



Taroona News

*We respectfully remember the Muwinina whose homelands we now live upon here in Taroona.
We are grateful for their care of the land and for the deep knowledge their descendants carry.*

Welcome to our first edition of Taroona News for 2024 and welcome too to any new residents who have moved into our wonderful suburb over the summer. For new residents, our Track Down Taroona maps are a good starting point for exploring the suburb and can be obtained from the Helios coffee van.

You may not have known it, but Sunday 31 March was Neighbour Day, a day "to raise awareness of the importance of social connections and neighbourly actions". When we read this we thought how lucky we are here in Taroona because we already live in a socially connected community and regularly see evidence of people being neighbourly. This edition of Taroona News contains articles which highlight the many clubs and associations which link us together. We love seeing the positives that come from belonging to these groups and we also love seeing the less formal gatherings that pop up from time to time, like the free yoga class and community Easter egg hunt held in Louisa Hinsby Park (below).



As we write this we are enjoying the beautiful autumn weather but we are also aware of just how dry it is and you can read more about this in both TEN's article and that of the Taroona Volunteer Brigade. Despite the dryness we have been lucky this summer to have avoided any major fires and the smaller one which started on Bonnet Hill was promptly controlled thanks to the TFS and in particular our Taroona Brigade.

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Calendar

April

- Sat 6 **Taroona Crop Swap #15 + Sourdough workshop**, Taroona Neighbourhood Gardens, 10am
- Sat 6 **Taroona Sippers and Purlers**, Shot Tower Cafe, 2–4pm
- Sun 7 **TEN Working Bee**, Rotary Park/High School Gully – weeding, 10am–12
- Thurs 25 **ANZAC Day. March** from Taroona Bowls Club, 5.30am. **Service** at the War Memorial, 6.00am.

May

- Sat 4 **Taroona Crop Swap #16**, Taroona Neighbourhood Gardens, 10am
- Sat 4 **Taroona Sippers and Purlers**, Shot Tower Cafe, 2–4pm
- Sun 5 **TEN Working Bee**, Crayfish Point – weeding, 10am–12

June

- Sat 1 **Taroona Crop Swap #17**, Taroona Neighbourhood Gardens, 10am
- Sat 1 **Taroona Sippers and Purlers**, Shot Tower Cafe, 2–4pm
- Sun 2 **TEN Working Bee**, Ralph's Gully – planting and weeding, 10am–12

July

- Sat 6 **Taroona Crop Swap #18**, Taroona Neighbourhood Gardens, 10am
- Sat 6 **Taroona Sippers and Purlers**, Shot Tower Cafe, 2–4pm
- Sun 7 **TEN Working Bee**, TBA, 10am–12
- Fri 26 **Schools Tree Day: TEN Working Bee**, Taroona High School – planting, details TBA
- Tues 30 **National Tree Day: TEN Working Bee**, Taroona Park, details TBA

August

- Fri 30 **Taroona High School Quiz Night**, details to come

November

- Sun 3 **Taroona Community Expo**, Taroona Community Hall, 12–4

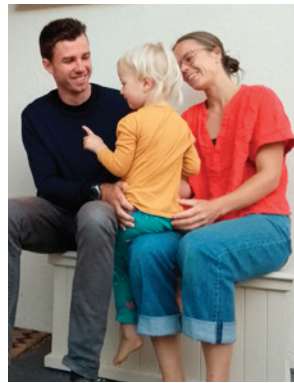
Winter Council Wrap-up



State Election Wrap

I wanted to start by making a small comment on the recent state election.

I think it's fair to say Taroona is a politically engaged and diverse little corner of the world. And so I want to acknowledge Vica Bayley & Jock McGregor on their campaigns this election. Between the three of us, Taroona had three locals representing each of the major parties across Clark & Franklin - a feat I'm not sure many suburbs in Tasmania can boast! Running for state parliament comes at a cost, not the least to family so I congratulate them on putting their hand up and running such positive



campaigns. Personally, I didn't see nearly enough of my partner & son this campaign so for this edition I've thrown in a photo of my little family celebrating election eve!

Council News

Over the summer, Council has continued to tick along. Last year I chaired Council's Sports and Recreation Committee and so it was pleasing to see the resulting strategy being endorsed on March 18. Our new strategy has a host of recommendations to help keep Kingborough's residents fit & active. Some highlights for me include revisiting an aquatic facility, supporting the Taroona Tennis Club's redevelopment & upgrading our tracks & trails network.

In other summer news, Council 'rolled' out its first ever accessible beach matting at Kingston Beach. While autumn is upon us, the beach matting will return on Saturdays next summer.

And lastly in dog-related news, in December Council endorsed

its new dog management policy. While it garnered lots of community interest, there were no changes to Taroona's off-lead dog exercise areas.

Taroona Projects

It's been great to see the Taroona Beach toilet block renovation progress. I think we can lay claim to the fanciest toilet block in Kingborough!

At Kelvedon Park, the Council contractor started work to fix the drainage in October, with the work expected to be completed in time for the new season. Disappointingly, there have been significant delays. It's frustrating to see this delayed to the point where the club will now miss playing home games for the at least the first half of the season. This will come at a financial cost to the club but it'll also be a big loss to the community who enjoy coming to Kelvedon on a crisp weekend to see the mighty Pirates play.

In better news, it appears that TasWater has finally come on board to improve the fencing on the foreshore track at TasWater facility at the bottom of Nubeena Crescent.

2024-25 Budget

At the time this newsletter went to print, Kingborough Council's draft budget had not yet been finalised. Recent financial reports though, have highlighted Council is facing serious economic challenges – the current 2024-25 forecast is for a \$2.3 million underlying deficit.

Given the forecast, it's highly likely that Kingborough residents will be facing a significant rate increase.

Council's draft budget will be open for community consultation via the Council's website until Wednesday, May 1. I strongly suggest residents (both property owners & renters) provide their feedback through this process.

If you have a question about a Taroona project or any Council matter, you're welcome to email me at cr.kaspardeane@kingborough.tas.gov.au

With best wishes, Kaspar

Best wishes! Councillor Kaspar Deane

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Over the summer break, the TCA has continued to liaise with Kingborough Council and Government Departments on things such as signage for the corner of Orana Place and the Channel Highway, the planning for upgrades of the bike lanes and the need for remediation work at the bottom of Nubeena Crescent. We are always keen to both hear from you and keep you informed so to this end we now have a Facebook page. Please follow us. You can also email us with any concerns or suggestions if you prefer.

Despite the fact that we have lived in Taroona for a long time, we love the fact that Liz (our wonderful newsletter editor) manages to include articles from which we learn new things, like that the

Catholic Church is a Dorney design or that stone mulch traps dew and improves plant success in dry conditions. We hope you too enjoy this newsletter and learn things as you read.

Anne Parrott and Fiona Rice, Co-Presidents, TCA

People often ask me, "Given the climate crisis, where should I move?"

My best answer is, "Any place with a strong sense of community. Or better yet, help build that community where you live."

– Bill McKibben, author, environmentalist, and Co-founder of 350.org

In the wake of the success of the film adaptations of Jane Harper's crime/mystery novels *The Dry*, and *Force of Nature*, Netflix is bringing Jane's third novel, ***The Survivors***, to the screen. This production is the largest production yet filmed in Tasmania – and much of it has been filmed in and around Hinsby Road and Hinsby Beach!

For three weeks in February and March, Hinsby Road was transformed into a film staging area, with a large crew mobilized to film scenes at a private property and on Hinsby Road. On several occasions bright lights lit up the beach for night shoots.

The premium six-part series will be released globally on Netflix (and the beauty of Taroona will become public knowledge). Stay tuned for more info!



About *The Survivors*: *Kieran Elliott's life changed forever on a single day when a reckless mistake led to devastating consequences. The guilt that still haunts him resurfaces during a visit with his young family to the small coastal community he once called home. Kieran's parents are struggling in a town where fortunes are forged by the sea. Between them all is his absent brother Finn. When a body is discovered on a beach, long-held secrets threaten to emerge. A sunken wreck, a missing girl, and questions that have never washed away...*

Taroona loo now a Bathing Pavilion?

Kingborough Council's recent upgrade of Taroona Beach's toilet block has been welcomed by the Taroona beachside community. Regulars at Taroona Beach will have noticed the metamorphosis of the previous bunker-like toilet block into a light and airy structure that functions well and responds sympathetically with its beachside environment.

Although Kingborough Council's original design proposal included a complete demolition and replacement, with a structure similar to the new toilet block at Browns River, the Taroona Community Association lobbied Kingborough Council to salvage the good bones of the original reinforced concrete and concrete block structure, opening up the building with an improved layout, ventilation, disabled access and innovative lighting.

Local Architects TAD Design assisted the TCA and Council with both concept and detailed design and included playful touches to the decor and natural lighting. Local graphic designer and artist Alex Miles added the bathing pavillion graphics that complimented the change in identity from a tired toilet block to a more aesthetic bathing pavillion.

