



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 Spring – and doesn't that sun feel good!

There's an abundance of interesting, good news community stories in this edition, sprinkled with great photos of whales, seals, rainbows, gardens and members of our community embracing life through winter.



MICK BROWN

Fur seals lolling and cavorting at Crayfish Point in early September

It was the warmest winter on record for much of Tasmania, and we have a predicted warmer and drier spring and summer ahead, so it's well and truly time to prepare your property and yourselves for an early and higher-risk bushfire season. Make sure you attend the Community Information Session at 7pm on Tuesday 17th October at the Taroona Bowls Club.

The TCA just held its AGM, which featured a very interesting talk by Severe Weather Meteorologist Paul Fox-Hughes on increasing storm events globally and how they might impact Taroona locally.

There was only one change to the committee at the AGM. We farewell Janette Power who has been our Secretary for a decade and welcome past President Jill Hickie to the role. Janette is leaving the TCA to focus on other community activities. Thank you Janette for your many years of service.

All Taroona residents are welcome to attend any TCA committee meeting and bring topics to the table for discussion.

Enjoy reading about the life of our bustling community – and get involved where and when you can. Life is better shared.

Anne Parrott and Fiona Rice
(Co-Presidents, TCA)

Calendar

October

- Sun 1 **TEN Working Bee**, THS gully and Rotary Park – Maintenance and Weeding, 10am–12
- Sat 7 **Taroona Crop Swap**, Taroona Neighbourhood Gardens, 10am
- Sat 7 **TNG Spring Celebration**, Taroona Neighbourhood Garden, 11am–2pm
- Tues 17 **Bushfire Information Session**, Taroona Bowls Club, 7:00pm
- Sat 21 **St Luke's Spring Festival**, St Lukes Church, 2–5pm
- Sun 22 **TEN/TNG Biochar Production Demonstration**, Fire Station/Bowls Club intersection, 10am–12

November

- Sat 4 **Taroona Crop Swap + Fermenting workshop with Peter**, Taroona Neighbourhood Gardens, 10am
- Sun 5 **TEN Working Bee**, Fire station, 10am–12
- Sat 11 **Remembrance Day Service**, War Memorial (next to Taroona Community Hall), 10.30am

December

- Sat 2 **Taroona Crop Swap + End of year celebration**, Taroona Neighbourhood Garden, 10am
- Sun 3 **Ex-Services' Christmas lunch**, Taroona Bowls Club
- Fri 8 – Tues 12 **Taroona High School production Crazy for You**
- TBA **Taroona Scouts Christmas Tree and Produce Sale**

News from the Taroona Ex-Services' Club



The Taroona Ex-Services' Club is always an active and community minded organisation. It has recently purchased a smart TV and a new fridge as it improves the Clubrooms in the Taroona Hall. These purchases were partly funded by a Teddy Sheean grant.

The Club's mid-year lunch was held at the Taroona Bowls Club on July 9th and was attended by 45 members and their guests and friends. A wonderful roast prepared by Paul Martin was enjoyed by all and Past President, Martin Potter, ran a very entertaining raffle. The next major social function will be the Christmas lunch on December 3rd at the Taroona Bowls Club.

The Club has a meeting at its Clubrooms on the third Friday of each month. After the meeting there is a BBQ in the warmer months and afternoon tea and a guest speaker during winter. In July minutes secretary, Diane Balding, spoke about her recent walk on the Larapinta Trail in Central Australia and in August new member, Brian Gisborne, gave a very interesting talk about his service experiences.

The August monthly committee meeting was held on Friday 18th. August 18th is Vietnam Veterans' Day. In honour of this

important occasion flags were flown at half mast and a minute's silence was observed at the beginning of the meeting. Past President and current committee member, Trevor Abbott (pictured), gave a very interesting account of his Vietnam involvement and experiences. Many thanks go to Trevor and also to another of the Club's Vietnam Veterans, Roelf de Vries. Roelf brought his WWII jeep to Taroona on the meeting day and conducted the flag ceremony.



Past President and current committee member, Trevor Abbott

The next major event on the Club's calendar is Remembrance Day on November 11th. A service starting at 10.30am will be held near the War Memorial next to the Taroona Community Hall. As is the case on ANZAC Day, the committee expects that a large number of community members will attend. People may like to lay a wreath or floral tribute and, if so, should contact President/Secretary, Chris Harris, on 0410 754 932. After the service a morning tea will be held in the Hall. As is the case with all Ex-Services' Club functions, everyone is welcome.

For enquiries about the Club ring Chris Harris on 0410 754 932.

Taroona Foreshore Bathing Pavilion

Kingborough Mayor, Paula Wriedt said after consulting with the Taroona residents and the Taroona Community Association it was highlighted that the community wanted to keep the original Taroona Foreshore Bathing Pavilion building.

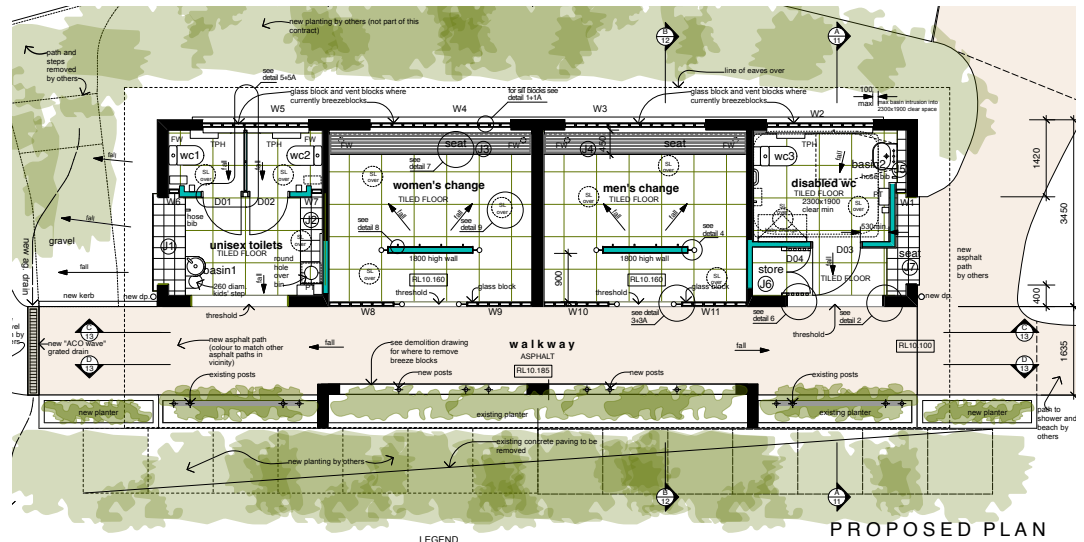
"Council is now working on a refurbishment of the building that will keep the original look but upgrade the internal facilities," Cr Wriedt said.

"The renovations will include a disability compliant toilet, improvements to the lighting and adding two new unisex toilets.

Part of the reconfiguration of the layout will include improvements to visibility and safety for change room users.

