



# 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.*

The TCA is emerging from the summer break and the days are shortening with the autumn equinox passing. We warmly welcome you to our first edition of Taroona News for 2022. We also say hello to new residents who may have recently settled in Taroona. It is such a beautiful place to live.

It is with sadness that we watch from the warmth of our homes the catastrophic floods in NSW and Queensland, and the horror of war unfolding in the Ukraine; whilst closer to home travel the ups and downs of the pandemic. One cannot help but feel our vulnerability.

What matters now is building a strong and resilient, caring community. One way we can do that is by reaching out with acts of kindness and care. Such actions will make the world a better place for our children and future generations.

Early this year the TCA committee reactivated the COVID community support network previously set up in 2020. We believe it is important to offer a safety net for residents required to isolate due to COVID circumstances as extra help and support may be needed. Letters about the support network were sent out in February to most Taroona streets via street coordinators. However some streets were missed as we have yet to find volunteers. You'll find a call for help inside this Taroona News.



*Possums past and present, and their families, gathered in December to celebrate the wonderful legacy of Grandma Poss, Lyn Long*

In December last year, the strength of Taroona's close knit community was evident when well over 100 people gathered on a sunny Saturday afternoon in Taroona Park to celebrate the extraordinary career and mark the retirement of Lyn Long who ran the Possums Play Centre for over 30 years. Over 1000 children have passed through Possums in that time. Many came to the delicious afternoon tea – some now adults sending their own children to enjoy the nurturing pre-school care of Possums. Heartfelt memories were shared along with many laughs and tears too.

At the TCA AGM in November, we farewelled Oberon Carter who left the committee to direct his energies towards writing a new book. (Oberon and Lauren Carter wrote the highly popular *Waste Free Living*).

## Calendar

### March

Wed 30 **Taroona Neighbourhood Garden AGM**, St Lukes Church Hall, 7.15pm

### April

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

Sun 3 **TEN Working Bee**, ROTARY PARK: weeding, 10–12

Sun 9 **Taroona Bowls and Community Club Quiz Night**, 6.30pm dinner for 7.30pm start.

Mon 25 **Anzac Day Dawn Service & March**. March assemblies at the Taroona Bowls Club at 5:30am. Service commences at the Memorial in Taroona Park, at 6.00 am.

### May

Sun 1 **TEN Working Bee**, NUBEENA TO SEAVIEW FORESHORE: weeding and pruning, 10–12

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

Wed 18 **Taroona Community Association Special General Meeting**, St Lukes Church Hall, 7pm

### June

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

Sun 5 **TEN Working Bee**, KELVEDON OVAL: planting, weeding and plant maintenance, 10–12

### July

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

Sun 3 **TEN Working Bee**, CRAYFISH POINT TO TAROONA BEACH: weeding, 10–12

Sat 9 - Sun 10 **Taroona Giant Book Sale**, Taroona Shopping Centre  
DETAILS TO BE CONFIRMED

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Sophie Underwood from Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania (PMAT) came along to speak to the meeting about the impact of the new Tasmanian Planning Scheme, the Interim Planning Directive, and the yet to be advertised Kingborough Draft Local Planning Schedule (Kingborough's part of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme). The TCA is deeply concerned that the new planning scheme reduces community appeal rights and the protection of local character, amenity and cultural heritage and natural values. It is expected that formal consultation on the draft will commence before the end of this year. We'll keep you posted.

On a drier note, our constitution is getting a revamp, so we have scheduled a special general meeting to consider the constitutional changes on Wednesday evening, 18 May. We are updating and contemporising the document. We'll advertise it again closer to the date. Come along if you're interested.

### **Visioning Taroona Update**

Those residents who participated in the Visioning Taroona session held in August last year may be wondering how we are progressing the outcomes. Like many aspects of life during these pandemic times, the COVID lethargy has slowed its implementation. We hope to be in contact with participants in the coming months to inform you of working groups commencing dialogue.

### **Channel Highway pedestrian crossing and bus stop upgrade for schools**

State Growth has completed Stage 1 of the construction of the pedestrian crossing and bus stop 25 upgrade project Channel Highway opposite the schools. We welcome the improvements to student safety for crossing the road to the schools.

However concerns have been raised about the temporary ramp near the shared driveway at 137 – 141 Channel Highway posing a risk for cyclists.

State Growth officers have responded that in Stage 2 of the project, a section of the road in this location will be lowered to provide a DDA compliant pedestrian crossing and this temporary ramp will be removed. Once the works are completed, the bike lane will be at least 1m wide with a smooth transition past the bus stop. A temporary warning sign has been installed to warn cyclists of the potential hazard.

Works commenced in early March and will take around 6 weeks, weather dependent.

### **Taroona Hall and Taroona Foreshore Public Toilets**

Kingborough Council is progressing its plans to upgrade Taroona Hall with the first stage being the construction of a deck at the back of the hall providing much needed rear access for Taroona Ex-services Association and an outdoor space for hall users to enjoy the park. A planning application for Stage 1 is yet to be advertised.

The funding of the second stage, which will include upgrading the hall toilets and provision of a new unisex all access toilet that can be accessed from the playground, is yet to be funded.

The TCA committee has been working closely with Council officers providing firm evidence for the retention and upgrading of Taroona Beach toilet block, rather than its demolition and replacement. We eagerly wait to hear back from the Council.

Hope you enjoy reading the wealth of news from our incredibly clever and diverse community groups!

– Jill Hickie, on behalf of the TCA Team

## Join the TCA

Dear Taroona residents

In order to meet our yearly costs – including \$900 for the public liability insurance we need to do such things as run community events – we really need about 100 of you to join each year.