With construction complete, the TCA will liaise with Council and TEN to finalise landscaping and planting. The TCA wishes to thank Kingborough Council, TAD Design, Alex Miles and Channel Constructions for completing the outstanding makeover.



TEN News



Hobart had one of its driest Februarys ever and yet amazingly, our first working bee, to water our plants at the Taroona Soccer Ground, had to be cancelled because a small rainfall event had made the steep bank too slippery to safely drag our hoses around. The watering was done soon after by TEN volunteers and with the dry conditions continuing, our plants have needed watering several times since. Our March working bee in the forest below Illawong Crescent had to be postponed because of gale force winds. Weather on the following Sunday was much more amenable and a small, hard-working team removed a trailer load of blackberries and very spiny prunus shrubs.

TEN had its Annual General Meeting on March 19th. Nigel Richardson did not seek re-election as Convenor, and with no other nominations, Deputy Convenor Gustaaf Hallegraeff will act in that role temporarily. Nigel will continue on the committee together with newcomers Graham Openshaw and Eugene Holloway. The remaining committee and office bearers are unchanged.

2024 WORKING BEE PROGRAMME

All working bees are held on the first Sunday of the month (unless noted) – from 10am - 12pm.

Meeting point will be announced via email notification in week preceding.

DATE	WORK SITE and AIM
April 7th	Rotary Park/High School Gully – weeding
May 5th	Crayfish Point – weeding
June 2nd	Ralph's Gully – planting and weeding
July 7th	To be confirmed
July 26th <i>Schools Tree Day</i>	Taroona High School – planting at THS to be determined
July 30th <i>National Tree Day</i>	Taroona Park – official Kingborough Municipality NTD event
August 4th	Utiekah Drive / Grange Ave – planting
September 8th	Niree Parade – weeding
October 6th	Harrow Place – weeding
November 3rd	Taroona Park – weeding
December 3rd	Taroona Park – Annual Picnic Lunch

A place of heritage significance



NIGEL RICHARDSON

On Saturday 11 November 2023, Taroona's St Pius X Catholic Church took part in the Open House Hobart weekend. Designed by architect Esmond Dorney, the church was opened in 1957. The description provided by the Australian Institute of Architects makes interesting reading:

Nestled amongst native bushland with sweeping views to timtumili minanya/the River Derwent, St Pius X Catholic Church is Australia's first Modernist church and listed on the Register of the National Estate as a place of heritage significance. The unique curved roof and building design utilises the natural light and setting to marry internal

and external space. The local community established a native garden around the church with the help of the Country Women's Association, NRM South and Indigenous horticulturalist Kris Schaffer.

In 2017, the Australian Institute of Architects award for Enduring Architecture was awarded to the late Esmond Dorney for the design of St. Pius X Church.

Esmond's son, architect Paddy Dorney, also visited during the afternoon, with a display copy of his new book *Cusp: James Henry Esmond Dorney, Architect* which documents Esmond Dorney's contribution to Australian architecture.

The church remains well used, but like many 1950s Taroona structures it is in need of ongoing maintenance, and donations are welcome! Weekly Mass is held at 8.30 each Sunday morning, where everyone is made welcome by the small, friendly parish community.

Taroona is part of the Sandy Bay/Taroona Catholic parish, whose 90th anniversary celebrations were held in Sandy Bay on Pentecost Sunday, 19 May 2024.

Should you need any further information or assistance, please contact the Sandy Bay Parish Office on 6224 1423, email: sandybay@aohtas.org.au

The big dry continues

Following 3 years of La Niña rains, El Niño produced a dry 2023 with average rainfall down about 33% in Hobart. The drought has continued in 2024 with the Soil Dryness Index reaching over 160, well beyond the point at which plants start to wilt. Statistics are one measure of weather and climate. What are you seeing in the real world? Are you seeing plants wilting or even dying? Kingborough Council biodiversity staff are reporting lots of dying trees across the municipality. A walk around Taroona will show examples of both native and introduced plants that are just hanging on or even dying because of the dry conditions, while others are thriving.

A forester, author and conservationist in the UK, Richard St. Barbe Baker (1889–1982) reported on the benefits of “stone mulching”. He described his work on the fringe of the Sahara placing a rock or rocks around seedlings as thermal mass that would not only ameliorate temperatures but more importantly direct water from just small rainfall events straight to the root zone of the plant. Additionally, the rock traps dew and condensation helping micro-organisms and earthworms to move moisture and nutrients up and down through the soil on a diurnal cycle.



This blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) seedling of local provenance was planted last spring and was only watered once, at the time of planting. Some plants put in at the same time, but without rocks, have died so why has this seedling survived? It may be just chance and is certainly not proof of St. Barbe Baker’s technique, but it is possible that the rock, placed on the top side of the plant, has helped. For related reasons, TEN doesn’t use weed control mats around plants because of their potential to wick moisture away from where it is needed.

If you have some knowledge, experience or observations that you would be like to share, please email: info@ten.org.au. Please also get in touch if you would like to join TEN or renew your subscription. Our next working bee will be held on Sunday 7 April, 10 am–12 noon, at Rotary Park (off Karingal Court) and we would love to see you.

– Nigel Richardson, TEN Committee



Acacia verticillata and *Pomaderris apetala* growing near Coolamon Road dying because of drought. The surrounding *Dodonea viscosa* shrubs are so far unaffected.



Native ground cover bower spinach (*Tetragonia implexicoma*) thriving near the high school foreshore despite being browsed by wallabies.



PHOTOS BY NIGEL RICHARDSON

A dogwood (*Pomaderris elliptica*) with curled and dying leaves growing on mudstone soils on the Alum Cliffs track.



Saltbush, bower spinach and native grasses thriving at the beach below the high school. The larger correa on the left looks to be suffering from drought.



This photo shows periwinkle (*Vinca major*), a weed that is commonly encountered in Taroona. It looks to be dying here but experience tell us that it will regenerate following rain.

Volunteering for a bushfire Strike Team



There is no doubt that bushfires are serious business, with the potential to devastate communities and their livelihoods. However, with a rapid response and fast intervention thanks to the generous time (thousands of hours) given by hundreds of trained volunteers, the Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) have the capacity to help minimise the impact of bushfires on our communities.

To provide a rapid response to the outbreak of bush fires, the TFS establishes 'Strike Teams' during days where the forecasted weather conditions indicate high risk for the outbreak of bush fires. With extremely low rainfall leading up to summer and the bleak weather outlook, the TFS has been on high alert for potential bushfire outbreaks all summer.

On the 22nd of February this year, four Taroona Firefighters had the opportunity to join a 'Strike Team'. This Strike Team was required to be stationed at the new Emergency Services Hub in Sorell, to provide protection to the east coast of Tasmania from as far north as Coles Bay to as far south as Port Arthur. For three of us, who have joined as volunteers since the last major bush fire in 2019, this was our first time as part of a 'Strike Team'.

To be honest, the words 'Strike Team' sounds like something epic out of a Hollywood blockbuster. As such, the excitement from the three least experienced volunteers on the truck was building whilst travelling the 30 mins from Taroona to Sorell. Soon enough, this excitement was rubbing off onto Second Officer Scandrett, a seasoned veteran, with about 18 years' experience volunteering for the TFS. Once we arrived at the Sorell Emergency Hub, in awe of the modern facilities, we received an initial briefing from the Sector Commander together with the other five brigades. After a quick tour of the joint Police, SES and TFS emergency hub, we all spent the next seven hours sitting around waiting, drinking coffee,



Top: Spot fire; Above: Convoy

and waiting some more. Needless to say, our enthusiasm was slowly waning – we were there for some action, although we were glad it was a quiet seven hours.

Suddenly, at 5:30pm (when we were starting to pack up for the day), the Sector Commander called us all in for a short briefing. He informed us that the 'Strike Team' had been requested to head up to Ouse to assist with the Central Highlands fire that had broken out around Brady's Lake and was starting to intensify. We had 15 minutes to pack our things and then we were to travel up to Ouse via convoy under lights, but no sirens unfortunately ...

On our way to Ouse, the excitement was once again building amongst the three less experienced firefighters. Once we arrived at Ouse, we refuelled the trucks, had an ice cream, received a quick briefing from the Sector Commander, and then we headed up Victoria Valley Road to patrol a 'Spot Fire' that started in front of the main fire.

On our way to the 'Spot Fire', we began to notice its severity, with plumes of grey/black smoke wafting in the sky and the orange

glow of flames penetrating through the gaps in the trees. The sound of the fire raging through the bush, crackling louder and louder as it came closer. The sound of trees falling in the distance, clearly reminded us that the fire ground is a dangerous place and we must remain alert and vigilant of our surroundings. It is critical that firefighters continually maintain situational awareness of the weather conditions and importantly, make sure they continue to have a nearest safe route out of the fireground to make sure they arrive home safely.

