



COMPULSORY CONTACT TRACING

Compulsory contact tracing now applies, by law, to specific businesses, venues and facilities. Are you one of them?

The Tasmanian Government has made this process easier, contactless and secure by creating the *Check In Tas* app.

The app enables individuals to check-in to venues by scanning a QR code from their smart phone. A different QR code is required for each venue.

To effectively contact trace, venues are required to ask for the first name, phone number, date and time of an individuals who attends their venue for longer than 15 minutes. If attending as a group, only one person in the group needs to register on the presumption that they will know everyone else in their group if contact tracing is required.

The data gathered by the *Check In Tas* App is securely stored by the Tasmanian Department of Health and not accessed unless required for contact tracing at the venue.

Venues can register for the *Check in Tas* app by going online to <https://covid19.health.tas.gov.au/check-in-tas-business-registration>. They will then receive a QR Code and a business starter kit (including QR Code posters). Customers can download the *Check in TAS* App from the Google Play Store and the Apple store app. This image is what you are looking for -



Once the customer has registered using the *Check In Tas* app, they should show venue staff the app successful check in screen.

If a customer is not able to or chooses not to use the *Check-In Tas* app, businesses must ensure an alternative method is available i.e. paper-based collection.

“PLATYPUS PROTECTION HERO” IMMORTALISED

In 2008, a young student from Japan by the name of Masakazu Asahara arrived in Latrobe, the “Platypus Capital of the World” to learn more about platypus.

Mr Asahara spent a few days in Latrobe, finding and observing platypus before chancing upon a platypus tour being conducted by Latrobe Landcare member, Mr Ron Hedditch (pictured).

Mr Hedditch and other members of the small but passionate group, had established platypus tours in Latrobe to raise awareness of these unique animals. As a result of their knowledge, international film crews (from England, Spain and Japan etc) had visited Latrobe to film the platypus in their natural environment.

It was not until the end of his time in Latrobe that Mr Asahara booked in for his own platypus tour and, finding himself the only attendee, received some extra special attention by Mr Hedditch.

Mr Hedditch mentioned that he possessed a copy of a NHK documentary (a Japanese On Demand documentary) that featured the Latrobe platypus at Warrawee and invited Mr Asahara, in typical Tasmanian fashion, to watch it, which he did, multiple times until the late hours of the evening.

So enthused by the experience, Mr Asahara stated that he would one day write a book about the platypus and include this encounter with Mr Hedditch, a “platypus protection hero”.

Imagine Mr Hedditch’s surprise 12 years later

when receiving a book - “The natural History of Platypuses” - from the now Lecturer/Senior Assistant Professor in the Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences with the Aichi Gakuin University, Japan, Masakazu Asahara. It includes a full chapter about his platypus experience at Latrobe and mentions Mr Hedditch.

Mr Asahara wrote in the accompanying letter - “I am afraid that you cannot read this book because it is written in Japanese, but your great accomplishment will be known among Japanese people”. Through the wonders of Google translate, Mr Hedditch has read a translation of what Mr Asahara has written as well as other sections of the book.

To book a platypus tour with the Latrobe Landcare Group, please phone 6426 1774.



BOSWORTH PARK DEVELOPMENT ON TRACK

Development at Bosworth Park, on the corner of Gilbert, Stanley and Cotton Streets, Latrobe continues. As well as the installation of a shelter and barbecue at the children's playground, the Dog Park is now open from sunrise to sunset and is being enjoyed by many dogs and their owners as a safe place to play with other dogs.

The area is divided in to three sections -

- Small dog area which comprises of two sections - one for less active senior dogs and those that are more comfortable with smaller or quieter friends and a separate puppy pen.
- Large Dog Area for big dogs and confident, active small dogs who think they're big dogs.

For the enjoyment of all, there are some rules to follow -

1. You must always have effective control of your dog
2. You need to pick up after your dog/s
3. Dangerous dogs are not permitted
4. Unvaccinated or dog/s with a contagious disease/skin irritation or parasitic infection are not to use the park.
5. Children under 13 must have adult supervision and
6. Be respectful of others, not all dogs may have the confidence of your own.

A Dog Obedience instruction and training initiative established last year by Council to support dog owners in teaching their dog to become a responsible member of their family and the community; developing an understanding of the needs of their dog and how to meet those needs; and forming a deep bond between them and their dog where there is respect and inter-dependence, will be continuing in 2021.

Council is very fortunate to have secured the skill and expertise of instructor Mr Brian Patrick who imparts his dog obedience knowledge to the dog's owner/handler (i.e. trainer). This face-to-face instruction is undertaken over several weeks.

The trainer's role is to use this knowledge to train their dog in obedience during the session and, of more importance, each day at home and in a secure and safe environment.

If you feel that you can commit to meeting this obligation, then you are encouraged to apply to participate in one of the Council's 2021 dog obedience courses. Sessions will be held from 10:00am and are offered as follows -

- **Session 1** - 6-week course - February 7, 14, 21 and 28 and March 14 and 21
- **Session 2** - 6-week course - May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and June 6
- **Session 3** - 6-week course - August 15, 22, 29 and September 5, 12 and 19
- **Session 4** - 5-week intense course - October 17 and 24, November 7, 14, 21

Cost is \$22 with numbers limited to provide effective instruction for attendees.

Successful course participants will receive a Canine Obedience Certificate, entitling them to discounted dog registration with Latrobe Council in subsequent years.

For more information, go to <https://www.latrobe.tas.gov.au/services/animalcontrol>

TRACKING CATS

At least 70% of cat owners allow their cat to roam away from their property, but do you really know where your cat goes once you open the door?

A Cradle Coast Cat Tracker Project is currently underway throughout the North West to unravel this mystery.

From a similar project conducted in Adelaide, some amazing maps resulted. While a lot of cats proved to be homebodies and moved only 100 metres from their house, a few were more adventurous and roamed over a kilometre away. Most of the cats tracked in the South Australian study though were city cats surrounded by busy roads and house blocks. The North West study seeks to discover what semi-urban cats get up to and what risks that they may be encountering when out roaming. There is an expectation that with fewer busy roads and a more open landscape, cats in the North West Coast might travel much further afield.



LED ASTRAY

Dogs are great companion animals, but owning one means you have responsibilities, both to your pet and to the public.

A spike in complaints about dogs off lead when not in an off-leash area and being a nuisance is a concern.

Many of these complaints are from dog owners themselves who are frustrated by others who don't believe that their unleashed dog will or can cause an issue and are consequently causing stress. Please remember that not everyone likes dogs and some people have had bad experiences with other dogs interacting with them and their dog.

Dogs off lead have been observed in nature reserves, along walking tracks and in main thoroughfares. Especially in nature reserves, dogs off leash are running rampant, chasing wildlife and bounding up to strangers.

Council reminds all dog owners that UNLESS you are in a designated off-leash area, your dog must ALWAYS be on a lead and that the lead must be no longer than 2m.

It is your responsibility to be familiar with 'off-leash exercise area' boundaries and 'prohibited areas' which are detailed at www.latrobe.tas.gov.au/services/animalcontrol.

While Council's current procedure for patrols is to provide verbal warnings and issue caution notices as an educational approach rather than fines, if it is obvious that these warnings are not being heeded and the Animal Control Officer identifies repeat offenders, he will not hesitate to issue on-the-spot fines which start at \$172.

HAWLEY ESPLANADE UPDATE

The community consultation process associated with Council's Hawley Beach shared pathway project certainly generated widespread interest and Council is grateful to all those who attended the "walk and talk" events on 11 November and those who have made submissions for consideration by council.

