

# Bass Bulletin

April 2024



## Historic camp receives upgrade

Generations of Girl Guides came together recently at Nindethana to share stories of their time at the historic camp, built in 1937 and to celebrate a fit-for-purpose kitchen upgrade. Full report [page 3](#)

## Building connected communities

*Page 4*

# Out and About



Addressing a local meeting of the Association of Independent Retirees at Windsor Precinct in Riverside.



Meeting with friends old and new at the Launceston Legacy monthly lunch and sharing some thoughts on life as an elected representative.



With Deputy Leader of the Opposition Sussan Ley at the historic Waverley Woollen Mills. The iconic mill will celebrate its 150th birthday this year.



Standing on a compost heap at Greenside farm and listening to farmer Brian Baxter as he explains some of the regenerative agricultural practices at his Pipers River farm. The compost is made up of grape waste from a nearby winery.



On stage with Tasmanian storyteller Bert Spinks and Tasmanian Harpist Emily Sanzaro at this year's Party in the Paddock. The wide-ranging conversation covered being a politician, fighting for what you believe in and having the next generation in mind when developing policy.



Catching up with locals at the annual Cars for Kidz event. Founded by Alan Stevenson a C6 quadriplegic, the event is in its 19th year, offering children with disability a chance to take a short cruise in a muscle car, a vintage car, hotrod or even a police car!



Standing outside Launceston Church Grammar School before heading inside to spend a few hours with senior Legal Studies students to discuss democracy and politics.

## INSIDE

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Fishbowler Sewing Group..... page 4     | In Parliament ..... page 8                       |
| The story of Jessie Simons ..... page 6 | Our Community-Lilydale ..... page 9              |
| Anzac Day services ..... page 7         | Slam Dunk for Elphin Sports Centre ..... page 10 |

**Find me on Facebook:**  
@BridgetArcherMP

## Who to Contact

|                                      |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Federal Department of Health .....   | health.gov.au     |
| Tasmania Public Health Hotline ..... | 1800 671 738      |
| Business Tasmania Hotline .....      | 1800 440 026      |
| Beyond Blue .....                    | beyondblue.org.au |
| Lifeline .....                       | 13 11 14          |

## Contact Me

**E:** [bridget.archer.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:bridget.archer.mp@aph.gov.au)  
**P:** 6334 7033  
**W:** [bridgetarcher.com.au](http://bridgetarcher.com.au)  
**f** @BridgetArcherMP  
**ig** @Bridget.Archer  
**A:** 100 St John St, Launceston

# Historic camp receives upgrade

For 90 years, Nindethana, meaning ‘ours’, has been the campsite home to thousands of young women, participating in activities as Girl Guides Tasmania members.

Located in Deviot, just north of the Supply River, the original campsite was once simply a single-room house surrounded by verandahs. Over the years the camp has been extended and now sleeps 38 in bunk rooms, with the main dining room seating up to 40, all located in natural bushland on a large bush block with space for camping, nature activities, walks and quiet reflection.

In addition to being used by Girl Guides Tasmania, the site is also available to hire by the wider northern Tasmanian community, NDIS and other community, family and private sector groups.

In March, Girl Guides Tasmania members past and present, CEO Katrina Spinks and Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer came together at a morning tea to celebrate a recent kitchen upgrade at the site.

“With the site in use for a wide range of groups, the kitchen needed an upgrade to commercial standard to cater to its growing number of diverse campsite hirers properly,” Ms Spinks said.

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer said the project was worthy of receiving a \$10,000 grant from the Stronger Communities Programme towards completing the project.

“Girl Guides Tasmania do incredible work in providing a wide range of activities for girls and young women, offering a non-competitive learning environment where girls can challenge themselves, find their voice, and meet new friends,” Mrs Archer said.

“The project has seen a complete refit of the existing kitchen, ensuring it is now fit-for-purpose for Girl Guides and other community users for generations to come.”

“Coming to Nindethana and hearing the stories and memories of generations of Girl Guides was very special.”

Girl Guides Tasmania is part of a worldwide movement in 152 countries globally with over 10 million members.

Today, 123 years after Girl Guides began in Tasmania, the organisation has 650 members, with 440 members aged under 18 and the organisation continues to play a crucial role in the development of its members.

“Our mission is to empower girls and young women to discover their potential as leaders of their world,” Ms Spinks said.