**Annual family membership of the TCA costs only \$10 and gives you four newsletters and representation on matters relevant to Taroona. Sounds like a good deal to me!**

Subscriptions fall due on September 1, so if you paid towards the end of last year or early this year you are up to date. Thank you to the 45 people who have already joined.

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

**BSB 067102**

**Account number 28011079**

or pop \$10 in my letterbox at 11 Jenkins Street Taroona.

Thank you in anticipation

– Anne Parrott (Treasurer)



## TAROONA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### Special General Meeting

Wednesday 18th May, 7 pm

St Lukes Church Hall, Taroona

This meeting is being held to endorse changes to the Association's constitution.

The proposed constitution will be available on the Taroona website under the TCA tab two weeks before the meeting.

– Anne Parrott (Public Officer)



*The Lone Pine and the plaque at its base*



## News from the Taroona Ex-Services' Club

The Club meets on the third Friday of each month; a committee meeting is followed by a BBQ in summer and a guest speaker during the cooler months. Because of the Covid situation in the State the January meeting was cancelled. The February meeting and BBQ were however held – in the spacious facilities of the Taroona Bowls Club rather than at the Taroona Community Hall.

At the February meeting future Club developments and occasions were discussed. ANZAC Day is the next major date on the calendar. Planning for the Dawn Service and community breakfast is currently underway.

Last year the Club was successful in gaining a Teddy Sheean VC Memorial Grant to concrete an area on Taroona Park near the War Memorial. The Kingborough Council is organising the work and it is expected to be complete by ANZAC Day. Chairs for frail people will be placed on the concreted area rather than on the grass so that there will be no dangerous slipping hazards on a wet and uneven surface.

The Council is planning a renovation of the Taroona Community Hall. When this is complete, the Club will take measures to improve its Club Rooms within the Hall. There has been a recent agreement to extend the Club Rooms to include the Keith George Room. With the improvements and extra space, memorabilia will be better displayed and it will be easier to conduct meetings and social functions.

The Club likes to organise the occasional outing for its members and their friends. A bus excursion or cruise will be offered in the not-too-distant future, but a definite date will not be fixed until the committee feels that Covid is less of a problem.

Community members may have noticed the small Lone Pine behind the Taroona Community Hall. This tree, pictured, was donated by the family of former President, Dr. Eric Canning, and is cared for by the Club. Enjoy looking at the tree next time you are in the area.

**For information about the Club please contact Secretary, Chris Harris, on 0410 754 932.**

**ANZAC Day**  
**Taroona**  
**Dawn Service**  
**and March**  
**Monday 25 April**

Taroona Ex Services Club will be hosting Taroona Communities Anzac Day events. The March will assemble at the Taroona Bowls Club at 5:30am, and the Service will commence at 6.00 am at the Memorial in Taroona Park (next to the Hall).

Immediately following the service a hot breakfast & drinks will be served, followed by a brief presentation.

*All are welcome to attend the Service and breakfast.*

# News from the Taroona Volunteer Fire Brigade



## Taroona RATs deployed to the West Coast

Tasmania is home to some of the most beautiful landscapes in the world. Many of these areas are isolated and untouched, often preserving their beauty. But in times of bushfire season, this remoteness can actually lead to their demise, as standard bushfire crews lack the accessibility and resources to engage competently in these fires.

The Tasmanian Fire Service introduced a specialised unit, tasked with accessing difficult terrain by helicopter or on foot, and utilising portable water pumps, dry firefighting techniques and aerial support to 'fight bushfires, protect lives and keep properties safe'.

Called the remote area firefighting team (RAT), the volunteer component was introduced a few years ago, and since then Taroona Volunteer Fire Brigade has already had four members join the VRATs, one of the highest number from any volunteer brigade in the state.

The 2021–2022 bushfire season saw two Taroona VRATs deploy to the main remote fire this season. Located in the north-west of the state near Tullah, there were three main deployments of RATs, and each deployment had a Taroona member.

I went on the first and last, while Andrew Terhorst deployed with the middle deployment.

The firefighting saw us walking in each day, bringing in equipment we could carry, with the rest flown in via helicopter. We were tasked with blacking out 60 metres of land, protecting the critical edge of Lake Macintosh to ensure the fire did not jump and spread. After setting up the pumps on the embankments, canvas



*From top:* A group of remote area firefighters cross a burnt button grass plain towards the main cache; The RATs walk into the fireground each morning to reach the critical edge they are defending; Soil scientists conduct tests to determine organic soil composition and depth.



*Top: Aerial view of a helicopter dropping water on a hot spot.*

*Above from left: Remote firefighter stands next to a canvas hose line, which would run along the length of the fire edge; Remote firefighter supervises a pump; Pump setup that was used to supply RATs with water throughout the fireground.*

hose lines were run for kilometres along the lake's edge. Over the next few weeks, remote teams extinguished the hotspots, using hand tools, water branches, and aided by thermal imaging cameras and special intelligence gathering operations conducted via helicopter at the end of the day.

The complete extinguishment of the fire was important, due to both the proximity of the fire to the local township of Tullah, as well as the ecological importance. The organic soils are an important carbon store, as the peat can take decades if not centuries to form, only to burn and release this carbon in hours.

There were also illegal asbestos dumps, as well as naturally forming acid sulphate soils. These soils when burnt and exposed to oxygen can form sulphuric acid which is toxic to humans and the ecosystem.

