



# 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 over many thousands of years.*

Dear Taroona residents,

Welcome to our last newsletter for 2026. As I sit and write this, I'm looking out at the river and have seen wind, rain and now the sun – and in each of these conditions, Taroona looks beautiful and I think again how lucky I am to live here.



SIMON GROVE

Summer has arrived according to the calendar but not yet in terms of the temperature, so Taroona is verdant from the rain and there is promise in the air for summer flowers and vegetable crops. This summer you will have the chance to look closely at what other people are growing by buying tickets to the inaugural Taroona Garden Trail. It should be a wonderful event.

Reading this newsletter I am reminded of the popular seasonal community events coming up like Carols on the Lawn and Boxing Day at the Bowlo. I think there is something for everyone so make sure you get involved.

As well as the joys of warm weather, like holidays and swimming, there are also always concerns about the risk of bushfires. The recent fires at Dolphin Sands are a reminder that even with a "normal bushfire season" forecast (read the weather forecast by Paul Fox Hughes in this newsletter), the worst case scenario can occur, so please head to <https://bushfire.tas.gov.au> to find out exactly what you need to do to be prepared.

And now to thank you. Thank you to all the members of the TCA committee for their support, thank you to Liz and AI for producing and getting the newsletter delivered to you, and thank you to all Taroona residents for the many ways you contribute to our suburb.

I hope you have a safe and relaxing holiday period.

Merry Christmas.

– Anne Parrott, President of the Taroona Community Association

## Calendar

### December

Sun 14 **St Luke's Carols on the Lawn**,  
St Luke's Church, 5.30pm

### January

Sat 3 **Taroona Crop Swap**, Taroona  
Neighbourhood Garden, 10am sharp

Sat 3 **Taroona Sippers and Purlers**, Taroona  
Shot Tower 2–4 pm

Tues 27 **IMAS drop-in session**, Taroona Bowls  
and Community Club, 5.30pm

### February

Sun 1 **TEN Working Bee**, Hinsby Beach, 10–12

Sun 1 **Possums Gathering**, Taroona  
Community Hall, 2–4pm

Sat 7 **Taroona Crop Swap**, Taroona  
Neighbourhood Garden, 10am sharp

Sat 7 **Taroona Sippers and Purlers**, Taroona  
Shot Tower 2–4 pm

Sun 15 **Taroona Garden Trail**, 10am–1pm

Sun 15 **Taroona Neighbourhood Garden Trail  
Celebration**, 1pm–3pm

### March

Sun 1 **TEN Working Bee**, Taroona Beach, 10–12

Sat 7 **Taroona Crop Swap**, Taroona  
Neighbourhood Garden, 10am sharp

Sat 7 **Taroona Sippers and Purlers**, Taroona  
Shot Tower 2–4 pm



A Christmas favourite! The Taroona Volunteer Fire Brigade Christmas truck is plying our streets on **Sat 13th Dec** – starting Bonnet Hill @ 11.40, finishing Grange Ave @ 3.15. Route, times on TGKN.



# News from the TCA

Committee members of the TCA are often asked 'What do you actually do?!' Whilst we're very good at promoting all of Taroona's wonderful natural assets and showcasing the work of our many voluntary groups through our quarterly newsletter and occasional events, we're not very good at promoting ourselves and the variety of work that we do. In response, we've recently designed a pull-up banner to display at our various events. Thanks to Liz Haywood for the beautiful design.

A sub-committee of the TCA recently held a planning session to establish priorities for the coming year. Our four new committee members have many good ideas, so it promises to be a busy year for the TCA and fun times ahead for the community.

In **September** we had our AGM preceded by an inspiring talk by Simon Grove entitled *"Taroona a place for all seasons"* in which he highlighted the many reasons we are so lucky to live in this suburb. There were many wonderful photos of people, beaches, landscapes, flora and fauna and lots of questions and discussion to follow the talk.

The AGM saw the election of four new committee members, all relative newcomers to Taroona with fresh insights.

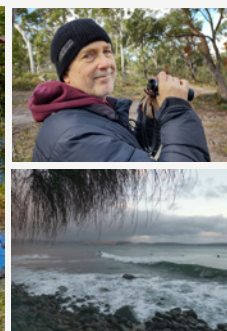
In **October** we hosted a showing of the film "White Rock" at the Bowls Club. This film showed dramatic footage of the damage to kelp forests on the East Coast of Southern Australia, including Tasmania, caused by the incursion of the long-spined sea urchin.

*From top: 1/ Simon Grove's presentation at the TCA AGM.*

*2/ Screening of the White Rock film at the Bowls Club; Sea urchin roe, or "uni," – now a premium Tasmanian seafood export.*

*3/ From left, TCA President Anne Parrott, Vice-President Fiona Rice, Jamie Wood and Planning Coordinator Jill Hickie with the new TCA banner at the land transfer function.*

*4/ Local residents celebrate the transfer of land from IMAS to Taroona Park.*



NIGEL RICHARDSON



NIGEL RICHARDSON

Balancing this though, was a hopeful message that harvesting the urchins could provide food, work and save the kelp. We were very lucky to have David Allen from the sea urchin industry and Dr John Keane from IMAS in attendance and Kim Shore, a Taroona resident facilitated a fascinating Q and A session after the screening. David also donated some sea urchin which tasted a lot better than it looked. We used it in sushi and convinced many in the audience that eating the problem would be a very palatable solution.

Then in **November** we hosted a small community gathering to mark the transfer of an important 8952m<sup>2</sup> patch of Tasmanian blue gum forest (adjacent to IMAS and Taroona Beach) from the University of Tasmania to Kingborough Council for inclusion into Taroona Park. This transfer was thanks to the work of many local residents working together and was a very good outcome for Taroona and particularly for local biodiversity conservation and the critically endangered Swift Parrot which annually flies through Taroona Park to feed on the blue gum blossoms. The sale agreement for the land between Council and the University includes the requirement for a conservation covenant.

If you would like to keep informed about upcoming events please follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/share/17Uv7JXEaQ/?mibextid=wwXlfr>.

We're always keen to hear from you and if you don't use Facebook you can also email us at [taronacasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:taronacasecretary@gmail.com).

## Have you joined the TCA yet?



Support local activities — including the production of this newsletter — by becoming a member of the Taroona Community Association. Simply scan the QR code to join and help support the best suburb in Australia!

### Membership options:

**Household** — \$20/year: For families or multiple people in one household.

**Single** — \$10/year: For individuals joining on their own.

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



BSB: 067102

Account number: 28011079

You can also pay online at our new website with your credit card: <https://taroona.tas.au/taroona-community-association/>

## Taroona Sightlines Project for 2026

If we were ambling through the semi-rural farmland of Taroona on a horse and cart in 1880, we would probably agree that the Channel Highway was “fit for purpose”. Those convict cuttings on the sharp bends in the highway were no problem at horse-drawn speeds and besides, horses could enjoy a drink at a number of intermittent streams on the “bends”.

But for today's suburban Taroona, that 19th century design of the Channel Highway has resulted in many legacy sightline issues as urbanisation, traffic volumes and speeds increased. Further complicating these designed-in constraints on sightlines, inappropriate vegetation and noxious weed growth since the 1967 bushfires have made the situation worse. The current reactive management of road reserve vegetation is also complex involving 3 separate organisations.

As a resident of Taroona you'll have no doubt experienced some near-misses and perilous crossings of the Channel Highway on or near the notorious Taroona “Bends”. The risks of being “T-Boned” at intersections, lashed by dangling blackberry vines on the bike path, or even simply crossing the highway where there is no footpath access, are ongoing and present hazards.

In early 2026 the Taroona Community Association intends to commence a Taroona Sightlines Project which aims to incrementally improve the safety and amenity of the Channel Highway through Taroona for pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and wildlife.

The primary focus of the project will be to identify feasible locations where the proactive management of vegetation and weed species on road reserves and verges can produce material improvements to sightlines and safety for users of the Channel Highway (including our omnipresent wildlife). Another important aspect of the project is the visioning of how our community would prefer its road reserve landscape to appear through the appropriate choice of selected low maintenance and suitable habit plantings.

It may sound like a huge project, but the “how to” will ultimately be negotiated with our community and stakeholders as part of the project.

If you would like more information, you can view the project brief and updates on the TCA web site, via *Taroona News* or contact me directly via email.

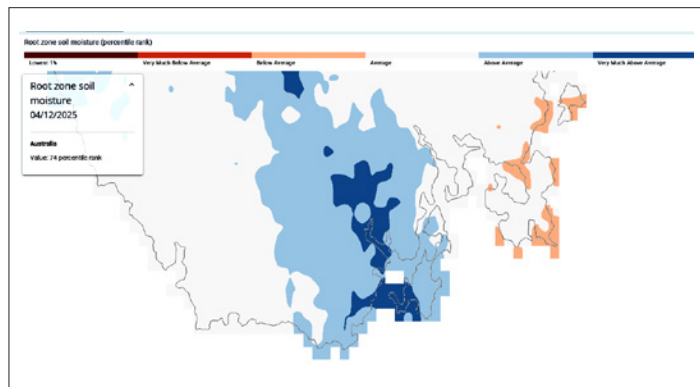
– **Damian Devlin, [damianmdevlin@gmail.com](mailto:damianmdevlin@gmail.com)**



# Taroona fire potential outlook for summer 2025–26

## Recent conditions

Due to a colder and wetter Spring than average, the soil around Hobart is more moist than normal at the end of the first week of December (Figure 1). Vegetation moisture content is thus correspondingly higher than average for the time of year and there is abundant spring growth which will dry off as normal by mid-summer, presenting a fire hazard.



