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TAMAR VALLEY NEWS



The state of business in the Tamar Valley

Read the full story on pages 4-5



Is cashless the only way forward?

*'The better big bank' announces it will
leave Beaconsfield without a bank, less
than 3 years after opening.*

Read more on pages 10-11

New campaign launches to challenge perceptions about palliative care

A state-wide awareness campaign is being launched to challenge the public perception of palliative care.

Palliative Care - It's more than you think. - has been created to engage the community in an innovative way about the benefits of palliative care.

The multimedia campaign presented by Palliative Care Tasmania, with the support of the Tasmanian Government, seeks to challenge perceptions that palliative care is a 'last resort'.

The campaign aims to empower individuals to engage with their health care professionals early in their diagnosis, in the hope to live as well as possible, for as long as possible.

The campaign will help Tasmanians better understand that palliative care supports people

living with a life-limiting illness to have the highest possible quality-of-life, through symptom and pain management, physical and mental support services, care services, family planning, and education.

The campaign will work to re-shape the perception of palliative care: changing the initial thought of hospital beds, tubes and doctor appointments, to instead focus on the possibilities that palliative care can provide, with scenes of people continuing to live life well and enjoy the activities that they love.

Colleen Johnstone, CEO of Palliative Care Tasmania says: "At its heart, it is a clear and simple message; the campaign is aimed at informing, empowering and encouraging Tasmanians living with a life-limiting illness to engage with their health care professionals early in their diagnosis, so

as to live as well as possible for as long as possible."

Adopting a light-hearted and 'vintage' style of animation, the Palliative Care - It's more than you think. campaign seeks to challenge perceptions and start conversations about end-of-life care.

The original series of animated vignettes were designed in response to the initial question; What is palliative care? Different scenarios were created to encourage the public to respond with answers and activities not usually associated with palliative care, such as: golfing, fishing, gardening, travelling, and even ticking an item off the bucket list like parachuting.

The campaign website, <https://morethanyouthink.org.au/> explains clearly and simply what palliative care is, who it is for, who can provide it, and

where palliative care can be provided, together with answers to frequently asked questions.

"Palliative care really is more than you think. It's for anyone of any age - from babies to older adults - who have been diagnosed with a life-limiting illness, and it can be provided alongside curative treatments, or when those treatments have ended."

"All palliative care is about quality of life and helping people with a life-limiting illness live their lives as well as possible for as long as possible," Ms Johnstone said.

The original campaign was launched nationally in 2021 by Palliative Care Australia but did not reach Tasmanian audiences in a significant way.

The new Tasmanian launch leverages the original na-

tional campaign and assets in a localised context.

The campaign will roll out state-wide on television, in print, online, and outdoor over the months of March, April and May 2023.

This campaign also invites Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and multicultural communities across Tasmania to start a conversation around palliative care to breakdown some of the misconceptions and raise awareness of the services available.

"Sometimes palliative care can support people for many months, or even years. People need to know that palliative care is available to anyone with a life-limiting illness, regardless of their postcode, diagnosis, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status or place of care, to enable them to live as well as possible for as long as possible."

Additionally, as part of this initiative, a suite of resources has been created to support people to have those challenging but potentially powerful moments connected to the end-of-life.

The resources are available in 11 languages: Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Hindi, Arabic, Spanish, Italian, French, Greek, German, and English.

General Practitioners (GPs) are significant among those who can provide palliative care, therefore campaign information packs with resources will be sent state-wide to GP clinics and Community Health Centres to support the community.

Palliative Care Tasmania will also provide education and information through community engagement.

Tamar Valley News seeks your feedback



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Tamar Valley News is locally owned and operated by Hyperlocal Media, based in Trevallyn.

As a local business, we care about the local community and are currently working on a range of improvements to the publication to make it more accessible, relevant and informative than it already is.

As part of this process, we want your feedback on Tamar Valley News, and we're offering you the chance to win 1 of 3 \$100 gift cards by filling out a short survey.

Zac Lockhart, Managing Director of Hyperlocal

Media said that reader feedback is crucial to being able to deliver better news content.

"We live in a society that has become accustomed to a 24/7 news cycle" said Mr Lockhart, "making it more crucial than ever for community newspapers to be relevant, informative and accessible."


"Without feedback from our readers, we would be operating the business while blindfolded. Luckily we already receive a range of feedback, suggestions and encouragement from the communities we serve, but we are seeking to gather some larger numbers of

feedback so we can analyse what is most important to our readers, and our advertisers."

"If you've ever read the Tamar Valley News, and had thoughts on what you'd like to see more or less of, then now's your chance to speak up, and have your say, and maybe win a gift card in the process"

To give your feedback and go in the draw to win 1 of 3 \$100 gift cards, go to survey.tamarvalleynews.com.au

Winners will be notified by email on the 1st of June 2023.



Palliative Care *It's more than you think.*



Palliative care is about maximising quality of life. The aim is neither to hasten nor postpone death. The focus is on helping people with a life-limiting illness to live as well as possible, for as long as possible.

Palliative care is high-quality health care and support for people living with a life-limiting illness and their families. Palliative care helps people live as well as they can by managing pain and symptoms to ensure their quality of life is maintained as the illness progresses.

Palliative care identifies and treats symptoms and issues associated with a life-limiting illness which may be physical, emotional, spiritual or social. Palliative care is a family-centred model of care, meaning that family and carers can also receive practical and emotional support.

Palliative care may include:

- Relief of pain and other symptoms, e.g. vomiting, shortness of breath
- Medication management
- Food and nutrition advice and support
- Planning for future medical treatment decisions and goals of care
- Resources such as equipment needed to aid care at home
- Assistance for families to come together to talk about sensitive issues
- Links to other services such as home help and financial support
- Support for people to meet cultural obligations
- Support for emotional, social and spiritual concerns
- Counselling and grief support for the person with the illness and their family and carers
- Bereavement care to the family and carers once the person has died.

Visit www.morethanyouthink.org.au or talk to your health care professional

Reproduced in conjunction with Palliative Care Australia

Ash Barty set to smash Australian Made Week

She's a former Young Australian of the Year, an Australian Open, French Open and Wimbledon champion, and has excelled in other endeavours, including golf, cricket and as an author, role model and a proud Ngarigo woman.

Now Ash Barty is serving one of her most patriotic points yet as the ambassador for Australian Made Week 2023 (15–21 May).

Ash will be representing Australia as she highlights how seeking out and buying products bearing the Australian Made logo supports local growers, producers and businesses and benefits the Australian economy.

Ash said buying goods and produce made in Australia also comes with an added feel-good factor.