During the evening, the five brigades maintained an active patrol along Victoria Valley Road, putting out spot fires, whilst also conserving our water. We contained the fire to the east, preventing the fire from crossing Victoria Valley Road and spreading further. At 10:30pm, the Sector Commander arrived with ration packs, a delight after not eating since lunch time. Whilst we devoured our snacks, we continued to patrol the area until



L to R: Nearing the fire; Fuelling up!

receiving word back that our time was up and it was time to head home.

At approximately 11:30pm, after being informed that our shift was over, the new crew were briefed and we headed off safely back to Hobart.

One must reflect on the importance of the volunteer brigades. It is amazing that generous volunteers give up thousands of hours per year to support the TFS and not only this – when they are on the fireground they are putting their lives at risk to protect the Tasmanian community. – **Raymond Bannister (Taroona Fire Brigade)**

Coming into the 2023/2024 summer, with the impending El Niño season and the conditions that come with the change of climate, the possibility of a big fire season was very real. With all the talk and the combination of conditions, there was some anticipation amongst the Taroona Volunteer Fire Brigade (TVFB). Our weekly training stepped up a notch and had a big emphasis on being “fire ready”. This meant having the station in a state where all the gear, equipment and appliances were ready and immediately accessible to be taken on to the fire ground. Since I am a relatively new member of the TVFB, I had never been out on the fire ground, so this was both exciting and nerve-racking.

In late February fires broke out at Brady’s Lake near Ouse and I was deployed early March. I was very eager for the prospect of fighting a fire for the first time. The main fire front had burnt itself out and we had the job of blacking out to prevent re-ignition. We used dry firefighting techniques such as hand-held tools and hose lines where using water was possible. To do this effectively, we used our hand-held thermal imaging camera, called a tick. This allowed us to find hotspots, such as root systems, smouldering piles and general blackened bush areas that could cause re-ignition.

Coming out of the heat of summer, the brigade expects slightly less action, but we continue to train and build our skills, so we are ready for the next fire. – **Patrick**





CLIVE ROPER

Bonnet Hill blaze extinguished

And of course closer to home.....

A timely reminder was had recently in Bonnet Hill when a simple spark from an angle grinder came close to burning a significant swathe of the hillside on the Kingston side of the Bonnet.

Curiously the fire ripped up the hill despite being one of the stillest days I had seen (my kayak was on my roof ready for a paddle on the mirrored surface of the Derwent), when the call came in. It was only from the rapid response of Kingston brigade to call in reinforcements including Taroona and some pretty heavy duty air support that a lovely wooden barn was saved and the fire contained to the river side of the Channel Highway.

Later that afternoon, once the blackened hillside was extinguished, I grabbed my kayak and drove to each beach locally, only to find a strong sea breeze thwarting my afternoon plans. I reflected what that breeze may have done to the fire should it have ignited three hours later.

What are your fire plans like??.... yes the fire season is drawing to a close but the ground is very dry and winter wood fires seem a long way off but it'll be here sooner than you know. – **Chris Allfree, TVFB**



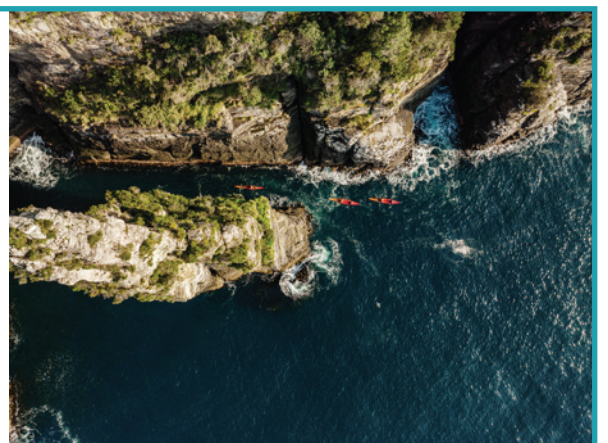
NEIL CRIPPS



NEIL CRIPPS



Local business, Southern Sea Ventures (SSV) would like to welcome Taroona residents and friends to a free kayak open day on Saturday the 13th of April. All kayaks and equipment supplied for a series of short paddling sessions from Taroona beach along the Alum Cliffs. Following the paddling sessions we will have a chance to meet and chat about what we do both in Tasmania and around the world at the Taroona Bowls Club. Please email ssvtrips@southernseaventures.com to reserve your space for the kayaking and the event.



Taroona Rainfall 2023 and a dry start to 2024

Our parched gardens and deeply cracked parklands are testament to a drier than average 2023 with the trend continuing into the autumn of 2024.


Just 423mm of rain fell in Taroona last year which is 204.6mm below the average of 627.6mm and only slightly above the 5th percentile.

February, June and October were the only months which received totals above their respective averages. That doozy of a thunderstorm on 23 October last year resulted in 51.2mm of rain in quick time. The next highest daily total was 20.2mm on 23 June.

Rainfall was more than 300mm down on 2022 with rain recorded on 132 days last year compared to 2022's 167 rain days.

Late Summer/ Autumn 2024 is on a record low course.

Only 7.8mm fell into my gauge in February, the third lowest total since official records were first taken in 1964. As we got to print with just a few days of March to go we've had just 10.4mm, also the third lowest on record.



The Bureau of Meteorology

RAINFALL OBSERVATIONS

F71 / Mat. No. 502100
September 2022

AT TAROONA CRESCENT YEAR 2023

ALL ENTRIES IN MILLIMETERS TO ONE DECIMAL PLACE Day of the week shown in the left hand column for each month

DATE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	DATE							
1	S	W	W	Sat	3.8	M	Th	7.4	Sat	1.6	Tu	17.0	F	S	Tue	W	0.2	F	0.6	1
2	M	Th	3.4	Th	S	2.2	F	S	W	0.8	M	0.8	Th	Sat	0.6	F	Tue	S	6.6	2
3	Tu	0.4	F	8.2	F	0.2	M	W	2.2	Sat	M	0.8	Th	S	Tu	0.6	M	0.2	4	3
4	W	Sat	1.6	Sat	Tu	Th	9.6	S	Tu	F	0.6	M	W	Sat	0.2	M	0.2	6	4	4
5	Th	S	18.0	S	0.6	W	F	M	W	Sat	0.4	Tu	1.2	Th	0.8	S	Tu	0.2	6	5
6	F	0.8	M	M	3.0	Th	Sat	Tu	Th	S	W	0.2	F	1.6	M	W	0.2	6	6	6
7	Sat	Tu	Tu	0.2	F	3.2	S	W	0.2	F	M	0.2	Th	Sat	1.6	Tu	Th	0.2	6	7
8	S	W	W	5.2	Sat	0.4	M	Th	2.2	Sat	Tu	F	1.0	S	W	2.0	F	0.4	6	8
9	M	Th	Th	S	6.4	Tu	0.8	F	0.8	S	9.6	W	Sat	0.4	M	Th	4.4	Sat	7.2	9
10	Tu	F	3.0	F	M	2.2	W	0.4	Sat	M	Th	S	Tu	Tue	F	S	0.4	10	10	10
11	W	Sat	1.6	Sat	Tu	1.0	Th	S	7.2	Tu	4.2	F	M	2.6	W	Sat	Tue	M	0.4	11
12	Th	S	S	W	0.4	F	M	W	Sat	2.6	Tu	Th	Tue	S	Tu	0.2	12	12	12	12
13	F	M	0.8	M	Th	2.8	Sat	Tu	Th	0.2	S	0.6	W	F	M	W	0.2	13	13	13
14	Sat	Tu	Tu	F	S	W	0.2	F	M	0.2	Th	Sat	0.2	Tu	Th	14.4	14	14	14	14
15	S	W	W	Sat	M	Th	Sat	Tu	F	0.6	S	7.4	W	F	1.2	W	F	0.2	15	15
16	M	Th	Th	S	11.6	Tu	1.0	F	S	3.0	W	Sat	5.0	M	2.0	Th	Sat	0.2	16	16
17	Tu	F	0.8	F	0.4	M	Tue	W	Sat	M	Th	S	6.0	Tu	0.8	F	0.4	S	1.2	17
18	W	1.2	Sat	Sat	Tu	Th	S	Tu	F	Tue	M	W	Sat	M	0.2	18	18	18	18	18
19	Th	S	2.4	S	1.0	W	F	0.8	M	0.6	W	0.8	Sat	Tu	Th	S	0.4	Tu	1.0	19
20	F	M	M	Th	Sat	0.4	Tu	Th	S	W	7.0	F	M	W	0.8	20	20	20	20	20
21	Sat	Tu	5.6	Tu	F	S	1.8	W	F	0.4	M	Th	3.2	Sat	Tu	Th	0.2	21	21	21
22	S	8.4	W	Tue	W	Sat	M	Th	Sat	Tu	F	1.8	S	W	F	0.2	22	22	22	22
23	M	1.4	Th	Th	S	Tu	F	20.2	S	0.6	W	2.8	Sat	M	51.2	Th	Sat	0.2	23	23
24	Tu	Tue	F	F	M	W	Sat	12.4	M	Th	0.6	S	Tu	F	0.2	24	24	24	24	24
25	W	Sat	Sat	Tu	Th	0.2	S	Tu	F	3.2	M	W	Sat	0.4	M	25	25	25	25	25
26	Th	S	10.8	S	W	F	4.6	M	W	Sat	1.2	Tu	2.0	Th	1.2	S	12.6	Tu	0.2	26
27	F	M	2.6	M	Th	Sat	Tu	Th	S	W	F	M	W	0.2	27	27	27	27	27	27
28	Sat	Tu	Tu	2.6	F	S	W	1.4	F	0.2	M	Th	Sat	Tu	Th	Tue	0.2	28	28	28
29	S	W	15.4	Sat	M	0.6	Th	Sat	Tu	Tue	F	2.0	S	5.4	W	1.2	F	1.0	29	29
30	M	Th	2.8	S	Tu	0.2	F	2.0	S	2.0	Sat	M	Th	1.0	Sat	0.2	30	30	30	30
31	Tu	F	0.4	W	S	W	M	Th	0.4	Tu	Tue	0.2	W	S	Tue	0.2	31	31	31	31
Totals		12.2	57.2	29.0	31.8	20.4	54.6	20.6	31.8	33.0	73.4	25.8	33.2							
Number of Days		5	12	11	9	14	11	9	15	13	13	11	9							
Totals	Since 1st Jan.	2 months	3 months	4 months	5 months	6 months	7 months	8 months	9 months	10 months	11 months	Year								
		69.4	98.4	130.2	150.6	205.2	225.8	257.6	290.6	304.0	379.8	423.0								
Average All Years	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	Year							
Total Number of Days	Since 1st Jan.	2 months	3 months	4 months	5 months	6 months	7 months	8 months	9 months	10 months	11 months	Year								
		17	28	37	51	62	71	86	99	112	123	132								

