectionproject.com.au/

The project also has a mobile inflatable pod that can be brought to festivals and events to gather nature connection stories. By analysing these creative contributions, the project team will gain greater insights into Australians' relationship with nature. These understandings will be used to inform environmental and wellbeing policies, and create nature connection resources, tools, articles and understandings.

Like more information about the project or the pod? Contact Jen Sharman - jenni.sharman@utas.edu.au

These cobras don't bite



Cobras (replicas), from the Cobra Car Club of Western Australia visited Queenstown, on Tasmania's West Coast today and I just had to get some photos as they are a really cool car. I met one of the drivers, Chris was his name, a very nice gentleman, who asked this question, "would you be conceited if you were driving one of these cars?" I laughed and replied, "if you're driving one of these babies, you can be as conceited as you like". We both had a laugh at that. I had a great chat with him and also met some of the women with the men as well, lovely people.

Warren Donnelly

Where there's a wheel...



Senior Constable Ebsworth dropped into Zeehan Neighbourhood Centre recently to have a chat with young scooter riders about the importance of being safe while out and about.

The emphasis was about road rules, motorised scooters and footpath etiquette – and pleasingly, all participants wore their helmets because they wanted to feel safe.

A wheely great job everyone!

'Meteor Crater'. In 1953 a meteorite was seen to crash somewhere south-west of Waratah. Fourteen years later, a Mr J Doyle contacted the Department of Mines and the site was located and inspected by Government Geologist A. J Noldart.

The location of the crater was 3.2 Km from Corinna and 20 m from the road. It was 25 m in diameter with a depth of 6 metres. It has no outlet and there is no rock outcrop in the vicinity. It is still there!

Graduation day – A celebration of Achievements

St. Joseph's Catholic Schools (Rosebery & Queenstown 2024)

As Eleanor Roosevelt says, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Graduation day is the culmination of all the time, energy, and work that each student put into gaining qualifications, and it gives a great chance to celebrate all that every student have achieved. Without it, finishing the year and qualification doesn't have that one big defining moment to remember for years to come; this is a lifetime experience to remember and to cherish for the students who are in a time of transition. It is a ceremony celebrating the greatness of the students' achievement whilst surrounded by friends, family, and classmates. It is a brilliant way to highlight the end of this amazing chapter in their life.

St. Joseph's Catholic School at Rosebery had their graduation day celebration for Grade 6 on 10th December 2024 at 10 am with the Holy Mass offered by Fr. Arokia where the whole school was present with supporting parents, well-wishers and the dedicated teachers. Fr. Arokia spoke on the meaning of success and achievement as something that inspires others' lives. Emphasising the importance of the transition to higher grade and the learning process to contin-

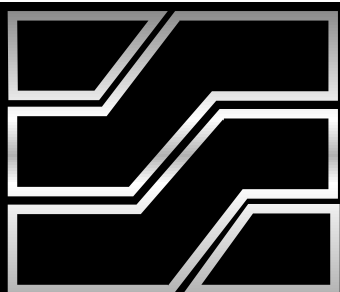
ue with great thoughts in life, he thanked the teachers for their untiring service in educating the students with knowledge, character and motivation. There was a special prayer for the Grade 6 student Mya Richards at the end of the Mass. After the Holy Mass all were invited for the cuppa and proceeded with the Graduation program. Our Principal Jessinda Jones began welcoming everyone and started to announce the success of the students and prize distribution. Every student has achieved in one field or the other and had progressed further for the next level. Fr. Arokia had specially thanked the Principal Jessinda Jones for her kind service and dedication for the Rosebery Catholic School as she takes a change. Finally, wished everyone Christmas and the New Year 2025.

On 16th December 2024 at 1.00 pm, St. Joseph's Catholic School at Queenstown had the Graduation Ceremony at the Parish Church-St. Joseph's. The Ceremony began with the Holy Eucharist offered by Fr. Arokia and spoke on the significant milestone that Grade 6 achieved in their lives. He began with the message of God from the scriptures Romans 12:10-12 "Be devoted to one another in love, Honor one another above yourselves.