"There are so many benefits to buying Australian made, including creating and supporting local jobs and boosting the economies of cities and towns where the goods are produced," she said.

"There's a huge amount of choice when it comes to local goods, plus you can buy with confidence knowing that goods carrying the Australian Made logo have been grown and manufactured locally to Australia's high standards."

"I grew up on some iconic

Aussie brands, so I'm incredibly excited to have this opportunity to be part of the Australian Made campaign and spread the word about homegrown favourites and newcomers."

"Having travelled the world, I feel so much pride in our country and the high-quality goods it produces."

"Nothing would make me happier than knowing my involvement in Australian Made Week had encouraged people to support our wonderful country."

The latest figures from Roy Morgan Research show Australians are as committed as they've ever been to supporting local manufac-

turing and production.

Four in five (86%) say buying Australian is important to them, while 67% state they 'often' or 'always' buy Australian-made products.

Impressively, 99% of Australians aged 18 and over are aware of the Australian Made logo.

Australian Made Chief Executive Ben Lazzaro says he couldn't think of anyone better to draw attention to Australian Made Week and help push that recognition to 100% than Ash.

"This is a great time to remind everyone about the direct economic impact buying Australian can have

on the livelihoods of thousands of Australians throughout the supply chain," Ben said. "Ash is the perfect ambassador to highlight the best this country has to offer. She is an inspiration and loved by Australians. She has a long-standing history of supporting Australian Made brands including Vegemite and Esmi Skin Minerals, so working with Australian Made is a natural extension of this. "There's an Australian Made option in just about every product category you can think of, from high-end health and beauty products to industrial materials.

"During Australian Made

Week, we'll be highlighting the stories of some of the people behind the more than 4,400 businesses that consider their Australian Made certification a badge of honour."

Keep your eyes out for the Australian Made, Australian Grown green-and-gold logo, Australia's most trusted, recognised and widely used country of origin symbol.

Consumers can learn more about Australian Made Week and find genuine Aussie products at australianmadeweek.com.au and share their Australian Made purchases on social media using #AustralianMadeWeek

Councillors to vote on budget consultation

A capital works programme worth more than \$20.4 million headlines the City of Launceston's draft annual budget for the 2023-24 financial year.

Launceston Mayor Danny Gibson said that figure is somewhat lower than previous years as the Council continues to manage inflationary pressures as well as limited contractor availability.

Councillors will consider sending the proposed budget out to the community for a four-week public consultation period at the next ordinary Council meeting.

Mayor Gibson said the Council's proposed expenditure of \$136 million for the 2023/24 financial year includes significant spending on the municipality's

recreational facilities roads and traffic maintenance and improvements as well as \$1.4 million for a new playground at City Park and renewal of the ever-popular duck ponds.

Other significant inclusions in Council's proposed Capital Works program for 2023/24 include:

- Major Plant Replacement Purchases - \$1.61 million
- Road Reseal Program - \$1.6 million
- Alexandra Suspension Bridge Stage 2 - \$1.5 million
- Roads Reconstruction Program - \$1.415 million
- Princess Theatre and Earl Arts Centre Redevelopment - \$1.2 million

- Footpath Reconstruction Program - \$1.02 million
- Addition of a new Pump Track - \$500,000
- Roads Network Extensions - \$500,000
- Launceston Aquatic Centre works (including gym equipment upgrades and pool plant and equipment renewal) - \$440,000
- Street Tree Strategy and Urban Implementation - \$400,000
- Sport Facility Renewal Program - \$300,000
- Community Halls Renewal Program - \$300,000
- YMCA Upgrade - \$250,000
- Royal Park Amenities Upgrade - \$250,000
- Christmas Tree and Decorations - \$115,000
- Royal Park Skate Park Upgrade - \$20,000

Mayor Gibson said the Council was budgeting for a small underlying surplus of \$928,000 - a return to surplus two years sooner than originally expected - on the back of a proposed rate increase of 4.5 per cent.

"Obviously this is a challenging time for number of councils across Tasmania and right around the country, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) running particularly high at 7.7 per cent," Mayor Gibson said.

"The businesses we deal with on a daily basis are passing on those costs to us so that's something as a Council we have to be conscious and mindful of at all times."

Mayor Gibson said there were proposed increases for waste management due

to cost increases associated with the collection and disposal of landfill, recycling and FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics).

"This increase is tied to factors such as the price of fuel, CPI pressures, as well as Council's Sustainable Pricing Model," Mayor Gibson said.

"Ultimately it's important that we always seek to balance the challenges faced by our community with the need to maintain the wide array of services and facilities our community relies on.

"With a proposed rate increase significantly below CPI, and a capital works program aimed at maintaining and upgrading existing assets, the Council has attempted to strike this bal-

ance at a time when many households are facing cost of living pressures and we think this budget achieves just that."

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The state of business in the Tamar Valley

By Toby Strochnetter

It's no secret that small businesses have struggled through the pandemic. With statistics saying as high as 60% of new small businesses have been closing within the first 5 years, the question begs... How are small businesses actually doing in the Tamar Valley?

Due to quarantine restrictions boosting online shopping, there would be the assumption that it would affect local businesses.

Shockingly when asked, most business owners stated that they weren't affected at all.

"It's the complete opposite here, people tend to go out of their way to support local business." Stated Tanya, Owner of Noor Hair Exeter.

"The locals are great, they support us, they're our bread and butter." Said Lucinda, Owner of Moon Lily Kitchen and Cakes.

Fortunately, it seems that there's this sense of community and wanting to support one another.

It can make such a huge difference when locals make the decision to buy from a local business.

Not only are they helping create jobs for your friends and neighbours, but it also contributes to improving public infrastructure.

It's essentially investing in your community, both socially and economically.

Regardless of support from locals, this isn't to say that there haven't been other struggles. A main problem that arose during the pandemic, and even now, has been employment.

"Staff's the big one. We've had, it's not as much now as it was, but for a period there especially during COVID, we had a lot of issues finding staff." Cody, the Manager at Shakers Takeaway, said.

Lucinda mentioned, "Because we're very tourist based, obviously being 'Beacy' [Beaconsfield] the unpredictability and with staffing, it's always really hard to judge."

If a business needs specific requirements of its staff, it can also add a challenge to a business in a small town.

"Trying to get people, to local tradespeople to be able to do work, they're all busy and it means we have to source people from further afield, generally from Launceston and I've even



Exchange Hotel Beaconsfield owner Gavin and fellow employee (PHOTO: Ezra Davidson)

had to source people from down South." Gavin, owner of Exchange Hotel Beaconsfield, said.

