

Council Coast and Country
News and Views

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TASMANIAN BRAVERY AWARDS

Honouring Courage: Remembering the 2016 Latrobe Flood

In 2016, several Tasmanian towns were heavily impacted by some of the most devastating floods in our State's history, claiming three lives and causing millions of dollars in damage. In Latrobe, the Mersey River broke its banks, sending much of the town underwater. During the flooding, three Tasmania Police officers undertook multiple high-risk rescue attempts over several hours to save a couple trapped in their home adjacent to the river.

Conditions were extreme, with fast-moving, debris-filled floodwaters, heavy rainfall and limited visibility in the early hours of the morning.

Ten years on, on Thursday 26 September 2026, the courage and dedication of First Class Constables Adam Filler, Dean Wotherspoon and Mark Johnston were recognised with the Royal Humane Society of Australasia's highest bravery honour, the Clarke Gold Medal, as a special ceremony held in Latrobe.



Pictured L to R: Grant How, First Class Constables Mark Johnston and Adam Filler, Her Excellency the Honourable Caroline Wells, Governor of Tasmania, First Class Constable Dean Wotherspoon and Michael Lynd

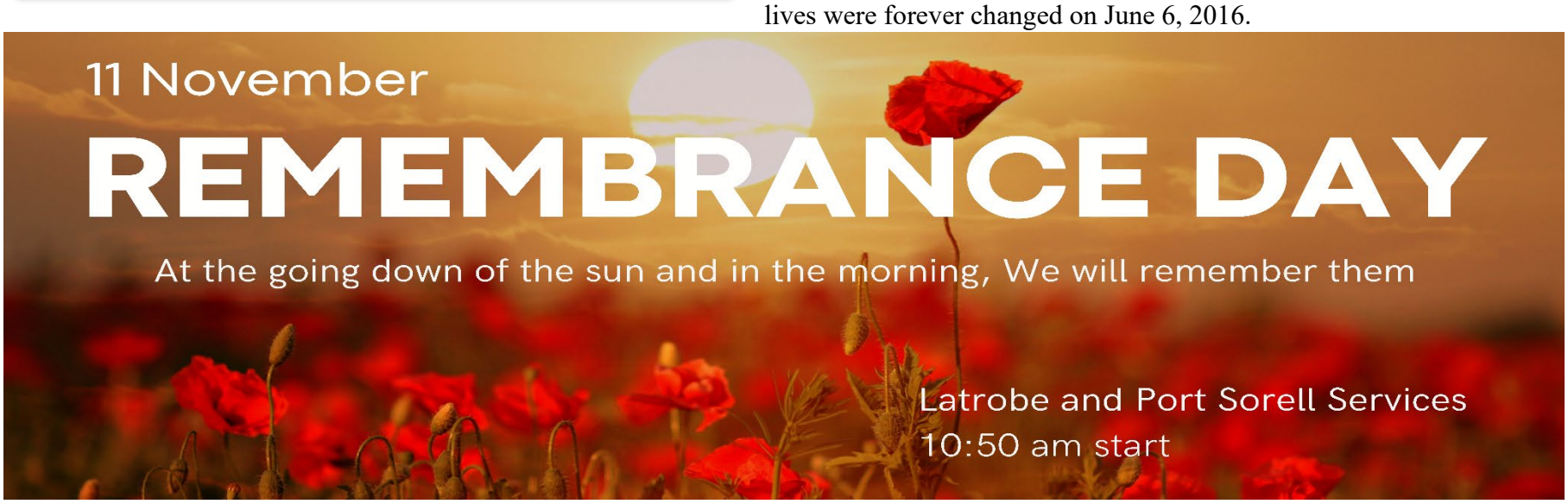


Latrobe Council was proud to co-host the ceremony with the Royal Humane Society of Australasia, in the presence of Her Excellency the Honourable Caroline Wells, Governor of Tasmania, the Premier, Jeremy Rockliff and members of the broader community.

Council also proudly acknowledges Grant How and Michael Lynd, who received Bronze Medals for their own acts of courage and service during the rescue efforts.

We are immensely proud and grateful to all five recipients and acknowledge, with great respect, the enduring loss experienced by the Allford family.

It was a deeply meaningful and historic occasion for Latrobe, bringing our community together to honour extraordinary acts of courage, service and humanity, and remembering those whose lives were forever changed on June 6, 2016.



COUNCIL'S WORKS REPORT

The following works are scheduled to be undertaken throughout the Latrobe Council area during November – December:



PARKS, RESERVES AND OPEN SPACES

- Parks and reserves mowing.
- Finishing touches as the Cricket season ramps up at the Latrobe Recreation Ground.
- Works finalised and Panatana Pool open.
- Weed management on foreshore and reserve spaces in the Port Sorell area.
- Garden maintenance and trimming in parks and reserves.
- Replacement of tables in Bells Parade.
- Works at Rubicon Reserve with new exercise equipment being installed.

CIVIL MAINTENANCE

- Roadside Spraying has commenced.
- Culvert Cleaning in Freers Beach Outlet.
- Gumbowie Drive drain upgrades.

WASTE SERVICES

- Household hazardous waste and safe disposal at the Port Sorell Waste Transfer Station on Sunday, 22 November from 10:00am to 1:00pm. https://wrr.tas.gov.au/case-studies/facilitating-household-hazardous-waste-collections.
- Download the Recycle Mate app to help recycle correctly, find safe disposal options and discover ways to reuse unwanted items at https://recyclemate.com.au/.

Should you require information on these activities, phone Council on 6426 4444.

LOCAL BUILDING UPDATE

Throughout July and August, Council received 69 applications comprising of 15 dwellings, 2 dwellings addition/alteration, 6 outbuildings, 8 commercial/industrial, 27 plumbing applications, and 9 other applications with an estimated value of $14,182,243.

While fewer building applications were lodged this year for the same period last year, the overall value of development has continued to grow.



A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE – A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR PETER FRESHNEY

When I first joined Latrobe Council in 2011, our municipality was a very different place from the one we know today.

Over the past 15 years, I have had the privilege of watching Latrobe, Port Sorell and our surrounding communities grow and change in ways that, at times, would have been difficult to imagine back then. We have experienced significant residential growth, new subdivisions, many new homes and families, and an increasing number of businesses establishing themselves across our municipality.

At Port Sorell, we now have a primary school, the Shearwater shopping centre, Surf Life Saving Club, age-appropriate playgrounds, a dog park under development, a unique defence memorial, the Banksia Centre and upgraded facilities at the caravan park and Camp Banksia. These facilities are supported by an extensive network of pathways that help connect the community. Stormwater and road infrastructure continues to be upgraded and reviewed, while events such as the markets by the beach, the Spring Fair and the Port Sorell Car Show continue to grow and prosper.

In Latrobe, our largest-ever capital works undertaking, the flood mitigation project, has been completed, providing greater protection to the lower part of town from flooding such as that experienced in 2016. Reliquaire has been rebuilt following the devastating Christmas Eve fire in 2015, while businesses including Hill Street, BioMar and Yolla Co-op have become firmly established within our community.

Developments at Bosworth Park, Perkins Park, Kings Park and Bells Parade have created spaces that are now well used by our community. Upgrades to the Recreation Ground precinct have supported the remarkable growth in participation across sports including football, croquet, cricket, pickleball and tennis. We are also increasingly hosting regional, state and national sporting events, including WNBL games and interstate football and cricket.

Our aged-care facilities are among some of the best in the state, and a purpose-built childcare centre providing more than 170 placements and significant employment opportunities is about to open. Council also worked hard to establish the Gilbert Street childcare centre following the closure of St Patrick's and advocated strongly for the retention and upgrading of the hydrotherapy facilities at Strathdevon.

In 2017, we led the Cradle Coast Councils in a delegation to Canberra, where the then Federal and State Governments entered into the largest financial agreement of its kind in Tasmania's history, providing $730 million in funding for the Mersey Community Hospital and returning it to State control.