This includes adding skylights to open up the space, eliminate the dark corners of the pavilion and make the space safer and more enjoyable for the public.

Work started in August and is expected to be completed in November, in time for summer fun."



Winter Council Wrap-up



Another 3 months have flown by and it's time for my second Council wrap. It's been a busy few months at Council with lots happening despite my inclination to want to hibernate during the colder months! As spring arrives though, I'm looking forward to warmer days and pretending to know what I'm doing at our plot at

the Taroona Community Garden. Our little family has also loved having Louisa Hinsby Park open. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the community 'toy crate' – it seems to be a hit!

Housing Statement Endorsed

Since the last *Taroona News*, Council endorsed its first ever Commitment on Housing. The commitment means we now have an action plan that sets out a number of strategies to encourage safe, affordable and accessible housing in Kingborough.

While it may be only a small step, I'm very proud of having made this happen and I'm grateful for the support of staff and Councillors.

2023/24 Budget Passed

Although it feels like a long time ago, Council passed its budget back in June. This means all the Taroona-related projects listed in the last edition of the *Taroona News* will be going ahead this financial year. If you missed that cracking read, here's a recap of those projects:

\$250,000	Taroona Channel Highway Bike Lane Upgrades
\$208,800	Kelvedon Park Drainage Upgrade
\$30,000	Hinsby Foreshore Access Upgrade (Design work only)
\$30,000	Bowls & Community Club Carpark & Drainage Upgrade (Design work only)
\$21,500	Community Hall Deck & Pathway Upgrade
\$12,000	Foreshore Track Upgrade

Building Works

While not everyone gets as excited as my two-year old when seeing new building sites, residents will have no doubt spotted the extra construction vehicles moving around Taroona. Those eagerly following the IMAS development will have noticed no such action (yet) but here's a few other projects that might be of interest:

- **Taroona Beach Toilet Block** - After strong advocacy from the TCA, the existing structure will remain with a new fit-out now underway. Council staff have estimated a completion date by November in time for summer - fingers crossed!
- **Jenkins Street Apartments** - Work has just commenced on the construction of four new apartments below the old Lounge Bar. Please take extra care coming this way as this is a street full of young children, especially as Hinsby Beach traffic starts to pick up.
- **Kelvedon Oval Upgrades** - Whilst not underway just yet, Taroona footballers will be very excited by the sight of high-vis at the bottom of Kelvedon Ave. Hopefully starting soon, this project is part of the Council's budget commitment to address the drainage issues that have plagued the playing surface for years. Go Pirates!

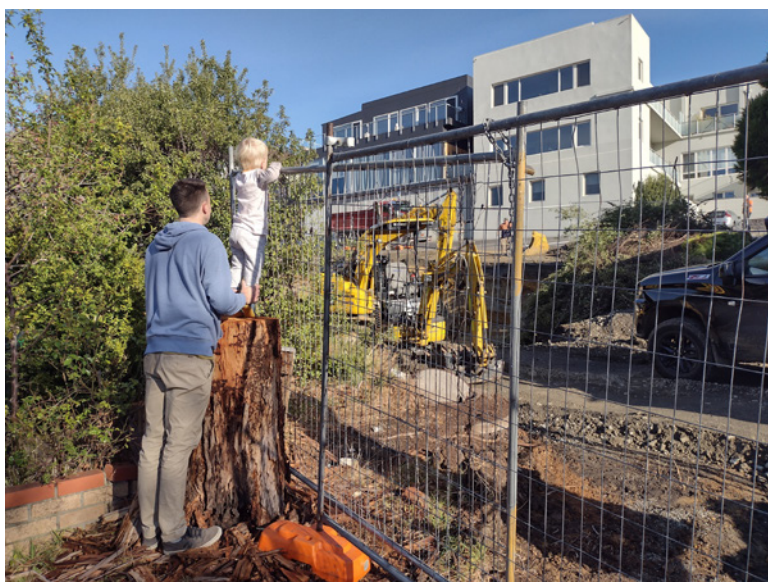
'Tis the (Survey) Season

Council loves quizzing its residents and it seems now is the time of year where many of our engagement projects are happening. The sport & recreation survey recently closed and responses will feed into Council's next sport & rec strategy.

Council is also now surveying residents as part of its work to develop its first multicultural strategy. This is a great initiative so if this sounds like you, Google "Kingborough multicultural" and follow the links.

Don't hesitate to contact me at:
cr.kaspardeane@kingborough.tas.gov.au

Best wishes! Councillor Kaspar Deane



Far left:
 Construction of new apartments in Jenkins Street

Left: The community 'toy crate' in Louisa Hinsby Park

News from the Taroona Fire Brigade

What a lovely start to spring we have had, the bees are in the trees and the birds wake us at early hours and I can sense a taste of a great summer ahead. At the Taroona Fire Brigade we are aware of the fire calamities befalling our Northern hemisphere neighbours and are training ourselves in readiness for our own fire season.

Sometimes the news of our changing world is overwhelming, as our own world-class climate scientist Dr Mark Hemer explained to us at a recent training evening. Somehow we need to live with this knowledge as well as strive to act in the face of it or we can find ourselves in a position of despair. It is with this in mind that your brigade trains every week. We do so with seriousness and with humour. We do it to allow you to enjoy summer as we remain vigilant but also to inform you of your role in keeping your properties and lives safe.

With this in mind, one of our leading experienced fire fighters James Forbes has attached a flier for our Bushfire information night. Here you will find useful information, which is modified annually according to the most up-to-date climate information and recognition of the research into fire behaviour. The new fire danger rating chart is an example.

Please join us on the night and have a chat to one of our fire fighters and see the climate display, as well as grab pamphlets to help you prepare.

In this way we can retain some of the joy in the beauty that surrounds us, but not in ignorance of the challenges ahead.

– Chris Allfree (4th Officer TFB)



BUSHFIRE READY?

COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

7PM, TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER, TAROONA BOWLS CLUB



- Are you, your family and property prepared?
- What will you do if bushfire threatens your home?
- Have you prepared a bushfire plan?

You are invited to an information session and to have a chat with your local Taroona Fire Brigade Firefighters about bushfire risk in the area and getting prepared for bushfire season. Come along and pick up tips to be more prepared.

Enquiries Taroona Volunteer Fire Brigade
Email: taroona.vfb@gmail.com

1800 000 699
www.fire.tas.gov.au
facebook.com/TasmaniaFireService
twitter.com/TasFireService

Know **YOUR** bushfire risk.
Make a plan.



From top –
1, 2: Training for fire fighter state comps - Bruny Island
3, 4 – Training for Gas Fire Emergency

El Niño increases our bushfire risk

Winter is over – if you're one to think we had a winter this year. For much of Tasmania, it was the warmest on record by some margin. Hobart's 2023 winter mean temperature (10.6°C) was 1.9°C warmer than the 140-yr record average of 8.7°C, 0.5°C higher than the previous record (10.1°C in 1988).