Another big question people may be wondering, is if the cashless society movement may be affecting businesses. Lucinda responds to this question, "Not overly, the costs of merchant fees is because I don't want to charge people for the merchant fees. Our merchant fees a month, are about \$800 so that's a lot of money just for

fees to have to go cashless. So, the banks to me, should be doing a favour to themselves and to us, to not charge those fees."

Business Owners like Lucinda, as well as other small businesses take on the fees themselves so you, the customer, isn't charged more.

Fortunately, a lot of local businesses want to be sure the cost-of-living stays as low as possible for you.

You may be wondering if there's any extra mile you can go to support local businesses.

When asked what the people of the Tamar Valley can do to help her business, Lucinda responded, "Just keep coming in. Spread the word."

"Use the other things that we offer as well. If people have a special occasion, a birthday, if people are gluten free or vegan, we do all those sorts of options, and they don't have to go all the way to town to get one."

Business owners all ac-

knowledge that its businesses supporting each other as well as customers supporting them. By mentioning a local business and buying a product, that in itself is going the extra mile.

It seems to be that supporting each other is the way to go, giving what you would want to receive in return. It creates this chain effect of benefiting the entire community, while looking after family and friends.

There are even some fun and creative ways you can go about supporting your community too.

"I'm actually organising a Tamar Valley Festival." Lucinda continues, "It's the heart of the Tamar Valley Festival, so that will be held in the main street here. We're looking at the 14th of October this year. It'll be a jazz, wine, and food festival with vintage cars and stuff for kids."

In spite of everything, it's still important to recognise that some businesses have mentioned that for them, "it's been a nightmare".

Many local businesses work long hours for little reward, and have been really struggling.

Thankfully, some haven't been too negatively affected and have had support from locals and other businesses.

This is why it's important to give those struggling local businesses a helping hand as well as those who are thriving, so they can continue to do so.

Tamar Valley businesses have changed after the pandemic; a lot of them going back to their old ways of operating, others with new producers in place, and some still recovering living day by day.

Supporting locals doesn't always feel like it's created a change, however, it all adds up.

Especially after realising it is a local person's livelihood and their way of supporting their family and the countless other people supported through employment.

Not only does it help the in-



Noor Hair creating stylish transformations one at a time (PHOTO: Ezra Davidson)

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dividuals, it helps the community as a whole. Keep it up locals who support locals, the business owners are noticing and appreciate

you!

Lucinda expressed her gratitude, "Thank you to all the locals and the community

that have supported us and we're grateful and we love to be part of the community."

Tamar Valley News would

like to express a thank you to Moon Lily Kitchen and Cakes, the Exchange Hotel Beaconsfield, Noor Hair, and Shakers Takeaway for

speaking publicly about the state of business in the Tamar Valley. We would also like to thank the other business owners we spoke to off the

record. It has been a truly insightful experience.

A Night of Food and Entertainment: Dinner and a Movie

By Toby Strochnetter

If you're the type that's into watching the TV while snacking or eating dinner, then the latest event to hit the streets of Launceston may resonate with you.

Better yet, if you just enjoy switching up your routine and want to give it a fun twist, you can't go wrong with live entertainment and food, right?

A new exciting, event has hit the local community with great success. If you haven't already caught on, it involves a dinner and a movie.

Curious about the details?

Event organiser, Mr Watts clarifies, "So dinner and a movie is a free community event. It's based around live entertainment and food starting from 4:30 on the third Friday of each month, at which time we will show a film after sunset." For everyone's comfort, there will be some changes to the event depending on the season.

Mr Watts explained for wintertime, he planned to start the movies at 6.30 PM, whilst in the summertime the movie would be set to start around 8-8.30 PM.

Obviously, whatever you're watching is important regardless of it being a free event.

"We like to show relatively family friendly movies. We're not showing kids movies. We're not focusing on documentaries or anything. This is purely for entertainment, and we try to have some quality films."

Even better, if you want to celebrate your holidays, Dinner and a Movie has got you covered.

"We do try to find some themes here and there. If we can, in October close to Halloween, we might show a zombie movie or something, or times will start a little bit later."

"Everybody's seen Forrest Gump and Titanic. Yeah, not that. We'll never do that." The past films showcased were The Secret Life of Walter Mitty and The

Peanut Butter Falcon, both of which reportedly having great feedback from the public for the event.

If you're a foodie, you're in for a treat. There'll be a variety of foods to satisfy your hunger, as well as beverages.

"We have 9 stalls all together. One is selling beer and one is selling wine. So that leaves us seven for food. We typically try to run about two dessert, and then five sorts of mains and snacks in a variety of things. So, for instance, this past month here in April, we had some classic burgers and chips. We had some American style barbecue, and then we had, like Mai Tai doing Thai food, to the Himalayas bringing in their dumplings and curries." Mr Watts says.

All of that sounds delicious, doesn't it? However, it also matters where you're sitting as you're watching a great movie with some tasty food.

If you like to be cosy while watching a movie, this event has got you covered! With the use of council chairs and tables, as well as umbrellas,

there's plenty of space to sit and enjoy the movie, and if you need any more enticement, there's plans of adding bean bags or lounge chairs.

When asked how many people attend the event, Mr Watts replied, "the whole area is headed for 1500 if I recall correctly. We had about 300 through the door on our first event and a little over 370 on this past."

When asked about what gave Mr Watts the idea to start this event, he replied, "We have seen some previous events such as the Launceston night market and they've had a good turnout.

I guess some things have happened where they've really slacked off recently, and Launceston doesn't have that much night time stuff, especially through the wintertime, as far as events go." He continued, "So, we thought it was a great opportunity to bring in the film and the music, we can cater towards two different crowds and a lot of people just love both of those."

Future plans of the event seem to be exciting and are sure to be filled with a whole heap of entertainment.

Mr Watts goes over what may be in store later, "Doing the themed events and really trying to get that going. Working with other organisations you know, maybe having a dance group theme. Inviting all our local martial arts groups, there's some armoured combat groups, you know get our Knights out here in the armour and their swords and things, doing some demonstrations, playing some theme background music. I don't know, we can show something like the gladiator or whatever."

"We are looking for a lot of the community feedback to see what kind of things they're enjoying as well before we make any final decisions."

When asked why the local people of the Tamar Valley should attend the event, Mr Watts responded, "I guess just a great variety of food. It's the start of a

weekend. We didn't think there would be a much better way to start off your weekend. Coming right here to downtown, surrounded in the beautiful square, what more can you ask for? The foods the entertainment, have yourself a beer if you like, watch a movie. Have a chat, make some new friends. Bring your blanket and a friend."