Over 150 people attended the "walk and talk" sessions along the foreshore with some even travelling from elsewhere in the state to ensure their voices were heard.

Council received over 69 submissions, including one that had been co-signed by over 159 property owners and residents. At the time of writing, the submissions had been collated into a spreadsheet to be considered, along with a report from Council officers, at the December Council workshop/meeting.

Council will make the collation of submissions publicly accessible along with any revised plan that may follow soon. Please keep informed via Council's website at www.latrobe.tas.gov.au

YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Mayor Peter FRESHNEY0417 287 006
 D/Mayor Graeme BROWN...0417 598 116
 Shayne (Cush) ALLISON0409 792 648
 Michael McLAREN6426 2777
 Vonette MEAD0407 055 180
 Sommer METSKE0409 622 710
 Garry SIMS 0419 139 053
 Gerrad WICKS.....0488 325 590
 Lesley YOUNG.....0419 326 250

COASTAL PATHWAY DELAY

Although incomplete, the coastal pathway between Ambleside and Bells Parade, Latrobe continues to see a lot of use, especially over the Christmas period. Difficult ground conditions have created time delays for the project and means that it was not completed for Christmas as originally planned. However, a great team of people are putting in the hard work to ensure the community are provided with the best possible facility the project has to offer.

It is pleasing to see so many pedestrians and recreational cyclists being physically active and taking advantage of the scenic pathway along River Road, Latrobe to walk/cycle, at least to the barrier fencing, along the pathway that keeps them off the road and safe.

Work will continue over January and, if difficult ground conditions are not encountered, you should soon be able to enjoy an uninterrupted off-road walk/cycle from Ambleside to Bells Parade, Latrobe.

CARAVAN PARK UPGRADE

Following the receipt of Stage 1 development approval, the contractor was appointed at the December Council meeting.

Redevelopment works will commence on the Port Sorell Caravan Park from 14 February, to avoid the Christmas holiday season and impacting on bookings. The total build time for Stage 1 is scheduled to be 15 weeks with the works staged to have minimal impact on the Easter holidays makers.

This first stage includes the construction of new amenities and a separate laundry in the centre of the caravan park. A new playground will be constructed at the completion of the toilet block construction. Stage 2 detailed design works are currently underway with development approval anticipated for February. Tenders will be called for Stage 2 at that time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE REVIEW¹

In Tasmania, the *Local Government Act 1993* is the principal piece of legislation that establishes the powers and functions of Tasmanian councils. However, what many people don't know is that there are more than 20 pieces of legislation which include further responsibilities and functions for councils.

The Tasmanian Government is conducting a major review of Tasmania's Local Government Legislation Framework with the intent of developing a new Local Government Bill based on the principles of community engagement, good governance, transparency and accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness.

The new Bill will support the important role and functions of councils and allow them to best serve their local communities. For more information on the State Government reform process, go online to <https://bit.ly/2KYJW2E>

PADDLING POOL COVID COMPLIANCE

COVID-19 continues to influence the availability of public facilities with the Panatana Family Park paddling pool being the latest to be affected.

Traditionally, water to this paddling pool is pumped in/out, dependent on tide, from Panatana Rivulet.

While assessing COVID-19 restrictions, Council was advised by the Department of Public Health that the paddling pool could no longer be treated as a tidal pool and needed to be chlorinated in line with the Tasmanian Recreation Water Guidelines. The pool now must be a closed loop system and the water quality maintained as per a standard community swimming pool. Council is committed to retaining the pool and having it operational this season however a new chlorination and filtration system, including reconfiguring the pool

shell to include a skimmer box, new inlet/outlet pipes and a pump shed, are works required to comply with these requirements.

Until those works are complete, the paddling pool at Panatana Family Park will unfortunately remain closed.

RECREATION PLAN ADOPTED

With the adoption of the Latrobe Recreation Precinct Plan at Council's November meeting, some initiatives are now being implemented, including discussions with the Latrobe Federal Band to relocate to the Latrobe Memorial Hall. There are also four new changerooms proposed for the Latrobe Recreation Ground to cater for the additional teams playing at the site including the female football and cricket teams.

Redevelopment of the changerooms will bring the Latrobe Recreation Ground back into line with other major sporting venues along the coast, providing expanded opportunities for use.

An outcome of the Latrobe Recreation Precinct Plan was a need to look at a larger, more multi-use indoor centre. Potential designs for the redevelopment of the Latrobe and Districts Youth Centre will be considered over coming years to meet current and future needs.

The possible resurfacing of the Latrobe tennis courts was prioritised subject to the Latrobe Tennis Club being successful with their current grant application. Finally, the Latrobe Croquet Club have received funding for the installation of reticulated irrigation on their grounds. Such works means that all the sports grounds within the Latrobe Recreation Precinct are now serviced with irrigation systems resulting in labour efficiencies and more effective and targeted water consumption.



PRESSURE ON CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

On 1 December, Premier Gutwein reaffirmed that the Tasmanian Government were extending their \$20,000 Tasmanian HomeBuilder Grant Scheme from 1 January through to 31 March, subject to legislative change.

This matched the extended timeframe announced just days earlier by the Federal Government, although they had reduced their support from \$25,000 to \$15,000.

Effectively, this means that eligible Tasmanians could now access up to \$35,000 towards their new build.

Details of these grants are available online at www.sro.tas.gov.au/homebuilder-grants

LOCAL BUILDING UPDATE

A total of 208 building, plumbing, and commercial applications and notifications of works were received by Council for the 6-month period from May to October inclusive.

They comprised of 68 dwellings; 11 dwelling additions/alterations; 19 outbuildings; 6 commercial/industrial;

99 plumbing applications and 5 other applications with a conservative value of \$24,871,452.

While development applications were continuing to be received early in the pandemic, the effect of the \$45,000 building stimulus package, now reduced to \$35,000, has significantly bolstered the building and construction industry.



¹ Department of Premier and Cabinet

SAFER DRIVING FOR LIFE - NEW LEARNER DRIVER RULES

From 1 December, significant changes to learner driving activities came into effect -



80 logbook hours

Learners will need to log 80 logbook hours, including 15 hours at night.



No mobile phone

A total ban on mobile phone use, including hands-free.



Maximum speed limits

New speed limits of 90km/h for learners and 100km/h for P1 licence holders.



Hazard perception test

Learners must complete an online Hazard Perception Test.



One peer passenger

Only one 16 - 21 year old passenger allowed during the P1 stage. Exclusions apply.



New P2 plates

No novice speed restrictions, hands-free mobile phone use allowed.



Single licence cards

A single licence card for each of the learner and provisional licence periods.



Safer driver reward

Commit no driving offences during provisional stages and get a free 3-year full licence.

In relation to the total mobile phone ban, this does not include playing music or GPS, as long as the phone is set up prior to commencing driving so you do not interact with it in any way while driving.

21ST CENTURY COUNCILS²

As the level of government closest to communities, councils are place shapers who drive most people's attachment to, and satisfaction with, the area in which they live. Councils play a defining role in fostering communities, where people and place are deeply connected to the work which Local Government does. The role of councils has changed significantly over the years, along with community expectations of what services a council should provide. Once focused on 'services to property', councils have transitioned to providing a broader range of 'services to people'. Recently, Tasmanian councils have been placed under external pressure to reform. The spotlight is focused on how Local Government can maintain contemporary service delivery to communities while also addressing current as well as the emergent challenges of the future.

We know that the benefits associated with Local Government reform can be grouped into one of three categories:

- Economies of scale - maximising the use of resources and/or services at the least cost;
- Economies of scope - creating a wider range/higher quality of services/resources; and
- Strategic capacity - having the skills and resources needed to act as high capacity organisations that manage complex and sometimes unexpected change.