Overall, the deployments were good experience, as this is the first major remote fire since the establishment of volunteer remote firefighting teams. With such a high number within the Taroona volunteer brigade, we are able to share our training, experience and knowledge with the rest of the brigade to create a more diverse and capable team, which we can all use in standard bushfire fighting techniques. – **Luke Allfree**

## Solar-Powered Fundraising Initiative

A year ago, the federal member of Clark, Andrew Wilkie, invited the Taroona Volunteer Fire Brigade to submit an expression of interest for the “Powering Communities” grants program. The brigade was not eligible for the grant, but the Taroona Community Association (TCA) was! Together, the fire brigade and the TCA came up with a highly innovative proposal. Dubbed the “solar-powered fundraising initiative”, the proposal was to install a solar photovoltaic system on the fire station roof. The Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) would return a portion of the energy savings to the brigade for its discretionary use.

The challenge was getting the TFS to agree to this arrangement. Many felt this would be an impossible challenge and rated our chances close to zero. However, the TCA put up a convincing argument. The TFS finally agreed to return 50% of the energy savings over a three-year trial.

The TCA received a \$5200 grant from the “Powering Communities” grants program. Powercom Solar quoted \$5800 to install a mid-range 6.6kW system. Kingborough Council made up the \$600 shortfall through their “Quick Grants” scheme.

Powercom Solar installed a 7.4kW system for the price of a 6.6kW system! The system was commissioned on 18 January 2022 and consists of 20x 370W Trina Honey Vertex panels coupled to a Goodwe 5 – 10kW single-phase solar inverter.

The solar system will generate about 8987.24 kWh per year, saving the TFS around \$2015, 50% of which comes back to the brigade. The inverter shows that the solar system generated 1567.5 kWh in February, saving the TFS \$351. This amount



*The newly installed 7.4kW rooftop solar power system. The system was gifted to the Taroona Volunteer Fire Brigade by the Taroona Community Association.*

excludes income generated by feeding excess energy to the grid. The Taroona Volunteer Fire Brigade should get at least \$175.50 back for February alone.

The Taroona Volunteer Fire Brigade is hugely grateful to the Taroona Community Association for gifting the 7.4kW rooftop solar system. This system will raise at least \$1000 a year for the brigade.

The “solar-powered fundraising initiative” is the first of its kind in Australia. It would not have happened without Andrew Wilkie’s support and top-up funding from Kingborough Council. Powercom Solar delivered a bigger system at no additional cost. The next challenge is to convince the TFS to make this trial a permanent arrangement!

## Taroona Tennis Club News

The Taroona Tennis Club is a very busy facility at the moment. Social tennis is played every day of the week and the Club has players in the AYC evening competition, the Mid-Week Ladies’ pennant and in Junior Team Tennis. Thanks go to Ollie Grant for initiating participation in Junior Team Tennis. Coach, Andrew Etherington, is available to assist players of all ages and standards. When the courts are not being used by Taroona members it is possible for the general public to make bookings using the online booking platform, Book a Court. This platform has become popular and generates quite a bit of income for the Club.

The Taroona community has watched with interest the work associated with the extension and improvement of the Hitting Wall. This project is now almost complete and all members of the community are welcome to use the Wall to practise their shots. The concrete slab on the side to be used extends towards Court 4, not the car park, so there is an increased level of safety. Andrew Wilkie’s Office administered the Stronger Communities Grant of \$15,000 which enabled this project to take place.

Last year the Club received a State Government Improving the



*Alan Sutherland, Elizabeth Woolley and Jill Bell at the Hitting Wall.*

Playing Field Grant of \$34,827 to enable it to light Court 4. The Kingborough Council has given approval and initial work has already started. When the project is complete the Club will have enviable facilities – four very good quality courts, each with excellent lights.

For many years the Club Championships have been held in March/April. This year however the committee plans to run a handicap social event on Saturday, 2 April. Hopefully this event will appeal to players of all standards and will provide a lot of enjoyment.

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

## What's happening at IMAS Taroona?



IMAS Senior Technical Officer Kylie Cahill with the smallest catch during the assessment – a juvenile Southern Rock Lobster with a carapace length of 50mm

### Monitoring rock lobster in Taroona Waters

IMAS researchers will use data from rock lobster potting in Taroona Waters to guide management of the fishery around the state.

The site is valuable for research because although it's closed to fishing, it's not a marine reserve. This means that IMAS is allowed to conduct intensive research at the site, and it is used for testing models and methods that can be used elsewhere.

This annual lobster monitoring activity, which has been held every summer for around 30 years, was conducted in February. It involved researchers setting 240 pots over four days, allowing us to gather and record a range of details about the lobster population.

This includes tracking length frequency (size range), catch per pot, sex, female maturity and whether they're carrying eggs, and growth of tagged animals. One use of this long-term data set is to determine whether growth is changing through time.

### IMAS discusses research opportunities with Indonesian Consulate

IMAS is exploring further fisheries and aquaculture research opportunities with the Indonesian Consulate.

IMAS staff met with the Consulate, including the Consulate General, at our Taroona Fisheries and Aquaculture site in December and again at IMAS Salamanca in February.

The Taroona visit involved showcasing our aquaculture program and discussing further collaboration between Australia and Indonesia in sustainable aquaculture research and training.

The subsequent meeting at Salamanca involved additional talks on the potential for fisheries and aquaculture training exchanges between the two countries.

IMAS ran a short course on Sustainable Aquaculture that finished in March 2022, which the Consulate General attended. The course was funded by the Federal Government's Australia Awards Indonesia program, which provides Indonesians with educational opportunities at Australian universities.



Sustainable Marine Research Collaboration Agreement (SMRCA) Director, Professor Caleb Gardner of IMAS, with delegates from the Indonesian Consulate at IMAS Taroona.

### About IMAS Fisheries & Aquaculture

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

**IMAS**

Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies

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, Alex Luttrell.