**Figure 1.** Root zone soil moisture (RZSM) from Australian Water Outlook from <https://awo.bom.gov.au/>. Around and south of Hobart, RZSM at 5 December is above or very much above average.

## Outlook

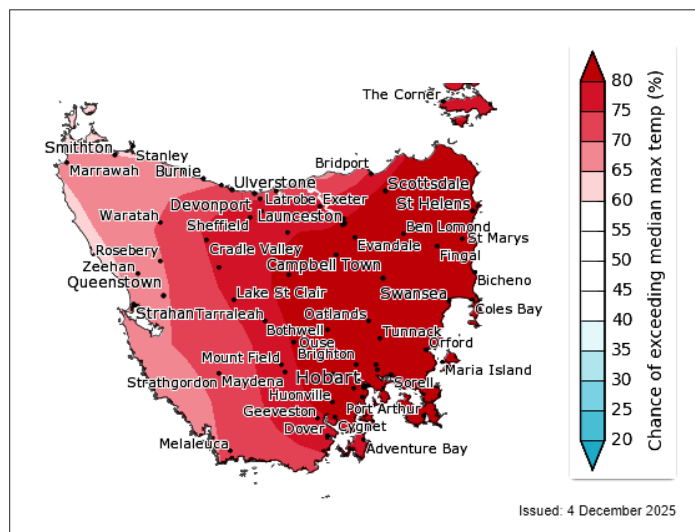
The outlook for the remainder of December, however, is for high confidence of lower than average rainfall for much of the month, until 22 December. Over the month as a whole and for January, there is no strong indication of either greater or lower than average rainfall. For summer as a whole, the northern two thirds of the state is likely to become drier than average, but from roughly Hobart southwards there is no strong indication of either higher or lower than average rainfall.

Similarly, there is no strong indication of higher or lower than average maximum temperature through December. However, *for January and for summer as a whole (see Figure 2), current outlooks indicate a high likelihood of above average maximum temperature. A very similar picture holds for minimum temperature.*

These indications are based on the latest BoM seasonal outlook information, updated 04 December 2025, available at: <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary> and <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary>

## Summary

Warmer than average summer conditions will contribute to the drying of abundant spring growth. There is no strong signal for drier than normal conditions though, which can be a strong indicator of a bad fire season. *So, indications are for a largely normal fire season. In southeast Tasmania – as we have seen in the last couple of days – this can still mean that fires can spread rapidly and be dangerous, so good preparations are important.*



**Figure 2.** Chance of exceeding average summer maximum temperature, indicating a 75% or greater chance of Hobart and surrounds exceeding average maximum temperature over the December 2025-February 2026 period.

This includes clearing spring growth from around houses.

– **Paul Fox-Hughes, High Impact Weather Research, Bureau of Meteorology**

*As Jack Beardsley (CSIRO, Firefighter TVFB) pointed out in the last issue of Taroona News, the combination of spring vegetation growth and expected above-average summer temperatures make it important to maintain regular property checks, reduce fuel hazards and stay connected to community fire safety information.*

*His tips bear repeating:*

## What you can do to stay prepared

- Clear gutters of leaves and bark to prevent ember ignition later in summer.
- Trim grass and remove fine fuels around the house and fence lines.
- Store firewood and flammable items away from buildings.
- Review your household bushfire plan and make sure all family members know what to do on high fire danger days.
- Install the TASAlert app on your smartphone, and monitor the Tasmania Fire Service website for updates as the season progresses.





# Council Wrap with Cr Kaspar Deane



Christmas is just around the corner and I'm looking forward to seeing Taroona come alive at the best time of year. The summer weather hasn't exactly arrived, but it feels like summer in one important way...an early crushing of England in the first Ashes Test. Travis Head for Mayor?

## Medical Centre Planned for Taroona

Continuing the trend of new developments in the last 12 months – think IMAS, Jenkins Street apartments, new apartments planned near the Taroona Village, and the Mary's Grange redevelopment – Taroona may now be set for a new medical centre.

A proposal is underway for a new medical centre at 124 Channel Highway, the site that was formerly home to the Korean Presbyterian and Baptist Church. Whilst it's early days in the planning process, if approved, the centre would operate seven days a week with seven clinic rooms, plus pathology and imaging services.

## Café Returns to Kingston Park

While not in Taroona, I think it's worth promoting a new spot that

will be particularly appreciated by families who visit Kingston Park. True Brew Café has now opened, filling the site where the Coffee Hole used to be and I'm sure they'd love to see you! And while you're there, keep an eye out for events at the Kingborough Hub; there are always great activities, but with limited advertising budgets, they're easy to miss.

## Food Vans at the Bend

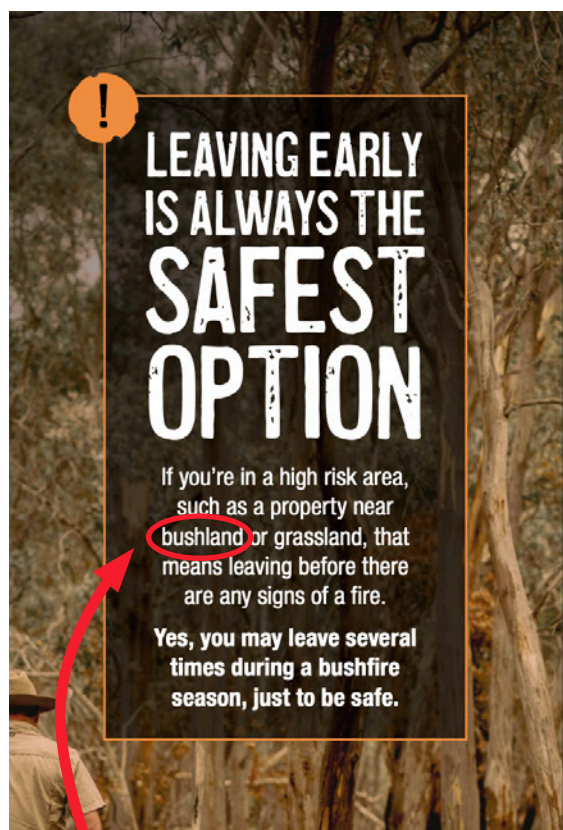
Talking of supporting local businesses, don't forget the Bowls Club does fish and chips on Fridays, plus the bend has a bunch of great take-away options: Yeastie Beastie (Mon & Fri), Helios Coffee (Tue–Sat), Italian Kitchen (Thu), Medici Pizza (Sun), and my favourite Get Greek (every 2nd Wed).

Here's to a summer full of good food, relaxation and Christmas cheer – and hopefully a few more wins in the Ashes! Wishing everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

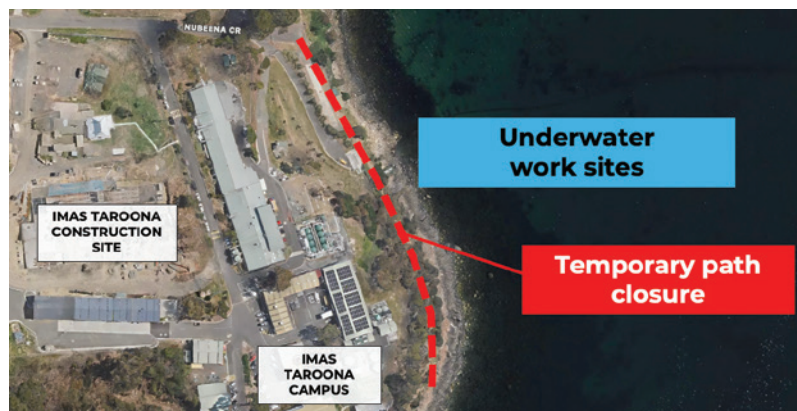
– Councillor Kaspar Deane

*\*Disclaimer - views stated here are my own as an individual Councillor and are not representative of Kingborough Council as a whole.*

*On high fire risk days (with an Extreme or Catastrophic rating), your first and safest option for survival is leaving early!*



*And this means everyone in Taroona!!*



## Upcoming partial closure: Taroona Foreshore Track

### Planned pipeline upgrades

For community safety, a section of the Taroona Foreshore Track near the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) campus will be temporarily closed for one week to enable underwater pipeline upgrades. The closure will occur sometime between November – February. Specific dates will be shared once the contractor is confirmed.

We're improving the existing intake and outfall pipes – infrastructure that supports and enables IMAS to conduct safe and sustainable operations, including research and species conservation. We greatly appreciate the community's understanding as we complete these critical works.