Nindethana committee member Cathy Hurst, CEO of Girl Guides Tasmania Katrina Spinks, Bridget Archer and Kate Alcorso, leader of Launceston’s “Rainbow Star” Girl Guides and Board Chair of Girl Guides Australia

## Site for \$20m Palliative Care Unit identified

Northern Tasmanians are one step closer to a stand-alone palliative care service after the Tasmanian Liberal Government announced the former Allambi building as the site for the vital service.

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer who announced \$20 million in funding for the site in the 2022 federal election, matched by Federal Labor, welcomed the news.

“After securing the \$20m funding and critically, a commitment from the State Government that they would deliver the necessary services, this announcement is warmly welcomed,” Mrs Archer said.

“More than 15 years after the closure of palliative care services by Philip Oakden House, our region is one step closer to having more choice and access to services for end-of-life care.”

Barb Baker, Friends of the Northern Hospice spokesperson who lobbied state and federal governments for many years to reinstate a palliative care facility also welcomed the announcement.

“We’ve been campaigning vigorously for this site, and this is a significant step towards improving end-of-life care in our region,” Ms Baker said.

The former Allambi building is located at 33-39 Howick Street. The new facility will deliver a minimum 10-bed hospice and hospice respite facility.



Lyn Lichon Chair of Northern Hospice and Barb Baker of the Friends of Northern Hospice, at the Allambi Building, Howick Street, Launceston. Picture courtesy of Paul Scambler (*The Examiner*.)

## From the ground up

Every week, students from grades three to six at Ravenswood Heights Primary School head along to their outdoor garden to engage in outdoor learning sessions delivering multiple benefits.

Jo Dean, state representative of Community Gardens Australia which is involved in providing assistance for the school garden, said the garden is an engaging way for students to understand where their food comes from.

“Not only do students gain additional time outdoors, but it also provides an opportunity for them to learn how to plant and grow their own food, and learn about gardening, nutrition and sustainability and assists in building long-term healthy habits,” Ms Dean said.

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer said the school has benefitted from a recent Stronger Communities Program grant to Community Gardens Australia to purchase essential gardening equipment.

“As I chatted away to some of the students during a recent visit, some munching away on fresh produce they helped to grow, the enjoyment they receive from this outdoor class opportunity is very clear,” Mrs Archer said.



Bridget Archer joins Community Gardens Australia state representative Jo Dean and Ravenswood Heights Primary School students in an outdoor learning session in the school garden.

# A sensory experience

Located in Newnham, Able Australia's Northern Lifestyle Choices, Birribi, offers a range of day programs for its participants aged 18-70.

Seeking to provide a safe environment for its clients with cognitive, behavioural and physical disabilities to engage in a range of sensory experiences, the local Able team applied for a Stronger Communities Program grant to achieve this goal and was successful.

Able Australia Newnham Team Leader Paula Cronly said that a multi-sensory room has several benefits for people with disability.

"Multi-sensory rooms have been researched to benefit mental health, improve concentration and focus as well as mobilisation and promote creativity, cognitive development, social and communication skills," Ms Cronly said.

"Thanks to the Stronger Communities grant we have been able to purchase items such as sensory lighting and lamps, noise cancelling headphones, sensory squeeze balls, books, and art equipment."

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer visited the Newnham location recently, meeting with participants and their carers.

"It is clear that so much effort and care has been taken into creating a space where participants can engage in a range of sensory experiences," Mrs Archer said.

"I also had the opportunity to chat with some wonderful participants, carers and local staff who are passionate about creating a community where everyone feels seen, heard, valued and respected."



Bridget Archer in the newly completed sensory room at Able Australia

# Craft club helping young girls across the world

The laughter and chatter fill the room at the Cosgrove Park Bowls Club as the sounds of sewing machines hum quietly in the background.

Twice a month, a group of local women gather in this room to volunteer their time to improve the lives of girls and young women in developing countries across the world by providing homemade period kits.

Known as the "Fishbowler Sewing Group", the membership, around 12-14 at any time, is small but mighty as they gather in pairs to measure and cut material or take their place at one of the half-dozen sewing machines ready to get to work.

Group Leader Robin Walker, said each kit, containing eight liners, two shields, underpants, and soap can last the recipient three to four years.

"The kits give girls and young women the opportunity to still go to school and learn in areas where many females are forced to miss out when they have their period," Mrs Walker said.