Email: [alex.luttrell@utas.edu.au](mailto:alex.luttrell@utas.edu.au)



**HELPING HANDS**

Despite a La Niña climate event bringing catastrophic rains to NSW and Queensland, southern Tasmania has been incredibly dry, particularly over late summer. Fortunately the dry conditions have not produced a bad fire season. Over the summer, TEN's small but very committed army of volunteers has been watering, weeding and monitoring our work sites including Rotary Park, the soccer ground northern embankment, the High School foreshore and the fire station grounds. As well as this, one volunteer has single-handedly eradicated fennel from the entire High School foreshore. I won't name everyone here but TEN is very grateful for your efforts.

**TIME FOR REFLECTION**

Taroona High School sits on one of the most beautiful sites imaginable and now hosts a new story panel near the soccer ground, adjacent to one of the largest Aboriginal living areas on the Derwent estuary. TEN's convenor, Fiona Rice, has done an amazing amount of work in collaboration with the High School and members of the Aboriginal community to tell the story of the muwinina people. The John Glover painting depicts happy times for the muwinina and TEN encourages everyone to visit and reflect on their story. (See muwinina panel opposite)

**BE A PART OF IT!**

And a little more food for thought: TEN has been in existence since 1997 and in that time has achieved an impressive history of land care. The figures opposite have even amazed a few of TEN's old hands! If you feel like adding to this impressive tally with your labour, specialist skills, ideas, experience, and commitment, or you simply want to learn about caring for our land, TEN would love to see you. Our 2022 working bee programme is included below, and you are also welcome to come to our AGM on 29 March at 7.30 pm at St Luke's meeting room (173 Channel Hwy) where the guest speaker will be Peter Stronach, CEO of Landcare Tasmania.

**GET IN TOUCH:** [info@ten.org.au](mailto:info@ten.org.au)

– Nigel Richardson, Deputy Convenor, TEN

**2022 WORKING BEE PROGRAMME**

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

Apr 3	ROTARY PARK (schools' bushland, corner of Channel Hwy/ Karingal Crt): weeding
May 1	NUBEENA TO SEAVIEW FORESHORE: weeding and selective sheoak / wattle pruning
June 5	KELVEDON OVAL – NORTH BANK & SOUTH BANK: interplant north-east embankment; extend plantings on southern embankment; weeding and plant maintenance
July 3	CRAYFISH POINT TO TAROONA BEACH: weeding
Fri July 29 Schools Tree Day	LOUISA HINSBY PARK planting 150 plants with Grade 3-4 TPS students. NB – SUN JULY 31 is National Tree Day
Aug 7	ROTARY PARK LOWER BUSHLAND: weeding and plant maintenance
Sept 11	HIGH SCHOOL FORESHORE (from shipping containers south to end of school property): weeding, plant maintenance
Oct 2	BELHAVEN RESERVE: weeding
Nov 6	FIRE STATION BUSHLAND: weeding and plant maintenance
Dec 4	ANNUAL BBQ – LOUISA HINSBY PARK, 12 NOON

NIGEL RICHARDSON



TEN volunteers augmented by students from UTAS after tackling weeds and rubbish at a recent TEN working bee at Rotary Park.

## You're standing where they stood

On the headland nearby are fragments of shell – broken and scattered. Around them, the soil is a bit darker – blackened by the ash of their campfires.

Along the northern shoreline, where the embankment has fallen away, you'll find narrow bands of crushed shells amongst black soil, and sometimes, a small stone with razor sharp edges for skinning and slicing, or even an animal bone.

All this we simply name a midden, but it is so much more. A midden is a living area. A place that holds the memories of where families gathered and children played.

For hundreds of generations, the western shore of timtumili minanya (the River Derwent) was home to the muwinina Aboriginal people. Families lived and moved along this shoreline and into the hinterlands, guided by the seasons.

Their small fires burned day and night. They slept in the open, built windbreaks for shelter and laid grass for bedding. Age-old stories were told and retold as the moon and stars mingled.

By day, they scrambled over rocks, snacked on shellfish, swam in the shallows, dived for crayfish and abalone, hunted wallaby and possum, and harvested land and sea plants.

They laughed, chatted, played games, sang and danced.



## Cherishing memories

It's been about two hundred years since these were the muwinina's homelands.

People still gather here – almost a thousand children most weekdays, and others on weekends. We walk, and sit, and play in the sand, scramble on the rocks, and swim and snorkel in the river.

We are very fortunate for this school's location. The natural shoreline has helped hold the memories of those who have gone before us. This headland is one of the biggest and best-preserved traditional living areas along the Derwent.

Taroona High School and Taroona Environment Network, with advice from Aboriginal Heritage officers, work together to safeguard what remains.

Trees, shrubs and ground covers, native to the area, have been planted around the foreshore to reduce the impacts of coastal erosion and trampling.

Together, we can help protect the future of this irreplaceable heritage and the precious memories it holds.

Painting by John Glover (detail), 1831-33, TMAG and National Gallery of Australia.



## SUMMARY OF VOLUNTEER HOURS & GRANTS, 1997 – 2021

*We are a landcare group, formed in 1997, working under the guidance of Kingborough Council and with both schools to improve the biodiversity of our foreshore and gully reserves, and promote the protection and appreciation of our native flora and fauna.*

**Total volunteer hours per year (average) = 1100 hours**

- 400 hrs - working bees
- 200 hrs - monthly committee meetings
- 500 hrs - work outside meetings and working bees (grant applications/management, stakeholder consultation, weed control, planting, training, publications, work in schools, native vegetation protection, etc)

**1100 hours @ average \$40 / hour = \$55,000**  
(for general labouring/admin/fund management/interpretive publications/design)

**GRAND TOTAL VOLUNTEER LABOUR (1997-2021)**  
**\$55,000 x 24 years = \$1.32 million worth of volunteer labour!**

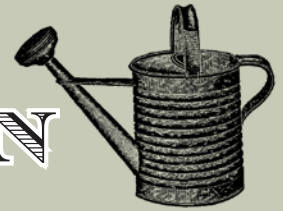
**GRANTS RECEIVED SINCE 1997**  
(Various funding bodies, with funds used to engage contractors, tools, tool trailer, publications, plants, etc) = **\$240,000** (average \$10,000 / yr)



TEN's new story panel on the muwinina aboriginal people, located at Taroona High School near the soccer ground.