Have a question? Please contact Project Coordinator Amanda Strickland:  
P: 6324 3605 | E: Campus.Transformation@utas.edu.au

Learn more at  
[utas.edu.au/imas-taroona-transformation](https://utas.edu.au/imas-taroona-transformation)

# Taroona Environment Network News

## Assessment of Taroona foreshore vegetation values in a changing climate

During 2025 the Taroona Environment Network (TEN) engaged NorthBarker Ecosystem Services to conduct an independent



assessment of the environmental values of our work areas, supported by a Community Climate Change Action grant. Here are some of the findings:

### Environmental values

Three zones – Illawong Reserve, Taroona Park and Rotary Park – were identified by the assessment as priority areas of high biodiversity value, as previously highlighted in the 2015 Kingborough Interim Planning Scheme (KIPS). Illawong Reserve and Taroona Park consist of blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) dry forest and woodland, while Rotary Park (between Taroona High School and Karingal Court) hosts a mixture of white peppermint (*Eucalyptus pulchella*), black gum (*E. ovata*) and white gum (*E. viminalis*).

It comes as no surprise that these larger parcels of land (1, 3 and 4 ha. respectively) are more resilient to weeds (except around the perimeters) and respond well to TEN's rehabilitation efforts. These reserves also provide habitats for foraging by threatened swift parrots (all three zones) and forty-spotted pardalotes (Taroona Park, Rotary Park), as well as habitats for nesting and foraging by eastern barred bandicoots. Illawong Reserve provides important ecosystem services by creating ecological corridors to the north, south and west, while Taroona Park and Rotary Park create linkages along the foreshore and inland to large tracts of bushland.

The NorthBarker report justifies why TEN, TCA and other community groups have fought hard in the past to protect a forested section of Taroona Park from proposed IMAS building expansion (leading to a formal title transfer from UTAS to Kingborough Council in August 2025) and to protect Rotary Park from proposed subdivision by the Education Department in 2016 (planning application was withdrawn after intervention by then Education Minister Jeremy Rockliff following community pressure).

### Changes since the 2009 NorthBarker report

**Illawong Reserve:** A large pine was removed by Council and considerable improvements have been made by TEN.

**Taroona Park:** This popular recreation area contains sporting facilities, playground, picnic and toilet facilities. A new, detailed weed map shows that while the core bushland is in good



TEN Committee members engaging with NorthBarker consultant Sandy Leighton (centre) in assessing Illawong Reserve, March 2025. From left: Nel Smit, Nigel Richardson, Sandy Leighton, Simon Stephens, Gustaaf Hallegraef.

condition, major weed infestations along the upper boundaries with the Taroona Bowls Club, Skate Park and IMAS are diminishing the reserve values.

**Rotary Park:** So called because it was the site of a 1940s youth camp run by the Rotary Club of Hobart, this reserve includes a bicycle pump track and is well used for recreational and outdoor classroom activities. Celebrating its environmental and educational values, TEN developed a community interpretative trail of plant totems illustrated with Taroona Primary School children's drawings through the reserve in 2013.

The vegetation, which was last surveyed in 2001 as part of a Green Links project, was mapped in detail in 2025. This highlighted the existence of a rare sea clubsedge *Bolboschoenus caldwellii* in a natural freshwater seepage area near the foreshore. Nel Smit from Nipaluna Nursery successfully propagated 50 seedlings which TEN members planted near the high school creek just below the Southern Cross units in November this year.





NIGEL RICHARDSON

## Climate change impacts

Accelerating climate change is driving changes in rainfall, beach erosion and landslips. Bushfire risk increases with warmer, drier, windier weather. A drier climate may see some current weeds reduce their invasiveness, but more hardy weeds such as African boxthorn, boneseed and briar rose may become more widespread. Escaped garden plants ('sleeper weeds') that currently show no sign of invasiveness may suddenly spread following flood, fire, or drought. Trees that have stood for a hundred years are now being toppled by high winds. Drought stress has contributed to recent deaths of mature sheoaks and native hops, while white gums are notably susceptible to extreme heat leading to ginger-coloured sap oozing from ruptured bark (so-called "ginger syndrome").

Utilising a greater diversity of native plants for our revegetation efforts and monitoring their success increases the ability of these ecosystems to cope with change. However, we may all need to get used to vegetation changes such as ongoing tree decline from a warming climate rather than seeking to replicate pre-European eucalypt forests which are gradually transitioning to native shrublands.

We all have a responsibility to monitor and manage changes to Taroona's vegetation for the sake of its ecosystem services and for our children. You can report any unusual tree deaths or invasive weed changes via [info@ten.org.au](mailto:info@ten.org.au) or via our website [ten.org.au](http://ten.org.au)

– Nigel Richardson, Gustaaf Hallegraeff  
Taroona Environment Network



NIGEL RICHARDSON

*Top: TEN working bee in Taroona Park*

*Above: Planting of the rare sea clubsedge near a freshwater seepage (right) near Taroona High School, November 2025.*



## 2026 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 in week preceding.

DATE	WORK SITE
February 1	Hinsby Beach
March 1	Taroona Beach
April 12	Rotary Park



# The end of an era – Possums Playcentre to close

It is with great sadness that we announce the closure of Possums Playcentre as of 7th November 2025. This is due to reduced enrolments, increased insurance and Hall rental costs. Possums has brought joy and connection to everyone who has been involved over the years and I think I speak for everyone when I say we are so lucky to have been part of such a loving and wonderful community.

The Playcentre was started by a group of Taroona mums and moved on to become a not-for-profit centre in 1988. It began with 18 children. Kaysa de Vries was appointed as playcentre leader. Possums became an Incorporated Association in 1989 and was successful in securing a grant from the Tasmanian Department of Community Services to provide for the employment of an assistant. Christine Mathers loved her role as assistant and her wonderful piano playing was a special part of the children's sessions. Kaysa resigned at the end of 1989 to resume her teaching position at Channel Christian School. Lyn Long, who had been working at Fahan, became Possum's leader in 1990. She fell in love with the children in the community and ended up remaining there for the rest of her working life. She is affectionately referred to as Grandma Pos. One of Lyn's achievements was setting up a Possums Patch at the community garden in 2008. The children loved the garden, planting seeds, watching them grow and then cooking what they had grown. They learned so much in the garden and we, as educators, marvelled at the children's interest in their surroundings. They loved their snow peas and broccoli! Along came the mud kitchen and many hours were spent there enjoying the play and sunshine.

Karin Schaefer, Lucie Vermey and Kate Vermey were wonderful educators who joined the Possum's team. Their art and craft and cooking skills were shared with every little "possum." Lyn retired 4 years ago and I took over her role. I was so fortunate to carry on her legacy – they were certainly big shoes to fill. I loved every moment of being with the children, and being able to provide experiences in our beautiful local environment. I want to thank Eloise Crombie who spent a year with the children as leader and this year Susan Depaoli took over when I went travelling. Susan describes the centre as a "beautiful little community, where children are nurtured and parents come together afterwards in the playground to have a chat". These are also the fond memories I have of my time at Possums, which is coming up to 20 years since my children were there.

I want to thank everyone who has been involved in the running of Possums Playcentre, all the wonderful staff who have given hours of donated time to fundraisers, and the extras like the Lantern Parade (thank you Karin Schaefer for starting this). Thank you to 37 years of parent committees – without you Possums would not have been possible. A special thanks to Duncan Carey, our treasurer for the last three years and master of our BBQ days, and also Alesandra Downes who spent many hours attempting to keep us afloat. Thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their time to share their knowledge and skills with the children.

Possums is a gem and will never be forgotten.

– Jo Nash



*From top: 1/ Lyn Long and Christine Mathers back in the dawn of Possums.*

*2/ Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Possums. From left Kingborough Mayor Graham Bury, Karin Schaefer, Lucie Vermey, Kate Vermey, Christine Mathers and Kaysa de Vries.*

*3/ Possums Team of 2022. From left: Sietske Hunn, Karin Schaefer, Jo Nash, and Eloise Crombie.*

*4/ Possums team of 2025. From left: Ally Downes, Susan Depaoli and Heather Bester.*





## Possums Memories

*What springs to mind when I think of Possums? My hand goes straight to my heart. I smile, then let out a nostalgic sigh. Every morning when I dropped off my children, I felt calm, free and happy. A feeling every parent longs for.*

*How do you describe Lyn, Karin and Jo, who somehow managed to plan and entertain all the little ratbags who arrived each day? Calm. Creative.*

*Loving. Patient. Painting, singing, dress-ups, craft (some of which I still have), free play, gardening. And behind the scenes, the constant washing of little hands, setting up, packing away and cleaning up. The magic we saw as parents was built on so much unseen care and effort.*

*Even now, my phone address book is still filled with names like Sarah Possum, Andrew Possum, or Max's Dad and Charlie's Mum. Because that's how we knew each other. First names and our children. From that grew lasting friendships and memories I still treasure.*

*My three children who attended Possums are now 20, 18 and 17 and I honestly don't know how that happened so fast. I asked them, and a few old friends, to describe Possums in just a word.*

*Their answers said it all:*

**Nostalgic. Caring. Exciting. Community. Fun. Dress-ups. Billy carts. Playground. Little tables. Christmas shows. Community garden. Smiles. Play. Carrot sticks.**

*Possums clearly lives on in their memories and in my heart.*

*– Martine Siltman*



## POSSUMS Playcentre

*All Possums past and present,  
Possum Families, and  
Friends of Possums  
are invited to the*

## Possums Farewell Picnic

Please join us to celebrate the wonderful  
legacy that Possums Playcentre has left in  
our children's lives,  
and in our community,  
over almost 40 years.