Henley on the Mersey and the Latrobe Christmas Parade have returned, while Chocolate Winterfest continues to demonstrate remarkable longevity and community support.

For anyone who left our community in 2011 and returned today, I believe they would be genuinely surprised by how much has changed.

The growth is something we should be proud of. It reflects the appeal of our municipality and the fact that people want to make Latrobe, Port Sorell and our surrounding communities their home. It has brought new people, new ideas, new businesses and new opportunities.

But growth has also brought challenges. It has placed pressure on infrastructure and services, created new demands for Council and the community, and raised expectations about what our municipality should provide and how it should develop.

Over the years, Council has had to balance those competing demands, encouraging and guiding appropriate growth and investment while protecting the character, community spirit and qualities that make our municipality such a special place to live.

As Mayor, I have been fortunate to witness much of that change from within Council and to play a small part in helping shape the municipality we have today. There have been difficult decisions, challenges and disappointments along the way, but there have also been many achievements of which I believe our community can be proud.

Most importantly, I have seen our community continue to evolve without losing the strong sense of community that has always been one of Latrobe Municipality's greatest strengths.

As I reflect on my time on Council, I am proud not simply of the physical changes I have witnessed, but of the people and community behind them. Buildings, roads and developments are important, but it is the people who volunteer, run businesses, support local organisations, coach our sporting teams, care for their neighbours and contribute to community life who ultimately make this place what it is.

That is the Latrobe Municipality I will take with me, a community that has grown considerably, faced its challenges, embraced new opportunities and, importantly, retained its sense of identity and community spirit.

Thank you for the kindness and respect you have afforded me over the past 15 years, and for the trust you have placed in me to lead our Council and our community.

I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve and genuinely humbled by the experience. It has been a privilege.

CREATIVITY SHINES WITH THE CHOCOLATE WONDERS OF WEARABLE ART

The 2026 Chocolate Wonders of Wearable Art competition brought creativity and colour to the Supper Room at Latrobe Memorial Hall on Sunday, 9 August, as part of Chocolate Winterfest. Twelve outstanding entries from across Tasmania delighted more than 4,500 patrons, who had the opportunity to vote for their favourite design. Designers combined artistic flair, skilled craftsmanship and imagination to transform familiar chocolate wrappers and packaging into clothing, accessories and intricate design details. Each creation told a distinctive story, far more than can be captured in a single article.



Snowballs by Shanli Perkins emerged as the winning entry, receiving both the Judges' Award and the Viewer's Choice Award. Shanli received a $1,500 gift card donated by Mackey's Royal Hotel and Latrobe Council, and an Anvers Ultimate Selection Hamper.

The Viewer's Choice Award also recognised two outstanding runners-up: The Queen of Rocher by Eve Davis and Ellen Brooks-Lloyd was named first runner-up, while Decadent Delight by Sophie Waugh was named second runner-up.

Congratulations to all award recipients and entrants, who should be proud of the creativity they shared with the community. In accepting her awards, Shanli said she plans to use some of her prize money to support emerging wearable art creatives, helping encourage the next generation of designers. Chocolate Winterfest and Wearable Art Event Coordinators Caroline Cooper and Massi Zadeh encourage prospective entrants to start thinking about their 2027 creations, and perhaps begin saving chocolate wrappers, boxes and containers now. Thank you to every entrant, voter, patron and supporter who helped make the 2026 Chocolate Wonders of Wearable Art a success.

RUBICON IS READY FOR PLAY

The redevelopment of the Rubicon Reserve Playground is now complete, and the refreshed space is already proving popular with local families.

The upgrade has breathed new life into the Reserve, creating a fun, inclusive and engaging play space designed for children of different ages and abilities.

The playground has attracted interest from other councils across Tasmania, highlighting the quality and appeal of the redevelopment.

Council was pleased to keep the project local, with Sturdybilt supplying and installing the new playground equipment. Built with Tasmania's coastal conditions in mind, the main play structure is constructed from stainless steel to provide strength, durability and long-term value for the community.

With the playground now open and being well used, Rubicon Reserve has become an even more inviting place for families to gather, play and enjoy time outdoors.



FITNESS BY THE FORESHORE

Rubicon Reserve is set to receive another boost with the replacement of the existing exercise park, creating a more modern and versatile outdoor fitness space for the community.

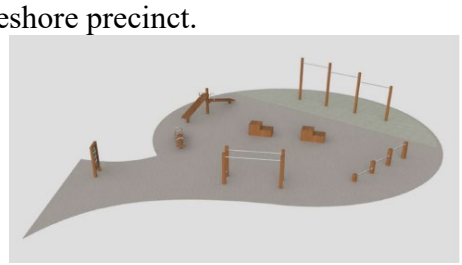
Located beside the Port Sorell foreshore and Surf Life Saving facilities, the exercise park is well positioned for walkers, runners, families and other recreational users enjoying the wider reserve.

The renewal will include outdoor fitness equipment suitable for a range of ages and abilities, with replicated equipment and different exercise heights making it easier for individuals and groups to train together.

A key feature of the upgrade will be the inclusion of instructional signage to help users get the most from the equipment.

The project will also connect more closely with the coastal pathway, with a sprint track and kilometre markers helping to create new opportunities for structured exercise and fitness activities.

Once complete, the upgraded exercise park will provide a durable, attractive and practical facility designed to support active lifestyles and encourage greater use of the foreshore precinct.



A FRESH LOOK FOR BELLS PARADE

Bells Parade is set to become even more inviting, with Latrobe Council upgrading seating and picnic table settings throughout the popular riverside reserve.

Some of the existing furniture is now due for replacement, and the new seating and tables will provide a more attractive, practical and durable option for residents and visitors.

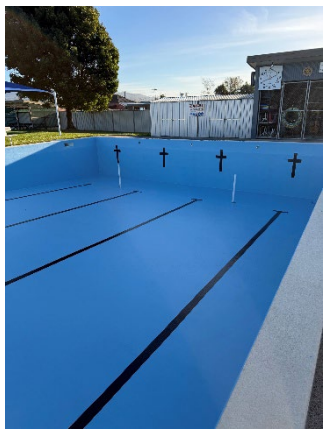
The upgrades will be carried out on both sides of the river, helping to improve comfort and amenity across one of Latrobe's most well-used open spaces.

The new furniture will also complement recent improvements within the municipality, and help create a more consistent look and feel throughout the area.

Whether stopping for a picnic, meeting friends, taking a break during a walk or simply enjoying the river, the new facilities will make Bells Parade an even more welcoming place to spend time outdoors.

SUMMER READY

The Latrobe Swim Centre has received a number of exciting improvements throughout the off-season, helping to enhance safety, functionality, appearance and energy efficiency ahead of the summer season. New changeroom floor surfaces have been installed to improve safety and functionality, providing a durable, non-slip surface that is easier to maintain. The pools have also been relined, creating a renewed finish to support the longevity of the pool infrastructure, while providing a cleaner and more modern appearance. The removal of the tiles surrounding the toddlers' paddling pool has also created a simpler, more practical surface that is easier to clean and maintain. A significant number of energy efficiency upgrades have also contributed to the Centre's readiness, including the installation of new shade shelters in April and the recent pool heating and energy efficiency improvements. Together, these works have delivered a refreshed, safer and more efficient Latrobe Swim Centre, ready to welcome the community for the summer season.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

At the September Council Meeting, the Latrobe Recreation Precinct Development Plan was officially endorsed, setting the direction for the next five years of planning, investment and improvements across the precinct. Council Officers are working closely with key stakeholders to pursue funding opportunities, establish priorities and progress the delivery of overdue upgrades throughout the area.

This year, Council has also committed capital funding towards the design of priority projects identified within the Plan. Investing in the design phase puts Council in a stronger position to respond to funding

opportunities as they arise and ensures projects are well planned and ready to progress. This is an important step forward for the Latrobe Recreation Precinct, supporting the delivery of improved, accessible and sustainable facilities for the community over the coming years.