After carefully considering his argument, it's hard not to agree with him.

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Mr Watts shares the idea behind the newest event 'Dinner and a Movie' (PHOTO: Ezra Davidson)

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Featured Article

Sweet dreams are made of Tea



Tea Shop owner Bruce Webb spills the tea (Photo: Zac Lockhart)

By Zac Lockhart

What does the coronation of King Charles, advocacy for women-owned business and a passion for supporting the community all have in common? The answer, a unique tea shop situated in George Street, Launceston.

But what makes this store so quirky and unique? We asked owner Bruce Webb to spill the tea.

“Well, I do notice when they do walk in, they go wow, look at the colour. So much to look at. Where do we start?”

“I’ve been in retail since I

left school,” said Mr Webb, “and I was an executive at David Jones for many years.”

“I oversaw the Food Hall marketing and visual merchandising, and I was mentored by some very good people in the industry who taught me about how to utilise space in the shop, how to create interesting corners to make people want to walk around and see the see what’s there, it’s like a new discovery for them.”

Walking around The Tea Shop it is undeniable that Mr Webb has infused his vibrant personality into the store, blending his love of tea, his passion for small

business and love of community to create a tea experience like no other, leaving notes of enjoyment and quirkiness on the palate.

Speaking of tasting notes, tea drinkers more accustomed to staple brands like Tetley and Bushels would be amazed by the variety of ethically sourced teas on display.

“Well, I don’t ever wish to put Tetley or Bushels down, they’ve been a great standby for generations of Australians, and I’ve drunk those teas, and a lot of people have become accustomed to those teas.”

As the research and development of teas has taken place, the ways in which tea is enjoyed has also evolved.

“Teas today are like drinking a good glass of red.” Said Mr Webb, “Their character, the way they leave a flavour on your palate, could be from oak to malt to fruity to muscatels to really, fresh and invigorating.”

Interestingly, it’s not just the taste that sets them apart, with many staple tea brands being harvested by machinery, says Mr Webb.

“They are all harvested by machinery, whereas all our leaves we sell here are all handpicked by usually women, all paid a fair wage, that’s part of our mantra. They have to be paid a fair wage.”

In addition to supporting women, the Tea Shop has also recently added a line of

produces a range of teas, with something to suit everyone.

Bruce is proud to sell Tasmanian made and owned Teas as well, one of which was selected as an official coronation tea and encourages everyone to walk up the George Street Boulevard to rediscover your royal tea shop.



first nations teas to its shelves, being selected as the location for the world release of this exciting new brand of teas.

“I think that to me it’s the changing face of Australia. Who’d ever thought a guy would be running a tea shop? Once the domain of a woman, and the guys did all the blending, the marketing and everything behind the scenes and now it’s a big turn around.”

The Tea Shop is a major stocker of T2 teas, a popular Australian owned business owned by Women, which

For those looking for something more exotic, Bruce is also keen to showcase teas from around the world, including his new range of Sri Lankan teas.

With Mother’s day this month, it’s the perfect time to visit the Tea Shop to purchase a gift pack, peruse the variety of teas, and enjoy the quirky experience of the store.

You can find the Tea Shop at 101 George Street, Launceston, and find them on Facebook.

the tea shop

YOUR Tea Shop" Tea-To-Gether this Mother's Day May 14.

Is your MUM a tea connoisseur? Discover our affordable, scrumptious Teas, our stunningly beautiful handmade Teawares or our popular Gifting-To -Go

The Tea Shop 101 George Street neighbour to The Mac Shop

Community help needed to support a new monitoring program for the Tamar

By Ezra Davidson

With help from the public, a new program will improve our understanding of a range of species and ecological communities and enhance our understanding of ecosystem health in the Kanamaluka/Tamar estuary.

As part of the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program, the Biological Monitoring Program pilot will assess emergent tidal wetlands, seagrass meadows, bird populations and Gambusia Holbrooki population trends.

Community members are being encouraged to take part through four Fluker Posts to be installed at emergent tidal wetland habitats. TEER Program Manager, Darren McPhee, said the Fluker Posts will allow the public to contribute photos from the same location over time.

For tidal wetlands, broad-scale changes in the ecosystem can be captured through repeat photography, such as erosion along the edge of waterways and the presence of invasive

species like rice grass.

By using the Fluker Posts, the community will assist in developing a visual data base that will help to improve our understanding of how things are changing over time, which is essential for effective management.

“Understanding how the ecosystem is changing is essential to its effective management, and for emergent tidal wetlands general changes can be captured through repeat photography. We know these areas are important to the community and we are excited to provide the opportunity for people to contribute to the monitoring of our local wetlands,” said Mr McPhee.

The four Fluker Posts will be installed at the Tailrace boardwalk, Windsor Precinct freshwater wetland, Tamar Island Wetlands Reserve, and George Town Kanamaluka trail, and will be accompanied by educational signage about each wetland type.

All these areas are widely used recreational areas for the community, and

home to some of the Tamar Valley’s valuable saltmarsh communities and biodiversity hotspots.

Wetlands are particularly important ecosystems with high biodiversity and offer a range of benefits from mitigating climate change to acting as natural water filters.

The Biological Monitoring Program aims to ensure these key wetland habitats and the wider Kanamaluka/Tamar estuary can sustain the numerous natural, cultural, and human use values into the future.

To achieve this, the Biological Monitoring Program will assess tidal wetland condition and extent, as well as seagrass meadows in the lower estuary, bird populations and Gambusia Holbrooki population trends to enhance our understanding of ecosystem health and inform future management decisions.

With data provided by Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service volunteer, John Duggin, and Birdlife Tasmania volunteer, Ralph

Cooper, the Biological Monitoring Program will monitor changes through time to give a greater understanding of the waterway.

Wetlands are now recognised as incredibly important ecosystems, however, that was not always the case.

The wetlands of the Kanamaluka/Tamar estuary have experienced historical declines in their extent through in-filling, the construction of levees, and development for urban and agricultural expansion.

To identify trends in the health of the remaining wetlands along the Kanamaluka/Tamar estuary, and to gain a better understanding of what changes are occurring locally, it is necessary to conduct long-term monitoring.

The Biological Monitoring Program aims to achieve this and collect and report on evidence-based data to inform future management decisions.

Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Roger



PHOTO: Zac Lockhart

Jaensch, congratulated all those involved in establishing this unique program.

“The biological values of the Kanamaluka are important not only to the species that rely on them, but to the community as well,” Minister Jaensch said.