For those of you playing along at home here is the 2023 tale of the official Taroona Crescent gauge. If you measure your own rainfall there may be some discrepancies with your daily records. Thunderstorms can be very localised so you may well have received even more rain at your place in that October dump.

– Peter Gugger

Taroona Scout Group: international & national experiences

Our group Scouting can take you anywhere including internationally. One of our Venturers, Adelaide Simpkins, recently participated in Venture24 - held in Victoria, and in a Fiji Explorer expedition. As she described:

My time in scouting started in Joeys and has continued into Venturers. Over the course of this time, I've developed skills in camping and survival in the bush, had the opportunity to meet different people and see amazing places.

Most recently, I was fortunate enough to go on Venture24 - held in Victoria, and on the Fiji Explorer expedition. Even though my flight was delayed, causing me to miss the connecting flight, when I finally did arrive a day late to the group in Fiji, everyone was so welcoming, it didn't matter. I fitted right in. It was easy to make friends, surrounded by so many lovely people. I'm already planning another trip back to see my friends again! The highlights for me on my trip were the Billibillies in Fiji, which are bamboo rafts made especially for my group by the local village people. The Namuamua village was beautiful and all the people were friendly and welcoming, even with a language barrier! I loved learning about another culture and way of life, and meeting people from all over Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji. I also had the opportunity to shoot a pistol for the first time, expanding my skills even further. I've learnt how to choose to have fun, how to live life in the moment and how much a person truly sweats in the Fijian summer heat!



Back to local adventures; congratulations to:

- Joey Scouts, Grace, and Callum, who were recently awarded the prestigious Joey Scout Challenge Award, the pinnacle of achievement for a Joey Scout.
- Cub Scouts, Will Kostiuk and Amber Thomson, who were awarded the June Flood award.
- Scouts Lara and Lachie on receiving the highest award possible in the Scouts section - the Australian Scout Award an awesome achievement.



- Wallaby Patrol on winning the Janet Stephens Scout Patrol Trophy for 2023.

Well done to our Joey Scouts who recently participated in Clean Up Australia Day keeping our community clean and green. They did an amazing job cleaning up and collected a huge amount of rubbish. Joeys dove into an exciting pirate themed Cuboree Taster with low ropes course, a pirate swing, craft, a scavenger hunt, and yummy bush donuts. Fun-packed nights included games and a Halloween celebration! They have learned map-reading skills using Lego and had a splashin' good time at the Hobart Aquatic Centre.



Scouts and Venturers spent the March long weekend having a fantastic time at Snug at the annual Scout and Guide Regatta. Our youth members enjoyed a fun range of water and land-based activities, leaving the event with smiles and many happy memories.



A huge thank you to our Leaders and amazing parent help for all their hard work in making our participation in this event possible.

In keeping with our close relationship with the Taroona Ex-Services Club, Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers attended the Remembrance Day service at the Taroona Cenotaph. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of our youth members for their outstanding conduct and meaningful contributions to the Service.

This year we saw the return of the Group tradition of a Family Camp that was held at Rivers Edge near Judbury. It was an absolute blast and everyone had a great time swimming, exploring, and generally relaxing.

The Scout annual Christmas Tree and Produce Sale is a legendary event with huge local community support and expectations, with delicious Christmas treats for sale. The 2023 event was again a huge success with the sale of reindeer and thanks to high quality trees kindly made available by Tasmanian company SFM Environmental Services. The upside of elections is the opportunity for a "Democracy Sausage." We hope that you were able to enjoy ours held at the Taroona Primary School.

If you would like any information concerning the Taroona Scout Group or are interesting in youth membership or a leader role, please contact either Mike 6227 9139 or Janet 0438 705 319. For information and membership enquiries you can visit either our web page at <https://taroonascoutgroup.com> or Facebook at www.facebook.com/TaroonaScoutGroup.

Taroona Tennis Club News



The Taroona Tennis Club has had an interesting and busy start to the year. From January 15 until 19 it was one of the Hobart and surrounds clubs which hosted the Australian Seniors Championships. This event involved teams from all states and New Zealand and matches were organised in age categories. The Club provided breakfast, lunch, snacks and drinks to 48 different players each day. It provided a comfortable environment for players, a bar and first aid. The committee was very busy before the event making sure that everything was in order.

Visiting players made many positive remarks about the Club. They loved the setting and enjoyed the friendly atmosphere. The food provided by the Club was very well received. Four Taroona members played in the Championships – Alan Sutherland, John Wills, Henry Edgell and Ian Watchorn.

On February 24th the Kingborough Challenge, the annual competition between Kingston Tennis Club and Taroona, was played at Kingston. This year the event was played in the evening. It took the form of handicapped doubles with the winner being the first to reach 31. There were some excellent and hard fought matches but unfortunately Kingston won. The opposition were very friendly and welcoming hosts and provided a wonderful supper.

On two occasions this year the Club has provided support for the film crew of "The Survivors". It has never before performed such a

role! Several large trucks occupied the parking lot and the concrete in front of the hitting wall became part of a meals area. Film crew came and went at all hours of the day and night. The Club was very happy to be involved in the filming project and the process provided interest for players and passers by. The Club was grateful for the donation given by the company too.

The Taroona Tennis Club Championships were played at the end of March. The event lapsed for several years but this year there was a lot of interest and a junior event was included. Eight children played and enjoyed themselves. Many thanks go to committee member, Daniel Kaimatsoglu, for organizing the draw and accommodating players' availability. A full list of results is available in the clubhouse.

The Club continues to offer its usual activities for members – social tennis, coaching and some competition. Non-members can access the courts using the online Book a Court program.

For information about the Club contact Diane Balding on 0488 086 381.



*Volunteers at the Seniors Championships. **Top:** Simon Lawrence and Perry Wisniewski. **Above:** Penny Walker, Shirley Britcliffe and Sarah Heyward*



Matt Sherlock – Club President; Lynne Buxton and Zibeth Debaunton – Club Championships Ladies' Doubles Winners; Sarah and James Heyward – Club Championships Mixed Doubles Winners



TAROONA FOOTBALL CLUB NEWS



Men's Championship Summer Cup win 2024

2024 Season

The 2024 Senior season has begun, with our Juniors and Youth teams rearing to get onto the park soon too! The Taroonna FC Southern Championship Men's team has started the year swimmingly, nabbing some silverware before the season even started as they took out the Summer Cup hosted by the Olympia FC Warriors. We look forward to Football Tasmania's implementation of an U18 Girls league this year, which underpins the statewide Women's Super League, and provides an important pathway and a competitive environment for our young girls to develop.

School Holiday Clinics

We are running our School Holiday Clinics for Prep to Grade 6 at Taroonna High School Top Oval. There are limited spots available, with sessions being held on Thursday 18 & Friday 19 April. The School Holiday Clinics include individual ball mastery skills, technical & tactical learning & fun small-sided games. At the clinic we'll hold World Cup round-robin games with prizes to be given out! Players are to bring snacks, water & a packed lunch. Email our Program Manager (skills@taroonafc.org) for more information, or head to our website (www.taroonafc.org) for more details/ to book a place!