COMMUNITY ENERGY UPGRADES FUND

The Community Energy Upgrades Fund has provided an exciting opportunity to advance Council's facilities and support the transition towards more energy-efficient operations. Through this project, Council has successfully delivered two 52kW pool heat pumps, replacing end-of-life units at the Latrobe Swim Centre; a 41kW pool heat pump at the Latrobe Hydrotherapy Pool; a custom-designed pool cover for the paddling pool at the Latrobe Swim Centre, designed to accommodate existing obstructions; and a 30kW solar panel system at the Latrobe Swim Centre. Collectively, Council estimates these upgrades will deliver energy savings of approximately 171,957kWh at the Latrobe Swim Centre and 11,852kWh at the Latrobe Hydrotherapy Pool. These improvements represent a positive step towards greater energy efficiency across Council's aquatic facilities. The resulting reduction in energy consumption and operational costs will provide opportunities to redirect funding towards further improvements, maintenance and operational efficiencies, supporting the long-term sustainability of Latrobe's aquatic facilities.



WHO WILL YOU NOMINATE?

Every community has people and groups who quietly make a difference, and Latrobe Council is inviting residents to help recognise them through the annual Australia Day Awards.

Nominations are now open across three categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year

The awards celebrate individuals and groups who have made a valuable contribution to the Latrobe municipality through community service, leadership, volunteering, achievement or by bringing people together.

Residents are encouraged to think about the people who give their time generously, support others, strengthen local organisations or help make the municipality a better place to live.

Nomination forms are available from the Latrobe Council website www.latrobe.tas.gov.au/community/australiadayawards or by phoning 6426 4444 to request a copy by post.

Nominators should ensure their nominee meets the eligibility criteria, complete the required information and provide a submission addressing the relevant award criteria.

Completed nominations must be returned to Latrobe Council, marked "Australia Day Awards", by 1 December.

Awards will be presented on Australia Day, 26 January.

Who in the community deserves to be recognised this year?

WORKING TOGETHER TO HELP PREVENT VANDALISM

Unfortunately, vandalism continues to be an issue in the municipality, affecting community facilities and public spaces. Council is working on solutions to help prevent further damage and improve the safety and security of our facilities. In the meantime, we ask our local community to help by reporting any vandalism, damage or incidents to Council or the police as soon as possible.





Thank you to everyone in our community for your cooperation and support as we work together to keep our municipality safe, welcoming and enjoyable for everyone.

DROP, COLLECT, REFUND

Latrobe Council has installed five new container collection baskets along Gilbert Street, Latrobe.

The baskets provide a simple way for people to leave eligible drink containers in public places rather than placing them in general recycling bins. This makes it easier for others to collect the containers and return them to a refund point for the 10-cent refund. Purpose-built container baskets and racks are designed specifically for busy public spaces. They are space-efficient, easy to use and can help reduce contamination in recycling bins while requiring minimal maintenance.

The initiative also provides a safer and more convenient alternative for people collecting eligible containers, removing the need to search through public recycling bins.



Council encourages residents and visitors to use the new baskets for eligible drink containers and help support recycling, resource recovery and the circular economy.

GARAGE SALE TRAIL

Latrobe Council is encouraging residents to take part in Australia's final Garage Sale Trail, being held across two weekends on 7-8 and 14-15 November 2026.

Households, schools, community groups and local businesses across the municipality will join thousands of Australians for one last celebration of second hand selling, shopping and reuse before the national sustainability initiative closes its roller doors. Since launching in 2010, Garage Sale Trail has grown into a national movement, with 134,000 garage sales, 4 million participants and more than 7.2 million items saved from landfill.

Mayor Freshney said participating in this final year is a fantastic way for local residents to clear out clutter, make or save some extra cash and celebrate community spirit one last time. "We've loved being part of the Garage Sale Trail over the years. It has shown our community just how valuable the circular economy really is. As the Trail takes its final victory lap in 2026, we want to see Latrobe Community go out with a bang, whether you're hosting a driveway sale, visiting a local tip shop or bargain hunting down your street."

Garage Sale Trail Director Barbara Gill described 2026 as a celebration of how far second hand selling and shopping had come. "We're thinking of 2026 as a victory lap," said Ms Gill. "We started Garage Sale Trail because reuse was a no-brainer; a win for your wallet, a win for community connection and a win for the planet." Ms Gill continued "This will be the final year the event is delivered by the Garage Sale Trail Foundation. Having built an event with millions of participants, we know the movement is far bigger than us. This year we're going out with a bang."

Get involved by hosting a sale. Registration is free, with sellers receiving tips and promotional materials to help

make their sale a success. Nothing to sell? Shop the Trail.

To register a sale or search for local events, visit GarageSaleTrail.com.au.

HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEAN-OUT

Residents are encouraged to clear out unwanted household, garden and hobby chemicals this November and take advantage of free hazardous waste disposal events across the region.

Local collection events will be held at:

- Spreyton Waste Transfer Station Saturday, 21 November, 10:00am to1:00pm
- Port Sorell Waste Transfer Station Sunday, 22 November, 10:00am to1:00pm

Residents unable to attend their nearest event are welcome to use any participating location.

Accepted items include vapes, solvents, household and floor cleaners, ammonia-based products, pesticides, herbicides, poisons, pool chemicals, hobby chemicals, acids and alkalis. Individual items must not exceed 20 kilograms or 20 litres.

Items that cannot be accepted include asbestos, ammunition, explosives, oil and fire extinguishers. Early or late drop-offs cannot be accommodated.

Collected materials are handled and transported under the supervision of a specialist chemist.

Where possible, materials are recovered or treated, with approximately half suitable for conversion into fuel for industrial use. Remaining materials are neutralised, stabilised, treated or disposed of through approved specialist facilities.

For details of other collection locations, visit rethinkwaste.com.au.

For further information, email admin@dulverton.com.au or call 6473 4444.

BUSHFIRE-READY CHALLENGE

With summer approaching, the Tasmania Fire Service is encouraging households across the region to take part in the free Bushfire-Ready Challenge.



The four-week online program helps participants take practical steps to prepare for bushfire season through a series of simple weekly activities.

Topics include understanding bushfire risk, creating a bushfire plan, preparing an emergency kit and assessing the property for potential hazards.

The challenge is designed to make bushfire preparedness more manageable, allowing participants to work through each activity at their own pace. It may be useful for households beginning their bushfire planning as well as those wanting to review and update existing arrangements.

Hundreds of Tasmanian households took part in the challenge last year, helping to build greater knowledge, confidence and preparedness ahead of summer.

The Bushfire-Ready Challenge is free and open to all Tasmanians.

To learn more or register, visit bushfire.tas.gov.au/bushfire-challenge/bushfire-ready-challenge.

Take it on. Be prepared.

FROM PET GOATS TO PADDOCK SHEEP: WHY EVERY ANIMAL COUNTS

Whether you keep a few sheep to manage the grass, a couple of cattle in the paddock or some goats for the family's milk, traceability is an important responsibility for all livestock owners of cattle, sheep, goats or pigs.

Many people assume traceability only matters for large commercial farms, but every property that keeps cattle, sheep, goats or pigs plays a role in protecting Tasmania's livestock industries and rural communities.

Livestock traceability allows animals to be tracked throughout their lives and enables authorities to quickly identify where animals have been and where they have moved during a disease outbreak or biosecurity emergency. Fast and accurate tracing helps contain risks, protects neighbouring properties and reduces the impact on livestock owners across the state.

Traceability is also essential for maintaining access to domestic and international markets. Australia's ability to demonstrate where livestock have come from and how they have moved provides confidence to customers and trading partners that our products are safe, high quality and trustworthy. Strong traceability systems help protect Tasmania's clean, green reputation and support the jobs, businesses and regional communities that depend on agriculture.

Even if you never intend to sell animals for export, you still benefit from a strong traceability system. Participation by every livestock owner strengthens the system and helps ensure that a problem on one property does not become a problem for many.