When asked "what is the best thing about your council" in the 2019 Local Government Association of Tasmania Community Satisfaction Survey, respondents mostly nominated their Council as being responsive, proactive, engaged, accessible, and consultative.

In addition to traditional services such as waste management, stormwater, roads and footpaths, other council services most valued by communities include museums, galleries, public art, community events and festivals, parks, gardens, playgrounds, green waste and recycling. Nationally, Local Government is responsible for 33% of community infrastructure, including 75% of roads by length, but they only directly raise 3.4% of Australia's total taxation revenue. More funding is required to better match service responsibility and community expectations.

NEW NAME FOR CENTRE

With the transfer of the former Latrobe Senior Citizens Clubrooms in Hamilton Street to Council, the community were invited to suggest a new and inclusive name for this venue that was -

- Distinctive, easy to remember, say and spell;
- Future-oriented e.g. positioned for multi-use by various groups and ages;
- Reflects the aspirations of the community - a place that people want to use;
- Communicates something meaningful; and
- Representative of the community but does not represent an individual community member.

The results were short-listed, and a poll circulated to gauge community preferences.

"Hamilton Hub" has ended up being the preferred option and has consequently been adopted by Council.

This building is available for use six days of the week, excluding Tuesdays when the Latrobe Senior Citizens Club has sole use of the site.

To enquiry about booking, please contact Council on 6426 4444.

Likewise, with the new maximum speed limits, these are a maximum, not an objective. Please drive to conditions. The limits however do not extend to motorcycle learner and P1 licence holders, who continue to be restricted to a maximum of 80km/h. The safer driver reward replaces the previous offence free reward which eligible applicants must manually apply for. Those who progressed to their full licence prior to 1 December 2020 and are eligible for the offence free reward have until 1 December 2021 to claim a refund under that scheme.

In support of the changes to Tasmania's Graduated Licensing System, a Plates Plus free lesson is now available to Tasmanian learner licence holders. This lesson is an additional one hour on-road lesson building on the learnings of the first Keys2drive lesson in a practical environment. For more information on the Plates Plus free lesson visit www.keys2drive.com.au/plates-plus-faqs.

Finally, if you progressed to a P1 driver prior to 1 December, some of these changes might not affect you. To check what does and doesn't apply, go online to platesplus.tas.gov.au

NEW COMMITTEE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Latrobe Senior Citizens Club a new and enthusiastic committee were nominated and elected as office bearers. The new leadership encourages and welcomes all present members and new members of the community (over the age of 50) to come along and join the club. The aim of the Latrobe Senior Citizens Club is to introduce some new activities for members along with the regular raffles, trade table, excursions, morning tea and luncheons and, of course, bingo. More information will be provided once the committee gets a feel for other activities that members may request. Plans are underway to reconvene for the 2021 year at 10:00am on 12 January at Hamilton Hub, 20 Hamilton Street, Latrobe.

Morning tea and lunch will be available with bingo commencing at 1:00pm. Annual Membership is \$20 and payable on this day.

The new committee would like to thank past executive committees and members for all their time, effort and commitment over the years and hope that they will continue to come along and support the club.

The new office bearers are:

- President: Maree Lunson
0438 329 307
- Secretary: Robyn Freshney
0419 529 763
- Treasurer: Elizabeth Jackson
0408 507 233
- Executive Committee Members
Bev Parker and Desley Spoljaric

Please contact the committee anytime for further information and especially if you are interested in joining the club.

² Local Government Association of Tasmania

PERSISTENT PAIN SELF-MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Are you living with or supporting someone living with long term pain?

Would you like to learn practical skills to support and overcome the challenges of living with pain?

The Tasmanian Health Service will be conducting their 6-week program in Latrobe for groups of 10-15 people from late February.

What will be learnt through the program?

- New ways to deal with problems such as fatigue, isolation, and poor sleep.
- Exercise to maintain and improve strength and flexibility.
- Communicating with family, friends, and health professionals.
- Appropriate use of medications.
- Healthy eating.
- Pacing activity and rest.
- How to check new treatments.

The 2½ hour weekly sessions involve making weekly action plans, sharing experiences, and helping each other solve problems caused by pain. At the conclusion of the project, the skills you learn and practice will help you to feel more in control of your pain.

Cost is a gold coin donation.

To register, please contact Julie Milnes on 0419 521 320.

WILL YOU STEP UP TO CLEAN UP?

It seems extraordinary now to think that the 30th anniversary of Clean Up Australia Day took place as vast tracts of the nation were being razed by bushfires and then ravaged by floods, at a time when talk of a pandemic was only just gaining traction. In the months that followed, reusable coffee cups became a no-go, restaurants were reduced to takeaways and the whipping out of single-use items like masks and sanitized wipes became the norm.



The message to all Australians this Clean Up Australia Day is all the more important than ever - Step Up to Clean Up Australia Day in 2021.

Each year, Australians are invited to register their participation, whether individually, as a group or organisation and even businesses and schools.

This year the Clean Up Australia team are requesting that clean up events are COVID-19 compliant, limited to 10

participants with physical distancing maintained.

If you wish to be involved but need guidance on where you can clean up, please contact council on 6426 4444. When you are registered with the Clean Up Australia team, they will forward you a free starter kit and you can apply to Latrobe Council for your voucher for free access to the Port Sorell Waste Transfer Station to dispose of your Clean Up Australia branded bags of rubbish at the end of your event.

Registrations are due with Clean Up Australia Day by February.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES³

So, you've got a great idea and just need some funding to get it off the ground but where do you start.

The Cradle Coast Funding Finder is a free service by the Cradle Coast Authority, funded by all Council's on the North West Coast, providing local businesses, community groups, not-for-profits and individuals with details of grants and government funding opportunities.

From this site - www.cradlecoast.com/regional-restart-hub/funding-finder/ - you can search for and filter by specifying a location, industry and type of project, and view key eligibility information at a glance.

The Funding Finder also provides users with email alerts and other tools to maximise your chances of receiving the funding you need.

The site is updated daily and includes the most up to date COVID-19 stimulus package funding and hundreds of other funding opportunities provided by government, not-for-profit organisations and the private sector.

At the time of writing, there were over 950 grants worth a total of \$214.8 billion listed on the site.

WORKING FOR YOU⁴

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a national network of Committees made up of local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the economic development of their regions.

The charter is focused on supporting strong, confident and vibrant regions. RDA Committees have an active and facilitative role with a clear focus on growing strong and confident regional economies that harness their competitive advantages, seize economic opportunities and attract investment.

In collaboration, RDA Committees will:

- Facilitate regional economic development outcomes, investment, local procurement, and jobs.
- Promote greater regional awareness of and engagement with Australian

Government policies, grant programs and research.

- Improve Commonwealth regional policy making by providing intelligence and evidence-based advice to the Australian Government on regional development issues.
- Co-ordinate the development of a strategic regional plan, or work with suitable existing regional plans that will align with the Commonwealth's regional priorities.

At the Council level, there is a Municipal Economic Development Committee that works with many stakeholders for the same outcomes for our Council area and liaise, on a regional basis, with the Cradle Coast Authority and, on a State basis, with RDA Tasmania on outcomes of mutual benefit.



The business owners of Shearwater Village, supported by the Shearwater 7 Day Makeover Group, are adding a further string to their bow and trialling a Shearwater Village Market each Sunday from 9:00am to 1:00pm at 8 Club Drive, Shearwater until school goes back.