**Taroona Community Hall  
Sunday, 1st of February, 2026  
2 to 4pm**

*Bring your own afternoon tea and a picnic blanket*



Our final day with all the little Possums. November 7th 2025





# What's happening at IMAS Taroona?



*Top: IMAS lead technician Ben Quigley with a Giant Crab.*



*Left: The fisher-operated imaging system, developed by IMAS researchers including lead technician Ben Quigley, is making it easier to capture crab length and sex.*

## Fisher-friendly tech gives Giant Crab science a claw up

A stereoscopic camera system that mimics human vision, combined with artificial intelligence (AI), is transforming how scientists and industry collect important data on Giant Crabs across southern Australia.

The new technology is enhancing data collection in Victorian, South Australian, and Tasmanian Giant Crab fisheries, which have faced challenges obtaining biological data because of small fleet sizes and high cost of deploying observers.

The fisher-operated imaging system was developed by researchers at the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and trialled onboard fishery vessels. It offers a practical, low-cost way to capture information on crab length and sex, data essential for stock assessments.

The research addresses a critical gap in data availability," said Dr Scott

Hadley, project lead and population dynamic modeller at IMAS.

"Giant crab fisheries across southern Australia lack consistent and representative length-frequency data due to small fleet sizes and operational constraints that limit observer coverage.

Without length-frequency data, management has relied heavily on reference points based on annual catch rates."

Trials showed the two-camera system combined with AI produced highly accurate length measurements with 95% of size predictions having a maximum error of 4mm, while a third camera identified sex classification with 95% accuracy.

"Fishers adopted the system quickly and operated it independently, collecting nearly 1600 crab images over a few fishing trips on two vessels, with 245 manually recorded to monitor models' accuracy," said co-investigator and IMAS researcher Dr Rafael León.

**Read the full story:** <https://tinyurl.com/5n9y7jdv>

## From dream to discovery: Student dives in to explore marine life recovery after Tonga eruption



*Left: George checks biological samples collected from a sled deployed from the RV Investigator.*



*Right: An image of a Stalked hydroid (Corymorphidae) in the Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai region was captured using a deep-water towed camera deployed from the RV Investigator.*

What started as a dream turned into reality for George Hamaty, who has just returned home to Hobart after being aboard CSIRO research vessel (RV) *Investigator* researching life in the aftermath of Tonga's explosive volcanic eruption.

George joined the voyage as a co-biologist, working alongside an international team of scientists investigating the aftermath of the Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai eruption.

That 2022 eruption sent ash 58 kilometres into the atmosphere, triggered a Pacific-wide tsunami, and dramatically reshaped the surrounding seafloor.



"I feel very lucky. I didn't expect to get an opportunity like this so early in my studies," said George, a University of Tasmania and Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) undergraduate student majoring in marine biology and geology.

"It was incredible to be part of such a diverse science team, collecting data and studying marine species in a completely unique environment."

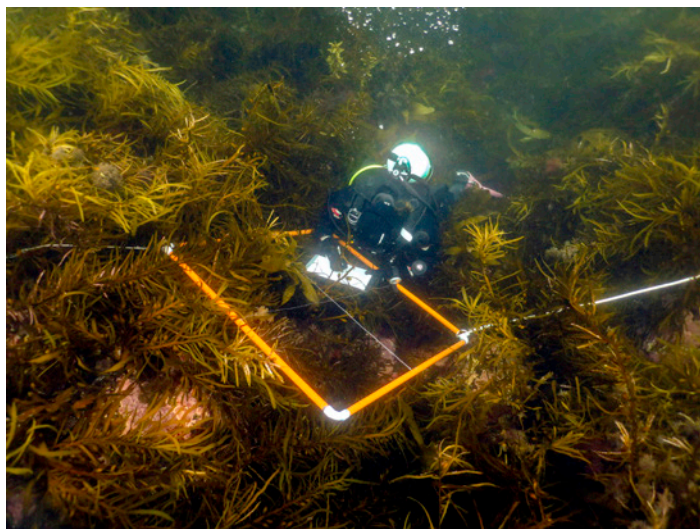
One of the highlights for George was witnessing marine life reclaim the seafloor around and inside the volcano through deep-water tow cameras.

"We saw so many shrimps down there, it was hectic. There were also some beautiful Corymorphidae and Holothurians, and a deep-sea batfish inside the volcano caldera.

"The batfish 'sits' on the seafloor with modified fins, just like the handfish in Tasmania. It's called a batfish because of the way it awkwardly swims, like a bat crawls along the ground," George said.

**Read the full story:** <https://tinyurl.com/5fa2swpw>

## Bringing current science together for evidence-based aquaculture management



*IMAS scientist conducts a Rapid Visual Assessment (RVA), a tool developed by IMAS.*

A new literature review series brings together current scientific research on how marine farming interacts with marine environments – and it will help to inform the sustainable management of the aquaculture industry in Tasmania.

Developed by the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and launched this week, the Aquaculture Environment Review Series collates the published scientific literature on the environmental effects of aquaculture in Tasmania and globally.

"The aim of the series is to support sustainable planning and regulation of marine farming in Tasmania, while providing a reference source for anyone interested in how aquaculture interacts with the environment," said Dr Camille White, a

researcher with the Aquaculture Environment Interactions program at IMAS.

"It offers an accessible, evidence-based resource that highlights what we know, where gaps remain, and how management can continue to evolve to support long-term environmental and economic sustainability."

The Aquaculture Environment Review Series will be regularly updated as new scientific information emerges. It will ultimately cover all forms of existing and proposed marine-based aquaculture in Tasmania.

**Read the full story:** <https://tinyurl.com/5n7huwsj>

## In other news...



Visit the **IMAS Taroona transformation website** for more construction information or to register for a community drop-in session to hear about site progress from the project team.

We have recently announced next year's dates for our drop-in sessions, with the next one being held 27 January. Stay up to date: scan the **QR code** to visit our dedicated IMAS Taroona Transformation webpage.



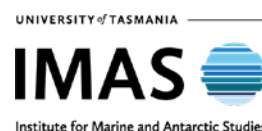
## About IMAS

The Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) is a centre of excellence for both research and education at the University of Tasmania.

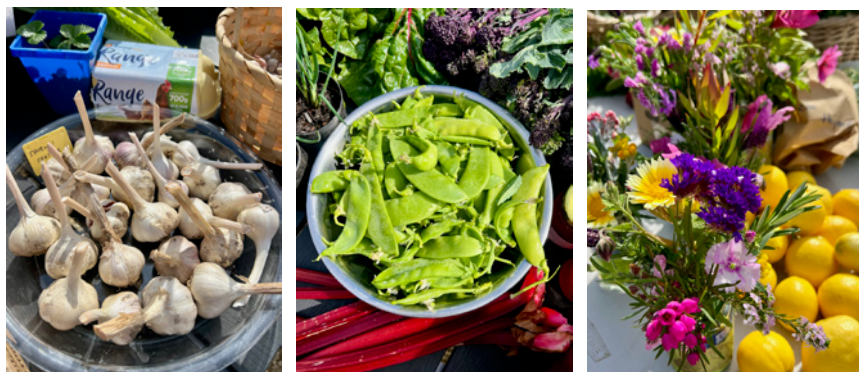
Our research is innovative, relevant, and globally distinctive. Our education delivers first-class programs resulting in highly trained scientists and researchers, serving the needs of academic institutions, industry, government and the community.

**Visit:** [imas.utas.edu.au](https://imas.utas.edu.au)

**Contact:** Communications Officer, Louise Creely 0417 239 537 or [louise.creely@utas.edu.au](mailto:louise.creely@utas.edu.au)



# Spring at the Taroona Neighbourhood Garden



Spring brought a wonderful buzz of activity back to the Taroona Neighbourhood Garden, with the past couple of months filled with learning, sharing, and plenty of home-grown abundance. From lively Crop Swaps to hands-on workshops, it has been a cheerful and connected season in the garden.

## Spring Crop Swaps: Abundance, Sharing & Community Spirit

Our spring Crop Swaps were once again a highlight – the tables piled high with garden extras: fresh greens, herbs, backyard citrus, preserves, cut flowers, seedlings, seeds and all the quirky seasonal gems our community loves to bring.