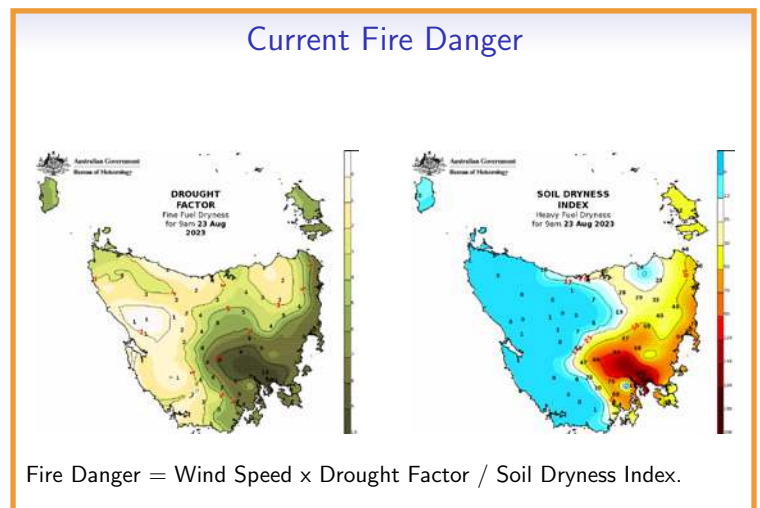
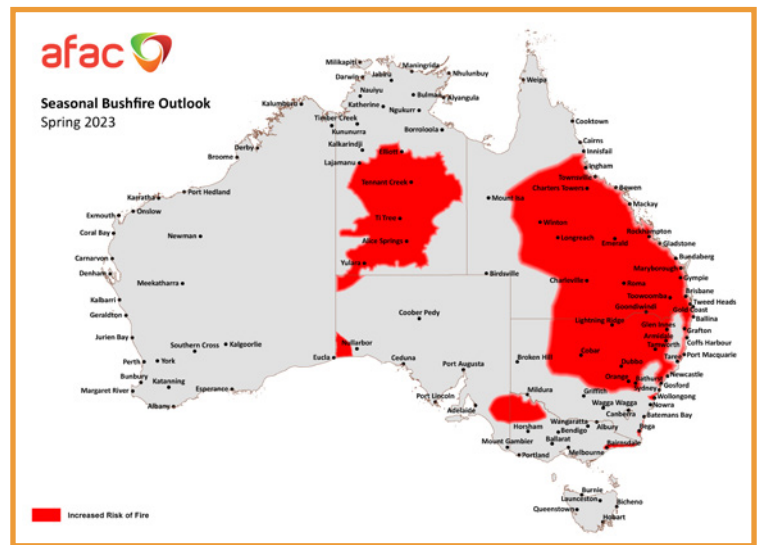
While western Tasmania was wetter than average over winter, Hobart and the broader south-east region had a much drier than average winter. Hobart received only about 70% of the long-term average winter rainfall.

Together, warm temperatures and low rainfall mean that soil moisture and vegetation around Hobart is dry, particularly for this early in the season.

The impending arrival of 'The Boy' El Niño can be largely blamed for these conditions. Our previous three years have been in the company of 'The Girl' La Niña, where we experienced wetter than normal conditions in eastern Australia, as stronger than normal easterly tropical Pacific trade winds pushed cloud formation and the associated rain conditions over Australia. These past few years have provided some welcome reprieve from high bushfire risks, but also resulted in a lot of vegetation (fuel) growth. We've now swung quickly to the counter-scenario – El Niño – where the easterly tropical Pacific trade winds are weaker than normal, and those clouds and associated rain shift east away from Australia into the central Pacific, leaving eastern Australia drier and warmer than normal (and your Pacific island holiday possibly a little damper). Australia is currently in an El Niño watch phase, with conditions expected to strengthen and be maintained through until at least mid-late summer.

Another climate process influencing Australia's rainfall is the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), which is a measure of the relative sea surface temperatures in the tropical Indian Ocean. At this time last year, ocean temperatures on Australia's side of the Indian Ocean were warmer than normal (negative IOD). This means more clouds forming north west of Australia, which brings rain across the country as the weather systems bring this from west to east across the country. This year – as with El Niño – we're experiencing the counter-scenario, where the Australian side of the Indian Ocean is cooler than normal (positive IOD), meaning less clouds forming and less rain drifting across Australia. These conditions are also set to be maintained through spring and into summer.

Together these climatic factors – El Niño and a positive IOD – point to continuation of warmer and dryer conditions than normal through spring and early summer. Vegetation has grown well these past years, and is already dry very early in the season. It will only dry further. With every day, we will see an increase in the risk of bushfire, and our recommendation is you prepare your property early – clearing gutters and reducing fuel loads around your houses and yards – in anticipation of increased risks of potentially catastrophic fires early in the summer.



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 28011079

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

Thank you in anticipation – **TCA committee**



NIGEL RICHARDSON

Taroona High School principal Charles White, teacher Scott MacCrum, TEN volunteers Nel Smit and Graeme Watt together with students at the recent planting near the school soccer ground. The planting aims to stabilise a recent land slump.

TEN's work continues to make a difference along the Taroona foreshore. I say "TEN's work" because I was recently speaking to someone who did not know that the removal of weeds from our foreshore and the replacement with local native plants has been the result of many years' work by Taroona Environment Network volunteers. But as every land carer knows, there is always more to do.

TEN recently tackled one of the most difficult sites in Taroona – the southern bank of the Taroona Soccer Ground. The bank was created in 1976 in levelling a now much used playing field. The site is difficult because the topsoil was stripped away and it is quite steep and dry. In partnership with Kingborough Council, TEN removed the woody weeds, slashed the long grass, and planted over 200 native shrubs and ground covers to mark National Tree Day. The next challenge will be to get these plants sufficiently established through a dry season so that they can survive without further work.

Nel Smit and Simon Stephens did some great work with Taroona High School students for Schools Tree Day. Nel talked to the students about the benefits of trees and the reasons for planting on the land slump. Simon spoke about the local geology, the history of the high school landslips and their effect on the shape of the local coastline. About 100 plants were put in to stabilise the land slump on the northern bank of the school soccer ground. This slump was

planted a few years ago but being a very difficult site, more plants were needed.

After some urging from a resident in northern Taroona, TEN recently removed blackberries and other weeds from the gully between Utiekah Drive and Grange Avenue (*see opposite page*). One measure of a successful working bee is the size of the pile of weeds produced. In this case TEN was thrilled to see two truckloads being carted away the very next day. But there is always more to do, with periwinkle and blackberries ready to re-invade if not eradicated. TEN is grateful to the residents of the area for their support.

TEN is very fortunate to have amongst its membership some highly qualified scientists and creative people. One member, Simon Grove, has just published "Seasons in the South: a Tasmanian naturalist's journey of discovery - and recovery". Some of you will have met Simon at working bees and read his contributions to *Nurtured by Nature*, <https://taroonatastas.au/TEN/nurtured-by-nature/>. An excerpt from his book features in this newsletter. Illustrated by Keith Davis, it is written in a very engaging style and is highly recommended.