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer who visited the Club recently, said the volunteers are doing an extraordinary job.

"We are only a few months into the year and the Group has already produced more than 2,000 liners and shields to make up the kits that support girls in countries such as Nepal, Mozambique and Papua New Guinea," Mrs Archer said.

New volunteers are welcome. Please email [bridget.archer.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:bridget.archer.mp@aph.gov.au) for more information.



Robin Walker and Bridget Archer at a recent gathering of the Fishbowler Sewing Group

# Building connected communities

For the volunteers at the Beauty Point Uniting Church, community is everything.

Working out of the church hall located on Beatty St, volunteers, led by project coordinator Sherryl Smith, are hoping to gradually renovate the underused church hall to create a Community Hub that can be accessed by all.

"We want to create a stronger, resilient, sustainable, and more caring community," Ms Smith said.

"By connecting people through running a variety of programs and activities, we aim to combat social isolation, particularly with our ageing population."

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer said the volunteer group recently received a Stronger Communities Program grant to upgrade the Church kitchen.

"This upgrade will go a long way towards supporting community initiatives, including the free community lunches run in partnership with the Lions Club of West Tamar throughout the winter," Mrs Archer said.

The community lunches will be held on the first Wednesday of every month from May through to September. A community worker is now at the Hub two days a week. For more information visit their Facebook page @BeautyPointUC.



Bridget Archer with Beauty Point Uniting Church volunteers project coordinator Sherryl (holding Miss B), Kimberley, Pastor Peter Grayson-Weeks, Lexi and Giselle (front)

# Access to fresh produce a path to stronger communities

A community-led idea to build a garden available to all has led to the creation of a flourishing community garden in Scottsdale.

The garden is one of the first health and wellbeing initiatives established by the Better Health 4 Dorset team, an initiative of Health Consumers Tasmania. Formed by a group of around 20 locals who are working on several key issues including local transport, mental health, improving access to health care and establishing a health and wellbeing hub.

The idea of the community garden was ignited by the community themselves – the Better Health team facilitated over 20 “Kitchen Conversation” sessions involving more than 100 locals who identified that a community garden was an important and missing piece of infrastructure in the area.

Bec Smith from Health Consumers Tasmania said more than 40 community members worked tirelessly on the project for a number of months, leading up to the official opening.

The aim of the garden is to promote healthy eating, improve access to fresh, affordable produce and improve mental health by providing avenues for locals

to connect and work together,” Ms Smith said.

“The garden will be available to the schools, the elderly and the community at large.”

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer said plans for the garden were assisted by \$10,000 in funding from the Stronger Communities Program.

“This was exactly the goal of the Stronger Communities Program when it was first developed by the Coalition Government – it aimed to deliver social benefits in communities across Australia, including right here in north east Tasmania,” Mrs Archer said.

“The garden really is the epitome of ‘from little things, big things grow’ and I look forward to seeing how this garden will be utilised by the community into the future.”



Bridget Archer joins Bec Smith from Health Consumers Tasmania in officially opening the Dorset Community Garden project



Liberal Senator Jonno Duniham and Bridget Archer putting their green thumbs to use!

# Equipped with the right tools

All across Tasmania, Community and Men Sheds provide a critical avenue for social support and engagement.

Recently, both the Furneaux Islands Community Shed and the Bridport Community Men’s Shed have received funding from the Stronger Communities Program to purchase essential new equipment for their members to use.

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer said both Sheds do a wonderful job of supporting its members.

“Now in its 10th year, the Furneaux Islands Community Shed has over 60 members and is open to all residents on the island over the age of 14,” Mrs Archer said.

“The Bridport Community Men’s Shed continues to grow and its close-knit membership provides warm support for anyone who walks through its doors.”

President of the Furneaux Islands Community Shed, Dale Wells, said the shed caters to a range of skill levels.

“We have a very involved group of members, of varying skill levels who support each other with projects,” Mr Wells said.

“The Lucas Mill, purchased through Stronger Communities, will help us produce timber from otherwise waste radiata pine, macrocarpa and blackwood logs.”

President of the Bridport Men’s Shed, Mick Mitchell said the new equipment, including a heavy-duty band saw, will allow its members to complete their work safely.

“Our previous equipment was hitting its use-by-date and the new equipment will ensure we can keep our members safe while providing a great finish to the wood products made in the Shed,” Mr Mitchell said.