Works at Kelvedon Park

An update from Taroonna FC President, Sam Johnson:

"In July 2023, Kingborough Council committed to spending \$208,000 to install much needed drainage to the ground, an announcement that was exciting for our members and the Taroonna Community. Turn the clock forward 8 months and the works have begun, however for various different reasons the works have not progressed as far as we would have liked. Since the start of the new year, Julian Proud has been in constant contact with Kingborough Council to ensure effective communication of the project occurs.

Although the project has not gone to plan, I am confident in the long term benefits regarding Kelvedon's usage. It has been confirmed by Kingborough council that we won't be using Kelvedon for at least the first half of the season. Such a decision has placed a significant impact on resources and ground availability – I ask you to be patient with us as we work through this unexpected delay."

Easter bunny comes to youth skills session

Post-training, the pirate youth had a last minute sprint to find Easter eggs scattered around the Taroonna High School top oval. Members from the youth teams raced each other to find the most Easter eggs amongst squeals of delight (and a fair bit of bodying seen by witnesses). Coaches also received chocolates as a small thank you for all the work they do for our club.

Taroonna football club – where football also equals fun!



What's happening at IMAS Taroona?

Baby love: 21 Red handfish hatched in successful conservation breeding program



ANDREA WILLIAMSON

Red handfish mum guarding her eggs at Day 14

Twenty-one Red handfish hatchlings have arrived in the second-ever conservation breeding event in captivity – and it's an essential part of protecting this critically endangered species from extinction.

"Despite being a small clutch, this is actually equivalent to a quarter of the known wild Red handfish population in Tasmania – so it's very encouraging to have successfully bred the species in captivity in two consecutive breeding seasons," said Dr Andrew Trotter, who co-leads the conservation breeding program at IMAS. Dr Trotter said the eggs took just over 50 days to hatch, and were cared for by their dotting mother the entire time.

"Our aim now is to grow this year's hatchlings into healthy sub-adults so we can release them and bolster the dwindling wild population. Ultimately, we want them to breed in the wild."

The young are raised in captivity for around one year, before being released into the wild. Before they are released, they go through 'handfish school', a conditioning and enrichment program that trains them to survive and thrive in the wild. Discover more: bit.ly/red-handfish-breeding

It comes as 25 Red handfish recently arrived at IMAS Taroona in a rescue effort to safeguard them against the predicted high sea and atmospheric temperatures over summer.

Scientists raised the alarm in the face of the predicted marine heatwave which, coupled with high atmospheric temperatures over summer, could be a serious and significant threat to the species' existence. "The home of the Red handfish is facing severe habitat loss and degradation, primarily driven by an increase in the abundance of native urchins which have overgrazed their habitat," said Dr Jemina Stuart-Smith, who co-leads the Red handfish research and conservation program at IMAS.

"The area already faces multiple threats – it's close to urban areas and is impacted by run-off, direct disturbance through boating and anchoring, and of course climate change impacts.

"Habitat degradation means there's a loss of refuges and

microhabitats, creating a disconnected habitat that makes it increasingly difficult for the handfish to adjust to water temperature stress."

IMAS scientists plan to hold the Red handfish in captivity until winter, but their release will depend on the habitat being suitable. Read more: bit.ly/rescuing-red-handfish

From building waste to wildlife sanctuary: IMAS donation to Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary sees sustainability in action



Bonorong Director, Greg Irons (left), with IMAS Taroona Fisheries and Aquaculture Centre Head, Prof Sean Tracey, at the former aviary

IMAS has worked with Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary on a sustainable solution for repurposing the materials being removed ahead of a proposed upgrade to the world-class fisheries and aquaculture precinct at Taroona. IMAS Fisheries and Aquaculture Centre Head, Professor Sean Tracey said the reusable structures and materials from the former Tasmanian Government's Wildlife Centre will now be donated to the Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Taroona Environment Network (TEN) put forward the solution during the University of Tasmania's community meetings about the proposed site transformation, and IMAS and the University were keen to make it happen.

"Rather than being sent to landfill, the materials will be repurposed into new animal enclosures and facilities at the wildlife sanctuary. And I couldn't think of a better way to give these materials a new life," Professor Tracey said.

Bonorong recovered aviary mesh screens and roofing, an aviary shed, fencing and a demountable toilet block to reuse at their Brighton sanctuary. Director Greg Irons said the aviaries would be put to good use at the sanctuary.

"We'll be using these materials to build an enclosure for our animal rehabilitation, research or sanctuary spaces, with hundreds of animals to benefit from this IMAS donation," he said.

"We really appreciate IMAS allowing us to sustainably repurpose this equipment for a cause close to all our hearts. It has allowed us to save money and continue the vital work we do."

Read the full story: bit.ly/imas-donation-bonorong

Little penguins



MARY-ANNE LEA

Scientists have detected PFAS in the nesting soils and blood of Little penguins (*Eudyptula minor*) that forage and breed along lutruwita/Tasmania's coastlines, and it's alarming evidence that 'forever chemicals' have become widespread in marine and coastal environments.

Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of chemicals that resist heat, stains, grease and water. This makes them ideal for use in countless applications – from fire-fighting foams, medical devices and metal plating to fabric and furniture waterproofing, non-stick cookware, cosmetics and sunscreen, fast food packaging and more. But there's a dark side.

"They're referred to as 'forever chemicals' because they're very stable in the environment, they can transport long distances through natural processes and are resistant to degradation," said study lead author, Mel Wells, who is a PhD candidate at the University of Tasmania's School of Natural Sciences and IMAS.

"Bioavailable PFAS enter food chains and become concentrated within predators – called bioaccumulation."

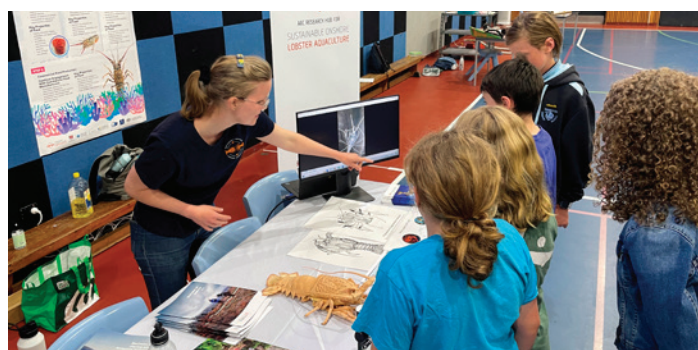
Recently published in *Science of the Total Environment*, the PhD study detected 14 different PFAS homologous in nesting soils, blood and abandoned eggs of Little penguins. Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) was the most prevalent PFAS, detected in 76% of the 50 soil samples collected from Little penguin nests, and in just over 82% of the 45 blood samples.

"We found that PFAS concentrations were positively associated with increased urbanisation around penguin colonies. We detected PFAS in 100% of the samples collected from Burnie and Hobart's Derwent Estuary," Mel said.

"We then explored the association of PFAS concentrations to several Little penguin health parameters, and found an effect on circulating total plasma proteins, haematocrit (packed cell volume) and genotoxicity. These results indicate a detectable reduction to general health as a result of PFAS exposure and possible evidence for diseases, but more research is needed to verify this."

Details: bit.ly/little-penguins

IMAS researchers inspire future marine scientists



Top: Students participating in Working on Water at IMAS Taroona
Above: IMAS PhD candidate Eleanor Spencer at STEM_NEXT at Taroona High School

Our team of researchers at IMAS Taroona has been busy fostering the next generation of marine scientists about careers in fisheries and aquaculture (F&A) research during recent student engagement activities.

In October, we welcomed Year 9-10 students to our Taroona fisheries and aquaculture centre as part of Seafood Industry Tasmania's Working on Water education program.

They learnt about our Red handfish and dive fisheries research, including abalone, urchins and periwinkles. They then checked out some underwater video technologies and jumped aboard some of our research vessels.

In November, IMAS PhD candidate Eleanor Spencer (left) and UTAS College Engagement Facilitator Tim Gibbons attended the STEM_NEXT event at Taroona High School to discuss Tropical rock lobster aquaculture research and F&A courses

About IMAS

The Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) is a centre of excellence for both research and education at the University of Tasmania with campuses in Launceston, Salamanca and Taroona. The Taroona campus mainly hosts research on fisheries, aquaculture and the marine environment. Access to seawater makes this site especially useful for tank-based research and teaching.

Visit: imas.utas.edu.au

Contact: Communications Officer, Alex Luttrell. alex.luttrell@utas.edu.au

For more F&A research news, subscribe to our Fish Bites Newsletter: bit.ly/Subscribe-FishBites



Cultivating Community Skills and Friendships



Now in its second year, the Crop Swap Taroona & Surrounds continues to flourish with each passing month. The vibrant community that comes together is proving to be more than sharing surplus produce, but also a group that builds connections that extend far beyond the garden.