This not only complements Port Sorell Surf Club's Market by the Beach (their last market being on Friday, 15 January) but provides a further attraction in the Port Sorell area, drawing people to see and experience the amazingly transformed Shearwater Village, for which they are extremely grateful and proud of the generosity of so many.

"Whilst 2020 has been a tumultuous year for everyone, our community and council have been very generous with their support and we felt that trialling a Sunday market would not only utilise an empty space but support our local retailers by providing a further drawcard to Shearwater Village, potentially give stallholders the confidence to set up a more permanent retail outlet in the Village and build on the community spirit that is evident in the area.

Proceeds from this Summer's market will go to the Shearwater 7 Day Makeover Group to enable them to continue their improvements in the Village," said Market Coordinator, Mrs Lyndsey Holmes.

The market is a Providore style market with a focus on North West Tasmania, showcasing locally grown produce, food, craft and other products as well as up and coming local entertainers. If you believe that you fit that dynamic, please email thevillagemarketshearwater@gmail.com to apply to be a stallholder.

The Shearwater Village Markets are currently being held each Sunday with the last being on 7 February.

³ Cradle Coast Authority Funding Finder

⁴ Regional Development Australia (Tasmania)

INCREASED PARKING CAPACITY AT HOSPITAL

Car parking at the Mersey Community Hospital (MCH) has become significantly easier after the opening of 238 new spaces. The new car parks have been constructed in multiple locations around the hospital, including on Torquay Road, as well as expansions to existing car parking areas at the hospital.



Pictured: MCH Nursing Project Officer Victoria Brown

MOBILE PHONE RECYCLING

Did you know that there are over 23 million unwanted mobile phones hiding in drawers, cupboards, and garages across Australia?

Council recognises that unwanted phones and accessories are not biodegradable; contain materials that are harmful to the environment if not handled correctly and contain valuable reusable resources.

With more than 90% of materials in a mobile phone recoverable, Latrobe Council has partnered with Mobile Muster to accept unwanted mobile phones and accessories for recycling.

While residents are encouraged to removal all data from mobile phones and accessories prior to recycling for greater data security, the recycling partnership with Mobile Muster guarantees that no mobile is sold for reuse with their recycling process safely destroying any data left on the phone while recouping the recyclable resources.

Mobile items you can recycling include -

- Mobile phone handsets (including PDAs that are mobiles);
- Mobile batteries of all kinds
- Wireless USB mobile devices;
- Mobile phone chargers and
- Mobile phone accessories (ear pieces, car kits, cases etc).

WASTE MANAGEMENT⁵

The Tasmanian Government is at a crossroad. Local Government and the community have been calling for state leadership and action on waste for several years.

While our state lags behind most other jurisdictions in resource recovery, there is a significant opportunity for our state in adopting a circular economy.

To do this, we need a clear framework and specific plans for how our state will unlock waste as a resource, so that jobs in new industries can be created and landfill reduced.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Tasmania's resource recovery rate is 53%, compared with the national average of 62% and South Australia at 82%
- For every 10,000 tonnes of waste that is recycled there are 9.2 jobs generated compared with 2.8 for landfill disposal.
- KPMG estimates that a transition to a circular economy for food, transport and the built environment would result in an economic benefit of \$23 billion by 2025.

Tangible action from the State Government is needed on the initiatives within their draft Waste Action Plan.

IS YOUR CHILD 'ASTHMA READY' FOR SCHOOL?

Every year there is a sharp rise in the number of asthma flare-ups for children when they return to school after the holidays. This results in a significant increase in Emergency Department visits, hospitalisations, and days off school. Not only is this unsettling for children as they start a new year at school, but often it impacts on time off work for parents or carers.

Learn more about what you can do now and over the holidays to ensure your child's asthma control is maintained or improved and how Asthma Australia can support you to achieve this.

They'll help you tick the boxes with parent resources, so you and your child are asthma ready for 'back to school' next year. To speak to an asthma educator, phone 1800 278 462.

MCH Nursing Director of Operations Anthony Hurst said the new parking spaces would make it much easier for patients and visitors to park closer to the hospital.

"Parking is always a challenge at hospitals, with so many patients, visitors and staff on site each day," Anthony said.

"By creating these additional spaces on Torquay Road, it will enable staff to park and walk a short distance into work, which will then free up parking on the actual hospital site for patients and visitors."

The project was funded by the Tasmanian Government and completed by Shaw Contracting between May - November. The new car park also features full lighting and CCTV cameras. The next significant project at the MCH is to replace building services (electrical, mechanical, hydraulics, fire and structural), infrastructure with the tender process closing on 13 January. These essential preliminary works are required to facilitate the new construction of the main outpatient clinics and operating theatres project later in the year.

That tender is expected to be advertised in August 2021 and will further add to the capacity and level of service provision at the Mersey Community Hospital.

COUNCIL'S WORKS REPORT

The following works are scheduled to be undertaken throughout the Latrobe Municipality during January and February:

CIVIL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE TEAM

- Civil construction and footpath construction along the southern side of Club Drive, Shearwater between Alexander Street and Fairway Crescent.
- Footpath construction along the northern side of River Road, Port Sorell between Rice Street and Kermode Street
- Carpark surface maintenance in Shearwater Village vicinity
- Verge tree removal and safety improvements on Old Deloraine Road, Latrobe
- Rural roadside mowing program
- Rural roadside drainage maintenance



TOWN SERVICES TEAM

- Panatana Family Park shelter replacement
- New shelter at Shearwater Park playground
- Centre roof replacement at Latrobe and Districts Youth Centre
- General building maintenance

GREEN SPACES TEAM

- Bosworth Park landscaping
 - General parks mowing and maintenance
- Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Council's Operations Manager on 6426 4453.

⁵ Local Government Association of Tasmania

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

Residential development continued to expand significantly throughout the Latrobe Municipality despite the pandemic. Attributed to the State and Federal Government's homebuilder stimulus, this will undoubtedly continue to have an impact well into 2021.

Industrial subdivisions continue to expand, providing opportunity for business growth and increased employment.

The confidence and agility of business owners ensured their operations adapted to the challenges of the impact of COVID-19. The seasonal harvest is well underway with the rich soils in our region producing premium products and those businesses playing an essential role in our local economy.

Government and business leaders effectively navigated the challenges to reduce the impact of COVID-19.

The Wild Mersey Mountain bike trails continue to be built and opened and the redeveloped Australian Axemans Hall of Fame will soon reopen.

In Shearwater, the 7-day makeover committee are transforming the vibe in the village to a colourful and enjoyable space. So much can be achieved with community "buy-in".

NORTHERN FORAGE

Tourism is constantly evolving, trying to provide the best experience to meet consumer interests.

In the latest collaboration by Tourism Tasmania and State Growth, geographically focussed, self-drive journeys have been developed - Great Eastern Drive, Southern Edge, Heartlands, Western Wild and Northern Forage - to encourage locals and tourists alike to detour somewhere special. You may have noticed small road signs on your travels. The Northern Forage journey specifically spans from north east to north west Tasmania and is intended to reflect a place to grow - the pure air, rich land, great produce and fresh ideas to feed your soul within that footprint.

While the destination brand for the North West remains North West Tasmania (<https://northwesttasmania.com.au/>), these journeys have been developed to enhance our sense of adventure and discovery with drive itineraries providing a teaser to what you might experience along the way while encouraging you to savour the journey and allow time for detours.

To find out more about these journeys, keep checking online at www.discover.tasmania.com.au/journeys as more information continues to be added.

If you are an operator, seeking inclusion on the journey, please ensure your details on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (<https://atdw.com.au/>) are current and active.