Bridget Archer with President of the Furneaux Islands Community Shed with the new “Lucas Mill” equipment



Bridget with Terry, Gail, Don and Mick from the Bridport Men’s Shed

# The story of Jessie Elizabeth Simons

*\*The following is an extract from a speech given by Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer MP to the Nunamara community on Anzac Day 2023\**



(Photograph by Van Dromm's Studio, Launceston)  
THE AUTHOR

Jessie Simons. Photo from *While History Passed* and provided by the Launceston Historical Society.

When researching the history of military service by the local Nunamara community I came across the story of Jessie Elizabeth Simons, later Jessie Hookway.

Jessie was born in Launceston on 23 August, 1911 and grew up on a family farm right here in Nunamara and training as a general nurse at the Launceston General Hospital, qualifying as a theatre nurse in 1937. Just a few years later, Jessie was called up for active service in the Australian Army Nursing Service and landed in Singapore in September 1941 as a member of the 13th Australian General Hospital.

In February of 1942, with the advance of the Japanese forces on Singapore and reports of British nurses being attacked and killed in Hong Kong, a decision was quickly made to evacuate nurses on the SS Vyner Brooke. A 12-passenger boat that was hastily refashioned to carry 300 people. The ship departed on the 12th of February, leaving with a large number of civilians, including women and children and 65 nurses. The departure was described as chaotic with the wharf so congested, that those leaving had to walk their way through fire, smoke, constant noise and gunfire.

By Sunday the 14th, bombs began hammering the ship, with evacuation soon becoming the only option. 12 of the 65 nurses on board drowned while trying to make it to shore. Jessie found an oar and jumped into the sea and was eventually picked up by some men in a raft. A few weeks later Jessie would learn of the fate of 22 of her nursing sisters who were marched into the sea on February 16 and were shot in what would become known as the Bankga Island Massacre, with just one nurse, Vivian Bullwinkel surviving.

Jessie herself joined 32 of her nursing sisters as a prisoner of war for the next three and a half years with eight losing their lives during internment. Upon returning to northern Tasmania in October 1945, Jessie was interviewed by *The Mercury* and, speaking of her experiences as a POW said: *"There were things you couldn't imagine, and I wouldn't want you to know...it seems 1,000 years since I left Launceston."*

Jessie gave this interview just days after arriving home and I imagine her words to the *Mercury* were only a very small look into how she and so many other men and women struggled after they returned home, at a time when the mental and physical impacts of conflict were simply not understood, and as a country, we couldn't provide the essential support needed. Many decades on, we still struggle to support our returning men and women.

In 1954 Jessie published a book recalling her time during the war and as a POW titled 'While History Passed'.

I would just like to finish by sharing some of Jessie's words from her book after the news came through that the war was over.

*"On 24th August 1945, the whole camp was mustered for a big announcement. Through a Dutch interpreter, Captain Siki said, 'Now there is peace, and we will all soon be leaving. If we have made any mistakes in the past we hope you will forgive us, and now we will be friends.'*

*"...Just like that."* Jessie wrote.

*"...For half an hour I sat under a rubber tree and just howled ... The sense of relief was overwhelming, and I just let go. ... at the services of thanksgiving organised by the religious groups, national anthems and 'God Save the King' were sung. I felt too weary to take part in all this, although I was certainly thankful enough. I fell asleep that night to the refrain 'All my troubles are over.'*

# Simpson Prize Winner 2024

Launceston Church Grammar Student Elora Willis is the Tasmanian winner of 2024 Simpson Prize.

The Simpson Prize is a national competition for Year 9 and 10 students that focusses on the service of Australians in World War One and World War Two. Elora's winning submission, "Commemoration of the Anzac tradition has widespread support in Australia despite different historical interpretations and debates about the nature and significance of the Anzac legend" can be read online at [simpsonprize.org.au](http://simpsonprize.org.au)

Elora travelled to Canberra in March together with winners and runner-ups from each category to participate in a 3-day study program and will head to Singapore for an extensive commemorative study, culminating in attendance at an Anzac Day ceremony.



Tasmanian teacher Claire Bugg, Bridget Archer, and Elora Willis in Parliament House

# The Long Patrol tackles annual walk

Raising funds for veteran mental health and well-being programs, northern Tasmania's *The Long Patrol* squad completed its annual 96-kilometre walk over a 20-hour period during the March long weekend.