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." At the end of his message, he reiterated the values that St. Joseph's taught and guided them i.e., kindness, respect and perseverance and encouraged them to carry the spirit of curiosity, willingness to learn and the courage to face the unknown. A special blessing were showered upon Grade 6 students: Nate Burden, Max Gaspersic, Anastasia Gerhke, Sydney Gray, Hudson Hindle, Calin Jones, Chelsea Jones, Lucy Mansson, Keegan Smith, Evan Townsend, Xzavier Viney.

Principal Teresa McLeod began the ceremony with the introduction welcoming all and started to announce the prize distribution for all students till Grade 6 who achieved their academic excellence and in other fields. The ceremony ended with the great note of wishing every success for the students as they enter a new sphere of life and learning. Fr. Arokia extended all special thanks to teachers and the staff for their dedicated service in building the lives of the students.

Fr. Arokia can be contacted for any Pastoral Care Assistance to the following email: westcoast@aohtas.org.au and Phone number : 0364711731



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Waratah Woodchopping Carnival

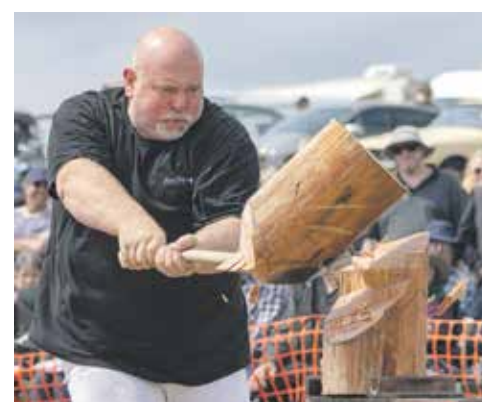
Photos by Alan Jennison

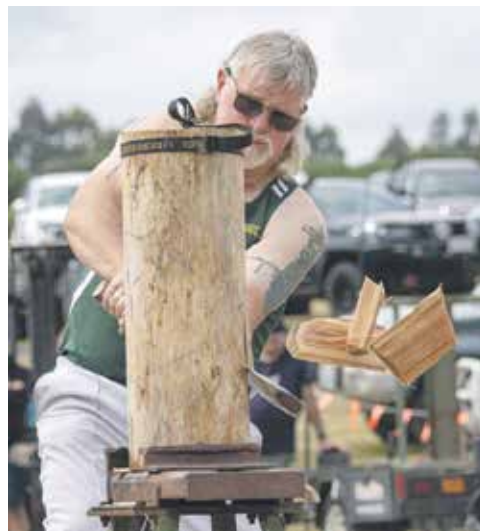
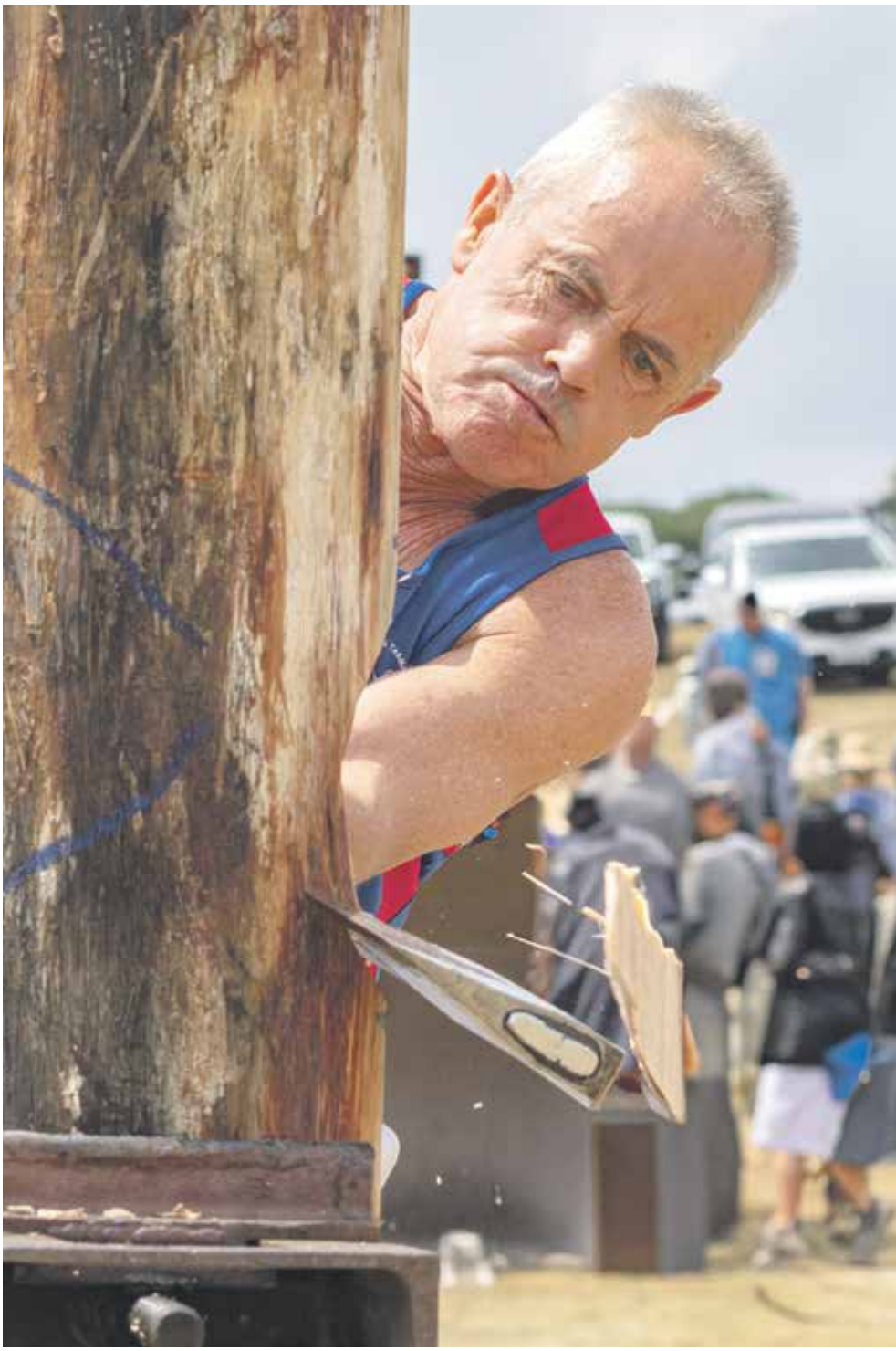
Lots of chopping sawing and chain-sawing talent on display here. Add in the steam engines and tractor rides, throw in a snag or a burger, wander around the market stalls, have a devonshire tea, check out the vintage and hotrod cars and just soak up the atmosphere.

It's always a great day out when you drop in to the Waratah Woodchopping Carnival and this one was no exception.

As usual I will let the photos do the talking for me, just be sure to put this in your diary for next year.

Ed.





Tales from a Zeehan graveyard

Young man breaks his neck doing a gymnastic exercise in Zeehan

A dreadfully harrowing incident occurred at the Montagu Hall in Zeehan on the evening of Tuesday 6 September, 1898 after a meeting of the Zeehan Gymnastic and Literary Club. The club had been formed just a little while before as a source of recreation for the young men of Zeehan during the evenings, and it had become quite popular.

A young man named Theodore Cameron attended the gymnastic class for the first time that night. Originally from Dunedin in New Zealand where he had won prizes for drawing at the Dunedin School of Art and Design, he came to Zeehan where his brother was living, and worked at "The Zeehan and Dundas Herald" as a compositor before going mining. He was just three weeks short of his 23rd birthday and according to reports, a fine athletic youth.