We've been thrilled to welcome new faces alongside long-time swappers, families, curious neighbours and those simply stopping in for a cuppa. While everyone is welcome, we gently encourage a mindset that helps keep the swaps fair and sustainable. The spirit of Crop Swap is wonderfully simple:

*Bring what you can, take only what you need, and keep the balance in mind.*

Some weeks you'll arrive with armfuls of produce; other weeks you might have only a little to contribute – and that's completely fine. What matters most is respect for the shared table and the generosity of all contributors. This mindfulness helps ensure the swaps remain joyful, abundant, and welcoming for everyone.

As always, each gathering wrapped with morning tea and shared gardening stories - from bumper harvests to wallaby woes.

## The Soil Connection Workshop — with Sarah & Dan from Oak & Rose Garden Co

In early October, we hosted The Soil Connection Workshop with Sarah and Dan from Oak & Rose Garden Co. This beautifully presented and highly educational session explored what makes soil truly healthy – and how deeply connected we are to the living world beneath our feet.

Participants learned about humans and humus, the importance of the mycorrhizal network, the role of fungi and bacteria, soil pH, plant diversity, and why "messy" gardens are often the most resilient. There were hands-on moments too, including Brix testing and practical discussions on weed and pest management that support, rather than disrupt, the soil food web. It was an inspiring session that left everyone seeing soil in a whole new light.

## Herbal Medicine Workshop — with Chantel & Raelene

In November, the garden hosted a Herbal Medicine Workshop with herbalists Chantel and Raelene. This gentle, hands-on session guided attendees through harvesting, processing and using everyday garden herbs for simple home remedies.



Together, participants blended herbal teas, made infused oils, and created soothing salves to take home. The workshop highlighted how many healing plants grow right outside our doors and how accessible herbal medicine can be with just a few basic skills. It was a warm, engaging afternoon that sparked lots of curiosity and enthusiasm for natural, home-made remedies.

## Looking Ahead

As we move into summer, more workshops, events and community activities are already in planning. A huge thank-you to everyone who has swapped produce, attended events, volunteered time or simply shared a smile in the garden. The Taroona Neighbourhood Garden thrives because of the people who make it a welcoming, connected space for all.

*We look forward to seeing you at the next event or simply down in the garden soon.*



## INAUGURAL TAROONA GARDEN TRAIL

TICKETS NOW OPEN

Taroona Neighbourhood Garden is delighted to announce the very first Taroona Garden Trail, happening on Sunday 15 February from 10am to 1pm – and Early Bird Tickets are now available!

This brand-new community event invites you to explore up to 15 beautiful private and public gardens across Taroona. Wander at your own pace, soak up inspiring ideas, and enjoy the incredible variety of gardens in our suburb – from coastal natives and rambling cottage beds to abundant veggie patches, edible food forests and creative backyard havens.

Whether you're an experienced gardener or simply curious to peek over a few fences, the trail offers something for everyone. Along the way, you'll have the chance to meet passionate garden hosts, swap tips, and discover just how diverse and vibrant Taroona's gardens really are.

After the trail, we'll gather back at the Taroona Neighbourhood Garden for a relaxed afternoon celebration and the chance to connect with fellow garden lovers.

The Taroona Garden Trail is also a fundraiser for the Taroona Neighbourhood Garden, with all proceeds supporting the upkeep of our shared space and helping us run workshops and community activities throughout the year.

We'd love to see you there – and encourage everyone to book Early Bird tickets while they're available.

Early Bird Tickets: [www.trybooking.com/DHSHI](http://www.trybooking.com/DHSHI)

*Come explore, connect, and help our community garden grow.*





# The BoM's new/old look website

There has been a lot of noise around the Bureau of Meteorology's remodelled online offering; some labelling it, pun intended, a bomb site!

While I'm far from an IT expert it would appear that much of the criticism is justified, certainly when it comes to the \$100 mil price tag! I'm generally an "if it ain't broke don't fix it" type of bloke and once one is able to navigate past the clunky new front end of the site it would appear that the Bureau and its overpaid IT consultants are of much the same mind. As far as my specific interest is concerned – rainfall data – they don't appear to have messed around with it much, if at all.

It would seem to be a case of, as our fellow French weather watchers might say, "plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose".

In light of all that I thought I'd just reiterate how those who would like to access up to date Taroona rainfall data can go about it.

If you choose to start from the new [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au) homepage, which is headed 'Discover your weather', scroll down to **Data services** on the right-hand side of the page and click on the arrow. Now scroll down to **Forecasts, warnings and observations** and click on the 'Find out about weather data services' link.

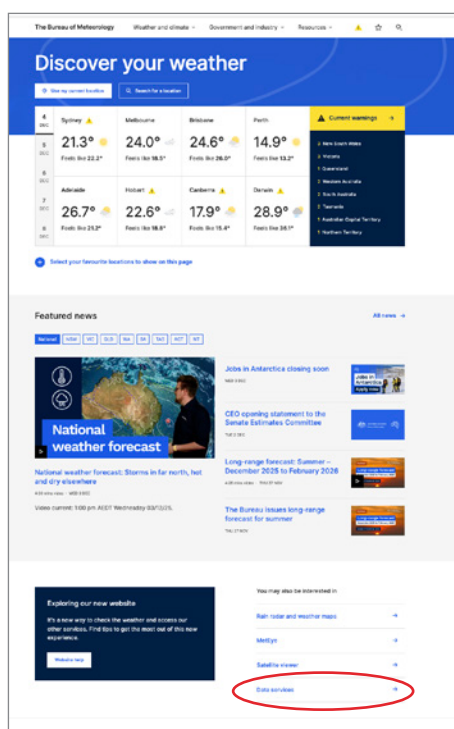
## Screenshot 1

Once you do that you're back into the good old-look pages where you click on TAS in the top line options.

From here on, the site looks and works exactly like it did before.

## Screenshot 2

To bypass all of the above, just type the following link into your browser: <https://reg.bom.gov.au/tas/?ref=hdr>, and click on **Tasmania Weather and Warnings**.



On the right-hand side of the Tasmania Weather and Warnings page, you'll find the **Past Weather** section with the purple heading. Click on **Data and Graphs** which opens **Climate Data Online**. Scroll down to the **Daily rainfall text search** which looks like this:

## Screenshot 3

Enter the **Taroona observation station number, 94111**, in section 3, then click the **Get Data** button.

You'll be taken to this year's up-to-date readings plus a summary at the bottom of the page of rainfall statistics for all years since readings began.

## Screenshot 4

If you'd like to look at those historical readings in more detail, go back to the Climate Data Online **Text Search** page and in section 1 switch from **Daily to Monthly** observations and re-enter 94111 as the station number in section 3. Hit **Get Data** and you'll have a page which looks like this:

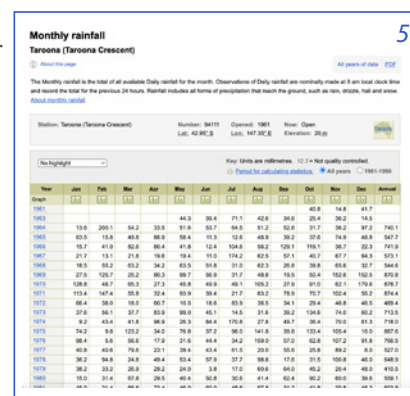
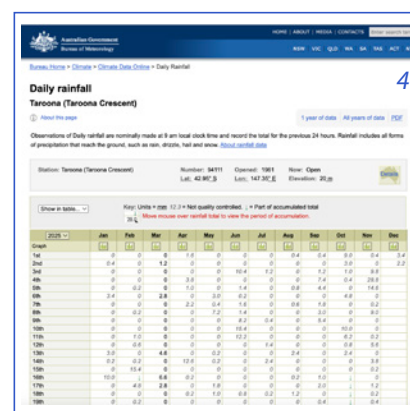
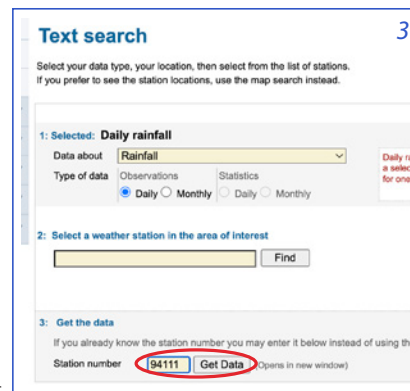
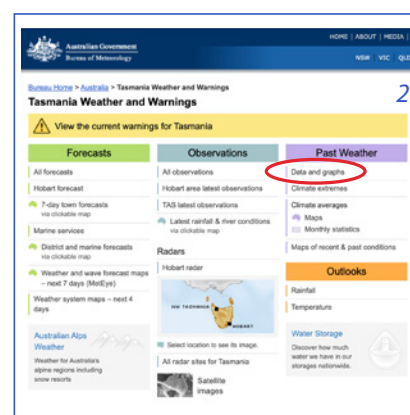
## Screenshot 5

Here you can slake your rainfall data thirst all the way back to the partial readings of 1961-62.

If your rainfall cares are more immediate, on the opposite page is the 2025 Taroona rainfall situation with one month of the year to go:

**Final screenshot** To page 15 →

– Peter Gee





# Beans Beans Beans

The variable weather this Spring has delayed much of the planting and sowing for summer produce. However it's still not too late in mid-December to get some vegetables growing.