Around 20 participants and support crew, set off on in the 29-degree heat as part of the annual charity walk from Launceston to Deloraine and back. The Long Patrol has raised \$10,000 so far this year with all proceeds going towards local programs.



Before and After – The Long Patrol Team 2024

# Lyndsay Godfrey

Lilydale RSL sub-branch recently lost its beloved President, Lyndsay Godfrey, who passed away unexpectedly in February.

Lyndsay was born in Western Australia in 1947 and joined the RAAF in 1963, spending two years in Malaysia before returning to WA and joining their police force in 1972.

In 1978, Lyndsay moved to Tasmania and joined our police force, serving for 30 years until his retirement in 2009 and spent a significant amount of time involved in Police Search and Rescue, receiving commendations for his conduct.

Lyndsay was a dedicated member of the Lilydale RSL for 18 years, serving as President from 2017, and is remembered as being a great mentor for the younger generation and as an advocate for mental health support for emergency services workers and military personnel.

Lyndsay was married to his beloved wife Di for 28 years and was a father of three and is remembered for being so proud of his children's and grandchildren's achievements and for his wicked sense of humour and infectious smile.

Lyndsay Godfrey (Photo credit: Nick Duigan MLC)





AWM - UK2745

**LOCAL SERVICES THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2024**

Please consider attending a local service. I recommend checking service and event times closer to the date.

**Beaconsfield**

- 6.00am Dawn Service. Cenotaph, RSL Park, Weld Street, Beaconsfield.
- 10.45am March. Assemble in West Street, Beaconsfield.
- 11.00am Service. Cenotaph, RSL Park, Weld Street, Beaconsfield.

**Bridport**

- 6.00am Dawn Service. Cenotaph, Main Street, Bridport.
- 10.30am March. Assemble at CWA car park, Bridport.
- 11.00am Service. Cenotaph, Main Street, Bridport.

**Cape Barren Island**

- 6.00am Dawn Service. Cape Barron Cenotaph, Cape Barron.

**Exeter**

- 6.00am Dawn Service. Cenotaph, Murray Street, Exeter.
- 11.00am Service. Cenotaph, Murray Street, Exeter.

**Flinders Island**

- 6.00am Dawn Service. Emita Cenotaph, Emita.
- 10.30am March. Assemble outside Bowman's, Whitemark.
- 11.00am Service. Whitemark Memorial Hall, Whitemark.

**George Town**

- 5.50am Dawn Service. Max Harris Memorial Reserve, George Town.
- 7.15am RSL Breakfast. Graham Fairless Centre, Memorial Hall, George Town.
- 10.30am March. Assemble at the Memorial Hall, Macquarie Street, George Town.
- 10.50am Service. Max Harris Memorial Reserve, George Town.

**Launceston**

- 6.00am Dawn Service. Cenotaph, Royal Park, Launceston.
- 10.15am March. Assemble in Princes Square, Launceston.
- 11.00am Service. Cenotaph, Royal Park, Launceston.

**Lilydale**

- 6.00am Dawn Service. Cenotaph, Main Road, Lilydale.
- 11.00am Service. Cenotaph, Main Road, Lilydale.

**Nunamara**

- 3.30pm Service. Nunamara Memorial Hall, Nunamara.

**Scottsdale**

- 6.00am Dawn Service. Cenotaph, Alfred Street, Scottsdale.
- 10.30am March. Assemble at the Scottsdale RSL Club.
- 11.00am Service. Cenotaph, Alfred Street, Scottsdale.

**Springfield**

- 2.30pm Service. Springfield Hall, 20 Springfield Road, Springfield.

**Weymouth**

- 10.45am Service. Weymouth Hall, Major Street, Weymouth.

*Lest We Forget*

**80th Anniversary D-Day**



Its codename was "Operation Neptune", but it would be etched into the pages of history as D-Day. The 6 June 1944 is often considered the turning point of World War II; and marked the first step toward the liberation of western Europe from the clutches of the horrors of Nazism.

This year we remember the 80th anniversary of D-Day, when over 6,000 ships and other landing craft were accompanied by about 10,000 aircraft, as they converged on the beaches of Normandy, in northern France. In the skies were thousands of Australian airmen risking their lives as they provided support for what would become the largest ever amphibious landing.

With over 130,000 Allied troops deployed, Winston Churchill declared it "much the greatest thing we have ever attempted".