“The Rockliff Liberal Government is investing \$65,000 per year until 2024 to support the monitoring program, helping increase our understanding and ability to effectively manage these valuable habitats and natural resources,” he said.

The TEER Program has commenced monitoring

of tidal wetlands including freshwater wetlands, saltmarsh, and Melaleuca Ericifolia swamp forests at numerous sites along the Kanamaluka/Tamar estuary, in January 2023.

Along with the imagery captured at each of the four Fluker Posts, this data will be analysed in the coming months, with the results included in the Biological Monitoring Program report scheduled for release in 2024.



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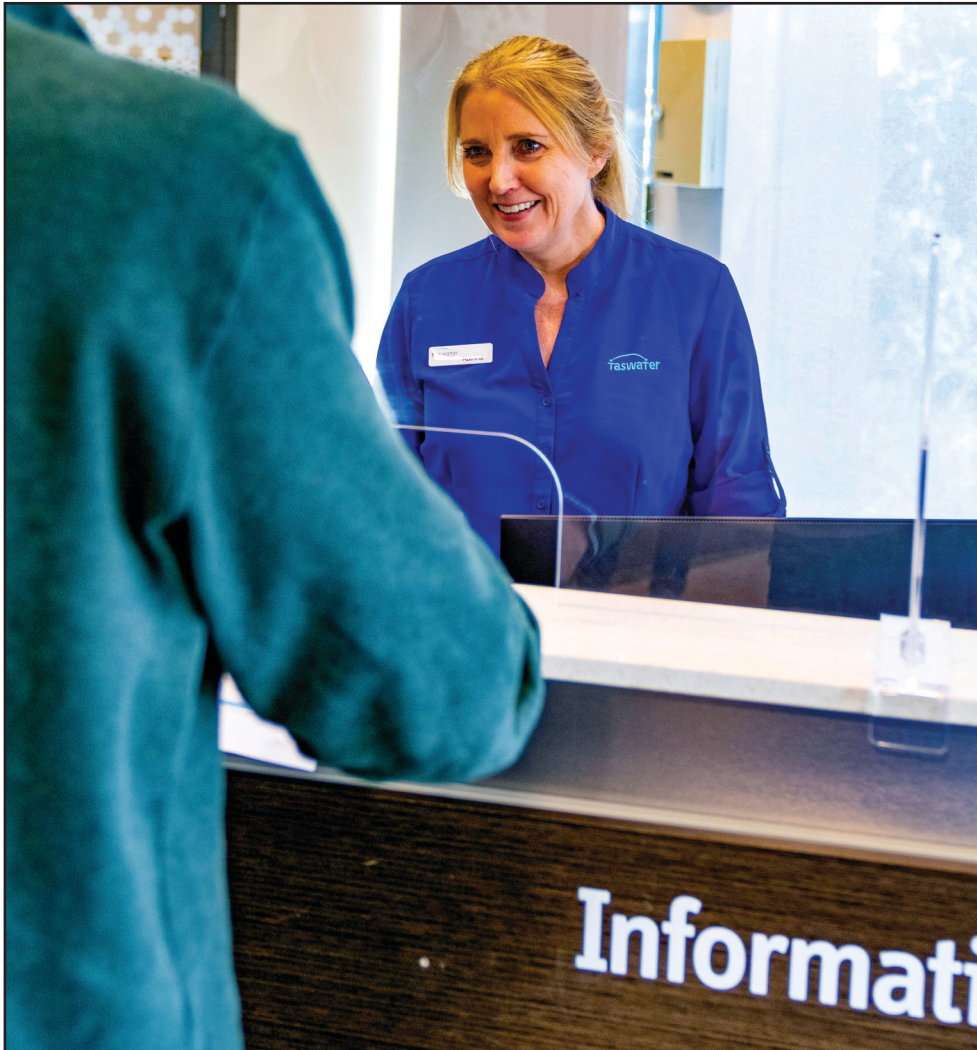
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Authorised by B. Archer, Liberal Party of Australia, 100 St John St, Launceston TAS 7250.

TasWater adds face-to-face support with three new main offices



TW Katrina Cooke assists a customer at the Moonah Customer Information Centre (Photo: Supplied by TasWater)

TasWater has opened new Customer Information Centres at each of its three main offices, adding a face-to-face option to its customer focus.

TasWater offices were closed to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic as all Tasmanians worked together to slow the spread of the virus and help keep our most vulnerable citizens safe.

Chief Executive Officer George Theo said the business had listened to feedback and it was time to add face-to-face service back into the mix.

"I am delighted that we have opened our new Customer Information Centres, bringing back a friendly face to TasWater's offices for our customers," Mr Theo said.

"It's important that our customers have choices in how they interact with us, particularly if they have barriers preventing them from using other channels.

"Although the offices were closed, TasWater customers were always able to reach us, our staff, and our services both online, and via our 24-hour assistance phone number, seven days a week.

"The centres will re-establish inclusive, accessible service that's fair for everyone," he said.

The Customer Information Centres will provide new opportunities for customers to connect with TasWater representatives to make enquiries about their bills and other services.

TasWater's Customer Information Centres are open at Main Road, Moonah, Charles Street, Launceston and Steele Street, Devonport.

"This is an exciting change for our customers and forms part of a range of initiatives currently underway as we ramp up our customer and community focus," Mr Theo said.

In addition to Customer Information Centres the community can continue to contact TasWater via the following channels:

TasWater Customer Service Centre number, 24-hours: 13 6992

If you need a translator: 13 1450.

Web: www.taswater.com.au

Facebook: TasWater

Prefer to read online?



A 55-year long Tasmanian respiratory health study searches for its' original participants

Back in 1968, 8,583 Tasmanian school children were recruited into what is now the world's largest and longest running study of asthma and respiratory health - The Tasmanian Longitudinal Health Study (TAHS). One participant has a vivid recollection of - "standing in line at Punchbowl Primary School in my bloomers and singlet blowing into a tube which looked like a hairdryer."

The study has followed these participants from the age of 7, via health questionnaires

and lung function tests, for 55 years.

So far, the data collected has informed over 80 research articles and 140 conference presentations, influencing new scientific knowledge, clinical practice and Australian policy around respiratory health.

The study has just begun its latest follow-up, which is critical for investigating the impact of previous health and environmental factors on the later life respiratory health of their participants,

now aged around 60 years old.

Keeping track of more than 8,000 children as they grow up, have families of their own, and age is no easy task. Many participants have moved interstate or overseas.