THE GIFT OF CONVERSATION

Conversations have never been as important as they are now to our wellbeing and resilience. When our social connectivity needs aren't being met, we can experience feelings of anxiety, isolation and sadness. Right now, 1 in 4 Australian adults feel lonely.

Recognising and acknowledging the signs that you are not quite "on top of life" and having someone to talk to can help you through these feelings and stop you falling further into the abyss.

The first and hardest step though is to acknowledge your feelings and seek that support, in whatever format that might be, to build your strength and resilience. You don't need to go it alone.

Triggers to feeling overwhelmed may include a change in social circumstances; not having time to make connections and feeling like you don't belong. You might need help with your social skills or even be experiencing physical or environmental challenges. Being connected and having strong social support doesn't come easy for all but it is also a two-way street.

If you aren't quite on top of it all, for whatever reason, reach out to someone. This can be through a shared activity, online, by volunteering, even talking to family, a friend or neighbour. Show that you are open to a conversation.

On the flip side, to support someone facing challenges, offer support. Let them know that you are there and ready to listen and help. Use active listening and ask questions to show your engagement. Only offer advice if they ask and don't judge. Look for opportunities to include people, start a conversation - you may be the first person that they have spoken with all day.

If you feel like you don't have anyone to reach out to, it might be time to talk to a professional. Whether that's your GP, a counsellor or calling a helpline, reaching out is healthy even if it's hard.

Professionals will be able to help you understand why you're feeling as you are and how best to overcome it.

Support organisations include -

- Tasmanian Lifeline: 1800 98 44 34
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
- Suicide Call Back on 1300 059 467
- MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978
- Open Arms - Veterans Support Service - 1800 011 046
- Headspace: 1800 650 890 - for young people aged 12-25 and their families
- Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800 - for young people aged 5-25
- Rural Alive and Well: 1300 4357 6283
- Relationships Australia: 1300 364 277
- Sexual Assault, Domestic or Family Violence and Abuse: 1800 737 732
- QLife: 1800 184 527
- Head to Health: <https://headtohealth.gov.au/> - provides links to trusted Australian mental health online and phone supports, resources and treatment options
- FindHelp Tas - <https://www.findhelptas.org.au/> - connecting you with local community services
- Find a Psychologist - www.psychology.org.au/Find-a-Psychologist - an online service by the Australian Psychologist Society that can help you connect to a psychologist in your local area.



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

We live in a place with some of the most fertile soil in Australia with rumours that there is nothing so satisfying as growing your own vegetables or having a colourful garden.

With a new year upon us and the rising cost of fruit and vegetables, why not start something new with the family or house mates and try your hand at growing your own.

You can have a little of everything; home grown, fresh and no chemicals, with the important thing being taste. It will be all your own, grown with love and care. Planning however is the key. To help you with that, the following planting and sowing guide details what and when to plant for an edible garden specific to our cool-climate conditions.

JANUARY

Plant: Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, capsicums, cauliflower, celery, cucumber, eggplant, leek, lettuce, parsnip, pumpkin, silverbeet, late sweetcorn and tomato

Sow: Beetroot, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, winter cabbage, kale, carrot (main winter-spring crop), kohlrabi, spring onion, silverbeet, late swede, turnip, lettuce (chill seed in fridge first), late sweetcorn.

FEBRUARY

Plant: Seedlings of broccoli, Brussels sprouts, winter cabbage, kale, cauliflower, celery, leek, lettuce, silverbeet and spring onion.

Sow: Broccoli, carrot, cabbage, cauliflower, late Brussels sprouts, leek, turnip, late swede (risky), beetroot, Chinese brassicas, Asian roots, parsnip, and silverbeet.

Remember to avoid planting on very hot days and sow small crops



frequently so your plantings don't come ready at the same time. Mulching, raised garden beds and planting easy care water wise plants can help keep your gardening enjoyable rather than a chore. If you prefer ornamental plantings, the following guide can assist you in planting for colour -

JANUARY

Alyssum, cineraria, english lavender, hollyhock, hydrangea (pots), iceland poppy, pansy, poinsettia (pots), primula, roses (pots), stock, succulents (pots), viola, wallflower

FEBRUARY

Alyssum, autumn crocus, belladonna lily (bulbs), calendula, canterbury bells, carnation, cineraria, columbine, cornflower, forget-me-not, foxglove, hollyhock, honesty, hydrangea (potted plants), iceland poppy, nigella, pansy, primula, rose (pots), stock, succulents (pots), viola, wallflower.

BIOSECURITY AT HOME⁶

Did you know that biosecurity starts in the home?

Shopping online has increased the availability and accessibility of food, clothing and other goods worldwide. With this convenience, however, comes the risk of bringing in unwanted pests, weeds and other contaminants from overseas that could stow away in our packages and become established and wreak havoc in Australia.

We all have a role to play in protecting our environment, plants and animals from biosecurity baddies and this starts with what we do in our homes.

Check out the resources at <https://bit.ly/36Y8dhP> to see how you can 'Be a part of it' at home and in your backyard.

If you see something suspicious, please report it to Biosecurity Tasmania by phoning 6165 3777 or 1800 084 881.

WEED ACTION FUND⁷

The Tasmanian Weeds Action Fund (WAF) is a \$5m Tasmanian Government initiative, funded for five years from 2018. The funds provided by the State Government will be invested with farmers and other community organisations to tackle weeds that are impacting valuable agricultural and environmental assets. The fund takes a strategic and targeted approach to tackling high priority weeds. A large-scale grant to support complex

projects will be released later this financial year.

To ensure that you receive the guidelines when they are released, please register your interest online at www.cradlecoast.com/tasmanian-weeds-action-fund/ or telephone Natural Resource Management Officer, Hannah Sadler, on 6433 8400.

BUSHFIRE. WHY RISK IT?

With the bushfire season upon us, there is no better time to make or update your Bushfire Plan.

The Tasmania Fire Service has made it simple this year with the launch of the new "5 Minute Bushfire Plan". Just head to www.bushfire.tas.gov.au and spend a few minutes preparing a plan for your family. As fire permit season has commenced, all fires (apart from those for cooking and heating) require a permit from the Tasmania Fire Service.

If you live on a rural property of 2,000m² or greater and are planning a fuel reduction burn, as well as obtaining the required permit, it is always a good idea to let your neighbours know to avoid causing alarm and have them call it in as an emergency. Properties in town that are less than 2,000m² in area are **not permitted** to burn on their property under any circumstance. All brigades throughout the Latrobe Municipality consist of volunteer members and while they quickly respond to fire call, doing so when the situation is not an emergency and is in hand may not endear you to them.

The Port Sorell Brigade advises that it is keen to meet new people who want to join in supporting and protecting their community. For more information, phone David Prince on 0429 980 780.

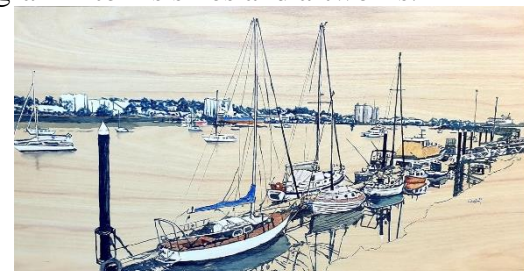
NOT SO CROWDED AT THE LOUNGE

Exciting developments are happening at The Crowded Lounge at 127-129 Gilbert Street, Latrobe with the café bar relocating to provide more room for art classes.

The relocation of the merchandise into the little shop next door will also allow for a more dedicated gallery space to feature guest exhibitions.

More classes, workshops and diverse tutors are quickly filling up so check the Crowded Lounge Facebook events page for details.