Top of my list is BEANS. The bean family is generous, growing lushly and sharing their bounty continuously over many months in exchange for just a little care in their early weeks and regular watering.

Broad beans sown in Autumn are coming to an end, although sometimes they annoyingly keep producing into late Spring when the bed they are in is needed for summer produce.

Bush and climbing beans can still be sown, and these are eaten pod and all, rather than being podded like the 'broadies'. There are many, many varieties of bush beans all worth the space, but the best climbers I have found are Scarlet Runners and Purple King. Scarlet Runners are those with large pink and black speckled seeds and scarlet flowers. They are reputed to last for 7 years, dying down in winter and re-emerging in November or December to scale whatever fence or framework has been provided for them, and to wave hopeful tendrils in the air above when the frame is inadequate for their ambitions.

Several local and online seed providers now have soy or edamame seed available. I haven't tried these but they would be an interesting experiment, particularly for families with 'vegetable shy' children. I know of two young people who roundly reject all the usual green vegetables, but will make short work of a bowl of



*Scarlet Runner plant, a selection of bean seeds saved by a home gardener*

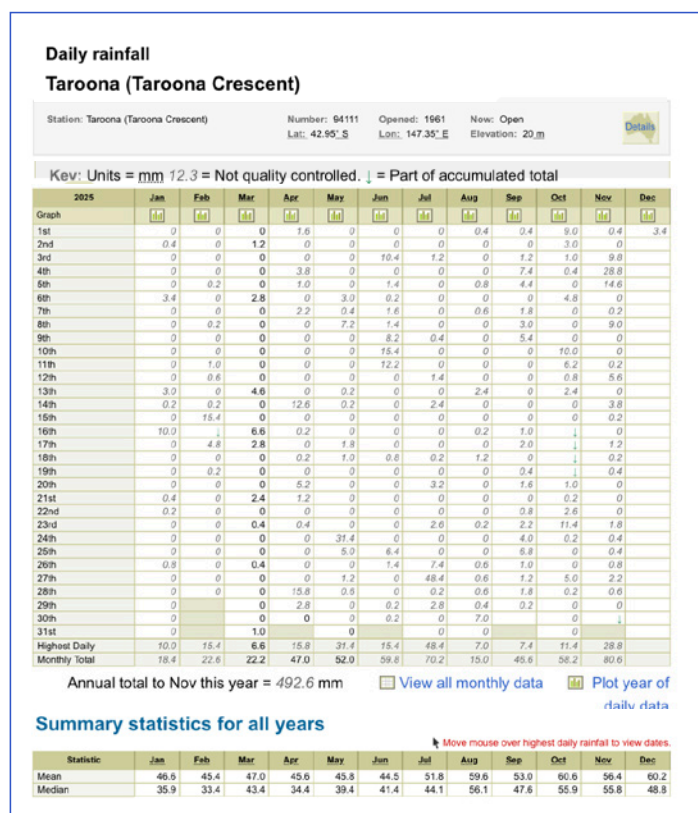
warm steamed edamame sprinkled with sea salt.

Sow some beans of any variety now. Children can help, or give them one or two seeds to sow in a pot and see their eyes open wide when the green shoot emerges and the leaves unfurl. Beans picked from your own garden will be so much more crunchy, green and delicious than the supermarket offerings with ends mutilated by mechanical pickers. The young pods, lightly steamed, are a delicious accompaniment to any meal. Take a dish of steamed whole pods to the table with a topping of butter and slivered almonds, or toasted sesame seeds and chillies. A handful of steamed beans is an essential ingredient for summer lunch Nicoise Salad.

As the days cool and Autumn approaches, let a few pods remain on the plants until dry, pick and pod them into a paper bag, and save in a cool dry place to sow in the following spring.

– Deirdre Brown

← From page 14



## The Taroona Ex-Services' Club

The Club is a busy organisation and regularly organises functions for its members and the general community. One of the main annual events is the Remembrance Day service on November 11th. This year it began outside with everyone seated near the War Memorial. After the first reading it started to pour with rain so activities were quickly transferred to inside the Community Hall. Even the dogs were welcome! The service was quite poignant with several young people participating in prayer reading and singing.



*Andrew Wilkie MP (right) presents an Australian Flag to the Club. The flag hung in the House of Representatives in 2014.*

**Christmas Lunch:** The Club organises a mid-year and a Christmas lunch annually. The Christmas lunch was held on December 7th and was a great success.

**Excursions:** The next excursion is to Hartzview Vineyard on March 11th next year. There will be a bus trip through the Huon Valley, an inspection of the vineyard and then lunch at the Cygnet RSL. A great day is guaranteed!



# Taroona Scout Group: Scouting adventures build resilience

**What the community may not always see is –**

**Scouting is changing lives!**

New national data from the Resilient Youth Survey confirms that Scouting builds stronger, more resilient young people. The data shows that across key wellbeing measures Scouts score an average of 91%, compared to 82% for the national average. That means Scouting isn't just fun – it's transformative. Scouts are:

- More hopeful about their future
- Better able to cope with stress and anxiety
- More likely to have trusted adults they can talk to
- More willing to give back to their community
- More respectful, inclusive, and connected to others

Scouting lays foundations that will support young people for the rest of their lives. Helping a shy 11-year-old learn confidence, showing a teenager how to solve problems, serve others, and believe in themselves helps young Australians become the kind of adults our country needs: **resilient, compassionate, and community-minded.**

## So what are these adventures and experiences?

Taroona Venturer Scouts travelled to Melbourne for four days to explore Wilsons Promontory National Park. Led by Alan Henderson and Janette Power; Venturers Saveeni Kularathne, Beth Henderson, Jassie Thomson, Liam Ludlow & Riley Symons walked the southernmost tip of mainland Australia that is part of the traditional lands of the Boonwurrung, Bunurong and Gunaikurnai peoples. It was exciting to see emus and many other animals and birds on the Yanakie Isthmus and get close to wombats nosing around as we pitched tents at Tidal River camp with hundreds of others on the last night of the Victorian school holidays.

Day two commenced very early with a huge flock of noisy corellas strafing camp followed by a shuttle bus trip to Telegraph Saddle and Mount Oberon from where we set off on an overnight circuit. The first day took us along the old telegraph track to Halfway Hut campground, the walking was pleasant and we settled into a steady rhythm as we became accustomed to our heavy packs. Overnight rain saw us cooking in an old stone hut, but the next day the sun shone and dried out our tents before we headed off towards Little Oberon Bay. We walked the beach and waded across Growler Creek at the far end before



winding our way along the headlands keeping an eye out to sea in case of whales. We arrived back to find a very peaceful Tidal River emptied of campers, rosellas and galahs in their place.



The Cubs enjoyed a local camp and shelter building activity at the Scout Lea Camp in the hills just above Taroona. For many of them it was their first night camping outside, and/or away from parents. These first steps developed a sense of adventure, excitement, and bravery in our younger age group. Emily said it was her "first time





running one and she was quite proud of this camp with one Cub expressing that it was more adventurous than expected". Other experiences may not necessarily involve traditional Scouting pursuits. In October,

Tasmania's Chief Scout, the Governor welcomed Riley Symons along with group of Scouting youth to Government House for a special visit. They had the opportunity to hear from the Governor and were also very enthusiastic in asking many interesting questions about her role. Whilst at Government House, they didn't miss the chance to pat Vice-Regal border collies Oskar and Nala.



In continuing our close relationship with the Taroona Ex-Services Club, we attended the local Remembrance Day service with representatives from each youth section. It was an auspicious occasion for the Ex-Services Club as our local federal member of parliament, Andrew Wilkie, presented the Club with an Australian flag that had actually been flown in the House of Representatives.



Joeys and Scouts have each had a busy Scouting-themed year, so a bit of a difference and fun was enjoyed at the pageant and at ten pin bowling engaging in community and further building of close relationships.

*The Taroona Scout Group wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas and all the best for 2026.*

### Recycle Rewards

Please set us as your "Active Payout" in the Recycle Rewards application or use this barcode at a container drop off point.



If you have any questions about the Container Refund Scheme, please direct them to: [recycle.rewards@taroonatascouts.com.au](mailto:recycle.rewards@taroonatascouts.com.au)

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](https://www.facebook.com/TaroonaScoutGroup).







# Christmas at St Lukes Church

December is busy at St Luke's with Christmas celebrations in a range of styles. The annual "**Carols on the Lawn**" event is on Sunday 14 December on the lawn below St Luke's (entry at 173 Channel Hwy or from Coolamon Rd). The event begins at 5.30pm with a BYO picnic as well as a BBQ operating before the carols. At 6pm the community carol-singing begins, this year featuring the Southern District Concert Band and The Augusta Singers! Come along and sing Christmas favourites or just listen to the band and the choir.

The traditional "**Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols**" takes place at St Luke's the following Sunday 21 December, at 9.30am. This celebration is performed annually in the chapel at King's College, Cambridge. The story of Christmas is told through Christmas carol-singing linked with a traditional series of readings.