In previous decades, the study team utilised individual matching with Electoral rolls, Marriage registries, and Medicare databases to find participants at each follow-up stage of the study. At one time, Aurora Energy

even printed a message from the TAHS on their power bills, encouraging participants in Tasmania to get in touch.

Nowadays, things are significantly more challenging. Privacy laws, important for protecting individual safety and liberties, prevent the study team from utilising Medicare or any other Commonwealth databases to find their original participants.

With the rise in email and phone scams, people are understandably less willing

to engage when we reach out to them.

"We respect our participants' privacy and confidentiality, and we understand why people must be cautious when they are contacted. We always work within the bounds of research ethics and try to balance our respect for privacy with the need to trace our participants for this important health research." - Professor Shyamali Dharmage, TAHS Principal Investigator.

To reach as many partic-

ipants as possible for the latest follow-up, the study team is exploring modern strategies for tracking down their participants, including Social Media tiles on local community Facebook pages and stories in local newspapers.

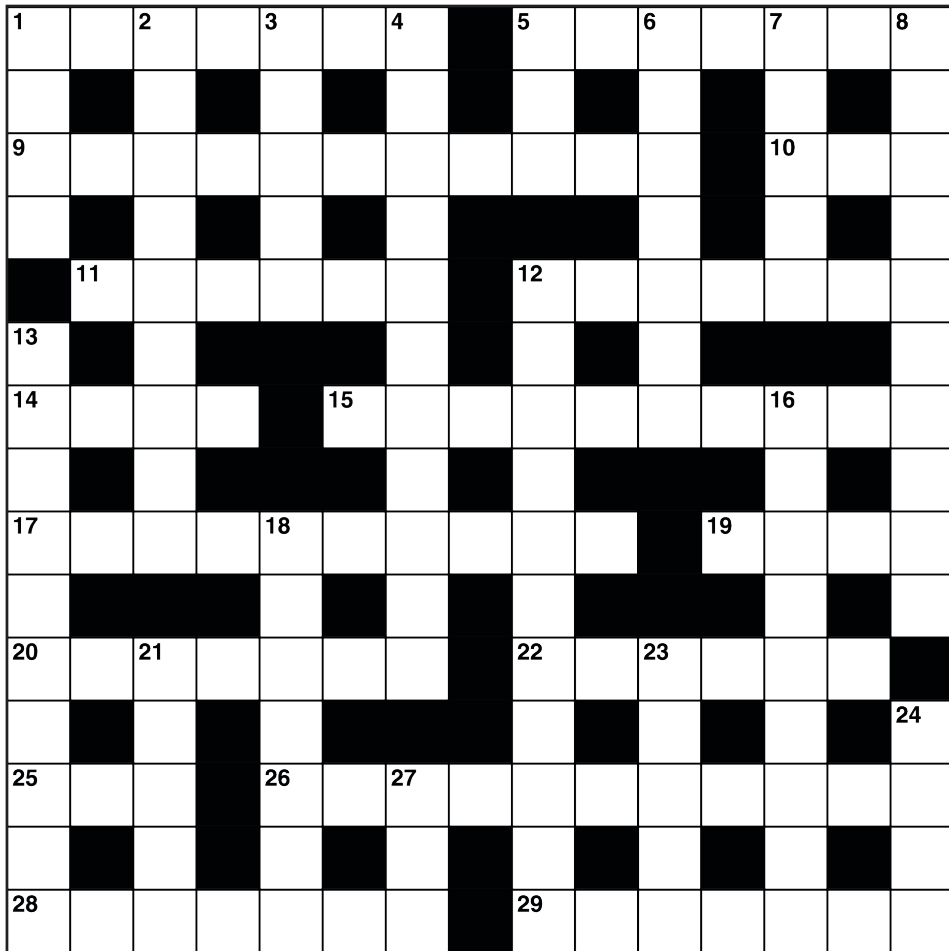
"We are really counting on local Tasmanian media in all its' forms to spread the word and help find our participants so the study can maintain its standard as world-class research into respiratory health". - Prof Dharmage



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Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Famous painter (7)
- 5 Exaggeratedly enthusiastic (7)
- 9 Open area of commercial dealings (11)
- 10 Grade of proficiency (karate) (3)
- 11 Act of kindness (6)
- 12 Non-professional (7)
- 14 Prepare for publication (4)
- 15 Separate section added to a newspaper (10)
- 17 Fanciful aversion to a new working week (10)
- 19 About (4)
- 20 Ragged and thin (7)
- 22 Hanging tuft of threads (6)
- 25 Finish (3)
- 26 Stood for (11)
- 28 Family name (7)
- 29 Completely (7)

DOWN

- 1 Mountain lion (4)
- 2 Flower (9)
- 3 Deal with (3,2)
- 4 Chance (11)
- 5 Indian state (3)
- 6 Slow escape of liquid (7)
- 7 Not affiliated with a major group (5)
- 8 Machines for converting energy to electricity (10)
- 12 Meeting (11)
- 13 People who maintain websites (10)
- 16 Nature spirit (9)
- 18 Republic in northwest Africa (7)
- 21 Radiolocation (5)
- 23 Confectionery item (5)
- 24 Frivolously (4)
- 27 Cobbler (3)

Answers

(Turn page upside down)



Jokes

A woman in labor suddenly shouted, "Shouldn't! Wouldn't! Couldn't! Didn't! Can't!"

"Don't worry," said the Doctor. "Those are just contractions"

What sits at the bottom of the sea and twitches?
A nervous wreck

What do you call a can opener that doesn't work?
A can't opener!

"If there are any idiots in the room, will they please stand up", said the sarcastic teacher.

After a long silence, one freshman rose to his feet.

"Now then mister, why do you consider yourself an idiot?", inquired the teacher with a sneer.

"Well, actually I don't," said the student, "but I hate to see you standing up there all by yourself."

Riddle

If there are three apples and you take away two, how many apples do you have?

Answer (Turn page upside down)

You have two apples

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Is cashless the only way forward?

By Ezra Davidson

Its back to Beaconsfield with the closure of their bank for the second time in three years.

In May of 2020 the Bank of Heritage Isle (BOHI) in Beaconsfield was closed to move forward with the industry.

In 2020 Andrew Rasby Bank of Heritage Isle Chief Member Officer said, "Digitisation is a change we are seeing across the whole business, indeed the whole industry. BOHI's branch network just isn't resonating with the community in the way it used to. So, we have to make a change."

This left a huge whole in the West Tamar Valley, it being at the peak of COVID-19, causing immense stress on the locals with no online experience, to have to not only transfer banks, but travel 40 minutes to do their banking amid a pandemic.