One of the standout features of the recent Crop Swaps has been the addition of community-led workshops, providing attendees with valuable opportunities to expand their gardening knowledge and skills. These workshops, hosted by members of the group, have quickly become a cherished aspect of the group's gatherings.

In January, attendees were treated to a workshop on avocado growing led by Wendy, an experienced gardener (and a botanist!) who has a fabulous selection of avocado trees growing in her Sandy Bay garden. Wendy shared her expertise and practical insights, including a hands-on grafting session, leaving participants feeling inspired and empowered to grow their own avocado trees at home.

March brought another informative session, this time focused on tomato preservation, led by Janelle. As the prime tomato season approached, Janelle guided attendees through various preservation methods, from crafting flavourful passata to creating sundried tomatoes – all with food safety in mind! The workshop was a hit, showcasing the wealth of knowledge within the Crop Swap community.

Looking ahead to April, attendees have something exciting to look forward to: a **workshop on Sourdough for Beginners** with Nellie. Whether attendees are seasoned bakers or new to the world of sourdough, this session is designed to inspire anyone who is curious about baking their own bread.

For those eager to join in on the fun, be sure to keep an eye on the **Crop Swap Group Taroona & Surrounds Facebook page** for updates and information on upcoming events.

– Katja Phegan

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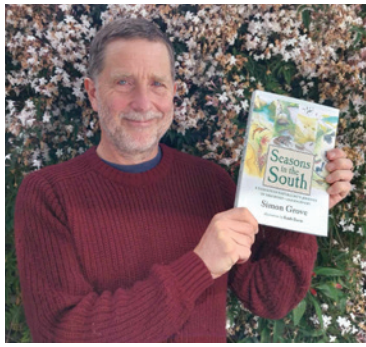
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Seasons in the South



Taroona's Dr Simon Grove launched his new book, *'Seasons in the South: a Tasmanian naturalist's journey of discovery – and recovery'*, late last year. Since then it's been flying off the shelves.

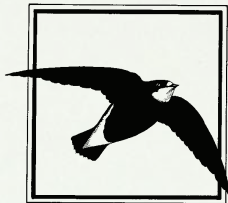
Much is set in Taroona - on the beach, in the bush, in his back-yard veggie garden. The season-specific stories offer readers a deeper appreciation of what is so special about Tasmania's (and Taroona's) nature – particularly in the often-overlooked worlds of insects and other invertebrates. Read this book, and you won't see your local environment the same way again.

Get it before it sells out! Available from all good bookshops. Taroona residents can arrange free local delivery or pickup by contacting Simon directly via the form at southernseasons.com.au/buy-in-person.

Excerpts from 'Autumn':

March

Summer in autumn



March is officially the first month of autumn. But just as spring, in Tasmania, can be a long and drawn-out affair, so, too, is summer; usually.

Indeed, March often boasts the most

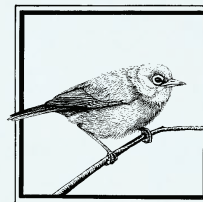
stable weather of the year, and though the nights rapidly lengthen as the equinox approaches, days can still feel summer-like; at least towards their middle, when the sun is still high in the northern sky. In the garden, it's the month for generally tidying up, grubbing out, and salvaging the last of the summer veggies: withering tomato plants, whitefly-infested beans and mildewed zucchini. Then I prepare beds for the winter crops. Beyond the garden, much of nature's frenetic summer activity is now spent, and this always saddens me. Seasonal affective disorder clearly isn't just about shorter days. Flowers become few and far between; and, with the soil at its driest, much of the land takes on muted tones. Most adult insects will have expired; but there are exceptions, and perhaps because there are fewer of them, those which remain can be observed quite readily.

There is one reason to welcome the first intense cold fronts of autumn: it is the expectation (or hope, at least) of spotting swifts, the most aerially adapted of birds. Strangely, no species of swift breeds in Australia; though there are diminutive relatives—swiftlets—which occur in the north of the continent. ...

... Then, one day in March, I notice an absence. I can't put my finger on it at first. When did I last see swallows swooping over the oval, or along the foreshore; or hear the pleasant chatter of tree martins as I walked my favourite cliff-top path? This is when I realise that they have already left the neighbourhood, and suddenly I miss them, dearly. I can reason that the cold, dark days of winter are still weeks away, but their departure is one more sign of summer's passing.

April

Fine days, cold nights



Autumn is in full swing in April.

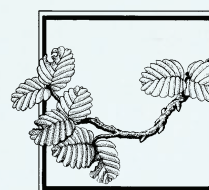
Though tinged with sadness because of summer's passing, there is still much to enjoy. In most years, the stable weather continues well into the month and there's much pleasure in simply

sitting quietly in the garden, on a seaside rock, or on a woodland log, and soaking up the last of the sun's warmth without fear of sunburn and untroubled by marchflies or mozzies. Seek out a north-facing spot in the middle of the day and you may find yourself basking in warm sunshine, along with the last of the season's insects, which are, quite literally, in the autumn of their lives. But the days are shorter, and clear skies make for cold nights. Cold-air drainage soon brings a taste of winter to Hobart's western suburbs, which flank the mountain.

The sound of the season, for me, is that of little parties of silvereyes scouring the bushes for fruity titbits to fuel their imminent northward migration—most will overwinter on the Australian mainland, where they will mingle with silvereye populations that reside there year-round. Those from Tasmania will, however, retain a separate Tasmanian identity and appearance throughout the winter, and will feel compelled to return to breed here, come spring. I enjoy their company in the garden and admire their busyness and apparent indifference to my presence. They have done well out of European colonisation and enjoy blackberries and elderberries, as well as kiwis, figs, and late-season apples. Some even find our suburbs so enticing that they now stick around for the winter.

I have never really understood why daylight saving must end in early April, just when late afternoons begin ceding to darkness far too early. Until I investigated the history of this timekeepers' sleight of hand, I was under the misapprehension that daylight saving was a measure introduced to somehow bring winter's meagre hours of daylight more into line with human affairs—darker evenings being the cost we must all pay for lighter mornings and safer travel to school or work. But short winter days apparently don't enter into it—it's all about those blissfully drawn-out summer evenings. And we have a New Zealand entomologist to thank for getting the idea going in the first place: George Hudson, an avid collector of insects, as he had been since his childhood, in 1870s England. ...

Fagus



Among Tasmanian urbanites (and I include myself here), 'going to see the fagus' in its seasonal finery is an autumn tradition, indeed almost a ritual. The fagus in question is a much-branched montane shrub, or sometimes a small tree, also known as deciduous beech or tanglefoot. *Fagus* is actually the genus to which northern beech trees belong, whereas ours are in *Nothofagus*, which (politely) translates as non-beech, though we tend to call them austral. ...

Books wanted



The annual Taroona Book Sale will be held the first week of July. But unfortunately it will be held in the Kingborough Hub again this year.

Book collection is already underway as we have a large storage shed at Margate.

If you are downsizing, clearing out mum or dad's old home or just getting rid of books.

Please call us and boxes can be provided

Alan: 0417 528 463, Sue: 0409 442 593, Lesley: 0417 115 815



Updates from Taroona High School

Another year kicks off at Taroona High School as we reunite with our friends and welcome the new Grade 7s into the school community. A BBQ was held for new parents to socialise with other parents and say hello to the homegroup teachers. It was a great evening with lots of snags and laughs shared around.

Planning has already begun to add raised garden beds to our new school orchard that opened at the end of last year. Fruit trees are happily growing inside and hopefully with the added garden beds it will further encourage a more hands-on approach to learning.

Within the school, plans are also in place to improve the toilets and upgrade to single cubicles in the library corridor, no doubt a relief to many students. In addition, new seating will also be added to enhance the outdoor spaces and we look forward to finally having somewhere to sit during breaktimes.

The Student Representative Councils have been super busy as well. The Grade 7, 8 and 9 councils have been elected and will soon begin planning for their projects.

From the Grade 10 SRC, many projects are already underway. The toastie Tuesdays have started again this year every Tuesday morning to provide students with delicious, warm toasties as they get off the buses in the mornings.

The annual Quiz Night will again take place at Taroona High School this year **Friday night 30th of August**. Many sponsors have already pitched in with generous and exciting donations. There will be many prizes available on the evening, as well as a raffle and silent auction, not to mention all the yummy treats and drinks the School Association will be selling. All members of the Taroona community are welcome, more details to come on the Taroona High School Facebook page!

An exciting new project is run by the SRC this year in partnership with Dymocks Hobart. Every month a popular, must-be read book will be chosen and available to purchase via the Qkr app. A small percentage of the money will either go back to the SRC to run more projects or towards the English department to purchase more books.

The Taroona High School Association is up and running again and would love two community members to join up and contribute to the conversations and planning for events and progress at our school. The SA meets once a month, with the next meeting on **Monday May 6th at 7pm in the THS staffroom**. Please contact charles.white@decyp.tas.gov.au if you have any queries.