Throughout January, the feature artist is Devonport artist "Wakim". Wakim paints large scale watercolor landscapes on wooden panels, incorporating the wood grain into his skies and artworks.



In February, Victoria Spanka's Pyrography will be exhibited. Pyrography is the free-handed art of decorating wood or other materials with burn marks).

⁶ <https://bit.ly/36Y8dhP>

⁷ Cradle Coast NRM

PROTECT NESTING BIRDS⁸

Now that the warmer weather is here and we head off to enjoy our beaches more, remember to look out for vulnerable beach-nesting birds.

Hooded Plovers, Red-capped Plovers, Sooty and Pied Oystercatchers all live on our beaches and breed from September to March.

Their habitat is limited, and they are vulnerable to people, dogs, driving on beaches and coastal erosion.

You can help protect them by -

- walking on the wet sand, along the water's edge
- accessing the beach using defined paths
- walk dogs on leash. An unleashed dog is more likely to explore and encounter eggs or hiding chicks
- stay clear of the dunes or the upper beach to dodge nests and chicks; and
- avoid driving on the beach.

If you see any of these small birds darting along the beaches, please keep your distance.

BAREFOOT BOWLS

The Port Sorell Bowls and Community Club run Corporate bowls (barefoot bowls) Tuesday nights from 6:00pm - 8:00pm and Paddlesticks on Wednesdays from 1:00pm. New members are welcome, especially juniors.

The clubrooms are available for functions which include kitchen facilities, or alternatively events can be catered for. Meal nights occur every second Friday with bookings essential after 3:00pm by phoning 6428 6386.

TAI CHI RETURNS

If you are looking for improvement in your physical or mental well-being, then Tai Chi could be the activity for you. Suitable for all ages, Tai Chi is slow,

gentle, and thorough exercise, concentrating on breathing, alignment and posture.

Classes at the Port Sorell Memorial Hall in Darling Street recommence on Thursday, 6 January with beginners, visitors and previous practitioners all welcome.

For more information, phone Barbara on 6425 5275 or email barb3taichi@gmail.com

LIFELONG LEARNING PASSION

"The Mission of the Port Sorell U3A is to provide recreational, collaborative and affordable learning opportunities for the benefit of Third Age members, using the skills and abilities of the members themselves" said Port Sorell University of the Third Age Vice President, Mr Jim Rudling.

But what is the Third Age?

A positive ageing theory, the Third Age has been defined as *"the golden years of adulthood"* or *"the period of life of active retirement, following middle age"*.

British historian Peter Laslett's theorised that there are four ages of life -

- First Age: the era for dependence, socialization, immaturity, and learning
- Second Age: the era for independence, maturity, responsibility, and working
- Third Age: the era for personal achievement and fulfillment after retirement, and
- Fourth Age: the era for the final dependence.

and thus emerged U3A - University of the Third Age - for retirees to continue to engage, challenge themselves and invigorate their minds.

Planning is now well underway to develop a full range of programs for 2021 that include those based on creative/craft, education, nature, exercise, recreation and technology. The intention is to also offer

several one-off information sessions that meet the needs of those in their Third Age. The first term will operate from Monday, 15 February until Friday, 7 May with program enrolments available on the web page (<https://portsorell.u3anet.org.au>) from the middle of January.

Membership for 2021 is now open and costs \$45. Details and an online membership form is available on the web page or by visiting the U3A office within the Banksia Centre, Pitcairn Street, Port Sorell from 10:00am - 12 noon Monday to Friday from 25 January.

SUMMER READING

Summer has arrived and it's now a great time to get children reading and relaxing in the warmer months.

Libraries Tasmania will be introducing a new summer reading program for 2021 to encourage children to Read Around Tasmania! They can explore the state by reading at all of Tasmania's libraries. There's no need to visit all the libraries in person, children can just imagine that they are at them! Once they have finished reading, they can go into a draw to win prizes!

To participate, pick up a kit from the Latrobe Library, Gilbert Street, Latrobe from Monday, 4 January.

For the adults, check out the new arrivals that are coming in thick and fast, including the new Barack Obama memoir, *"A Promised Land"*, Jerry Seinfeld's first book in 25 years, *"Is this Anything?"* and Richard Flanagan's *"The Living Sea of Waking Dreams."* All books can be placed on hold with a Libraries Tasmania staff member or online at www.libraries.tas.gov.au.

The opening hours for the Latrobe Library and its Computer Hub are from 1:00pm - 5:00pm every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

CAMPING CHAOS RELIVES CHILDHOOD ADVENTURE

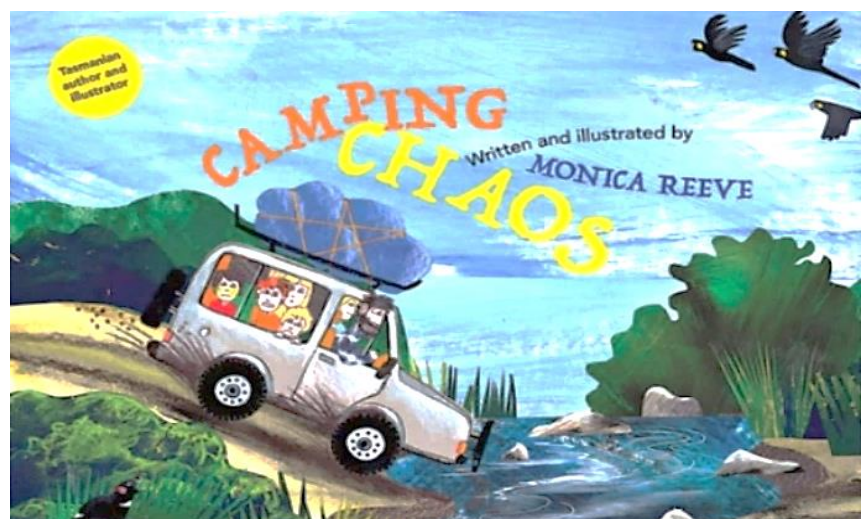
Camping trips are buckets of fun however some camping trips can quickly descend into chaos. *Camping Chaos* is a true story of Monica's childhood set on the Wild West coast of Tasmania.

Monica used acrylic "cut-paper collage" to make each *Camping Chaos* illustration come alive. In addition, she collected various pieces of memorabilia to elevate and personalise elements in the story. This included sand from the actual setting, fabric, buttons, rope and netting which had belonged to the main character - 'Dad'.

In addition, numerous rocks and foliage throughout the story were created from snippets of a historical article taken from the Western Herald newspaper, which was written about an original resident of the area whose life story paralleled aspects of the main character's connection to the wild West Coast of Tasmania.

A selection of original photographs in the end papers from Monica's personal collection adds authenticity to this unique true story.

Camping Chaos is Monica's third published children's picture book, following on from *Bug Soup Beat* (2019) and *Pecking*



Order (2019) with signed copies available from Monica's Etsy store - PIGMENTmonicareeve - <https://etsy.me/2u1L6Py> for \$24. Monica has always lived along the North West coast of Tasmania and calls Latrobe home. When not writing, illustrating, and creating art, Monica teaches at a local primary school.

⁸ Cradle Coast Authority Natural Resource Management

LATROBE MEN'S SHED RECOGNISED WITH AWARD

The Latrobe Men's Shed has been awarded a Commonwealth Bank (Latrobe) Community Grant of \$500 in recognition of its service to the Latrobe community.

Since 2014, a dedicated group of up to 20 men have gathered each Friday at the shed in Kings Lane, off Hamilton Street. Last year they completed 390 community projects.