For hobby farmers, compliance is straightforward. Key responsibilities include ensuring your property has a Property Identification Code (PIC), keeping livestock movement records, and making sure animals are correctly identified before they are moved.

Thinking about buying or selling livestock? That's also an important time to think about traceability. Advertisements for the sale of cattle, sheep, goats or pigs must include the seller's PIC and contact details, and these animals must be correctly identified. Buyers must provide the seller with their PIC for the movement document.

Whether you're selling a few sheep through social media, advertising cattle online or purchasing stock for your property, ensuring the property has a PIC benefits everyone involved.

By taking these simple steps, you help protect your animals, your neighbours and Tasmania's agricultural future.

For more information about livestock traceability requirements, visit https://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/livestock-traceability-requirements.

MERSEY SES SHINES

A team from the Mersey SES Unit recently travelled to Queensland to compete against teams from every state and territory in the biennial National Disaster Rescue Competition.

While many teams had up to 12 months to prepare and multiple competitions to refine their skills, the Mersey SES team was assembled with just four weeks' notice.

Despite the short preparation time, the team delivered an outstanding performance. In the Industrial Extrication challenge, which was deliberately designed so teams were not expected to complete every task, the Mersey team completed the entire stand and finished an impressive seven minutes ahead of the next team.

The team was also awarded the Hori Howard Spirit of Competition Award, a highly regarded honour voted on by fellow competitors and judges. The award recognises teamwork, professionalism, sportsmanship and a positive approach throughout the competition.

It was an exceptional result for a team competing together for the first time on the national stage and a proud achievement for the Mersey SES Unit.



HYDROTHERAPY POOL CONTINUES TO SUPPORT WELLBEING

Latrobe is home to a fully accessible hydrotherapy pool, providing a valuable local resource for people of all ages and abilities.



The Latrobe Hydrotherapy Pool is located on Moriarty Road, Latrobe next to Strathdevon, providing a valuable local resource for people of all ages and abilities. Offering a calm and supportive environment for rehabilitation, gentle exercise and wellbeing.

The warm water can assist with arthritis, chronic pain, mobility, relaxation and rehabilitation, making it suitable for people recovering from injury, managing ongoing conditions or simply looking for a gentler way to stay active.

The pool includes both deep and shallow areas with a hoist and aquatic wheelchair available to support people with differing mobility needs.

The facility welcomes enquiries from community members, carers and health professionals interested in learning more about how hydrotherapy may support individual health and wellbeing goals.

The pool is open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 12 noon and 1.00pm to 4.00pm. No medical referral is required.

To make a booking, or for more information phone 0428 296 641 or email hydrotherapy.latrobe@gmail.com.

BUSINESS INFORMATION AND HAPPENINGS

VISABLE, CONNECTED AND SUPPORTED

Running a business in a regional community means wearing many hats. It never really stops. The businesses that grow strongest are not doing it alone. They are connected, visible and supported.

That's the role of the Kentish and Latrobe Independent Business Association (KaLIBA) membership that plays across the Kentish and Latrobe regions.

KaLIBA is focused on supporting local businesses to become more visible, better connected and stronger together through promotion, networking and access to a range of targeted programs, industry specific information and specialist advisors.

Currently in partnership with NBN Local an opportunity exists for businesses to receive a free entry level membership or membership upgrade to access the enhanced benefits available to paid members.

These NBN sponsored memberships are now limited so don't miss out on this opportunity to get a one year membership for free.

This offer gives you free entry as a paid member to our monthly events and workshop offers.

To be eligible simply answer three questions via the link below about your current internet access.

https://mailchi.mp/kaliba.org.au/hr-options-10984532

When local businesses connect, the whole region benefits

THRIVING TEAMS, BETTER TEAMS

West North West Working's Regional Business Capability Manager, Susie, recently attended the 2026 National Workplace Wellbeing Conference in Brisbane, joining workplace wellbeing professionals, business leaders and industry practitioners from across Australia.

The two-day conference explored topics including leadership, employee wellbeing and the development of positive workplace cultures.

As an active member of the Kentish and Latrobe Independent Business Association, Susie will use the insights and evidence-based strategies gained at the conference to support businesses, leaders and teams across the region.

The knowledge will also help strengthen the work delivered by West North West Working, particularly in assisting businesses to navigate workplace challenges while building positive, sustainable and healthy work environments.

Businesses interested in strengthening workplace wellbeing, developing leadership capability or supporting thriving teams can access free support through West North West Working.

For more information, contact Susie on 0490 865 462 or email susie@wnwworking.com.au.

IS YOUR BUSINESS EV READY?



In August 2026, fully electric vehicles accounted for 24.9% of new-vehicle sales in Australia – almost one in four vehicles sold. For Tasmania, where the self-drive journey is such an important part of the visitor experience, this presents a growing opportunity for tourism businesses – especially if you become part of the growing EV charging network by becoming a site host.

Some EV charging providers offer fully funded site-hosting models, allowing businesses to become EV charging destinations at no upfront cost. The provider supplies, installs, operates, and maintains the chargers, while your site benefits from increased visitor traffic, customer dwell time, and recognition as part of Australia's growing EV charging network.

Find out more and explore the options to become a site host with Exploren, Jolt, Tesla and EVSE. Details and links are available on TICT's website: www.tict.com.au/industry-development/emissions-reduction/electric-vehicle-tourism/.

BECOME A TASSIE TOURISM AMBASSADOR

Great visitor experiences aren't only created at attractions and accommodation, they happen every time a visitor asks a local where to eat, what to see or what they shouldn't miss.

The Tassie Tourism Ambassador Program is a free online program designed to give tourism and hospitality staff, volunteers and other customer-facing locals the knowledge and confidence to provide great visitor experiences and share more of what Tasmania has to offer.

Delivered through four easy-to-follow online modules, the program takes around two to four hours to complete at your own pace. Participants learn more about

Tasmania's visitor economy, our visitors and what they are looking for, how to share local stories and experiences, and the different destinations visitors can explore across the state.
For tourism businesses, encouraging staff to participate can help build their local knowledge and confidence when talking with visitors. A simple recommendation can encourage someone to discover another attraction, visit a local business or stay a little longer - benefiting not just one business, but the wider visitor economy.
The program is completely free and available online, with participants receiving an official e-certificate and badge on completion.
Tourism businesses are encouraged to get involved and invite their teams to become Tassie Tourism Ambassadors.
Find out more and register for the Tassie Tourism Ambassador Program: www.tassietourismambassador.com.au.

VISITOR TAX DEFEATED

Tasmania's proposed Short Stay Visitor Tax will not proceed after the bill was defeated in the State's Upper House on 9 September 2026.
Advocacy led by the Tourism Industry Council Tasmania (TICT), with support from Tasmania's Regional Tourism Organisations, opposed the introduction of the tax.
The outcome has been welcomed by accommodation providers, who will avoid the additional cost and financial reporting requirements that would have accompanied the proposed tax. It also allows operators to continue setting competitive accommodation prices without the added levy.

POWERSMART GRANTS

Small businesses can access support to improve energy efficiency through the Tasmanian Government's PowerSmart for Small Business program, delivered through ReCFIT.
Grants of up to $1,000 are available towards the cost of a professional energy audit. The audits can help businesses understand when and where energy is being used, identify opportunities to reduce consumption and make more informed decisions about energy use and purchasing.
By identifying potential efficiencies, businesses may also be able to reduce ongoing operating costs.
Applications close Friday, 30 June 2028.
Find out more: https://bit.ly/psgrantbiz.

WAGE SUBSIDIES

Businesses hiring new staff may be eligible for wage subsidies of up to $10,000 when employing eligible individuals in ongoing positions.
Support is available through Workforce Australia employment services providers, Transition to Work providers, Parent Pathways providers and Inclusive Employment Australia.
Providers can assist businesses to find suitable candidates, check eligibility for a wage subsidy and explain how to access and manage a wage subsidy agreement.
Find out more: www.dewr.gov.au/wage-subsidies.