# DAVID STEPHEN'S GARDENING COLUMN



## ORGANIC GROWING CALENDAR

### TASKS FOR THE SEASON

This is considered the best time of the year for renovating existing lawns and sowing new ones. As a precaution against corby grubs damaging your grass in the future, incorporate plenty of humus-rich material into the top 15cm of soil - deep litter based on sawdust or other wood waste is ideal being long-lasting in effect. Grass grubs are a symptom of an impoverished soil. As warm weather crops are removed, entire beds will soon be empty but don't leave them that way. Plant a cool season crop while the soil is still very active. Alternatively, plant some oats, ryecorn, blue lupins, annual clover, or tick beans as a protective **cover crop** that will eventually become a compost/mulch ingredient.

Long-keeping **onions** are harvested during early autumn and thoroughly dried off on wire mesh in the sun, or hanging recycled mesh orange bags. Store them for the winter in a dry area where air can circulate freely.

### WHITEFLY

Slightly damp autumn leaves tossed over a well lit small fire in the greenhouse is a great idea for suffocating white fly and some other insect pests before setting out the crops in spring. Once you allow these sucking pests to multiply, even the recommended sprays make controlling them difficult.

### CHINESE CABBAGE

This oriental specialty combines the thin crisp texture of lettuce with the mustardy tang of juicy cabbage. Unlike lettuce, Chinese cabbage grows with great vigor, sizing up fast even into cold weather. It does best when sown to mature in late autumn/early winter. For warm temperate climates, sow July - March, and all year round in Northern Australia. Gradually decreasing daylength and temperatures of late summer encourage beautiful heads. For spring planted early crops, variety selection is critical otherwise premature bolting may occur. Seedlings are infamous for running to seed. Choose a bolting-resistant variety and sow where they are to mature.

### CLOCHES PREVENT BOLTING

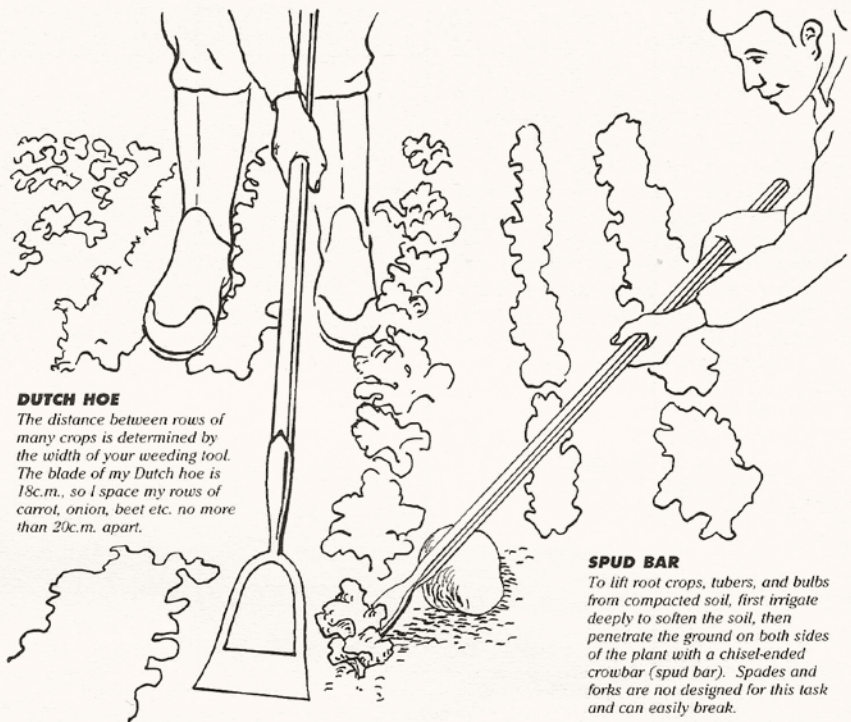
A plastic tunnel (or cloche) has its uses where many kinds of row crops are growing. An igloo made of protective plastic can save rows of beetroot, chard, celery and Chinese cabbage from prematurely running to seed in early spring and autumn. When exposed to a week or more of cold weather (below 10 degrees) these crops are most vulnerable to bolting at the seedling stage. It's heartbreaking to see your hard work come to nothing, so cover up!

## A P R I L

### USING SEAWEED

To rinse or not to rinse, that is the question! For the purpose of compost making, seaweed (as distinct from seagrass and rockweed) pulled dripping wet from ocean beaches and piled into compost heaps may be very slow to decompose. Speed this up by half by hosing off the salt water and sand which may have a sterilizing effect. Long thick stems of kelp etc. need to be cut into smaller pieces - the smaller the better - to allow more surfaces for decaying organisms to work on. As the compost pile is being built, dust each

15cm layer with blood and bone meal. Not only is this an ideal activator, but it supplies extra nitrogen and phosphorus which all seaweeds lack in luxury amounts. The finished matured product would represent the best all-purpose plant food and soil conditioner known. The small, lightweight varieties of seaweed are suitable for mulching, with the optimum depth for best effect at 12 - 15cm. A surprising number of vegetables are salt tolerant: only immature lettuces object to the leached sea water, but they don't die. Give your asparagus bed a generous coating of seaweed during early autumn. By spring, the new shoots for cutting will be easily seen growing through the resulting compost.