"To have made this decision in the middle of a pandemic and driving their elderly and most vulnerable customers out of their homes and into the public in order to wrap up their bank accounts is unconscionable.

All week there have been queues of people gathering outside branches in Launceston and Beaconsfield with customers travelling to get there," said Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer in 2020.

Fortunately, it didn't take long for Bendigo Bank to swoop in and fill the gap in the community that the BOHI had left.



Beaconsfield's only bank set to close its doors in June 2023 (Photo: Ezra Davidson)

This brought around ease and peace of mind to those in the community who were so disrupted by the closing of the branch several months prior.

"The community demonstrated that they had a complete expectation that they would have great, face-to-face, old-fashioned service, and it's here now so we encourage everyone to support the investment that's been made by the hardware store, and the support of Bendigo Bank, and get behind the team that's supporting the community," said MP Janie Finlay in 2020.

Fast forward two and a half years to the closure of the new Bendigo Bank agency.

The news of the closure has been spreading rapidly throughout the Tamar Valley, causing stress and

discomfort. The community, alongside MP Janie Finlay are working hard to keep the agency in Beaconsfield.

A community meeting was held in the uniting church on Wednesday 19th of April, with council members, Bendigo Bank Representatives and the agency operator flying in from Flinders Island in a bid to urge Bendigo to reconsider the closure of their agencies in rural areas, such as Beaconsfield and Flinders Island.

"We have had a commitment from the National Operations Manager that he will take back the information he learned yesterday in our meetings, he will directly provide feedback to the Managing Director of Bendigo Bank on behalf of our communities and within the next week, pro-

vide feedback to us if they can find a way forward for these agencies who are so trusted and supported by their communities, whether they can find a way for us to work together to stay open," said Ms. Finlay.

"There are very few banking services available in the Tamar Valley, and we know that more and more people are moving their accounts across to the Bendigo Bank Agency, with businesses and customers even coming all the way across from George Town."

Although hopeful, the community was not able to secure the Bendigo Agency to remain in Beaconsfield this time around.

"Following a detailed review of transaction activity, evolving customer banking habits and the declining

numbers of people using cash, we regret to advise that the Bendigo Bank Agency located at Beaconsfield Hardware, 4 Shaw St, Beaconsfield, will be closing on Monday, 26th June 2023. Closing an agency is never a decision we make lightly, however, as more and more customers choose to do their banking online or over the phone, our Bank must respond and invest to support evolving customer expectations, preferences and changes in banking behaviour. We regret any inconvenience the cessation of this service may cause." Said Rosie Hartney, Public Relations Assistant Manager.

Community members spoke up about hearing this, many sharing concerns about the closure including cybersecurity and the cost of travel.

"What's the point of me go-

ing all the way down there now. That cost me \$61.00, town is 50-52 kilometres. It's 104 all up, it costs just over \$60.00 that's 60 bucks in running costs for my car, just to go to the bank." Jonathan, Beaconsfield resident, banks with Bendigo.

"It's just really important that we do have a branch mainly for the elderly and people like me that don't/can't use technology." Crystal, Beaconsfield resident, banks with Bendigo.

"It is ridiculous. So many elderly people are living here in this area and towards Greens Beach and some of them or most of them are not driving." Eva, Beaconsfield resident, "I don't know who makes the decision, but it's definitely out of touch."

But Bendigo isn't the only bank that has been

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rumoured to close in the Tamar Valley.

"Many of our community are ageing & banking online is not an option for them. In the past, rumours have been circulating that the Commonwealth Bank in Exeter may also be closing. Where does that leave the community?" Councillor Joy Allen, West Tamar Council said.

The Commonwealth Bank Australia (CBA) have denied the rumours of an immediate closure, "Our Exeter branch is one of our multi-channel branches, which serves local customers in branch from 9:30am to 1pm and then shifts to assist our contact centres in the afternoon. For customers who prefer face-to-face support outside of these trading hours, Bank@Post remains available at the Exeter LPO, so both personal and business customers can make withdrawals, deposits and bill payments, including passbooks, during normal business hours." Monica Schubert, Commonwealth Bank Media.

"This operating model for our Exeter branch was implemented around 18 months ago and is a permanent, long-term solution designed to allow us to both meet the sustained demand for our phone and online banking services while continuing to maintain a strong presence in regional

Australia."

The closure of the Bendigo Bank agency in Beaconsfield pulls back the curtain on banking branches all around Australia, with more than

beginning of the pandemic.

Is this the dawn of a new cashless society? Will we have to either get with the times or get left behind? Is there anything that can be

lead to better outcomes for our communities who are affected by closures that we are seeing across our region and across the country. I encourage people to continue to reach out to me to share

"In February 2023, we publicly confirmed that following consideration of a request from the Senate Committee, CBA will not close any regional branches while the Senate Inquiry is

While banks do appear to be pulling out of rural areas and move into a predominantly online interface, they don't want to be leaving the community high and dry. Both CBA and Bendigo have provided options for the community around their open hours and for when the Bendigo branch inevitably closes.

"Our customers can continue to conduct over-the-counter banking at any of the more than 3,500 Australia Post outlets nationally using Bank@Post (fees may apply) and can also continue to transact as normal at any other Bendigo Bank branch or ATM, via internet banking, our mobile app or via phone banking on 1300 236 344." Added Rosie Hartney, Public Relations Assistant Manager.

Beaconsfield LPO is located at 108 Weld Street, Beaconsfield, which provides customers with an additional 15 hours a week to conduct over the counter transactions and is just a short 600 metre walk from the agency. The Bank has reached an agreement with Australia Post to support Concession Account Holders by waiving the fee to use this service."

Want to share your opinion on the matter? Let us know your thoughts by writing to the editor: news@tamarvalleynews.com.au



Commonwealth Bank, Exeter - The last bank to service the West Tamar region (Photo: Kristy Williams)

30% closing since 2018. This number is amplified in more rural and local areas. With COVID-19 ushering a new cashless society, the big banks are ready to capitalise on this by closing their branches, promoting online banking even further. Up to 900 branches have closed around Australia since the

done to prevent the closure of branches around Australia?

"The Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs is currently inquiring into bank closures in regional Australia, and I would expect that the outcomes of this inquiry will

their experiences as I continue my advocacy on these matters." Mrs Archer Said

Although CBA have denied the rumours of immediate closure, they have only confirmed their commitment while the senate inquiry is underway.

underway in 2023." Monica Schubert added.

This leaves the future of the CBA branch in Exeter and other regional areas a mystery and a place of concern for many as the closing of branches around Australia is on the rise.