RESTAURANT RENOVATIONS AT SHEARWATER RESORT TAVERN NEARING COMPLETION.

After more than five months of renovations, the Shearwater Resort Tavern is preparing to reopen its restaurant and kitchen around mid-November.
The major renovation has more than doubled the size of both the kitchen and indoor dining area, with the revamped restaurant able to seat almost 200 diners inside, alongside the existing outdoor dining area. During the works, which began in early May, the restaurant has continued operating from a temporary location upstairs in the Panatana Room.
The Shearwater Resort team has thanked the community for its support throughout the renovation period. The reopening will bring a new menu and a new addition to the kitchen – a pizza oven! Following reopening, work will continue on one final improvement – a roof structure in front of the stage to provide better weather protection during live music events.
The project has supported Tasmanian businesses, with Tasmanian companies and trades used throughout the renovation.
The expanded venue also brings additional employment opportunities, with the Resort currently seeking chefs, bar staff and wait staff. Resumes can be sent to tavern@shearwatercc.com.au.
Around 15 live music events are planned between the mid-November 2026 reopening and April 2027, with further acts yet to be announced. Visit the Shearwater Resort Tavern Facebook page for reopening updates and upcoming events.

WATTLE HILL WINS

Family-owned and operated Wattle Hill Olives is celebrating strong results on the national show circuit.



Their Extra Virgin Olive Oil received Bronze medals at both the Royal Melbourne Fine Food Awards and the Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards.
The business's Table Olives also impressed judges, receiving Best in Class and Silver at the Royal Adelaide Show, as well as Silver at the Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards.
Wattle Hill Olives has also entered the Hunter Olive Show, with further results still to come.

MEET AT BANKSIA

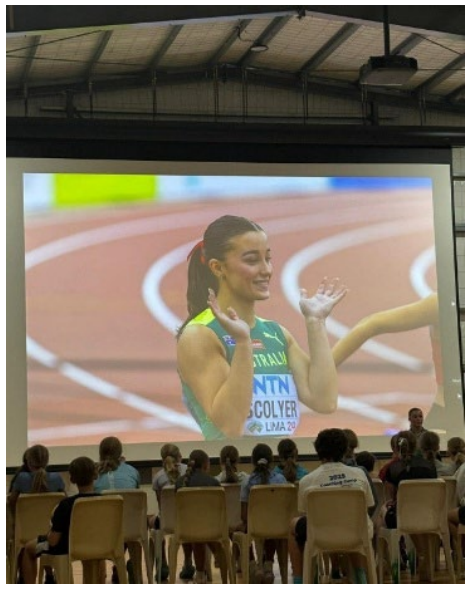
Businesses, organisations, trainers and community groups looking for an affordable and relaxed venue may find Banksia in Port Sorell offers more flexibility than expected.



Best known for hosting school camps and group accommodation, Banksia also has modern meeting and activity spaces available for hire. Two carpeted meeting rooms can be combined to accommodate up to 100 people, or divided into separate spaces seating up to 50 participants each.
Kitchen facilities are available for self-catering, while nearby local businesses and cafés in Shearwater provide plenty of options for meals and refreshments.
For more interactive sessions, the Rubicon Room offers a flexible space suitable for seminars, training workshops, presentations, drama workshops, dance classes, small-group sport and other creative or interactive activities.
A large 8m x 5m screen supported by a high quality projector and sound system, makes the space suitable for presentations, training sessions, audiovisual content and movie screenings. Stadium and sporting facilities are also available on site.
Located close to beaches and bushland walks, Banksia provides an opportunity to step away from the usual workplace without travelling far. Port Sorell is around 20 minutes from Devonport and Latrobe and approximately 30 minutes from Ulverstone.



With affordable hire rates, free onsite parking and a relaxed coastal setting, Banksia offers a practical option for meetings, workshops and training days.
Contact the Banksia team to find out more or arrange a site visit by email office@campbanksia.com or phone 6426 4106.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND YOU

LATROBE FESTIVAL OF ARTS

The Latrobe Festival of Arts will return on 13-14 November 2026, bringing together creativity, community and connection across a range of local venues.

Organised by the Rotary Club of Latrobe, with support from Latrobe High School's Interact Club and Latrobe Council, the community-run festival will showcase performing and visual arts talent from throughout the Latrobe municipality.

Across the weekend, visitors can enjoy performance showcases at the Latrobe Memorial Hall, visual art exhibitions, interactive workshops, live music and opportunities to discover the work of local arts organisations, including Rubicon River Arts.

The festival is designed to offer something for a wide range of interests and ages, with a mix of free community events as well as selected ticketed showcases and workshops.

The weekend provides an opportunity for local artists, performers, schools and community groups to share their work while encouraging residents and visitors to connect through the arts.

For event details, tickets and updates, visit www.latrobefestivalofarts.com.au, follow Latrobe Festival of Arts on Facebook or email latrobefestivalofarts@gmail.com.

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

Rubicon River Arts has been busy in recent months, with workshops, exhibitions and community events keeping members active across the region.

The group congratulates the winners of its annual Winter Nostalgia Art Competition, held in August:

Section A – Local Residents: Cassandra Luxmore

Section B – Adjoining Areas: Marilyn O'Riley

Secondary Students: Zainab Ishs

Primary Students: Trinity Barron

View Real Estate Viewers' Choice: Linda Pattison

During September and October, Rubicon River Arts hosted Stippling and Drawing Houses workshops, continued to display and sell members' art and crafts, and attended the Port Sorell Spring Fair, where handmade items and popular floral garlands were on offer.

The group has also launched a new website, Rubicon River Art Inc., showcasing its activities and gallery on George Street, Latrobe.

November will be a particularly busy month, with Rubicon River Arts taking part in the Latrobe Festival of the Arts on 13-14 November and will also present the Art in Disguise Art Show. Open to Tasmanian residents, all works will be A5 size, priced at $20 and displayed anonymously until sold.

The Arts Hub will also be open during the Truly Tasmanian Art Fair over the November long weekend.

New members are welcome at meetings held on the first Saturday of each month at The Arts Hub, George Street, Latrobe.

OPEN GARDENS

Garden lovers are invited to explore two beautiful local gardens when members of the Latrobe Garden Club open their gardens to the public on Sunday, 22 November, from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy the gardens, discover some unusual plants and pick up a bargain or two. Entry is $2 per garden.

At Hamilton House, 43 Hamilton Street, Helen will have a range of plants for sale, including roses, campanulas and salvias, with most plants priced at $5. Cash sales only.

Ann will also open her garden at 21 James Street, where visitors can browse a garage sale during the day.

For further information, contact Helen on 0400 042 071 or Ann on 0410 686 306.

CWA LATROBE IN ACTION

The CWA Latrobe Branch meets on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00am, followed by a light lunch and social time.

The branch is extending an invitation to women who would like to become involved and help support its activities and the wider community.

For those unable to attend the monthly meeting, a social coffee morning is also held at Anvers on the third Saturday of each month at 10:00am.

The next branch meeting will be held on Saturday, 5 December, with the next coffee morning taking place on Saturday, 19 December at Anvers Chocolate Factory.

Current projects include fundraising for a proposed Nature Playground in the Bradshaw Street park, in partnership with the Wesley Vale/Sassafras CWA Branch and Latrobe Council. Fundraising is already well underway, with a recent trivia night attracting strong support and raising more than $800.

The branch is also participating in the People First Community Raffle, with further fundraising activities planned.

Members are also assisting the Wesley Vale/Sassafras Branch with preparations for the 37th Annual Latrobe Flower Show, to be held on 13-14 February 2027 at the Latrobe Memorial Hall. The popular event provides dedicated gardeners and flower growers with an opportunity to showcase the results of many hours of care and hard work.

While the CWA may be well known for traditional skills such as cooking and craft, its work extends much further. The organisation supports women, children and families through practical assistance, including donations of clothing, baby bundles and other everyday necessities.