On Sunday 22 October TEN will combine with the Taroona Neighbourhood Garden (TNG) and Bill Harvey to demonstrate the production of biochar. Biochar is a carbon rich product that results from the partial combustion of wood in a low oxygen environment. It is a valuable soil conditioner when "charged" with a liquid fertilizer and a useful means of carbon capture & storage. Please see the article opposite.

Our final working bees for the year will be at the High School gully and foreshore on October 1 and the Fire Station on November 3.

– Nigel Richardson, Convenor



PHOTOS: NIGEL RICHARDSON

Utiakah Grange Avenue gully before and after clearing by TEN volunteers and a Council contractor. TEN volunteers triumphed when they were able to pull down a mostly dead vine that had grown 20m up a eucalypt. This was not only a fire hazard to this tree but also to surrounding properties. But the Utiakah gully is not finished – there's always more to do!



You are invited to a

biochar production demonstration

This is a joint event by

Taroona Neighbourhood Garden (TNG) and Taroona Environment Network (TEN).

22 October, 10:00 until 12:00 noon

Near Taroona Fire Station/Bowls Club intersection

~

City of Hobart Councillor Bill Harvey will talk about biochar:

What is it? How is it produced? How is it used? And more.

Bill will bring his kiln which can produce 290 litres of biochar in about an hour.

The Taroona Volunteer Fire Brigade will be in attendance to quench the fire once the kiln is full and to ensure that we don't burn anything that we shouldn't!

The process will need wood as fuel.

This is where you come in.

TEN and TNG invite you to register your intention to bring along woody material and prunings by contacting Nigel Richardson on 0427 317 552 or nigelrichardson@netspace.net.au as soon as possible. We will not be stockpiling fuel on the site before the day but we do need to know that we will have enough to run the demonstration. Could you please advise your intention to supply a boot, ute or trailer load of woody material or prunings that meet the following specifications:

- No greater than 50mm diameter. Anything bigger than this results in charred wood not biochar.
- Preferably less than 1.2m long. Longer pieces can be cut to length on the day.
- Can be dry or green.
- No blackberries: these catch on people's clothing making it harder to load the kiln.
- No soft, herbaceous weeds. These are better composted or disposed of through the green waste bin.

TEN has some limited capacity to collect fuels before the event.

If you would like to help load the kiln, you will need to be wearing a long-sleeved cotton shirt or cotton overalls, long cotton trousers, strong shoes or boots and a cotton hat.

If you would like to take away a biochar sample for your garden you will need to bring a waterproof container or bucket. The biochar will still be wet, and it does stain.

As with many of our outdoor activities, this event will be subject to weather.

A cancellation will be advised by email and Facebook by 9-00am on the day.



Taroona Neighbourhood Garden News



We have been moving ahead with our redesign of the central area of the garden. The new raised shared beds are flourishing with their first crops of winter vegetables, and soon

the surface will be completed in the central area. With a new bespoke gate to be installed soon, our 'social gathering' centre of the garden will be complete.

A 'long table' lunch was held in the 'social central area' on Sunday June 25th to celebrate the Winter Solstice. About 40 members and their families enjoyed the gourmet BBQ provided by our resident Chef Peter, and supplemented by a delicious range of shared dishes.

On Monday 11 September we had a surprise visit from Gardening Proponent extraordinaire, Costa. We had only a couple of hours warning, but news travels fast in Taroona and a small group, many of whom were children, gathered to greet and to have afternoon tea with our famous visitor. Needless to say, Costa charmed the children with lots of conversation, jokes (about his Derwent swim early that morning Brrrr!) and news of the new Gardening Australia TV program specifically for children (find it on ABC iView).

Our volunteers are building new plots in every available space as we have a considerable waiting list of families who would like to grow vegetables in the Neighbourhood Garden.

We are inviting the community to celebrate the change of season at our Spring Celebration on Saturday October 7th from 11am-2pm. Please see the advertisement below.



Above: Costa talks to children on a recent surprise visit to the garden.



Left: The building team: Graeme, Peter, Christophe, Louis and Luke.

TNG PRESENTS

Spring Celebration

IN THE GARDEN.

Saturday, 07 October
11:00 AM until 2:00 PM

Cakes | Hot Beverages |
Sausage Sizzle | Burrito Bowls (vg/v)

CASH ONLY

From Yoghurt Making to Fermenting:

empowering community through skill sharing workshops at Taroona Crop Swap & Surrounds



Something wonderful is happening at our monthly Crop Swap events. While the core idea of the Crop Swap remains rooted in sharing the bounty of our gardens and kitchens – from fresh produce to seeds and plants and delicious preserves – it has now evolved to encompass a broader, more enriching dimension: community skill sharing.

This exciting addition to our monthly catch-ups came to life recently with a fantastic yoghurt-making workshop hosted by Janelle. The idea behind these knowledge sharing sessions is to empower our community members to create their very own yoghurt with minimal ingredients and equipment at the fraction of the cost of store-bought yoghurt.

The session was a resounding success, with attendees gaining valuable knowledge. Starter cultures were generously shared on the day, and we're thrilled to hear that many attendees have already reported successful batches of homemade yoghurt. It's heart-warming to witness our community members embracing this new skill and incorporating it into their daily lives.

Crop Swap has always been about more than just trading surplus produce and plants; it's about building connections and supporting each other in sustainable living. These skill-sharing sessions are held in an informal setting immediately following our regular Crop Swap events, and the best part is that they are absolutely free! Everyone in the community is welcome to attend, regardless of their level of expertise.

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce a fermenting workshop

hosted by Peter following the November Crop Swap event. You can join us to learn the art of making sauerkraut and kimchi, turning your garden produce into gut-loving superfoods. If you're intrigued and eager to share your own skills with the community, we'd love to hear from you!

Whether you're a gardening guru, a culinary enthusiast, a preserving pro, or possess any other valuable skill that aligns with our community's interests, **please don't hesitate to reach out to Katja at katjaphegan@icloud.com.**

Let's grow together, learn together, and strengthen our bonds as we nurture our gardens and enrich our lives. See you at the next Crop Swap event – let's make it a morning of sharing, learning and growing!