### DUTCH HOE

*The distance between rows of many crops is determined by the width of your weeding tool. The blade of my Dutch hoe is 18c.m., so I space my rows of carrot, onion, beet etc. no more than 20c.m. apart.*

### SPUD BAR

*To lift root crops, tubers, and bulbs from compacted soil, first irrigate deeply to soften the soil, then penetrate the ground on both sides of the plant with a chisel-ended crowbar (spud bar). Spades and forks are not designed for this task and can easily break.*

### PETER CUNDALL'S GUIDE

Spray peach and nectarine trees, as leaves are cast, with Bordeaux for controlling leafcurl. Prune all stone fruits as fruit is harvested. Apply limestone or dolomite around stone fruit and those apple trees which have been showing signs of 'bitter pit' in the fruit. Prune berry fruit by removing all old canes of raspberry and bramble bushes. Loosely tie together the new canes for next year's crops. Prune blackcurrant bushes by cutting out all old, dark coloured branches to leave younger ones. Clean up strawberry beds.

### AUTUMN INDOOR PLANTS

If your plants have been in the same container for more than two years and have started to look pale and anything but vigorous, repotting could be the answer. Repotting consists of scraping away much of the old soil from the roots. Trim the roots, thereby reducing the size of the rootball by about one-third. Next, prune back some of the foliage, - always cutting at a junction or leaf node to prevent die-back. Now place it back in the same pot or another slightly larger container, with a fresh potting mixture and slow release fertiliser.

# POSSUMS Playcentre

What a great start to term 1! There has been lots of learning and discovery with our predominantly nature based program. We are so lucky to be able to explore our local area and in doing so learn about how to take care of our environment. The children have been on local walks, planted seeds at the community garden and visited our local beach. We are always amazed at the new things we find.

This year we have had a change of staff with Lyn Long retiring and Karin and Eloise taking time off to travel and be with family. Jo Nash has taken over from Lyn. We are so lucky to have Emma Abbott, Sietske Hunn, Elsie Powell and Lupa Bryant come on board.

**Emma Abbott** has a science background and works at TMAG where she runs the early learning programs. She is at Possums on Mondays and we have benefited from her expertise in lots of ways such as teaching the children all about the wonderful marine life at the beach and the plants at the neighbourhood garden.

**Sietske Hunn** is a teacher/librarian with a degree in early childhood. She has a wealth of experience including teaching visual arts, drama and robotics. She is interested in environmental sustainability and inspiring the children to discover the world around them. Sietske works on a Friday at Possums.

**Elsie Powell** is a teacher with a daughter attending Possums. Elsie works on a Wednesday with myself and Lupa Bryant. Elsie is interested in everything to do with early childhood education and in particular books and the role they play inspiring our children to not only read but be imaginative and creative thinkers.

**Lupa Bryant** is the newest addition to Possums. Lupa has a Certificate 3 in Early Childhood Education and Care at TAFE. She is interested in art, stories and interacting with the children while they explore the world around them.

### Enrolments

Possums is still taking enrolments for 2022.

Please email [possumsplaycentre@hotmail.com](mailto:possumsplaycentre@hotmail.com) or phone 0418 390432. – Jo Nash



*Fun and games – and learning and discovery – at Possums Playcentre*

# Taroona Scout Group: Medallions well earned



The Australian Scout Medallion is considered the pinnacle of Scouting at this stage. To earn the Australian Scout Medallion a Scout must participate in a Scout Leadership Course and demonstrate an active leadership role in Scouting. In addition to excellence in contemporary

Scouting skills, demonstration of leadership through planning, resourcing, assignment of tasks, and successful completion of an activity is required to earn the award. Liam, Thomas, and Kaiki were presented with their Australian Scout Medallions by the Tasmanian Branch Commissioner for Scouts, Jonathan Pyefinch and proudly display their achievements (*see below*).



*Proud Cub section leader, Alan Henderson, presents Amina with the June Flood Do Your Best Award.*

We are blessed with a very dedicated section leadership team across Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers. Their dedication was recognised at Tasmanian State Branch level with four of our leaders receiving awards. Ruth received a Meritorious Service Award. Janette, Mel, and Martin also received Special Service Awards. All awards were presented by the Tasmanian Chief Scout, Michael Hovington (*see above right*).

During the end of year celebrations recognition is given to high achievement by youth members of the Group. For her contribution to the Cub section, Amina Taylor received the June Flood Do Your Best Award. The Janet Stephens' trophy for the

best performing patrol in the Scout section was awarded jointly to the Kangaroo and Wallaby Patrols.

The Scout section has been out and about in a COVID-safe way making the most of the sunshine and warmer weather. They've been kayaking and canoeing, making and sailing rafts, going on night walks, cleaning up rubbish in the local community, and celebrating the founding of Scouts with a cake and BBQ. Over the long weekend they attended the District Regatta at Snug Beach along with the Blackmans Bay Scout Group (who organised it) and our Scouts had enormous fun on, in, and near the water for



The Janet Stephens' trophy for the best performing patrol in the Scout section is proudly held by the Kangaroo and Wallaby Patrols.

Saturday and Sunday of the long weekend. Similarly, Joeys, Cubs, and Venturers have been enjoying first class Scouting experiences.