Anyone interested in joining for fellowship and/or developing their creative skills with their own or community projects, just turn up at the shed, at 9:00am Friday. As well as a welcoming environment, a toolbox meeting (aka morning tea) is provided and a barbecue is enjoyed at 12 noon.

For more information, phone Ralph Terry on 0405 464 023.

The Latrobe Community Playgroup finished 2020 with 50 children aged 0-4 enrolled along with 30 parents and seven helpers.

Playgroup is held at the Latrobe Baptist Church Hall, entry from Gilbert Street, at 10:00am each Friday during school terms with fun activities including riding bikes, playing with toys, craft and rock and rhyme story time at 11.40am. All children must be accompanied by a parent or carer.

If you are interested in joining this group, just turn up.

If you have any toys that you might like to donate, the group would be greatly appreciative. Please contact Nelleka Terry on 0405 464 023.



Pictured: Tameka Poulton from the Latrobe Commonwealth Bank branch presenting the cheque to the Latrobe Men's Shedders.

LIONS HALF CENTURY



The Lions Club of Latrobe will celebrate its 50th Charter Anniversary in March as well as host a club

final of the Lions Youth of the Year program which showcases the diverse talents of senior high school and secondary students.

Members are also working on an exciting new project to raise awareness of the vision impaired - not only an appreciation of the challenges that they face but their accomplishments in doing so.

In the meantime, don't forget to drop off your no longer used spectacles at Terry White Pharmacy or Morse's Butchery so they can be repurposed for the overseas vision impaired.

If you have any used stamps, they would also be appreciated. Please drop them into Ritchie's IGA Supermarket, Morse's Butchery or the Latrobe Council office.

To contact the Lions Club of Latrobe, email latrobe@lionstasmania.org.

BANK MEETS YOUR NEEDS

The Community Bank Port Sorell District (PS&LCE Pty Ltd) wishes all their shareholders and customers a happy new year full of joy and plenty of restful moments.

If you haven't met the new staff at the Port Sorell Branch - Kristen, Emily and Janet - pop in and introduce yourself.

Alternatively, phone the Branch on 6428 8883 to make an appointment with Janet for a review of your financial needs. Janet also covers the Latrobe area and can meet with you at a time convenient to you, even after hours.

Backed by Australia's fifth biggest retail bank, Community Bank Port Sorell District not only gives you access to award-winning financial products and services but the profits stay in the Latrobe/Port Sorell area.

TABLE TENNIS EXPANDS

The recently established Port Sorell Table Tennis Club (PSTTC) has gotten off to a good start - becoming incorporated; affiliated with Table Tennis Tasmania and experiencing rapid growth with 35 current members.

Due to popular demand, additional playing sessions have been added with the new weekly programme being:

- Saturday - 1:00pm to 4:00pm
- Monday - 2:00pm to 5:00pm
- Wednesday - 6.30pm to 9.30 pm

All sessions are held in the Performing Arts hall at the Banksia Centre. Everyone, of any age, playing experience, or skill level, is welcome. Free coaching is offered to members.

PSTTC encourages everyone to enjoy the fun and health benefits offered by table tennis, with more information available from Graeme on 0467 605 039 or email portsorelltabletennis@gmail.com

LATROBE CROQUET CLUB

The Latrobe Croquet Club are back in full swing with the club recently hosting the Tasmanian Golf Croquet mixed doubles championships. There was a very strong field and it was good to see two Latrobe players in the final. One of their junior players Curtis Mead and his partner, Flick Green, ending up winning by beating John Colquhoun from Kingston Croquet Club and Ruth McKean from North Esk Croquet Club, two games to one.

The club recently held a club golf croquet championship with the winners being Gold Malcolm Maney, Silver Roberta Campbell and Bronze Keitha Nichols.

The club is pleased to have received confirmation that it will co-host the national golf croquet championships in 2021, previously cancelled due to COVID. If you are interested in trying croquet, give Chris a call on 0499 990 239.

SLIP SLIDING AWAY

The Lions Club of Port Sorell are working through COVID-19 health and risk management requirements to enable the annual Australia Day Waterslide, Car Show, barbecue and pancakes to be held on Australia Day, 26 January.

Being the day that we celebrate our nation, its achievements and most of all, its people, events such as these are much anticipated. While they may not be run how they have traditionally been, the club is confident everyone will respect the additional measures in place to keep everyone safe.

Prior to that, the club is holding a book sale on 16 January at the Port Sorell Memorial Hall, from 8:30am until 3:00pm with funds raised supporting the club's Relay for Life team.

The club continues its weekly raffles throughout the Port Sorell Caravan Park not only as a fundraiser but to expose holiday makers to the activities of Lions. Should you wish to know more about the Lions Club of Port Sorell, check them out at www.facebook.com/lionsportsorell

RUBICON RIVER ARTS INC



Rubicon River Arts Inc.

Rubicon River Arts (RRA) has been in recess but will resume by February 2021 at Latrobe Arts Hub, 21 George Street, Latrobe, behind the

Latrobe Memorial Hall.

Some members recently participated in a textile workshop at Cheryl Sims' Asimatree Art Garden. Led by Mae Finlayson (UTAS textile teacher), the workshop focussed on the use of the sewing machine and dyes to structure, treat and embellish textiles.

Kim O'Brien led a free workshop to create more sculptures for Shearwater Village as part of the ongoing Shearwater 7 Day Makeover project. The theme was land-

based animals endemic to the Rubicon region, previously recorded in paintings and drawings by the 1840's Colonial artist Louisa Anne Meredith, who lived at Poyston (site of Shearwater Resort). An exhibition at 'Tranquilles', Port Sorell in December showcased a diverse selection of works including ceramics by Bill Cotching, basketry and crochet by Kim O'Brien, paintings by Katherine Tyson and weaving by Rasa Dunlop. Want to know more about Rubicon River Arts Inc, email rubicon-river-arts@googlegroups.com or phone Angela on 0498 243 460.

Details of 2021 activities are under Events on www.facebook.com/rubicon.river.arts.

VILLAGE MAKEOVER

The Shearwater 7 Day Makeover team have been busy completing the painting of the seaside theme on Pommy Paul's IGA Supermarket and creating a draught/chess board on the pavers and the relevant pieces in nearby storage in Shearwater Village. Planter boxes filled with olive trees and petunias are interspersed amongst the picnic tables and colourful umbrellas. More seating has been provided and the painted piano is having many a tune played on it.



Kim O'Brien and the Port Sorell History Group have developed and installed interpretive signage about Louisa Meredith near the entry to Shearwater Resort and limestone sculptures of animals, birds and fish from the area have been created and installed in the village.

Helen and Max Dick have allowed the Shearwater 7 Makeover Group to set up their shop (formerly George and Dave's) as an information hub, displaying what projects have been completed and what is yet to progress.

All this is being looked after by the newly installed, colourful and fun lifeguards. The group has been fortunate to involve all in the community that have been willing to share their vision and talent to make it happen.

To stay informed of the group's activities, follow them on <https://www.facebook.com/7DayMakeoverShearwater> or email shearwater7daymakeover@gmail.com and to see how you can get involved.

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

Wakim Exhibition at The Crowded Lounge 127-129 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 8:00am until 4:00pm daily. Refer to separate Crowded Lounge article.

4 Read Around Tasmania.

Information packs available from the Latrobe Library, 113 Gilbert Street, Latrobe

10 Shearwater Village Market (each Sunday) from 9:00am until 1:00pm at 8 Club Drive, Shearwater. Free admission. Enquiries to thevillagemarketshearwater@gmail.com

12 Latrobe Senior Citizens Club activities recommence for 2021 from 10:00am at Hamilton Hub, 20 Hamilton Street, Latrobe. Bingo starts at 1:00pm.