Fish and Chips Fridays @ The Bowlo

The Taroona Bowls and Community Club is excited to announce we are now offering Fish and Chip Fridays @ The Bowlo! **Available between 5.30pm and 7.30pm every Friday, bookings are recommended, and takeaways are available.** The bowls green will be open for barefoot bowls, and our famous meat tray raffles are drawn at 7pm, so bring your friends and family for a fun night out. **Call The Bowlo on 6227 8243.**

Seasons in the South: a Tasmanian naturalist's journey of discovery – and recovery

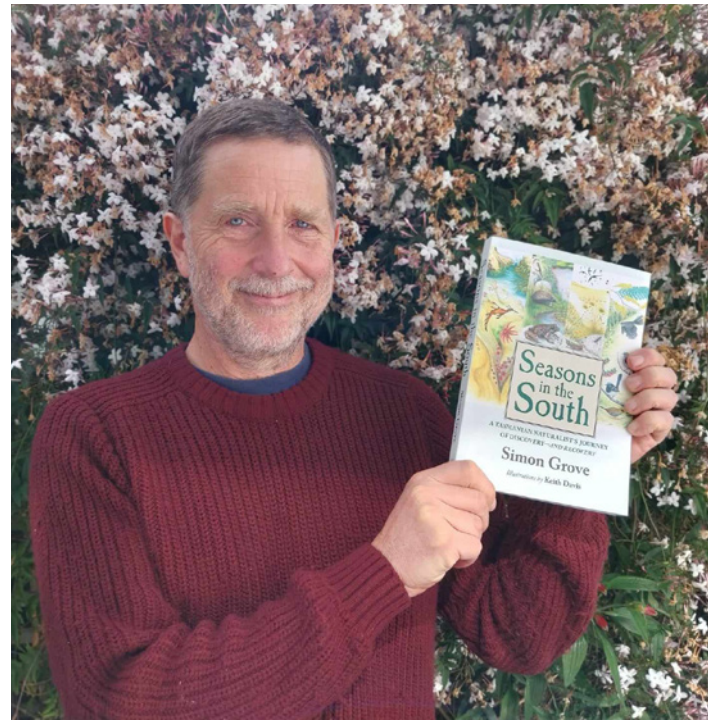
We are delighted to announce the publication of a new book by Taroona local, Dr Simon Grove.

'Seasons in the South: a Tasmanian naturalist's journey of discovery – and recovery' is a book that brings to life the diverse beings who make Tasmania home, and evokes the physical processes that formed the island and its inhabitants. Gorgeous illustrations by accomplished nature artist Keith Davis beautifully complement Simon's eloquent prose.

Simon conceived, wrote and published his book over the space of the post-pandemic years. Much was written at home, working around his full-time job as curator of invertebrate zoology at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery; but he also gained inspiration on camper-vanning retreats into the Tasmanian wilds, accompanied by his laptop and developing manuscript.

Seasons in the South is structured as twelve chapters, one for each month, and each contains a series of season-specific 'vignettes'. These are themed stories that invite the reader to walk (or, sometimes, cycle or even swim!) alongside Simon as he relives memorable encounters with the natural world, from his Taroona backyard veggie patch to the beach, and from the ocean depths to the loftiest peaks. These stories offer readers a deeper appreciation of what is so special about Tasmanian nature – particularly in the often-overlooked worlds of insects and other invertebrates, which have fascinated the author since childhood (see sample pages opposite).

Within Simon's stories of travel and discovery in Tasmanian nature is woven another tale – of his own journey, with his family, as they settled and made their lives in Taroona, beginning more than twenty years ago. That journey was shockingly interrupted when Simon was unexpectedly diagnosed with a life-threatening



illness. Readers will feel a subtle yet seismic shift halfway through the book, when Simon devotes an 'interlude' chapter to the story of his illness, and his realisation that access to the natural world was crucial to his recovery.

Simon's personal story is interwoven with far bigger narratives, on a human and more-than, or other-than, human scale. *Seasons in the South* is, ultimately, a haunting and graceful offering – a journey of discovery, and recovery – of fate, change, and hope.

Seasons in the South is published by Forty South, and will shortly be available for purchase online at southernseasons.com.au, as

well as from the publishers and local booksellers, from November. It will be launched at Fullers Bookshop on 23rd November (bookings required).

A special offer is being made to Taroona residents, who can arrange free local delivery or pickup by contacting Simon directly via the form at southernseasons.com.au/buy-in-person. Through the Taroona Good Karma Network Facebook group, Simon also intends to let locals know where and when they can buy signed copies of the book in-person, in the lead-up to Christmas.

Seasons in the South
A TASMANIAN NATURALIST'S JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY—AND RECOVERY
Simon Grove
Illustrations by Keith Davis

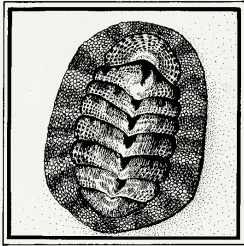
simon@southernseasons.com.au 0428 958509

\$59.95

Find out more & order online:
southernseasons.com.au

- 🍷 416 pages
- 🍷 13 colour plates
- 🍷 81 line drawings

OF COWRIES, CHITONS AND CONCHOLOGICAL COLLECTIBLES 57



Of cowries, chitons and conchological collectibles

Perhaps because, during my first decade in Tasmania, I was spending many of my working days in the forests, during my leisure time, I increasingly found the seashores more alluring than the bush. Well before we arrived in Australia, and once it became clear that this was our next move, I had a recurring dream in which I was soaring over the ocean, with a deserted, sandy beach ahead of me. I would swoop down over the beach and see hundreds upon hundreds of beautiful seashells strewn across the sand. The beach was my dream come true—except, of course, it *was* just a dream. Still, even before we moved into our house in Taroona, we had acquainted ourselves with the local shoreline, and I had been delighted to find my first cowrie shell on Taroona Beach. I took it as a good omen, a sign that we had chosen the right place to put down roots and raise our kids. And so it proved to be; for all sorts of reasons, not only those connected to the beach. But, for me, there's nothing like an accessible, varied-yet-intimate piece of coastline to engender a strong sense of place. Before long, I was taking daily walks along the Taroona foreshore, soaking up the sights, sounds and smells, in weather fair and foul. Taroona Beach faces south, towards the Southern Ocean and the Antarctic, and cops the full might of a southerly gale. On fair summer days, afternoon sea breezes heading inland, and up the estuary of the Derwent, frequently whip up whitecaps offshore. They can rapidly put paid to notions of passing a balmy evening around a barbecue in the adjacent park. Northerlies, on the other hand, whizz overhead and out to sea, flattening incoming waves and becalming the shoreline. On such a day, the water takes on an azure hue and the only sound from the sea is that of the gentle rise and fall of the swell sloshing around the shoreline rocks.

58 OCTOBER

Taroona rekindled my childhood interest in seashells. To be fair, the interest had never really gone away; but, in Tasmania, I dived in again, deeply. Every walk on the beach would reveal newly cast-up treasures that I would try and identify. Meanwhile, exploring the jumble of intertidal dolerite boulders between the beaches revealed plenty of live molluscs.

I'm surprised that some people don't know where seashells come from, so let's clear that up. They're the permanent exoskeletons—effectively the homes—of living molluscs. The mollusc animal lives within and secretes the shell, adding to its outer edge as it grows and requires more space. It's not like a hermit crab, which has to find a new, preloved, empty (or empty!) mollusc shell to inhabit as it grows. Gastropod molluscs (other than the sluggy sort) live within single shells, which may be conical (limpets) or coiled (snails). Bivalve molluscs (clams) live wedged between two shells or 'valves'. Chitons are strange molluscs that huddle beneath their eight articulated shell plates, usually attached to a rock in the manner of a limpet, but with the flexibility of a slater. I later learnt that the name of our suburb was said to derive from the local Aboriginal word for 'chiton', which confirmed my feeling that we had been meant to settle in Taroona.

Think you know your suburb?