After many years of a full list the good news is that there is some room for 5-8 year olds to join Taroona Joeys. Be quick to ensure your child's spot. Please see notice opposite for contact details. Scouting begins at Joeys for those aged 5 and in full-time school. Joeys are helped to develop confidence and independence and get to do most of the things the older Scouts do! The Joeys have been on the beach for scavenger hunts and other games, they've celebrated Founder's Day with cake and some intellectual and physical games, they've helped to clean up the neighbourhood for Clean Up Australia Day, and recently were kayaking on 'sit-on-tops' in sheltered water. It's all very safe, very exciting, and inclusive.

The Scout annual Christmas tree and produce sale is a legendary event with huge local community support and expectations with delicious Christmas treats for sale. The 2021 event was again a huge success with the sale of reindeer and thanks to high quality trees kindly made available by Tasmanian company SFM Environmental Services that manages plantations across South Central Tasmania, predominantly in the Derwent Valley known as the Lenah Estate.

In addition to our fund-raising efforts, we were very grateful to receive two Commonwealth Government grants thanks to



## Taroona Scout Group

**Joey Scouts are amazing!**

*Check them out for your child!*

Joey Scouts are girls and boys aged \*5-7. They enjoy adventure, imagination, and being outdoors during their weekly one-hour meeting, and occasional sleepovers and camps.

Less screens - and more action, more fun, more friends, and more social skills!

**Enquiries: [lic.taroona@scoutstas.org.au](mailto:lic.taroona@scoutstas.org.au)**

\*if attending school fulltime

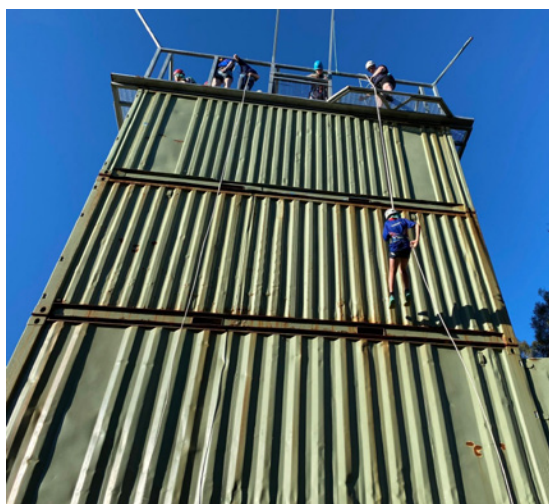


After many years of a full-list the good news is that there is some room for 5-7 year olds to join Taroona Joeys. Be quick to ensure your child's spot.

Scouts begins at Joeys for those aged 5 and in full-time school (i.e Prep). Joeys are helped to develop confidence and independence and get to do most of the things the older Scouts do! This term, the Joeys have been on the beach for scavenger hunts and other games, they've celebrated Founder's Day with cake and some intellectual and physical games, they've helped to clean up the neighbourhood for Clean Up Australia Day, and recently were kayaking on 'sit-on-tops' in sheltered water. It's all very safe, very exciting, and inclusive.

recommendations from our local House of Representatives member Andrew Wilkie. We received \$1,500 funding under the 2021 Volunteer Grants for training and \$5,000 under the Stronger Communities Grants that funded the replacement of 55-year-old fan heaters with high efficiency heat pumps.

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 Green 6227 9139** or **Janet 0400 297 646**. For information and membership enquiries you can also visit our new web page at <https://taronascoutgroup.com>



Recent Taroona Scout Group activities: Joeys on a walk, Scouts abseiling and regatting with Blackmans Bay Group.

# Taroona Bowls and Community Club welcomes new caterer



The Taroona Bowls and Community Club is delighted to welcome Brent Burgess and his team as our new caterer! Brent has an extensive background in the Tasmanian hospitality industry, hailing from The Ocean Child Hotel and The Roaring Grill, just to name a few.

**Dinner is available every Friday night from 5.30pm, and bookings are essential so please call the Club on 6227 8243 to make a reservation.** Brent is also

available to cater functions and events at the Club, so please get in touch if you would like to plan your next event or party!

Check out our Facebook page for upcoming events including our Dinner & Quiz Night on Saturday 09th April. We look forward to seeing you!

– Issabel Eaves, Board Member / Social Director



TAROONA BOWLS & COMMUNITY CLUB INC.

**The Taroona Bowls & Community Club**  
are pleased to announce that  
**Brent Burgess**  
(Ocean Child Hotel 1996-2000, Roaring Grill 2013-2019)  
has joined the Taroona Bowls Club as their new caterer.

**FRIDAY NIGHT BISTRO MEALS AVAILABLE FROM 5.30pm**

MAIN COURSE			
Barramundi	\$25.00	Crumbed Scallops	sm \$18 / lg \$28
Crumbed Calamari	sm \$15 / lg \$25	Chicken Schnitzel	\$20
Chicken Parmi	\$24	Goulash	\$23
Roast Pork & Veg	sm \$16 / lg \$23	Chicken Kiev	\$20
Veg Lasagne	\$19	<small>*served with chips and salad</small>	

KIDS	DESSERT		
Nuggets & Chips	\$10	Cheesecake	\$10

**INDICATIVE MENU ONLY (Selections and prices subject to change)**

Brent is also available to cater for

- Corporate functions and meetings
- Weddings, Parties ..... Birthdays
- Club functions and events
- Event days such as Melbourne Cup, AFL Final etc
- Wine and beer tastings

We look forward to seeing you on a Friday night or hosting your next lunch or dinner, event or party

# News from Taroona Primary School

## Paver Rescue



When going for an evening stroll, Graeme and I noticed that the Millennium Pathway at Taroona Primary School had been replaced by artificial grass. We subsequently discovered 2 pallets of pavers behind the terrapin classroom, ready for disposal.