Although it was his first evening in attendance, it was observed that he was quite experienced when it came to exercising on the horizontal bar, which was mounted about seven feet above the floor. After the gymnastics training session under the supervision of instructors had finished, Cameron continued trying some exercises on his own, as some others were also doing. Both the supervisors were no longer in attendance as a committee meeting was taking place in an adjoining room.

Cameron was performing a feat known as the "Spread-eagle foot wheel [at that time at least] where he was circling the bar, with his hands gripping it and his feet resting on it. This exercise, though quite difficult was by no means an uncommon one, nor was it considered very dangerous. Apparently, Cameron had said before trying the exercise, to those standing nearby "I should not try this because my arms feel cramped from doing too much on the first

night after a long spell." His brother and others stood by to watch the exercise which he performed successfully, and they then stood aside for Cameron to dismount. In attempting to do so he somehow slipped, and he fell from the bar with great force, head first into a kapok mattress, one of several which had been placed strategically on the floor. Unfortunately, the mattress did not break his fall sufficiently, and it was seen at once that he was seriously injured.

Dr. Kennedy was sent for, and he arrived quickly, and found that Cameron's body was completely paralysed and numbed to all feeling from the feet to the chest, and he diagnosed a dislocation of the spine a few inches below the neck. Cameron was able to talk as usual, but had no feeling. He was not suffering the slightest pain, but was simply numbed. The doctor ordered his removal to the hospital.

Cameron remained lying in the hospital, quite helpless, until he succumbed to his injuries on the following Thursday afternoon about 5 o'clock. He was conscious from the time of the accident up until within an hour or so of his death.

For reasons which are unknown today there was no Coronial Enquiry into his death, which was unusual. Fortunately, there were two letters sent to the Editor of "The Zeehan and Dundas Herald" which provide some insight.

The anonymous writer of one letter confirmed that the accident occurred after the finish of the class, when it was expected dangerous feats would not be attempted without assistance being on hand. Perhaps Cameron had his adrenalin pumping, or was trying to impress the others? He also stated that the primary injury prevention method was the use of "spotters,"

the padding on the floor being an additional protection. Unfortunately, the "spotters" had moved back to allow Cameron to dismount.

The other letter was signed by the two instructors at the Club, R. Koch and O. Curtis, who had years of experience tutoring gymnastics, both in Tasmania and interstate. They believed that the kapok mattresses used on the floor as padding were the best available and they had used the same sort in leading clubs of Melbourne. They closed by stating they felt "that no further precaution can be taken beyond

those we [already] have. The unfortunate occurrence was sad fate."

Theodore Cameron's funeral commenced at 3p.m. on Sunday, 11 September when his body left the Zeehan Hospital for burial in the cemetery. His burial plot is known but at the present time there is no remaining physical evidence of his headstone or grave.

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



Theodore Cameron's gravesite today



GLAZED SALMON WITH BOK CHOY AND RICE

≡ 25 MINS

🕒 EASY

👥 SERVES 2



INGREDIENTS:

300g (2 portions) Tassie Salmon, skin off
¼ cup light soy sauce
¼ cup mirin
1 tsp sesame oil
1 bunch bok choy, halved, steamed, to serve
Cooked rice, to serve
Sesame seeds to garnish

METHOD:

STEP 1

Preheat oven to 200°C oven fan grill. Place oven rack on top shelf of oven.

STEP 2

Place salmon in a shallow bowl, add soy and mirin and allow the fish to marinate.

STEP 3

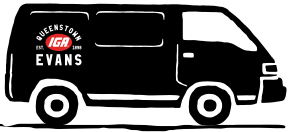
Remove salmon from bowl and place on oven tray lined with foil or baking paper. Place on top shelf of oven and cook for 5 minutes, then turn fish over and cook on the other side for a few minutes until the salmon is cooked through.

STEP 4

Serve with steamed bok choy and rice, drizzle over sesame oil and garnish with sesame seeds.

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We sell on consignment, buy, sell, and we accept donations too. Both cash or card payments are accepted.

We open again on Wednesday 15th January 2025, and trade on Wednesdays through to Sundays from 10am to 3pm.