From Taroona's own legendary MC and Quizmaster, Peter Gugger, comes a quiz about our suburb that should challenge even the most knowledgeable of locals:

1. Crown Princess Mary of Denmark is Taroona's most famous daughter. In which Taroona street did Mary and her family, the Donaldsons, live?
2. Above the high tide mark on Crayfish Point you will find Tasmania's oldest marked colonial grave belonging to James Batchelor. In what year was he buried?
3. The long overdue modernisation of the toilet block at Taroona Beach is well underway. According to the plans the builders are working off this structure will now be known as the Taroona Beach what?
4. On what Taroona landmark is this written in stone?:
The Grange September 23rd 1883
Be ye merciful – even as your father is merciful
5. Channel Highway is a secondary road numbered B??
6. Heading south on Channel Highway what number bus stop is closest to the Picnic Basket?
7. What county are we in here in Taroona?
8. What's the name given to the creek which runs into the Derwent on the northern boundary of the Primary and Secondary schools?
9. The Taroona Tennis club is the same age as the compiler of this quiz. They were both born in what year? A musical clue: "When I get older losing my hair".
10. What seabird features on the front page of this newsletter?

Answers on page 13 →

What's happening at IMAS Taroona?

A new digital home for IMAS fisheries research



Images (clockwise from top left): Tiger Flathead, which is classified as sustainable in Tasmania (Photo: NRE Tasmania); Southern Rock Lobster; Blacklip Abalone (Photo: NRE Tasmania); Longspined Sea Urchins (Photo: Scott Ling); Southern Calamari (Photo: Antonia Cooper) and Commercial Scallops (Photo: Bob Lister).

IMAS fisheries research now has a digital home, with the launch of a new website reporting the health of Tasmania's fish stocks and the research used to underpin the Government's management decisions.

The Tasmanian Wild Fisheries Assessments website, developed by fisheries researchers at IMAS Taroona, presents over 30 assessed fisheries, including scalefish, Southern Rock Lobster, Blacklip and Greenlip Abalone, Calamari, Longspined Sea Urchins and Commercial Scallops. Historically, these assessments have only been accessible separately and were updated infrequently, limiting their accessibility to the Tasmanian community.

"There are species-specific webpages outlining our research and how it informs the government's management of marine resources, thus ensuring the long-term sustainability of our fisheries," IMAS researcher and website project manager Dr Karlie McDonald said.

"This includes information on stock status, fishery background, commercial and recreational catch, modelling, biology, ecosystem impacts, socio-economic indicators and research that supports current management measures."

Read the full article: bit.ly/tas-fisheries-research

Or jump straight into the website: tasfisheriesresearch.org

Sand Flathead length and age data have recently been added to our new Tasmanian Wild Fisheries Assessments website.

Length composition data shows spatial variability in flathead lengths and the importance of widespread sampling, while age composition data gives insights into how populations change over time and growth rates. This information allows researchers to assess stock status and trends which helps marine resource managers make well-informed decisions about the sustainable management of flathead populations.

You can find the data here: tasfisheriesresearch.org/sfh/surveys/

Chasing barrels and billfish: Sean Tracey and the science behind conserving pelagic fisheries

IMAS scientist Sean Tracey has spent many years catching tuna, swordfish and other large pelagic fish around Australia, but it's not just the thrill of the chase that drives him. He is dedicated to fisheries research – and especially to understanding and conserving these fascinating, energetic creatures.

Now the Fisheries and Aquaculture Centre Head at IMAS Taroona, Sean has been involved in fisheries and ecosystem research on a state, national and international level for 23 years. But for the past decade he's been particularly focused on studying large pelagic fish species, like tuna and billfish, and the recreational fisheries that target them.

Sean was recently recognised for his work in this area with the International Game Fish Association's (IGFA) 2023 Barry M. Fitzpatrick Conservation Award. Established in 1993, the award honours those who have made significant and outstanding contributions to fisheries conservation.

"It's an honour for the large pelagic research we do at IMAS to be recognised by this IGFA award," Sean said. "It illustrates that IMAS is an international leader in this space through globally-relevant science, which opens up new opportunities to continue our research with scientists and fishers around the world."

Drop a line into Sean's story here: bit.ly/sean-tracey



Images (clockwise from top left): Sean Tracey with a Sailfish, Black Marlin, Southern Bluefin Tuna and Broadbill Swordfish.

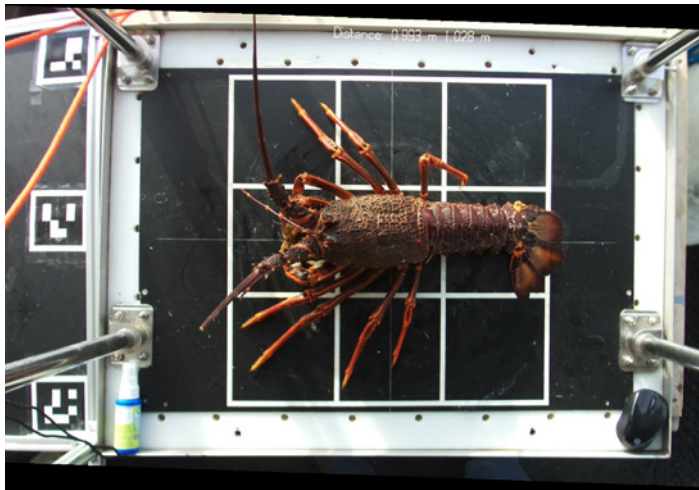
Rock lobster ‘photo tagging’ project shows promise

IMAS researchers have been able to identify individual Southern Rock Lobster through a new image recognition method, with this ‘photo-tagging’ technique set to help estimate Giant Crab growth rates that inform stock assessments and fishery management.

Our rock lobster research is informing a Giant Crab project that involves developing this image recognition method through artificial intelligence (AI) to identify crabs through their carapace (upper shell) colour patterns.

These patterns, which are like unique fingerprints, will assist with estimating crab growth rates as researchers can identify the same individual and compare its size before and after moulting.

This research is being conducted through rock lobster potting off Crayfish Point at Taroona.



IMAS researchers position rock lobster to photograph its shell spines, which will be used for identification purposes. This photo was taken during lobster potting off Crayfish Point in August.

About IMAS

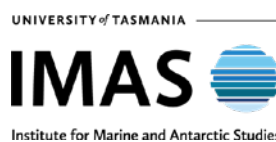
The Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) is a centre of excellence for both research and education at the University of Tasmania with campuses in Launceston, Salamanca and Taroona.

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.

Email: alex.luttrell@utas.edu.au



Taroona Football Club was thrilled to see the well-deserved recognition of our Women’s Super League coach, Karen Wills, honoured recently as WSL Coach of the Year. Karen represents all that is so wonderful about our community club and we are grateful for her mentoring of our young players over many years.



If you or your young person would like to be part of your local club please visit www.taroonaafc.org and check out what is happening. School holiday clinics are starting soon!