The Latrobe Branch also provides catering for small functions, funerals, morning teas and meetings, while continuing to connect with and support the local community.



Bradshaw Street Park, L-R President Anne Jong, Sandra Grogan, Christine Holden, Mayor Peter Freshney, Yvonne Wood, Aileen Donoghue and Penny Thomas.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTORFEST

NorthWest CollectorFest will celebrate its biggest event of the year with a special Christmas Spectacular on Sunday, 20 December, from 10:00am to 3;00pm in the Latrobe Memorial Hall.

The family-friendly event will bring together collectors, families and pop culture enthusiasts for a festive day of trading cards, collectibles and community connection.

A wide range of local vendors will be offering trading cards, toys, collectibles, artwork, LEGO, Hot Wheels, Pop Vinyls and more, giving visitors the chance to browse, buy, sell and trade.

Alongside the market stalls, families can enjoy Christmas-themed children's activities, competitions, giveaways and interactive experiences in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

The event also provides an opportunity for local businesses, artists and community groups to showcase their products and services while supporting the North West Coast's growing collector community.

Whether searching for a Christmas gift, tracking down a rare collectible, discovering a new hobby or simply enjoying an affordable family day out, the Christmas Spectacular offers something for a wide range of ages and interests.

Entry is $2 per person.

LATROBE RSL AT 80

The Latrobe RSL Sub-Branch recently celebrated its 80th anniversary with a successful annual luncheon, marking an important milestone in its long history of supporting veterans and the local community.

The Sub-Branch will hold its final Friday social night for the year on 11 December, followed by its final monthly meeting on Tuesday, 15 December. Activities will then pause over summer and resume on Friday, 12 February 2027.

Community members are also welcome to join the Sub-Branch for weekly Tuesday brunches from 11:30am at the Teddy Sheean VC Bar, Belly's Bar and Grill, as well as Friday social nights from 4.30pm to 6.30pm. Friday gatherings include a raffle, with proceeds supporting local veterans.

Membership is open to serving and former Australian Defence Force personnel, affiliates and social members. Contact Jason at latrobersl2@gmail.com or 0417 806 129.

ANNUAL LATROBE FLOWER SHOW

Gardeners, flower lovers and keen photographers are invited to take part in the 37th Annual Latrobe Flower Show, to be held on 13-14 February 2027 at the Latrobe Memorial Hall, Gilbert Street, Latrobe.

Conducted by members of the Country Women's Association in Tasmania (Inc.), the show is open to anyone with an interest in gardening and horticulture.

Competition sections will include flowers, floral arrangements, vegetables, pot plants and photography, along with a special junior section for children's entries.

A feature section will showcase dahlias and begonias, with exhibitors from around Tasmania expected to take part.

The show will be open to the public on Saturday, 13 February from 2:00pm to 4:00pm and Sunday, 14 February from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

The official opening will be held at 3:00 pm on Saturday, with prizes presented at 3:30 pm on Sunday.

Admission is $3 for adults, with children under 16 admitted free.

For a schedule, entry details or further information, contact Lesley Young on 0419 326 250.

FROM CLARINET DREAMS TO TROMBONE NOTES: LINDA'S MUSICAL JOURNEY

For the past nine years, Linda Wilson has been a valued member of the Latrobe Federal Band, bringing enthusiasm, dedication and a love of music to the trombone section.



Interestingly, Linda's journey with the trombone began many years before she ever picked one up. As a teenager playing clarinet in a concert band, she often found herself listening to the trombones behind her and thinking how wonderful it would be to learn the instrument herself. That dream remained in the back of her mind for almost three decades.

The opportunity finally arrived when her son developed an interest in learning a brass instrument. After taking him along to the Latrobe Federal Band, Linda found herself sitting in the beginner room listening to lessons and realised she was in the perfect place to learn the trombone. She asked for an instrument, joined the band, and has never looked back.

For Linda, one of the greatest joys of band membership is being part of a team where everyone contributes to a shared goal. She enjoys the process of rehearsing new pieces, hearing the music come together, and then sharing the finished performance with audiences. Of course, she also appreciates the powerful and distinctive sound of a brass band.

Among her many memories with the band, one stands out above the rest: performing in the Latrobe Federal Band's 150th anniversary celebration concert. Being part of such a significant milestone in the band's history was a truly special experience.

Linda describes the band as a welcoming and supportive place where she can contribute, make music with friends, and continue developing as a musician. It is a community that encourages members to be the best players they can be.

Above all, Linda believes that music has a unique ability to bring people together. "Music brings together people of all ages, life stages and experiences, which is a great thing to be a part of."

The Latrobe Federal Band continues to thrive because of members like Linda, whose passion for music and community spirit help keep the tradition alive for future generations.

BOOKS CHANGING LIVES

Book lovers across Australia are helping support families affected by disaster through the ShelterBox Australia Book Club.

The book club combines a love of reading with fundraising for emergency shelter and essential aid, including tents, water filters, solar lights and mosquito nets for people displaced by tropical storms, earthquakes and conflict.

Each featured book is selected to reflect the cultures, challenges and resilience of people experiencing displacement, helping readers build greater understanding and connection through storytelling.

For a small monthly donation, members join a nationwide reading community and vote on a hand-picked shortlist every six weeks. Participants can read or listen to the selected title in whatever format suits them, including library books, e-books, audiobooks or copies purchased from local bookshops.

Members also have opportunities to take part in online discussions, shared learning and author events.

ShelterBox was founded by a Rotary club and has supported more than three million people in around 100 countries.

For more information, visit shelterboxaustralia.org.au/reading-room/

CALLING VOUNTEERS FOR HENLEY

Planning is underway for Henley on Mersey on Australia Day 2027, and the organising committee is calling for volunteers.

Help is needed on the day and with event set-up and pack-down. The committee also welcomes anyone interested in becoming involved longer term, with new faces and fresh ideas appreciated.

Volunteering is a great way to support one of Latrobe's much-loved community events. Anyone interested in helping can contact Mark on 0419 316 010.

PORT SORELL LIONS IN ACTION

The Lions Club of Port Sorell has recognised the long-standing service of several members with the presentation of Chevron Certificates, acknowledging up to 30 years of commitment.

Recipients were Geoff Richardson, Malcolm Badcock, Richard Beveridge, Rupert Badcock, Mary Buchanan, Carmel Williams, Reuben Newman and Dave Broomhall.

The Club also has a busy few months ahead, with a Bunnings BBQ on Saturday, 21 November and Christmas cakes and puddings available at the Banksia Market on 12 December.

The Club will also host a Community Christmas Party on 20 December, with full event details featured on the back page of this newsletter.

ALL YOUR SPORTING ACTION

COASTAL PATHWAY ULTRA – A RUNNING SUCCESS

Coastal Pathway Ultra was held on Sunday, 4 October, drawing an impressive 520 participants, including local runners, interstate visitors and even international competitors and supporting crews!
The event offered a range of distances to suit all abilities, featuring the Latrobe Council 10km, Clark Auto Electrics 21.1km Half Marathon, Coastal Pathway Ultra 42.2km Marathon, and 64km Solo Ultra or Teams Relay. New this year was the J Steven Plastering 100km course had been measured and adjusted to Would Athletics/AIMS standards. Each race began amidst the picturesque surrounds of Bells Parade, with participants treated to stunning views along the North-West Coast of Tasmania, following the Coastal Pathway from Latrobe to Ulverstone and return.



The event was a celebration of endurance, community and the natural beauty of our region and plans are already underway for its return in 2027, promising to be even bigger and better! Coastal Pathway Ultra have also be selected to host the Autra Australian 100km Road Running Championships 2027. Currently, IAU bronze label with the aim next year to become silver label.
A huge congratulations to Brian from Everyday Lions Events and Deb from Empower Exercise Events for their outstanding efforts in making this Coastal Pathway Ultra such a resounding success.