On Christmas Day at 9.30am we "**Celebrate Christmas**" with carols, prayer, and reflection on the birth of Jesus, the greatest gift of all.

For more info about any of these celebrations please contact Bill Stewart on 0418 517 903. Follow us on Facebook @ SBTAnglican.

## Taroona Community

### CAROLS ON THE LAWN

St Luke's Church, 173 Channel Hwy



**Sunday 14th December**

**5.30pm**

**Picnic (BYO)**

**6.00pm**

**Carols**

Southern District Concert Band,  
The Augusta Singers, BBQ (by donation) & more!



## Christmas at St Luke's

★ **Sunday 14 December, 5.30pm Carols on the Lawn**

BYO Picnic 5.30pm, 6.00pm Community carol-singing featuring the Southern District Concert Band & The Augusta Singers!

★ **Sunday 21 December, 9.30am Lessons & Carols**

The story of Christmas told in Christmas carol and traditional scripture readings.

★ **Christmas Day, 9.30am Celebrate Christmas**

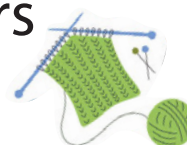
Celebrate with carols, prayer, and reflection on the greatest gift of all, Jesus.



### St Luke's Anglican Church

173 Channel Hwy, Taroona (entry via Coolamon Rd) | 0418 517 903 | facebook @ SBTAnglican (photo: shutterstock.com)

## Taroona Sippers and Purlers



Taroona Sippers and Purlers welcomes you to join our knitting group on the afternoon of the first Saturday of every month, at the Taroona Shot Tower. We knit for charities as well as enjoy doing our own projects and helping each other. Our next get-togethers will be:

Saturday 3 Jan, Taroona Shot Tower 2 - 4 pm

Saturday 7 Feb, Taroona Shot Tower 2 - 4pm

Saturday 7 March, Taroona Shot Tower 2 - 4 pm

For any enquiries email  
Christina4ply@outlook.com





# What's On @ The Bowlo

## ★ Christmas Raffles Are Here!

This year we're excited to bring you **two fantastic Christmas raffles**:

### 🎁 1. Traditional Christmas Feast Wheelbarrow

A wheelbarrow absolutely *full of goodies* to kickstart your festive season.

**Generously donated once again by social members Charles & Annie Ellis from Tasmanian Lavender Gifts.**

### 🌲 2. Christmas Hams & Cold-Smoked Salmon Raffle

Win a delicious Christmas spread featuring:

- **3 Christmas Hams** – kindly donated by one of our newest bowls members **Bruce Moran**
- **3 Sides of Cold-Smoked Salmon** – generously donated by bowls member **Sean Riley**

 **Tickets: \$5 each**

 **Drawn Friday 19th December at 7:00 pm**

Be sure to grab your tickets early — these raffles are always crowd favourites!

## 🍷 Fish & Chip Fry-days

Our legendary Friday night Fish & Chips continue to draw a fantastic crowd. Perfect for kicking off the weekend — great food, cold drinks, and good company!

## 🏹 Barefoot Bowls – Every Friday Night

With daylight savings upon us, it's the perfect time to bring family and friends down for some fun on the green.

No experience needed — just turn up and enjoy the summer evenings!

## 🎵 Boxing Day Bowlo – Our Biggest Event of the Year!

Mark your calendars – **Friday 26 December** is our iconic **Boxing Day Bowlo!**

Expect:

- Live music
- Food and drinks all day
- A huge crowd and the best post-Christmas atmosphere around

It's the event everyone looks forward to — don't miss it!

## 🎅 Holiday Opening Hours



The Club will be **closed on**:

- Christmas Day
- New Year's Eve
- New Year's Day

We will be **open from 3 pm every other day** throughout the holiday period!

**Cheers and Merry Christmas**  
from **Charlie,**  
**General Manager,**  
**Taroona Bowls and Community Club Inc**





# News from Taroona Primary School



As the 2025 school year draws to a close, we take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to **Danielle Bresnehan**, whose leadership, dedication, and warmth have shaped Taroona Primary School for the past **11 years**.

Danielle's commitment to nurturing a vibrant, inclusive, and caring school community has left a lasting impact on students, staff, and families alike. Under her guidance, Taroona Primary has continued to thrive – not only as a place of learning, but as a place where children feel understood, supported, and inspired. Her steady leadership, thoughtful decision-making, and tireless advocacy for students' wellbeing and growth have strengthened the school in countless ways.

Beyond the school grounds, Danielle's contributions to the broader community have been equally valued. Her willingness to collaborate, listen, and champion positive initiatives has enriched the wider network of families and educators around us.

While we are sad to see her go, we are excited for the community at **Lauderdale Primary School**, who will soon benefit from her vision and energy. Danielle leaves Taroona with our deepest respect and warmest wishes.

**Thank you, Danielle, for everything. You will be greatly missed, and we wish you all the very best in your new chapter.**



## Taroona Art Explorers

As you all know Possums Playcentre in Taroona has closed. Susan Depaoli and I (Jo Nash) have started up Art classes for children in the Friday morning time slot. We have been operating for two weeks now. We would like to extend this to include a holiday program for children 4 years and upwards starting on Friday 9th of January 2026 from 10 to 12. If there is interest we would be open to extending this to another morning. Let us know if you are interested and what days. We have lots of exciting ideas covering all ages.

– Jo and Susan







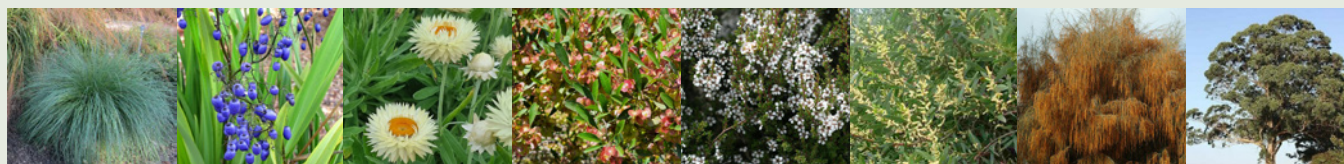
Southern Cross Care  
(Tasmania) Inc.

## Your chance to connect, relax and feel right at home.



LOW-MAINTENANCE LIFESTYLE VILLAS  
AVAILABLE AT GRANGE VILLAGE, TAROONA.  
PET-FRIENDLY 2- AND 3-BEDROOM OPTIONS.  
**ARRANGE A VIEWING TODAY.**

0487 341 765 / [ENQUIRIES@SCCTAS.ORG.AU](mailto:ENQUIRIES@SCCTAS.ORG.AU)



## Tasmanian Native Plants For Sale: Fundraising for Malawi Village

*The perfect Christmas gifts, and for a great cause!*

As many of you know, I've been propagating and selling plants to raise money for Malawians in need. **Thank you to all those Taroona residents who have supported this project.** I've raised over \$4000 which has funded a variety of projects, including:

- school fees for secondary students
- a young female student to attend University for a year
- emergency dental work
- purchase of feed to raise chickens for sale
- buying supplies for small businesses

I have stock of seedlings available in a variety of sizes for **just \$4 a plant.** I can deliver free of charge to Taroona residents. **100% of all funds raised goes to families in Malawi.**

*If you have a specific species request, please contact me. I can easily source other Tasmanian species.*

– Martin: 0456 412 253 / [martin\\_o\\_malawi@yahoo.com.au](mailto:martin_o_malawi@yahoo.com.au)



### MAIN SPECIES NOW AVAILABLE

#### *Small shrubs and ground covers:*

poas, sedges, flax lily, juncus rushes, everlasting daisies.

#### *Shrubs:*

pea flowers (*Aotus ericiodes*, native indigo, etc), melaleucas, callistemons, hakeas, daisy bushes, native hop, prickly box, teatrees and small acacias.

#### *Trees:*

casuarinas, acacias, some gums.



# Taroona Tennis Club News

A great deal of tennis has been played at Taroona in recent months. Social tennis groups have been well attended, family and friendship groups have played and the online booking system, Book a Court, has been extensively used by non-members to gain access to the courts. During school terms schools make bookings and there are always coaching opportunities with coach, Andrew Etherington.

The Club's AGM was held on November 22nd. As always the committee positions were very easy to fill. The Club is in a very happy position and it is not difficult to find volunteers to do the necessary work to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

The committee for 2025 – 2026 is as follows -

**President:** Matt Sherlock

**Vice President:** Stefan Stimson

**Secretary:** Diane Balding

**Treasurer:** Simon Lawrence

**Committee Members:** Sarah Heyward, James Heyward, Mark Underwood, Mark Painter, Leah Magliano, Penny Yarrow and Benn Rafferty.

Rita Van Meer was thanked for her valuable service on the committee. She served for two years as a general committee member and for four as Vice President.

A very important announcement was made at the AGM. Past Presidents John Davies and Alan Sutherland and current Treasurer Simon Lawrence were made Life Members of the Club. Each of these three members has made an outstanding contribution over many years and the awards are much deserved.

Recently a concrete path was constructed by members from the car park to Court 4 and further to Court 3. This provides easy and smooth access and means there will be no need to walk over uneven ground or to use steps to reach the courts. It will also be easy to move a ball machine from the clubhouse to the courts.