Uncertain future for historic site

By Zac Lockhart

For many locals and tourists alike, Mt George is a place of learning, exploration and recreation, but historically, it has also been essential to communication through the use of a semaphore tower.

Although the tower is a replica, it holds a great deal of meaning, having been built by the local community for the purpose of preserving and teaching local history in 1988.

Lorraine Wootton, from the George Town & District Historical Society said that a number of tourists enquire about the history of the structure, and the role it played in our history.

Sadly, the structural integrity of the structure is in question, with George Town Mayor Greg Keiser stating that it needs to be taken down for proper assessment.

"The clock is ticking, and from a safety perspective it has to come down," said Mayor Keiser.

The question that remains unanswered, is what will become of the semaphore once it has been taken down?

There are no firm answers to this question, and what should be a simple case of restoration and preservation of a historical asset is being drawn out into a years' worth of council meetings, emails, public commentary, and ultimately, inaction.

The semaphore currently sits on Parks and Wildlife land, with a Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife spokesperson saying that the area has been closed to the public due to safety concerns.

"The Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) recognises the installation of the replica semaphore was a decision taken by the local community for the local

community. PWS fully supports Council undertaking an evaluation that considers the interests of the local community, tourism sector and Council's economic strategy."

"Following a site inspection by the PWS and an independent engineering assessment, the structure was deemed unsafe and the area closed to the public. Following ongoing consultation Council agreed the structures will be removed and given to Council."

With the semaphore due to be taken down, some have suggested that it could alternatively be inspected and repaired in situ, but while this is a point of contention, it seems that everyone agrees on the historical and cultural importance of the semaphore and the site on which it stands, with Mayor Keiser stating that it is well-loved, and that council will explore how it can be retained.

Tales of the Tamar

THE BLACK TOWER on Lagoon Bay Beach



LEFT: The Black Tower - Southern end Lagoon Beach (PHOTO: George town Pictorial History - GTDHS)

ABOVE: Like many kids growing up around the Low Head beaches I've sun baked/fried in baby oil and vinegar on these rocks and played in what I've since learnt are the foundations of the 'Black Tower'. My photo above taken 21 January 2023 shows the remains of the Black Tower (PHOTO: Jennie Timmins)

By Jennie Timmins

In early 1882 a project to establish leading lights at the Tamar Heads, was set up to replace the unlit marker towers/beacons. From as far back as 1858 the ship's captains made numerous requests to have the old towers lit for night navigation, but for a long time the Government refused to do anything about in on the grounds that there was no funding available. At the same time of the project, it was envisaged to have a tower located on Hebe Reef at the entrance of the Tamar.

"In calm weather and half tide there is nothing to indicate the presence of the menacing black rock that lies direct in the course of ships coming through the Heads and in particular from the westward where the largest portion of ships brought trade to the ports".

In the Cornwall Chronicle 29 June 1859 an article

headed 'Sailing Directions for the Port of Launceston Authority', the Port of Launceston Authority was contemplating placing lights on the towers at Lagoon Beach. A short time prior, the PLA lodged a report regarding loss of the line brig Kate, within a short hull-mile of these pillars. The article stated that the accident would not have occurred, had they been made useful by night, as well as by day.

The tower lights were still a contention as reported in the Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List in August 1859. In a letter addressed to the Master Warden of Hobart Town from the Master Warden of Launceston Marine Board in response to an article published in the Mercury, it appears it was all down to the cost as the Master Warden wrote: "Commenting upon the necessity there exists for placing lights on the towers at Lagoon Beach, near the

entrance of the port. It is evident that the writer of that article is unacquainted with the difficulties and dangers attending the navigation of this port, or even the position of the towers; but, independent of that however desirable it may be to place lights on the towers now erected at Lagoon Beach, the funds collected from light dues and placed at the disposal of your board, are found barely sufficient to disburse the current expense attendant upon the present lighthouses on our coasts. In order to meet any expenditure for the purpose of new erections, it will be necessary to petition the Government for a grant in aid, or by some fresh enactment obtain an increased revenue from the light dues. It was estimated that the first cost of these lights would be about one thousand pounds, but there must also be taken into consideration the annual expense of maintaining them."

An article headed 'Leading Lights' reported in the Telegraph September 1882 that the old towers at Lagoon Bay had been blackened and the leading light towers answered the purpose of day marks. We can assume that this is where the name Black Tower originated. As early as 1906 we read of the demolishing of the beacon towers:

"NOTES AND NEWS - BEACON TOWERS AT LOW HEAD

The secretary of the Hobart Marine Board has forwarded to the Launceston board the following report of the inspector of lighthouses: The beacon towers mentioned in the correspondence under notice were originally painted white and were for the guidance of masters when entering Low Head at daytime. They were under the sole control and management of the Launceston Marine Board. In December, 1882, the Marine Board of Hobart completed

the erection and lighting of two new towers, as day and night light to navigation. When erected these lights, Captain Stanley, R.N suggested to Captain Gilmore that when the new lights were opened the old ones be blackened, so as not to mislead anyone, and at some future time to demolish them. The Launceston board can, in my opinion, order their removal now. I am of opinion these beacons are of little use to navigation. There would be no necessity to remove the foundation mentioned."

In 1924 reference to the black beacon/tower was found in an article 'The Cause of the Mishap'. The ketch Evalleta a trading vessel plying between Melbourne and Hobart had put into the Lagoon Bay for shelter. Under the command of a new owner, Captain Spaulding the vessel laid over the western shore. It appears that there was light breeze and enough

to take the vessel out the Heads on the ebb tide. The captain wasn't concerned when the vessel did not come up to the wind and gradually drifted to the eastern shore. This was the first time the captain visited the Tamar and he expected to come round with plenty of water under him. Opposite the black tower however, the vessel struck hard and began at once to make water which soon had two cabins awash and mounted some distance up the companionway. A hawser, a heavy cable or rope, was passed to the beacon made fast and signals of distress hoisted, presumably answered by the Low Head Pilot Station nearby.

What remains of the foundations of the Black Tower today is a reminder of bygone years and the short life of the beacon towers at Lagoon Bay Beach waiting to be explored and played in as we did as kids.

GEORGE TOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month, starting at 7.30 pm with most meetings held at The Grove in Elizabeth St and are open to the public

The next meeting will be held on MONDAY, 15th May at the The Grove.

Speaker:
Ann Batt

Topic: The Cameron and Gardner families of Newnham.

FOR UPDATES SEE: George Town & District Historical Society Facebook Page.
www.facebook.com/George-Town-and-District-Historical-Society-1375090549395357/

Email info@gtdhs.com or Phone 6382 4412.