Answers to Know Your Suburb Quiz, page 11:

1. Morris Avenue
2. 1810
3. Bathing Pavilion
4. The Grange horse trough
5. B68
6. 29
7. Buckingham
8. School Creek
9. 1959 (When I'm 64)
10. Black-faced cormorant

Taroona Tennis Club News



95 year old Alan Harvey at his weekly session

Many people in Taroona have decided that tennis is a wonderful sport! The membership of the Taroona Tennis Club is currently approximately 220, the highest it has been for many years.

The Club's facilities are excellent and the committee is determined to maintain this great standard. To this end two grant applications have recently been submitted. One seeks funds from Andrew Wilkie's office to make purchases to assist volunteers and the other requests financial support from the State Government so that court fencing can be renewed. Later a major State Government grant will be sought to enable the Club to renovate the clubhouse.

As always the courts are being used constantly. Juniors participating in the Tassie Junior League played at Taroona on some recent Saturday mornings. There are always coaching opportunities available with Andrew Etherington. Taroona High School is interested in using the courts. Social tennis is available and there are opportunities for family and friendship groups to play together. Non members are welcome to make court bookings using the online Book a Court system.

The age range seen at the Club is remarkable; there are small children and quite a few players aged over 80. Alan Harvey (pictured) plays each Tuesday morning – at 95!

At the end of August members enjoyed the annual curry night in the clubhouse. The function is now known as "Tony's Curry Night" in memory of past President, Tony Hope, who founded the night some years ago.

The 2024 Australian Seniors Championships will take place next year in Hobart from January 14th to 26th. The event will attract players of a very high standard. Some of the matches will be played at Taroona. The Club is looking forward to showing its wonderful facilities to players from all over the country and even overseas and there will be many opportunities for local people to watch excellent tennis being played.

The Club's AGM will take place in November. A new committee will be elected to support the developments already in place and to perhaps establish new initiatives.

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

Book Sale 2024

The Lions Club of Kingborough will be conducting the Annual Book Sale during the first week of July 2024.

Due to the non-availability of the Taroona Centre, the Sale will again be held in the Kingborough Community Hub.

In the meantime we have commenced collection already.

So if residents are downsizing, moving house or cleaning out Mum or Dad's home and need to dispose of books, please contact our members.

We will collect and provide boxes too.

Books may be dropped at the Brookfield Shed Margate if convenient.

For more info, contact Alan 0417 528 463 or Sue 0409 442 593.



Taroona Pump Track upgrade

The Pump Track has enjoyed a face lift. Sam and Ben from Next Level Mountain Biking have recently completed this work and the track is now open for riding. They have cleared the drains, reshaped some berms and resurfaced the track. Happy, and safe, riding everyone!

St Luke's News



Spring has sprung and it is lovely to feel the warmth of the sun, though it is also concerning as we hear of unseasonal high temperatures around the country.

St Luke's enjoyed a couple of celebrations over winter. On 12 July we had a community lunch with people from the church and wider community. We even had live music with piano and violin!

On the 26th of July we enjoyed a Christmas in July Dinner with guest speaker Margaret Savage from Anglicare. We tie this annual event in with donations to Anglicare's winter appeal. As well as food donations we collected some generous cash donations on the night. Margaret spoke of the history of the work of Anglicare to reach the needy in the community as they celebrated their 40th Anniversary this year. She also spoke of the impact of our current socio-economic climate and the continued need to provide for and advocate on behalf of the homeless and those who struggle to live flourishing lives for a variety of reasons.

We are gearing up now for St Luke's Spring Festival on the 21st of October from 2-5pm. We have experienced wet weather over the past few years, but we remain ever hopeful of a sunny day! We look forward to welcoming you for afternoon tea and entertainment with the Augusta Singers, and the opportunity to buy a cake, or some fresh bread one of our members is baking – yum! And of course, all the regulars; bric-a-brac, books, recycled clothes, cards, jams and preserves and more! There's still room if someone would like a stall, please contact me for details.

Our playgroup has been thriving and we welcome any new members on Tuesdays from 10:30-12 (during school terms). Today they enjoyed the sunshine and headed to the community park. For those needing space to 'write', our writing group continues to meet on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm. Exercise class on Thursdays at 10am and to explore and grow in faith we have prayer and bible studies on Wednesdays from 10am.

As always, I'm around for a chat. Ruth Hanlon 0401 637 071

Spring Festival



Saturday
21st October 2023
2pm~5pm

**Books, Bric-a-brac,
Cakes, Cards, Plants,
Pre-loved clothes
& much more!**

Afternoon Tea
Augusta Singers

St Luke's
173 Channel Hwy
Taroona (entrance off Coolamon St)



LIVING WITH WILDLIFE *Together*

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

COME ALONG TO A COMMUNITY
RUN EVENT TO DISCUSS ROAD KILL
PREVENTION AND WAYS WE CAN
HELP KEEP OUR UNIQUE
TASMANIAN WILDLIFE SAFE.

What's On?

- 2:00pm** - Screening of ABC short documentary "Road Kill Warriors" with a Q&A with local cast and crew Ruth Waterhouse and director, Lara van Raay
- 2:30pm** - Find out what's involved in wildlife rescue and caring for wildlife, including how to get training.
- 3:00pm** - Guest speakers on topics such as how community mental health is effected by road kill, best practice for urban / rural development with wildlife in mind from across the world and what steps can we take to lower the deaths of our unique animals on our Kingborough roads.

THERE WILL ALSO BE INFORMATION
STALLS AND SIGNS, STICKERS, POUCHES
AND POSSUM BOXES FOR SALE.

Kingston Beach Hall
20 Beach Rd, Kingston Beach
Oct 21st. 2pm - 4pm

Hosted by Blackmans Bay Community Association, Wildlife & Community Together and Friends of Tasmanian Wildlife



Taroona Scout Group: community together



Our group has enjoyed community support for over 69 years and next year in spring we will be celebrating our 70th anniversary. We would love any memorabilia of scouting you may have at your homes. We have already had one family say they would like to donate some of their things to the group. Please contact us if you have any.

We are currently planning our legendary Christmas Tree and Produce sale scheduled for the middle of December – the date to be confirmed but either the December 9th or 16th. We will again be selling jam and tomato seedlings but this year we will have the addition of Christmas reindeer of assorted sizes from fawns to does to bucks.

The Taroona Scout youth members and leaders have been very active as usual. Our Joeys attended a Southern Region Joey event – they took part in a quiz around the Museum, their first aid skills were improved, they went on a night walk, built a bush shelter and took part in a bike night with the cubs finishing with a BBQ for all who came – about 50 all up. It was a great night. The Cubs had their first sleepover for the year sleeping in tents and bush shelters, and bike night was also part of their term. Seventeen cubs are really looking forward to attending the Cuboree with many cubs from around the state. Several cubs also entered the Kingborough Council Salvage Art competition – they used glass collected from the foreshore in Taroona.

The highlights for the Scouts have included a district camp and a snow camp – the one weekend in the last three months where there was snow. Two weeks ago we celebrated two scouts receiving their peak award for Scouts – The Australian Scout Award – previously called the Australian Scout Medallion. The Venturers are planning a trip to Freycinet and are learning to dry their own food. Along with the Scouts they also collected for Legacy in September, as they have done for many years .