After discussing this with some Taroona parents, it was clear that former students and their families felt a strong connection to the inscribed pavers. We decided to contact the school Principal to see if we could relocate the pavers either in the school grounds or elsewhere in Taroona. We identified a spot at the school where we could re-lay the pavers.

A Working Bee on Saturday 5th March resulted in a small area next to the Prep classroom being transformed into a place where many memories are preserved. A number of the pavers had been vandalised during the holidays. Some were able to be pieced together again and form part of the new installation.

Many thanks to Lyn, Karin, Damian and Graeme for their skill, enthusiasm and community spirit. Thank you also to Danielle Bresnehan for supporting our little project and recognising the need to preserve part of the T.P.S. history.

– Judy Hunt





# QUIZ NIGHT

AROUND THE WORLD



IN 80 QUESTIONS

**6.30pm Dinner for 7:30pm Start**  
**Dinner & Quiz \$25 per Person**

Teams / Tables of up to 8 — Raffles and Prizes on the Night



SATURDAY
09
APRIL

Delicious Dinner included — Drinks at Club Prices  
Hosted by Quiz Masters Helen Smith & Shelagh Curtain  
Sign your team up at the Club  
or Phone 6227 8243

# TAROONA'S GIANT BOOK SALE



**2nd weekend of July**

**Taroona Shopping Centre**

*(To Be Confirmed)*

We are collecting books already as we have a very large storage facility and will move to Taroona in the end of April/early May.

If you would like to donate books, please contact me on 0417 528 463, or Sue on 0409 442 593, to arrange collection.

We specialise in house cleanouts – people who are downsizing or cleaning out mum & dad's or granddad's home.

*Proceeds will go to support local schools and other Lions Club projects.*



– Alan Pretyman, Secretary, Lions Club of Kingborough





## St Luke's News



Happy New Year. It seems such a long time since I last wrote for this newsletter – it was almost Christmas! We had another gorgeous summer evening to enjoy Community Carols on the lawn – thanks to all who came, it was a wonderfully joyous event.

After a break over Summer our activities have re-started. We'd love to welcome some more 0–4yr olds with their parents/grandparents/carers at **St Luke's playgroup on Tuesday mornings 10:30–12**. It is a great way for the young ones to learn early socialization, playing with others and enjoying a story and songs. Carers can enjoy a coffee and chat and a chance to get out of the house!

**Our writing group has returned with a new time of 2–4pm on Tuesday afternoons, while Art remains 1–3pm on Thursdays.** Why not come along and be creative!

Our new **song space on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm has been postponed until after Easter**, due to the mask mandate. It's quite difficult singing for 2 hours with a mask on – but we hope to back in May!

**Exercise group on Thursday mornings at 10 is also on hold** and hopes to be back after Easter depending on the need to wear masks. In addition to our **Sunday worship service at 9:30 am**, we have



**a new intergenerational low key gathering at 5pm called Sunday@5**, a time to learn and explore the Christian faith, enjoying friendship, fun and food! All welcome.

We have been journeying through the Psalms at St Luke's this year and they are a great comfort in these troubled times. Many are anxious with the ongoing pandemic, floods and natural disasters and conflict in Ukraine and Russia. The Psalms are great prayers as we call out to God to rescue and save and bring comfort. Many of you will know Psalm 23 – *The Lord is my shepherd . . . Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.* We pray for God's peace throughout the world.

**As always, any queries please don't hesitate to call Ruth Hanlon on 0401 637 071.**



### Taroona Neighbourhood Garden Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday 30 March, 7.15pm**

**St Lukes Church Hall.**

*All members welcome.*

Self nominations for committee accepted now by email at [tng@taroonatastas.au](mailto:tng@taroonatastas.au), or at 7.15 pm at start of the meeting.

## Taroona Sippers and Purlers

The Taroona knitters meet on the first Saturday of each month, 2pm to 4pm.

We range from beginners to expert.

Join us at the delightful Shot Tower Cafe.

**For more information contact [thestoddarts@gmail.com](mailto:thestoddarts@gmail.com)**

## PIC OF TAROONA



### Taking to the water – Photography by Bernard Lloyd

AVAST! The TOSSAs [the Taroona Ocean and Sea Swimming Association] have been TOSSING every Sunday from the Taroona Beach Boat ramp to the Alum Cliffs and return. It is a wonderful watery waste of time, with a fabulous bunch of TOSSAs who dip their conning towers beneath the waves for this weekly aquatic ceremony.

We have seen many new TOSSAs welcomed into the fray this season, along with the core bunch, some who have been TOSSING for over a decade. C'mon you landlubbers, cast ye to the TOSS! #tossaswim

*Bernard Lloyd is a TOSSA. The photographs were taken with the most seaworthy iPhone: the mini 12 encased in a Lifeproof housing.*



## Taroona Community Association Inc.

**President:** Jill Hickie, 4 Devon Walk, Taroona, 0408 382 878  
**Secretary:** Janette Power, 8 Earlwood Court, TaroonaCASecretary@gmail.com  
**Treasurer/ Public officer:**  
 Anne Parrott, 11 Jenkins Street, Taroona  
**Newsletter Editor/Designer:**  
 Liz Haywood, 0438 622 799  
**Committee:** Alison Phillips, Damian Devlin, Fiona Rice, Dal Andrews,  
 Maureen Robinson, Roger Kellaway, Marilyn Pauley  
**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'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](mailto: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 11 Jenkins Street.

**This issue of *Taroona News* has been printed with the support of the offices of Senator Catryna Bilyk, Senator Carol Brown and Andrew Wilkie MP, Member for Clark. It has been distributed to your letterbox by over 30 volunteers.**

### Disclaimer

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