Overall, it's off to a great start at THS, and we look forward all the exciting events taking place this year!

– Ellen Wei, 2024 SRC Vice-President



From top:

1 Official opening of our new orchard by Andrew Wilkie MP. The orchard was funded by a grant from the Queen's Jubilee Fund

2 The fruit trees are thriving – including apples, pears, plums, fig, lemons and limes

3 & 4 Welcome BBQ chefs

Taroona student turns Danish Queen



Mary Donaldson grew up in Taroona in Morris Avenue, and attended Taroona High School from 1984–1987, before heading off to Hobart College and then UTAS, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in commerce and law in 1994. On 14 January 2024, she was crowned Queen Consort of Denmark, the first Australian-born Queen of a European monarchy.



Taroona residents hosted a royal picnic at Taroona Beach in honour of Queen Mary's coronation. Other celebrations were held across the suburb, including a High Tea at the Taroona Shot Tower.



Our local vexillophile brought out his Danish flags for the occasion. On coronation day he flew the red and white Dannebrog flag – the world's oldest national flag, first used in 1219 – in its original proportions.

Later in the week we were rewarded with the Royal Banner of Denmark, origin 1100s. From a time before nation states were really a thing, these were the Arms of the Royal family – and are now the arms of Queen Mary.

For more fascinating info about Gary's flags, check out <https://www.facebook.com/flags>.

TCA subscriptions due



Dear Taroona residents

Subs fell due for renewal on 1st July. If you appreciate our newsletters – and our work organising events and advocating for Taroona with Kingborough Council – you can support us with an annual contribution of \$10. We also accept donations for specific community projects, and are keen for your ideas.

To join you can do a bank transfer to the Taroona Community Association:

BSB 067102: Account number 2801 1079

or pop \$10 in the letterbox at 19 Oakleigh Avenue.

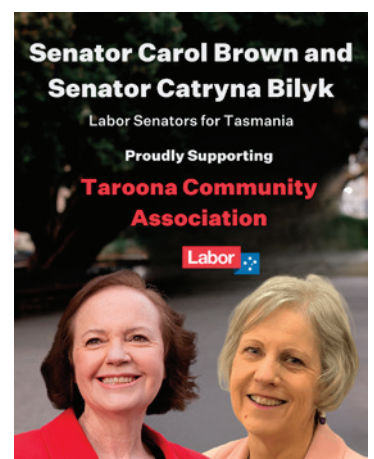
Thank you in anticipation – TCA committee

Feel like a walk?

Taroona News is delivered to about 1450 letterboxes by about 30 volunteers. We have some regulars and some who help out now and then, and we'd really love some more people to help out at least occasionally. Delivery rounds are usually just a couple of streets so a nice stretch of the legs! Please contact the coordinator: Alison Phillips on 0403 882131 or aphillip5@yahoo.com.au



This issue of Taroona News has been printed with the support of the offices of Senator Catryna Bilyk and Senator Carol Brown.





POSSUMS Playcentre

Possums have enjoyed a lovely, relaxed start to the year, guided by their educators to participate in activities designed to help them connect more closely with nature and the community. Days have been spent learning about each other, the wonderful community of Taroona and their place within it. Many little possum hands have helped plant out the Possums plot at the Taroona Neighbourhood Garden whilst enjoying the benefits of such a great shared space.

A highlight for the children throughout the term has been picking an apple fresh from the tree for their morning snack. The beautiful warm weather has meant lots of time spent outside. Children observed the sunflowers coming to an end for the change of season. They produced beautiful handmade sunflowers to mark the end of a wonderful Tassie summer.

This term the children have met some local community members who have generously given up their time to share their knowledge and expertise with the younger generation. Artist Rosie McKeand took the children for an art session where they learnt the power of storytelling through drawing. The Taroona Fire Brigade have held two fantastic sessions throughout the term, demonstrating the many ways their fantastic volunteers help keep the community safe. We are all looking forward to an exciting year at Possums with some excursions coming up in Term 2.

– Eloise





TAKING ENROLMENTS FOR 2024







NATURE BASED LEARNING IN TAROONA FOR 3-5 YEAR OLDS

WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

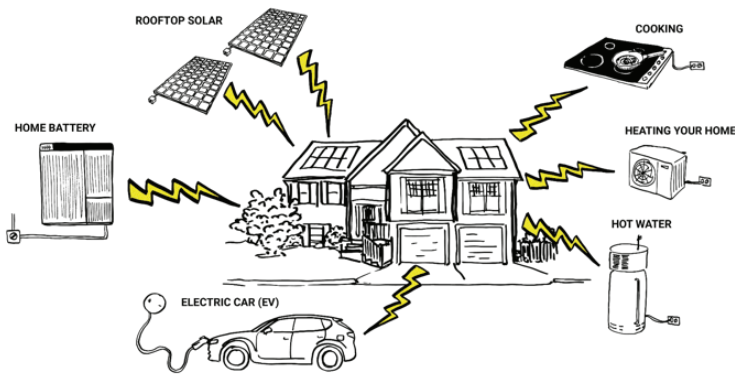
TAROONA COMMUNITY HALL

WHY POSSUMS?

- ✓ Nature Based
- ✓ Community Garden
- ✓ Flexible Short-term Care

- ✓ High Teacher Ratio
- ✓ Child-led learning
- ✓ Excursions

More Information 0418 390 432 | possumsplaycentre.org.au



This is Electric

This is Electric is a new Taroona based electrical company supporting homes, businesses and communities to reduce emissions by phasing out gas and fossil fuels.

Founded by Sarah Bury and Phil O'Neill, *This is Electric* is a social enterprise that exists to create a fairer and more sustainable world. Profits from the business are directed towards supporting community energy projects and clean energy education.

Phil is a licensed electrical contractor with over 15 years working in the electrical industry and Sarah is a lawyer with expertise in government policy and human rights.

We both love working with communities to protect the environment. **Our vision is for every home, business and community to be powered by safe, clean and affordable energy.**

According to Rewiring Australia, around 70% of Australia's domestic emissions come from the decisions we make at the local level – how we travel around, how we cook and how we heat our water and home.

By making some simple changes in our homes and businesses we can help to reduce carbon emissions and save ourselves thousands of dollars. Here are our top three actions to take:

1. Install solar power

The average solar system will pay itself back in 3-5 years, making it a great investment for many people. Industry standard is that solar panels last for about 25-30 years. If solar panels aren't suitable, the next best option is to buy green power from an energy retailer.

Installing a battery means you can store excess solar energy generated during the day and use it in the evenings. This can increase energy independence, reduce reliance on the grid, and maximize the benefits of solar power.

We expect the price of batteries to fall considerably over the next few years. Battery recycling is also improving as the market increases. And it won't be long until we are able to use our electric vehicles as household batteries!

2. Switch gas appliances to efficient electric alternatives

Replacing our gas appliances with energy efficient, electric alternatives will help to ensure our homes are healthy and clean, and ease cost of living pressures. It will also help us to reduce our carbon emissions.

- Replacing gas hot water systems with efficient electric heat pumps can reduce energy usage by two-thirds.
- Electric reverse cycle air conditioners are the most efficient space heating option, and
- Replacing gas cooktops with electric or induction is key to making sure our homes are safe, healthy and affordable to run. Cooking with gas is expensive and estimated to cause up to 12% of the childhood asthma burden in Australia (Asthma Australia).

The upfront cost of energy efficient electric appliances is often a bit more than gas, but they are cheaper and more sustainable to run in the long term. Also, the Tasmanian Government has an Energy Saver Loan Scheme, providing 0% interest loans to eligible applicants to fund the purchase price and installation of energy efficient products.

3. Replace a petrol/diesel car with an electric vehicle

The transport sector accounts for around 20% of Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions. A key part of phasing out fossil fuels is our transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs).

The quickest way to reduce our transport emissions is to use active and public transport. This is a great option for some people, but not accessible or available to everyone.

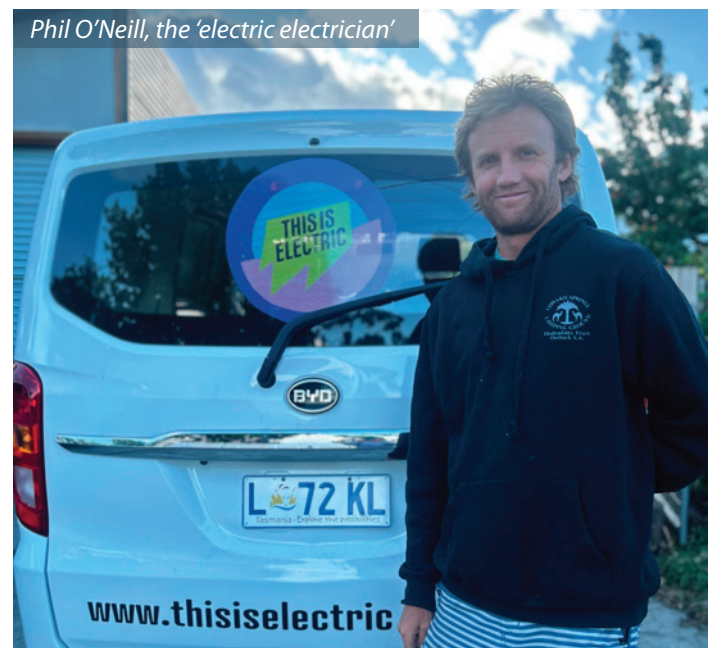
The single biggest source of emissions and energy costs for households is our petrol or diesel cars. An average Australian household spends over \$3000 every year on fuel costs. The average car emits around 4 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide every year.