TENNIS AT PORT SORELL

The Port Sorell Tennis Club, located in Kermode Street, offers three well-maintained courts, a welcoming clubroom and a range of social and competitive tennis opportunities for players of all abilities.
The club's Quadrant Tennis competition is a social doubles format that matches players with others of a similar skill level. Sessions are held on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:00pm, with the first 2027 roster commencing in the week beginning 4 February and running for eight weeks. Fees are $50 for members and $80 for non-members.
Social tennis is also available on Tuesdays at 9:30am, while a Tuesday night ladies session begins at 6:00pm and welcomes players of all skill levels.
Junior coaching is held every Thursday from 3:30pm during school terms, led by a qualified Tennis Australia coach. For details, contact Peter Georgiades on 0439 637 301.
Night court hire is also available under the club's LED lighting system, with bookings made online and a PIN supplied to activate the lights.
Racquets are available for those who do not have their own.
For membership, social rosters, court hire or further information visit the Port Sorell Tennis Club Facebook page, email portsorelltennisclub@hotmail.com, or go to play.tennis.com.au/portsorelltennisclub.

TAEKWONDO IN LATROBE

Dauntless Taekwondo offers weekly classes in Latrobe for children and adults, providing a welcoming and family-friendly environment for participants of different ages, abilities and experience levels.
Classes are held on Tuesdays at Latrobe High School, with a mixed-age and mixed-level class for participants aged four years and over from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. A Senior Belt Class follows from 6:30pm to 7:00pm.
Training includes traditional Taekwondo, self-defence, sparring, poomsae training, belt testing and board breaking. Dauntless Taekwondo also uses a trauma-informed teaching approach and aims to provide an inclusive environment for participants with ADHD and autism.
Classes are also available in Sheffield, giving families across the region another opportunity to participate.
With family-friendly pricing and pay-as-you-train class fees, the program offers a flexible way for individuals and families to experience Taekwondo and develop confidence, coordination, fitness and practical skills.
For more information about classes, fees or getting started, contact Lisa-Marie on 0429 070 188.

AUSTRALIAN CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIPS

Latrobe Croquet member Malcolm Maney has returned from the Australian Championships with a third place in the Men's Singles.



He, along with member Patsy Paine, helped the Tasmanian Team to their best performance with a three-way tie for third place, unfortunately on a count back of games and hoops Tasmania ended in 5th place.
Latrobe Club will be co-hosting the 2027 Championships and Interstate Shield and would like to thank the Latrobe Council for its assistance in preparing facilities for this event, and also for the ongoing support with its Emerging Needs Program enabling us to buy some much needed equipment.
On the home front Latrobe Croquet has a team in all 3 Divisions of the Northern Pennant but there is still plenty of time and room for lots of social games. If you are looking for a friendly outdoor activity why not give Croquet a go.
You can leave a message for Patsy Paine on 0409 973 092 or call into the Club in George Street.

SWING INTO SUMMER

Thirlstane Golf Club is inviting beginners and returning players to take part in a relaxed Wednesday night golf program this summer.
The Beginners Golf Clinic will run for eight weeks from Wednesday, 14 October, from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at Thirlstane Golf Club, 291 Squeaking Point Road, Thirlstane.
The sessions are designed for anyone wanting to try golf for the first time or refresh their skills, with no weekly commitment required. The cost for non-members is $10 per session, and golf clubs are available if needed.
For those ready to head out on the course, a 5-hole competition will also run from 5:30pm alongside the clinic. The competition will return in mid-January for a further six weeks.
The program offers a chance to learn basic golf skills, meet new people and enjoy a relaxed evening on the course.
The clubhouse will be open after each session, with toasties and drinks available.
For more information or to register interest, contact Bev Sienesi on 0408 108 169.

WHAT'S ON AT A VENUE NEAR YOU?

NOVEMBER

31 Oct - 2 Nov Truly Tasmanian Craft Exhibition and Fair at the Latrobe Memorial Hall, 168 Gilbert Street, Latrobe. Saturday and Sunday from 9:00am to 4:30pm and Monday from 9:00am to 3:30pm. Admission fees apply. Enquiries to 0417 132 687.

2 Recreation Day Public Holiday

7 Don't Come Monday performs in the bar at Mackey's Hotel, 161 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 8:30pm to 11:30pm. No charge.

7 Northdown Market at the Northdown Hall, Port Sorell Main Road, Northdown 8:30am to 2:00pm.

7-8 Garage Sale Trail. Refer to article on page 4.

8 PSSLSC Nipper program begins at North Freers Beach, Shearwater at 10:00am. Email portsorellslsc@gmail.com.

8 Port Sorell Mr Perfect BBQs at Don Brown Memorial Gazebo, East Esp, Port Sorell from 11:00am to 12:00pm Visit: https://mrperfect.org.au.

11 Remembrance Day Service Latrobe at the Cenotaph at 111 Gilbert Street, Latrobe, from 10:50 am.

Port Sorell at the Port Sorell Defence Memorial on the corner of Rice and Meredith Streets, Port Sorell commencing at 10:50 am.

13-14 Latrobe Festival of Arts celebrating performing and visual arts talent at various locations throughout Latrobe. Refer to article on page 8.

13-14 Garage Sale Trail. Refer to article on page 4.

14 Banksia Makers Market in the Rubicon Room, Banksia Centre, Pitcairn Street, Port Sorell from 9:30am until 1:30pm. Enquiries to 0439 548 702, text only.

14 Trivia Night at the Sassafras Community Hall, 76 Chapel Road, Sassafras from 6:30pm for 7:00pm start. Includes silence auction, raffle and games BYO drinks and nibbles. Cost $10 pp. For bookings contact Dianne 0409 907 282 or Annabel 0439 314 989. RSVP by 12 Nov.

14 The Rolling Mix performs in the bar at Mackey's Hotel, 161 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 8:30pm to 11:30pm. No charge.

14 Port Sorell Golf Club Annual Car Park Sale at the Port Sorell Golf Club, Shearwater Bvd, Shearwater from 8.00am until 1.00pm. Includes produce, books, plants, raffle, sausage sizzle, Bric-a-Brac, homemade cakes, pies, Christmas puddings, and preserves. Phone 0456 781 031.

18 Targa Tasmania Moriarty Stage - https://targa.com.au/spectators/.

19 Targa Tasmania Merseylea Stage - https://targa.com.au/spectators/.

21 Lions Club of Port Sorell hosting a BBQ at Bunnings.

21 Scott Lewis performs in the bar at Mackey's Hotel, 161 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 8:30pm to 11:30pm. No charge.

21 Alex Lloyd - celebrating 25 Years of Watching Angles Mend, at Shearwater Tavern, Shearwater Bvd, Shearwater. Doors open 6:00pm, tickets moshtix.com.au.

27-29 U3A Art Exhibition at the Port Sorell Memorial Hall, 33 Darling Street, Port Sorell from 5.00pm to 7:00pm, 28 and 29 November from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Free entry. Explore local artworks by U3A artists.

28 Brad Gillies performs in the bar at Mackey's Hotel, 161 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 8:30pm to 11:30pm. No charge.

28 Latrobe Community Shed Coffee and Connect at The Little Goat Cafe, 127 Gilbert Street, Latrobe Monday from 10:00am until 11:30am. Bookings to Nigel 0439 832 739.

DECEMBER

1 Nominations close for Australia Day Award Awards. Refer to article on page 4.

4 Poison'US - The Australian Motley Crüe & Poison Tribute Show at Shearwater Tavern, Shearwater Bvd, Shearwater. Doors open 6pm, tickets trybooking.com.

5 Northdown Market at the Northdown Hall, Port Sorell Main Road, Northdown 8:30am to 2:00pm.

5 PSSLSC Beach Patrols begin - every weekend and public holiday through Summer.

5 Brendan Wakely performs in the bar at Mackey's Hotel, 161 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 8:30pm to 11:30pm. No charge.