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All public buses are half price until 30 June 2025!

This includes adult, concession, and child/student fares throughout Tasmania

To find your half price bus visit transport.tas.gov.au/public_transport/bus_timetables, talk to your bus operator, or call 6166 3343.

On the West Coast services between Strahan, Queenstown and Burnie via Zeehan, Rosebery and Tullah operate 7 days a week, and services between Queenstown and Hobart via Derwent Bridge operate on Tuesday and Friday.

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Exhibition Sat 8th Feb 'til 8th March

Huon Pine waste materials turned into ART

FROM THE FLOOR TO THE WALL

ZEEHAN RSL Breakfast

10AM COMMENCING SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

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EGGS AND BACON ON TOAST \$8

TEA, COFFEE AND EXTENDED MENU ALSO AVAILABLE

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Save the Date

12th of April 2025

Zeehan Street Market

Come join us for a day of fun, local flavors, and unique finds!

Mark your calendars and get ready for an exciting day at the Zeehan Street Market!

Date: Saturday, 12th of April
Time: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Location: Zeehan Main Street

THE QUEENSTOWN COMMUNITY MARKET

2025 DATES
Memorial Hall, Orr Street, 11am-2pm

FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
2	2	6	4 Mother's Day Market
JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT
1	6	3	7 Father's Day Market
OCT	OCT	NOV	DEC
5	19 The Unconformity Makers Market	2	7 Christmas Market

BOOK YOUR STALL NOW! call Robyn 0428 466 445

WELCOME TO THE WEST COAST OF TASMANIA'S BOOZE, BREWS AND TUNES FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars for February 22nd 2025, because the event you've all been waiting for is coming back with a BANG!

After the overwhelming success of this year's festival, we are thrilled to announce that A Day At The Lake Festival will be returning to Tullah Lakeside Lodge, and it's going to be even BIGGER and BETTER than before!

The festival will feature an incredible lineup of talented musicians that will ignite the crowd and create an atmosphere charged with energy and excitement!

Quench your thirst with an impressive selection of craft beer, wine, cider, and spirits from the finest vendors in Tasmania.

Foodies, rejoice! Our festival will also be a culinary delight, featuring an array of foods and delectable treats to satisfy every craving.

A Day At The Lake Festival 2025 at Tullah Lakeside Lodge is an event you simply cannot miss! So gather your friends, invite your loved ones, and join us for a day filled with music, great food, cold drinks and incredible memories. This is your chance to experience the magic of Tullah Lakeside Lodge in all its glory!

rosebery festival

2025 ART EXHIBITION

The Lions Club Art Exhibition is back again for the 2025 Rosebery Festival

Dates and times:
Thursday 13th Feb 6pm-9pm (Festival Opening Event)
Friday 14th Feb 9am-5pm
Saturday 15th Feb 9am-5pm

Awards:
Community choice award.
Judges' choice.
Student award.

Some art will be available for purchase

If you would like to be apart of our exhibition, forms are available at The Rosebery Neighborhood house or Email arts@roseberyfestival.com

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THE MAINE MEMORIAL GOLF DAY

SATURDAY MARCH 1st

TWO PERSON AMBROSÉ

ZEEHAN GOLF COURSE
Great Prizes to be Won
\$5 entry fee

Everybody is Welcome

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MARCH

International Women's Day 2025

Celebrate International Women's Day Join us for a special event honoring women in local emergency services!

Date: Saturday 8th Of March 2025
Time 11:30
Location: Heemskirk Hotel Zeehan

- Two-Course Meal
- Two Special Guest Speaker
- \$10 per head

Bookings essential! Reserve your spot today. Call The ZNC on 64716108

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rosebery festival

Goin' Fishin', Headox, The Strife, Shannon and Craig Iain MacLeod, Rebel Ras + More

Fireworks, Live Music, Colour Run, Kids Activities, Markets, Face Painting, +More

13th -16th February 2025

www.roseberyfestival.com