If you would like any information about our Scout group, either about your child joining or any events we have coming up, we do have a FB page and **you can contact either the Group Leader, Janet on 0438 705 319 or Committee Chair, Mike 0418 991 602.**



Australian Scout Award recipients



First Cub sleepover for 2023



Venturers at the Bowling Alley



Scouts at a district camp



It's hard to believe that Term 4 is just around the corner, along with all the end of year celebrations that come with it. The Taroona High School Association has had a busy few months supporting a number of events at the school, including Ember, which is a showcase of contemporary music, the Quiz Night organised by the Student Representative Council and the Spring Arts Festival which is a fantastic celebration of music, drama, graphic design and art in all its forms. It was great to see so much talent on display as well as so many students, parents, carers and community members at these events and huge thanks go to everyone involved in organising each of them. Funds raised at these events by the School Association directly benefit the school and students via our teacher and student grants.

The Grounds Subcommittee has also been busy, mainly with establishing an Orchard in the school grounds, with a recent working bee seeing completion of the structure and planting of 15 trees including apples, pears, plums and citrus. The orchard was made possible with a grant from the Queen's Jubilee fund. Upcoming events include STEM next on 23 November and this year's school production which is *Crazy for You* (music by George and Ira Gershwin), with performances at the school on 8, 9, 11 and 12 December. Tickets are available from Trybooking. Keep an eye on the school's Facebook page for further information on these events.

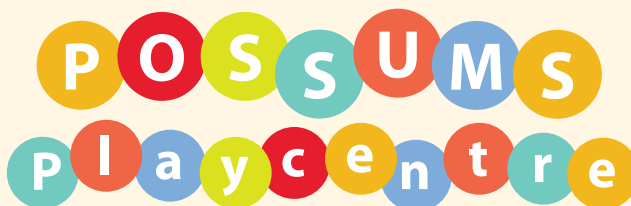
Are you interested in joining our Committee?

The THSA is seeking a community member to represent the local community at Taroona High School for a three year term, subject to election by the current Committee. The Community Member cannot be the parent of a student enrolled at the school. Attendance at monthly meetings (third Monday in the month during term time) is expected.

Interested candidates can contact the school on 6227 7700 or email the THSA Secretary at taronahigh.assoc@gmail.com



Orchard establishment. Above: THS students Bruni Lees and Charlie Barclay give fencing contractor Sam Fox-Hughes Southern Tas Fencing a hand.



Term 3 was an exciting one for our little Possums with local excursions around our neighbourhood, the Sustainability Centre at Mt. Nelson and a trip to the Library in Kingston to look at beginning coding. This excursion also included a visit to the Hub playground.

Recently we had a great Possums Quiz night fundraiser and lots of fun was had by all. Thank you all for coming along and joining us.

Possums has been operating on Wednesday 9 to 12, and Friday 9 to 1 in term 3. Is there any interest in our community for an extra day on either the Monday or Thursday? We would have to have sufficient numbers to go ahead with this. We are full on Friday for term 4 but have vacancies on the Wednesday.

Please contact us on our mobile on 0418 390 432

– Jo Nash



Farewell Ozus Coffee Van

Taroona residents have noticed something very different since Saturday, September 16th. The Coffee Van has gone! Never fear, it will be back.



Maggie and Theo opened the Ozus Coffee Van in 2019 before Covid, and the community would like to very sincerely thank them for initiating this wonderful social hub. It really was a life saver during Covid; people could still get a great barista coffee and, even when we were not allowed to sit together, a quick chat with friends was possible. The outdoor setting provided such a safe Covid environment.

Since Covid, the Van has been the centre of much social contact in Taroona. There have been many organised get togethers of friends and family, meetings and even counselling sessions. The Van has been the location for birthday celebrations and even the starting point for small business ventures. It has provided so many great opportunities for informal social contact; this has been wonderful. One would arrive for a coffee and almost always there would be some friendly people there. Comments such as, "I feel quite peeved if there is no-one here to talk to" and "I came a bit later so I could be sure of a chat" have been heard.

Everyone has been made to feel welcome at the Van and the park location and availability of milk crate seating have enabled people to sit close together or widely spaced. Everyone has felt safe, even the dogs. They have certainly contributed to the friendly atmosphere and coffee drinkers have watched the



Theo and Maggie, October 2019

transition from puppyhood to adult dog status of some regulars.

The young people who have worked at the Van have been a delight. They made excellent coffee and quickly learnt customers' names and the peculiarities of their orders. All were wonderful, but Lauren and Jana deserve a special mention as they made such a contribution to Taroona for a long time. They were always so cheerful and friendly.

The Ozus Coffee Van really brought the community to life and engendered such a feeling of togetherness. Everyone is very sorry to see the end of this first era. People know however that the Van has been purchased by a Taroona person and are looking forward to supporting the new owners. As the warmer weather arrives, people will once more be seen sitting with their coffee in the park at the entrance to Taroona!



... and welcome Helios Coffee

My partner David and I are delighted to be the new owners of the coffee van which has been such a popular location for the Taroona community. For those that don't know me my name is Helen Cooper, and I have been a Taroona resident for over 30 years. Becoming the new owner of the coffee van happened very quickly, and we are glad to have been given this opportunity. New challenges and experiences are what got us interested – and the love of a good tasting coffee.

We commend Maggie and Theo who put in all the hard work to make the van the success it is today. And also our sincere

appreciation to Maggie for her ongoing support and guidance.

The name Helios, meaning the god of sun, was inspired by the beautiful rising sun at that location which makes it such a great spot! A great way to start the day. We're so happy that Lulu and Eliza will be staying on, and Lauren will be making a comeback – it's a great support for me. Cheeky Devil Coffee Roasters will continue to be part of the coffee experience at the Taroona coffee van. And we plan to keep the same trading hours.

*Hoping to have official opening mid October – please follow us on Instagram for announcement of official launch: **helioscoffee2023***



What an incredible WOSSA season!

The water temperature dropped early and stayed low, averaging 10 deg over the season. Perfect WOSS conditions!

Winter swimming is wonderful! The sun shines, the laughter is loud.

WOSSING is not a cult! It is just a heap of fun!

#wossaswim

#coldisthenewcool



Taroona residents were recently treated to a low rainbow display – a phenomenon where only the top portion of the “bow” is visible above the horizon. The higher the sun in the sky, the lower is the bow.

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



PIC OF TAROONA



Breaching humpback whale off Taroona

Humpback whales are a migratory species usually seen in the Derwent River in spring as they head south to Antarctica. They are famous for breaching – propelling themselves high out of the sea. Scientists suggest breaching and slapping play a role in both long-distance and close-range communication. By slamming their massive bodies back into the water, the resulting sounds can travel enormous distances.

Photo taken from the Alum Cliffs, 19 September 2023, by Mick Brown

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Fiona Rice

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Committee: Damian Devlin, Dal Andrews, Roger Kellaway, David Roberson

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

Newsletter contributions: taronacommunitynewsletter@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.

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