6 Soundweavers & The Summit Horns at Shearwater Tavern, Shearwater Bvd, Shearwater from 3:00pm, tickets Oztix.com.au.

11 Latrobe Council's Year 11-12 Education Scholarship closes

12 Banksia Makers Market in the Rubicon Room, Banksia Centre, Pitcairn Street, Port Sorell from 9:30am until 1:30pm. Enquiries to 0439 548 702, text only.

12 Christmas Carols at St James Northdown Community Church. See article on the back page.

12 Cool Train performs in the bar at Mackey's Hotel, 161 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 8:30pm to 11:30pm. No charge.

12 Tusk - The Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show celebrates 50 Years at Shearwater Tavern, Shearwater Bvd, Shearwater. Doors open 6:00pm, tickets Oztix.com.au.

13 Christmas Carols at Latrobe Baptist Church, from 7:00pm. See article on the back page.

13 Port Sorell Mr Perfect BBQs at Don Brown Memorial Gazebo, East Esp, Port Sorell from 11:00am - 12:00pm Visit: https://mrperfect.org.au.

19 Northdown Christmas Market at the Northdown Hall, Port Sorell Main Road, Northdown 8:30am to 2:00pm.

19 Eleventh Hour performs in the bar at Mackey's Hotel, 161 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 8:30pm to 11:30pm. No charge.

19 Latrobe Lions Christmas Parade along Gilbert Street, from 4:30pm. **Latrobe Lions Carols and Christmas Party** including a visit by Santa at Bells Parade, from 6:00pm. See article on the back page.

20 Christmas Carols at Sassafras Baptist Church, at 10:30am. See article on the back page.

20 NorthWest CollectorFest - Christmas Spectacular at the Latrobe Memorial Hall, 168 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 10:00am until 3:00pm. Admission: $2. Phone 0423 746 240 Email: northwestcollectorfest@outlook.com facebook.com/61581187045568.

20 Port Sorell Lions Club Xmas Party See article on the back page.

20 Christmas Carols at Wesley Vale Community Church, from 6:00pm. See article on the back page.

24 Christmas service at Bridge of Hope Anglican Church, Latrobe from 5:30pm. See article on the back page.

24 Christmas service at St Georges Newground from 7:00pm. See article on the back page.

25 Christmas service at the Banksia Centre from 9:00am Christmas Day. See article on the back page.

25 Christmas service at Latrobe Baptist Church, 123 Gibert Street from 9:30am. See article on the back page.

25 Christmas Day Café at Sassafras Baptist Church, from 9:30am. See article on the back page.

26 Silver Zephyr performs in the bar at Mackey's Hotel, 161 Gilbert Street, Latrobe from 8:30pm to 11:30pm. No charge.

31 Gypsy Rose at Shearwater Tavern, Shearwater Bvd, Shearwater. Tickets will be on Oztix.com.au.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

LATROBE CHRISTMAS PARADE

Planning is underway for one of Latrobe's most anticipated community events, the 2026 Latrobe Lions Club Christmas Parade, to be held on Saturday, 19 December from 4:30pm.

This year's suggested theme, "Santa's Elves and Christmas Bells", offers plenty of inspiration for creative costumes, decorated floats and festive displays.

The parade will travel along Gilbert Street to the Victor Street carpark and return, bringing colour and Christmas spirit to the heart of Latrobe.

From 6:00pm, celebrations will continue at Bells Parade with Christmas carols performed by the Latrobe Federal Band and guest performers, family-friendly activities, food vans, a sausage sizzle and a warm community atmosphere. Festivities are expected to conclude around 8:30pm.

Schools, community groups, sporting clubs, businesses and individuals are encouraged to start planning entries now. Walking groups and trailer floats are preferred, as large vehicles such as semi-trailers and trucks can be difficult to manoeuvre along the parade route.

The organising committee is also seeking volunteers, ideas and community feedback to help shape this year's event.

For more information, volunteering or suggestions, contact Peter on 0417 287 006 or Julie from Lions Club Latrobe on 0437 123 890.

Further details are available at www.facebook.com/TheLionsClubLatrobeChristmasParade

PORT SORELL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Port Sorell Lions Club is bringing festive cheer to the community, hosting a Christmas Party at Banksia from 3:00pm to 5:00pm on Sunday, 20 December. The event promises fun for all ages, with plenty of festive activities, games, entertainment with Caro's Creative Crew, the Latrobe Federal Band, and a visit from Santa Claus to get everyone into the Christmas spirit. There will be a coffee van, an ice cream van, and a free sausage sizzle. There will also be a major raffle drawn at the event.

Contact Julie Overall on 0419 204 378 for more information.

NORTHDOWN

In the evening of Saturday 12 December, St James Northdown Community Church will hold a Christmas Carols Service with Geneva Christian College from 6:30pm, featuring traditional carols.

On December 19, the Northdown Market will hold its Christmas-focused market at the Northdown Hall with Santa visiting between 12:00pm and 1:00pm.

On Christmas Day, a special Christmas Day Service will take place at 9:00am at St James Northdown Community Church for reflection and gratitude as the community celebrates the birth of Christ. To find out more, phone 0461 453 801.

WESLEY VALE

The Wesley Vale Community Church, located opposite the Wesley Vale Community Store on Port Sorell Main Road, Port Sorell, will hold its Christmas Carol Service on Sunday, 20 December at 6:00pm. The service will be led by Rev. Rob Graue and will feature a selection of favourite Christmas carols and readings. A retiring collection will be taken in support of overseas projects, and the service will be followed by supper in the church hall.

You are warmly invited to attend, with ample off-street parking and easy wheelchair access available. Come along and sing your favourite Christmas carols.

For more information, contact Norma on 6423 2260 or 0408 568 847.

SASSAFRAS

The Sassafras Baptist Church, located at 14 Chapel Road, Sassafras invites the community to celebrate the festive season with a series of family-friendly events throughout December.

A Christmas Carol Service of singing, musical items and message followed by morning tea on Sunday 20 December, starting at 10:30am to foster a spirit of togetherness.

On Christmas Day, the church will open for a Christmas Day Café from 9:30am to 10:15am. A relaxed, café-style service featuring carols, choral items and readings, served with Christmas cake, tea and coffee.

For more information, attendees can contact Ruth on 6426 7206 or Rosie on 6426 7334.

PORT SORELL AND LATROBE

"A Hope for Christmas" Bridge of Hope Anglican Church warmly invites the community to join in celebrating the festive season with a series of Christmas services:

Latrobe - 5:30pm Christmas Eve
Latrobe Anglican Church, at 21 Hamilton Street (corner of Cotton Street)

Port Sorell - 9:00am Christmas Day
The Banksia Centre, 1 Anderson Street (via Pitcairn Street carpark).

Moriarty - 7:00pm Christmas Eve
St Georges Newground, at 45 Hermitage Lane.

To find out more about Christmas events and services, visit: www.bridgeofhope.au.



Nativity scene 2025 St George's Newground

Latrobe Baptist Church will hold two special services during December at 123 Gilbert Street, Latrobe.

A Christmas Carol Service will be held on Sunday, 13 December at 7:00pm, offering an opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate Christmas.

A Christmas Day Service will follow on Friday, 25 December at 9:30am.

Community members are welcome to attend.

SANTA'S LOLLY RUN

The traditional Santa Lolly Run throughout Port Sorell will once again be supported by the Port Sorell Fire Brigade. Please check their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/PortSorellFireBrigade for route details closer to the night.

YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Due to the 2026 Local Government Elections, the new Councillors will be sworn in prior to the 23 November Council Meeting.

FUTURE EDITIONS

Article and event deadlines and distribution dates are provided to assist you with your promotional planning

DEADLINE	EDITION
12 Nov	Jan-Feb
28 Jan	Mar-Apr
1 Apr	May-Jun

Articles up to 200 words plus contact details can be submitted by the relevant deadline via newsletter@latrobe.tas.gov.au or post to PO Box 63, Latrobe, 7307.

Contributions must be relevant to the Latrobe Council area and suitable for inclusion. Submissions will be used at the discretion of the editor.

Council does not pay for the editorial submitted.

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