15 Market by the Beach at the Port Sorell Surf Life Saving Club from 5:00pm until 8:30pm. Enquiries marketbythebeach1617@yahoo.com

15-16 Latrobe Speedway Super Sedan Grand Prix at the Gulf Western Oil and Independent Oils Raceway, Speedway Drive, Latrobe Gates open at 3:00pm. Online bookings at latrobespeedway.com.au

16 Book Sale at the Port Sorell Memorial Hall, cnr Meredith and Darling Streets, Port Sorell from 8:30am until 3:00pm.

23-24 Latrobe Lilium Show from 1:00pm until 4:00pm Saturday and 10:00am until 4:00pm Sunday. Enquiries to 6435 1298

18 Latrobe Council Meeting at the Latrobe Council Chambers, 170 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 5:00pm. To comply with COVID-19 requirements, persons considering attending must RSVP to Council by phoning 6426 4444. Public participation is offered at the commencement of the meeting.

26 Australia Day Waterslide and Classics on the Verge Car Show in Meredith Street, Latrobe, near the Port Sorell Bowls Club and Recreation Ground from 9:30am. Enquiries to 0419 162 691

26 Australia Day Awards Presentation and Citizenship Ceremony at the Latrobe Memorial Hall, Gilbert Street, Latrobe, commencing at 11:00am. All welcome.

29-30 Latrobe Speedway at the Gulf Western Oil and Independent Oils Raceway, Speedway Drive, Latrobe Gates open at 3:00pm. Online bookings available at latrobespeedway.com.au

30 The Last Day Out showcase of High School and College musical talent at

the Latrobe Memorial Hall, Gilbert Street, Latrobe

FEBRUARY

Victoria Spanka's Pyrography Exhibition at The Crowded Lounge 127-129 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 8:00am until 4:00pm daily. Refer to separate Crowded Lounge article.

3 Schools return

5 Latrobe Playgroup returns at the Latrobe Baptist Church Hall, Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 10:00am until 12 noon. Cost: \$2. Details at <https://www.facebook.com/latrobeplaygroup>

7 Dog Obedience Course #1 commences (refer to separate article)

9 Port Sorell Playgroup returns at the Port Sorell Memorial Hall Supper Room from 10:00am until 12 noon. Details at www.facebook.com/PortSorellPlayGroup

13 Surf Life Saving Junior Carnival at North Freers Beach, Shearwater. Part of the statewide carnival series. Details at www.facebook.com/portsorellslsc

8 Latrobe Council Meeting at the Latrobe Council Chambers, 170 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 5:00pm. To comply with COVID-19 requirements, persons considering attending must RSVP to Council by phoning 6426 4444. Public participation is offered at the commencement of the meeting.

27 Latrobe Speedway at the Gulf Western Oil and Independent Oils Raceway, Speedway Drive, Latrobe Gates open at 3:00pm. Online bookings available at latrobespeedway.com.au

MARCH

2 Business Clean Up Day

5 Schools Clean Up Day

7 Clean Up Australia Day

FUTURE EDITIONS

Article deadlines and distribution dates are provided to assist contributors with their forward planning promotion -

Deadline Edition

28 Jan Mar-Apr

25 Mar May-June

3 Jun July-Aug

Articles may be submitted to the editor by the relevant deadline date via email to michelled@latrobe.tas.gov.au or posting to Latrobe Council, P O Box 63, Latrobe, 7307.

Contributions must be relevant to the Latrobe Municipality and suitable for inclusion. They will be used at the discretion of the editor, in whole or part, or not at all, in the next scheduled issue or subsequent issues. The Council does not pay for editorial submitted.

FIRST LOOK AT FUTURE CAMP BANKSIA

Latrobe Council has released the preliminary designs of the \$5.3m Camp Banksia redevelopment.

It will feature modern accessible cabins, recreational spaces, playgrounds and BBQ facilities while creating a camp experience that will be attractive to user groups and increase usage opportunities for the local community. Designed by architectural consultant firm, Design Intent, the development seeks to balance the needs at the site by updating camp accommodation for up to 150 people, as well as new recreational and play opportunities.

Mayor Freshney said *“Camp Banksia has been part of the Port Sorell community for over thirty years, and during that time many Tasmanian schools, sporting clubs and community groups have stayed at the facility. Because of the age of the infrastructure, Latrobe Council has committed to redeveloping the camp to provide facilities that meet*

visitor expectations, and at the same time provide new recreational infrastructure that the Port Sorell community can benefit from”.

The redevelopment is expected to commence on site during mid-2021 and will see two new playgrounds constructed, one incorporating traditional playground equipment that is accessible to all and the other featuring nature-based equipment to create unique play elements and challenges. The existing oval will be resurfaced to provide a level surface for sport and recreation or possible outdoor events.

The cabin clusters will be removed and replaced with fully enclosed cabins, each with 26 beds, amenities, and kitchenette, and all accessible by wheelchair.

Another major component of the redevelopment is the upgrade of the Banksia Centre Performing Arts Centre. This space will be expanded to provide backstage and changeroom areas,

retractable tiered seating and high-quality audio-visual equipment capable of supporting major performances and events.

The existing foyer will be enlarged to create an exhibition space.

Mayor Freshney said *“Port Sorell has gone through a significant period of growth. Providing infrastructure that fosters cultural experiences will continue to build a strong and connected community”.*

This redevelopment has been made possible by funding from the Australian Government and Latrobe Council.



AGRICULTURAL WORKERS SUPPORTED

These are clearly extraordinary times, and the impact of COVID-19 has hit the agricultural sector and specifically, their capacity to engage workers to meet the demands of harvest activities within their businesses.

“Our municipality has a strong reliance on agri-business and their contribution to the local economy is certainly not lost on Council. Latrobe Council recently agreed to a request from Tasmanian Islander Accommodation and Welfare to assist, on a one-off basis, with the hiring of Camp Banksia accommodation for 150 essential workers employed under the Federal Government’s South Pacific Workers program.

Of course Council, like all levels of government, will do all that we can to encourage locals to take up agricultural employment opportunities but are aware of the need for assistance from both interstate and overseas to fill demand on local farms and agricultural businesses in the area”, said Mayor Peter Freshney.

Tasmanian Islander Accommodation and Welfare advised that they required accommodation *“that is appropriate and close enough to the farms”,* adding that their *“original plan of building somewhere was just not possible in the short time frame”* and that they had exhausted the preferred large-scale accommodation options.

“Our Council is very much aware that if these workers are unable to be accommodated then the loss to the agricultural sector and our local farmers will be considerable and almost the final straw on top of everything else that happened in 2020”, said Mayor Freshney.

“While Tasmanian Islander Accommodation and Welfare identified Camp Banksia as a potential and suitable site, in considering this complex issue Council were mindful that the key operation of Camp Banksia is for short term and diverse community use.

Council also sought to understand whether these essential agricultural workers could be simultaneously and safely housed at Camp Banksia for the period sought while the redevelopment works on the site progressed, so as to reduce any extended impact on the camp’s reopening”, he added.

The Council had previously resolved to close the camp throughout 2021 to enable the \$5.3m redevelopment project to be undertaken. That decision was made due to the impact COVID-19 has had on camp bookings and the continued uncertainty through 2021.

“No doubt our community will welcome these South Pacific islanders, taking the opportunity to learn about their culture and teach them about ours,” said Mayor Freshney.

DISCLAIMER - Information supplied is correct at the time of printing. Although all care has been taken in the production of this newsletter, Latrobe Council accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracy or error contained in this newsletter because of information supplied.