The Club now owns a ball machine. It was purchased with funds from a grant and will definitely be helpful for players. Logistics regarding its use are not yet final. The results of a grant application to replace court fencing are expected by the end of the year.

The Club's Christmas celebration is to be held on Saturday, December 13th and will take the form of a handicap event followed by a casual meal.

Planning for next year is already underway. The Kingborough Challenge, an annual competition with Kingston Tennis Club, will take place on February 14th and the Club Championships will be held in March.

**Diane Balding is always happy to give information about the Club – 0488 086 381.**



**Top:** Executive committee 2025–2026: Matt Sherlock (President), Simon Lawrence (Treasurer), Diane Balding (Secretary), Stefan Stimson (Vice President)

**Left:** New life members: Simon Lawrence, Alan Sutherland, John Davies

**BOB SHERIDAN PLUMBING**

**0447 334 266**  
Lic no. 177778065

*your local plumber*



# Taroona News Cryptic Crossword #1

It seems like any self-respecting newsletter has a cryptic crossword these days – so not to be outdone, we present you here with the inaugural Taroona News Cryptic Crossword, compiled by local cruciverbalist MU. If you're not up to the challenge and prefer a quick crossword, we've also provided you with simple clues. (Hint: many of the clues have a Taroona theme). The solution for the crossword, and the word search, will be published on 21 December on the TCA website at <https://taroona.tas.au/taroona-community-association/>

## Cryptic clues

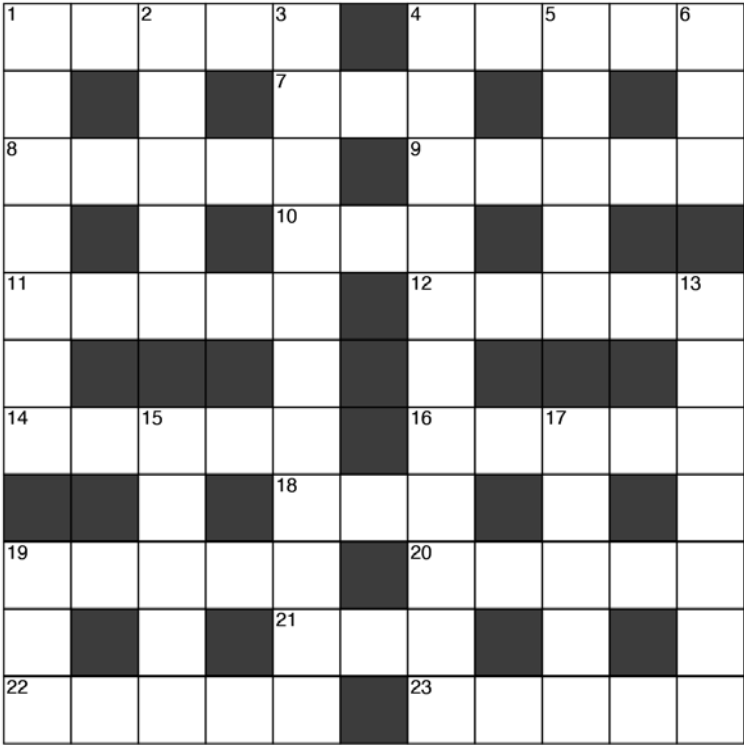
### ACROSS

- 1 Chaste, mixed up (but not heading south) will inform (5)
- 4 Small sailing boat sees Australian state with body odor heading to Tasmania (5)
- 7 Handtool taxes are limitless (3)
- 8 Its true, Matt's heading a kingdom (5)
- 9 Frank lesson covers a joint (5)
- 10 Qualifications in bum bag? (1,1,1)
- 11 Chore to stir orange pigment (5)
- 12 Never mix courage (5)
- 14 Underwater, was after a Hinsby leader (5)
- 16 Messed up timer had value (5)
- 18 Heading to Eastlands? Go for your sense of self worth (3)
- 19 Scent a romantic, minus northern twitch (5)
- 20 Hobart stadium? Heading north in two at start of January (5)
- 21 At the expected time, nude loses head and is disoriented (3)
- 22 Confused kittens missing Northern Territory, can entertain on windy days (5)

- 23 Dynamos spinning, cutting off moustache at a local bay (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Unusual adoration? I'd leave great suburb (7)
- 2 Alan Border with singular cricket trophy causes embarrassment (5)
- 3 A harm meshed, mixed, for underwater predators (11)
- 4 None see Ma as jumbled rockpool animal (3,8)
- 5 Kombi kerfuffle includes Channel highway peddler? (5)
- 6 To eat starter of lower digit (3)
- 13 First-up stayer twisted a local waterway (7)
- 15 Is it a boat? A swap with you sounds near enough (5)
- 17 Masterless samurai working in a headless grin (5)
- 19 Shark missing quiet, biblical boat (3)



By MU

## Simple clues

### ACROSS

- 1 To lecture (5)
- 4 Small sailing dinghy (5)
- 7 Chopper (3)
- 8 Kingdom (5)
- 9 Lower leg joint (5)
- 10 Business qualifications (1,1,1)
- 11 Orange pigment (5)
- 12 A bundle of fibers that sends messages between the body and the brain (5)
- 14 Underwater (5)
- 15 Value (5)
- 16 Sense of self (3)
- 18 Smell (5)
- 20 Hobart stadium (5)

- 21 Expected time (3)
- 22 Toys for windy days (5)
- 23 Blond (5)

### DOWN

- 1 The suburb (7)
- 2 To causes embarrassment (5)
- 3 Unusually shaped shark (11)
- 4 Sea creature found in rockpools (3,8)
- 5 Peddler (5)
- 6 Digit below 9ac (3)
- 13 Waterway (7)
- 14 Near enough (5)
- 17 Masterless samurai (5)
- 19 Noah's boat (3)

## Taroona flora and fauna word search

Can you find 20 Taroona plants and animals?  
Words can go in any direction.  
Words do not share letters.

N U N U N P E A R R U B A K O O K C O R R E A S  
I C G U B Z L C M C O C K A T O O A I S K N A B  
H H J L Z X W X H U T O R R A P T F I W S W N S  
P I R O S E L L A I S H S I F Y A R C I F B Q H  
L T E C A F G I P Q D S H E U C A L Y P T U S E  
O O B A N D I C O O T N O X N O L E M E D A P O  
D N C U R R A W O N G V A P S E A E A G L E I A  
N E R W Y R I A F E U N T N A R O M R O C R Q K





NIGEL RICHARDSON

## PIC OF TAROONA

A small, heart-warming community gathering was held at Louisa Hinsby Park in late November to celebrate Taroona. Organised by local neighbours, a diverse and talented array of Taroona-based musicians performed in this relatively new intimate park. Xenos – our local and authentic Balkan music band – literally walked to the park along the local streets playing their instruments ... and left that way too. Traditional dance accompanied their hearty festive songs. The gathered residents were spellbound listening to the gorgeous opera tenor of Phil Gath sing Italian arias. The audience then gathered on the lawn around Kat Lebdejev as she sang sweetly her own beautiful compositions and some old Russian ballads.

The vibe was like being in a European piazza – kids playing, operatic arias, Balkan music and dance, gentle folk songs, food and many smiling faces. Louisa Hinsby Park is so well suited to such events.



JILL HICKIE

## TAROONA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

**President:** Anne Parrott  
**Vice-president:** Fiona Rice  
**Secretary:** Janette Power, [taroonasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:taroonasecretary@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer:** David Roberson, [treasurercta1@gmail.com](mailto:treasurercta1@gmail.com)  
**Planning issues:** Jill Hickie  
**Public officer:** Maureen Robinson  
**Newsletter Editor:** Liz Haywood **Delivery coordinator:** Alison Phillips  
**Committee:** Damian Devlin, Roger Kellaway, Bronwen Puleston-Jones, Graham Openshaw, Mary Mansbridge and Kristin Groom.  
**Email:** [taroonasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:taroonasecretary@gmail.com)

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

**Newsletter contributions:** [taroonacommunitynewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:taroonacommunitynewsletter@gmail.com)

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

The Taroona community website can be found at <https://taroona.tas.au>.

To have your group or business represented, email Deirdre Brown at [taroona@taroona.tas.au](mailto:taroona@taroona.tas.au)

Membership of the TCA is \$10/single and \$20/household. Payment can be made by direct deposit into the TCA's bank account **BSB 067102** and **Account number 28011079**. Or you can pay online at our new website with your credit card: <https://taroona.tas.au/taroona-community-association/>



This issue of *Taroona News* has been printed with the support of the offices of Senator Richard Dowling and Senator Carol Brown and distributed to your letterbox by over 30 local volunteers.

### Disclaimer

The Taroona Community Association accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of any material contained herein and recommends that users exercise their own skill and care with respect to its use. The listing of a person or organisation in any part of this newsletter in no way implies any form of endorsement by the Taroona Community Association of the products or services provided by that person or organisation. The Taroona Community Association accepts no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience by any person resulting from information published in this newsletter.