EVs have much lower lifecycle emissions than petrol or diesel cars. And the smaller the EV and battery, the less impact it has.

While EVs still cost more than petrol or diesel cars to buy, prices are on their way down and running costs can be significantly cheaper, especially charging an EV from solar power.

Feel free to email or call us if you have any questions at all about electrifying your home or business, would like more resources or to chat about the Energy Saver Loan Scheme. Email Sarah@thisiselectric.com.au or call us on 0451 186 336.

Phil O'Neill, the 'electric electrician'



News from the Taroona Ex-Services' Club

The Taroona Ex-Services' Club has been very active during the last few months and it is increasing in numbers. Four people have joined in the last month so there are now over seventy members.

ANZAC Day:

As always there will be a march and service in Taroona on 25 April. The march will commence at the Taroona Bowls Club and those wishing to participate should be present by 5.30am. The service will be held at the War Memorial starting at 6.00am. After the service there will be a gunfire breakfast and presentations ceremony in the Taroona Hall. Everyone is very welcome to attend this community event!

Club Functions:

On December 3rd last year the Christmas lunch was held at the Taroona Bowls Club and was enjoyed by the many who attended. The food and comradeship were great and there was a wonderful raffle run by Martin Potter.

During the March 15th meeting Full Member Brian Gisborne made a presentation to the Club. He served in the British Army for many years. When he left he was given a plaque with a warrant (a mounting of medals). Brian generously decided to give this to the Club and his thoughtful gesture is very much appreciated.

Club Excursions:

On Wednesday, March 13th there was a trip to New Norfolk. People travelled by bus to visit the wonderful display of memorabilia at the RSL Club and also enjoyed a lovely morning tea there. The RSL Club was very hospitable and gave Taroona a book about Tasmanian VCs. Lunch was enjoyed at the Bush Inn and comments about definitely eating there again were heard.

There were 38 participants in the March excursion and the committee is very pleased with the level of interest. Perhaps even more people will be interested in other excursions planned for the year – a harbour cruise and a visit to Hartzview Vineyard.

Teddy Sheean Grant Program:

This program provides grants to Tasmanian ex-service organisations and clubs in honour of Edward 'Teddy' Sheean VC. In the current round an application has been submitted for money to replace the blinds in the Ex-Services' Clubrooms and to make necessary restorations to the shelter shed near the War Memorial.



President/Secretary Chris Harris is always happy to provide information about the Club – 0410 754 932.



Concert fundraiser

The harmonious melodies of the Fabulous Augusta Singers echoed through the halls of the Taroona Bowls Club in November, enchanting the audience of 150 attendees with their captivating performance. It was an afternoon filled with joy, music, and a sense of community, as people gathered to support a worthy cause while enjoying the talents of this remarkable ensemble.

For this event was more than just entertainment; it was a fundraiser with a noble purpose. As the melodies soared, and hearts touched, generosity flowed. The event raised an impressive \$1100, a testament to the generosity and compassion of the community.

The proceeds of this remarkable evening were shared between two deserving beneficiaries: StayChatty and the Taroona Ex Servicemen's Club. StayChatty, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness about mental health issues and suicide prevention, received a portion of the funds to support their vital initiatives. Their

work in promoting mental well-being and offering support to those in need is invaluable, and the contribution made by the attendees will undoubtedly make a meaningful difference in the lives of many.

Additionally, the Taroona Ex Servicemen's Club, an integral part of the local community, also benefited from the fundraiser. With a commitment to providing support and assistance to veterans and their families, the club plays a crucial role in honoring the service and sacrifice of those who have served their country. The funds raised will help bolster their efforts in providing essential services and programs for veterans, ensuring they receive the recognition and support they deserve.

The Augusta Singers have scheduled two concerts for April. The initial performance on April 13 is an invitation only event hosted by the Friends of Buckland Church and the second, on April 21, is at the Glenorchy City Bowls Club and is open to the general public. – Phil Gath

St Luke's News



There has been much activity in the recent months since last writing for this newsletter! We have celebrated some major seasons. We had good weather and a wonderful evening for our Community Carols on the lawn and enjoyed a festive Christmas community lunch. This week we will be celebrating Easter, remembering the death and resurrection of Jesus on which our Christian faith and hope is based.



Our groups

Our groups began again with the beginning of the school term. It is wonderful to see the little ones and their carers at **playgroup** on Tuesday mornings at 10:30. The **exercise class** continues to stretch and have fun as they endeavor to keep fit on a Thursday morning, at the new time of 9:30. The **writing group** on a Tuesday afternoon is now from 1-3, and there is plenty of space if you need a quiet place to do some writing – poetry, novel, family

history, or wherever creativity takes you. The **men's tea** continues to meet at 6pm on the last Friday of the month, and **Songspace**, (where you can come and sing for fun and for the health benefit of singing together) continues the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm. These groups are open to the community and all are warmly welcomed.

Our new Community Connections Minister



I am thrilled to announce that St Luke's has a new part time Community Connections Minister, Luke Campton. Luke is married with two daughters and he comes to our Parish with broad experience in youth and children's ministry,

community welfare and professional pastoral care. Luke has been a Chaplain within a primary school and college, in disability care, community welfare, the dog's home, hospitals, and prisons statewide. Luke is the Executive Officer of two small charities: Anglican Health & Welfare and Clarendon Children's Foundation. For fun Luke enjoys watching movies, going to theme parks, and metal detecting for treasure. Luke grew up in the shadow of the Cadbury's factory and will happily share a block of dairy milk with you over coffee! Luke will be running an Alpha course, that explores the Christian faith, in a relaxed, informal way over dinner, on Sunday evenings beginning on May 5th at 5pm.

We will be hosting another **Community Lunch** on Thursday 18th April at 12:30. We'd love to see you there.

Any questions regarding any of the above, please contact Ruth Hanlon (who also enjoys chatting over a coffee!) or Luke Campton. 03 6227 9611/ 0401 637 071.

Fish and Chip Fry-Days at the Bowlo



Fish and Chip Fridays at **The Taroona Bowls and Community Club** have been a huge hit, welcoming so many members and families from our wonderful Taroona community. There is an outdoor deck and lots of space for the kids to enjoy, so bring the family and enjoy an easy Friday night dinner. Side salads are also provided. Meat tray raffles are drawn at 7pm, with meals available from 5.30pm – 7.30pm.

menu

Flathead and Chips	\$15.00
Calamari and Chips	\$15.00
Kids Fish and Chips	\$10.00
Bowl of Chips	\$6.00



PIC OF TAROONA



SIMON GROVE

Another star spotted at Hinsby Beach

Local naturalist Simon Grove eyed this eyed (ocellated) sea-star *Nectria ocellata* on Hinsby Beach – the only one of its kind that he has spotted in more than two decades of walking Taroona's beaches. The species is a native, and is found all around the coast of Tasmania, and southeastern Australia more broadly, though it usually inhabits deeper waters and is not commonly beached. Part of the attraction of beachcombing is serendipity: you never know what you might find!

This one has been immortalised by uploading the photo to iNaturalist, with the observation now appearing as a 'Taroona' dot on the species distribution map on the Atlas of Living Australia (alongside over 450 of Simon's other Taroona photo observations, and over 5,000 from other local observers). Simon reckons it's a great way to make your local observations of the natural world 'count'. You don't even have to identify your subject at the time – others in the iNaturalist community can do that for you.

TAROONA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

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The committee meets on the third Wednesday of the month (Feb–Dec).

Newsletter contributions: taroonacommunitynewsletter@gmail.com

Advertising: 1 column x 2cm deep = \$10, 1 column x 4cm deep = \$20

The Taroona community's award-winning website about life in Taroona can be found at <https://taroona.tas.au/>. Contributions to the website can be sent to Deirdre Brown at taroona@taroona.tas.au

Membership of the Taroona Community Association is \$10 and payment can be made by direct deposit into the TCA's bank account **BSB 067102** and **Account number 28011079**. Please email us to notify of deposited funds. You can also deliver or mail payment to 19 Oakleigh Avenue.

This issue of *Taroona News* has been distributed to your letterbox by over 30 local volunteers.

Disclaimer

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