Approximately 3,200 Australians participated in the D-Day landings, with thousands more serving in the days and weeks that followed

as a part of the wider Normandy campaign, known as Operation Overlord.

Members of the Royal Australian Navy served with the Royal Navy; while a small number of Australian soldiers were attached to the British Army.

It was in the skies, however, that our nation gave its strongest support to D-Day, with 1,800 Australian airmen on attachment to the Royal Air Force, and a further 1,000 flying with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) squadrons.

The RAAF's No. 453 Squadron famously flew their spitfires as a part of the Allies' 171 fighter and fighter-bomber squadrons. On D-Day itself, 13 Australians sacrificed their lives while hundreds more would die as a part of the Normandy campaign. In terms of casualties, June 1944 represents the worst month in the history of the RAAF. It would be another eleven months before World War II in Europe came to an end; and three months again until victory in the Pacific. In all, 39,657 Australians would lose their life in service during World War II.

*Inset: Broken propeller from RAAF spitfire on D-Day.*



**Discovery of Montevideo Maru wreckage**

The sinking of the MV Montevideo Maru remains the deadliest maritime disaster in Australia's history. The final toll has never been confirmed: but it is estimated 845 military personnel and over 200 civilians lost their lives.

Last year, in April 2023, peace was brought to hundreds of Australian families when the wreckage was finally located 4,000 metres below the South China Sea; and 80 years after the disaster.

The Montevideo Maru was routinely used by Imperial Japan to transport troops throughout south-east Asia during World War II. In June 1942, members of the Australian 2/22nd Battalion; No.1 Independent Company; and a group of captured civilian prisoners were ordered to board the ship. Eight days



into its voyage, the vessel (not marked as carrying prisoners of war) was spotted by the American submarine USS Sturgeon which fired torpedos striking at 2:29am. MV Montevideo Maru sunk in less than 11 minutes, with reports that there was no assistance to help the prisoners abandon the sinking ship. Over 1,000 men, overwhelmingly Australian, lost their lives with the wreckage not being discovered for over 80 years.

*With thanks and appreciation to the Australian War Memorial.*

**ANZAC BISCUITS**

\* Makes approximately 35 biscuits

**Ingredients**

- 1 cup each of plain flour, sugar, rolled oats and coconut
- 4 ounces butter (115g)
- 1 tablespoon treacle (*golden syrup*)
- 2 tablespoons boiling water (*add a little more water if mixture is too dry*)
- 1 teaspoon bi-carbonate soda

**Method**

1. Grease tray and pre-heat oven to 180°C.
2. Combine dry ingredients.
3. Melt together butter and golden syrup. Combine water and bi-carbonate soda – add to butter mixture.
4. Mix butter mixture and dry ingredients.
5. Drop teaspoons of mixture onto tray.
6. Bake for 10 – 15 minutes or until golden. Allow to cool on tray for a few minutes before transferring to cooling racks.

*(From an original recipe provided by Mr Bob Lawson, an ANZAC present at the Gallipoli landing.)*

Authorised by Bridget Archer MP, Liberal Party of Australia, 100 St John Street, Launceston TAS 7250.

# In Parliament



Presenting former Launceston College student – and first year Australian National University student – Kuba Meikle with a certificate and the Australian flag that was flown in the Chamber on the day I presented a speech on his achievements to the House.



Getting a skin check (and the all-clear) in Parliament House from Dermatologist Professor Victoria Mar.

Early detection is crucial as is an understanding of who needs a skin check and when. Research is currently underway to look at a screening process that will ensure that those who are at the highest risk of skin cancer are identified and screened more regularly.



Addressing a gathering of parliamentarians and stakeholders on the issue of good governance and whistleblower protections as a co-Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Governance and Ethics.



L-R *Our Watch* Chair Moo Baulch OAM, Alicia Payne MP, Bridget Archer, Rosie Batty, Senator Larissa Waters, the Hon Justine Elliot, *Our Watch* CEO Patty Kinnersly.

In an event co-hosted by *Our Watch* and the Parliamentary Friends of Ending Violence Against Women and Children, Rosie Batty shared her thoughts with the audience on where we have made progress over the past 10 years and the long road we still have ahead. Rosie's new book "Hope" launched on April 3.



Meeting with Professor Pat McGorry AO executive director of youth mental health organisation Orygen, Vivienne Brown, Orygen, and Professor Bobby Duffy and Alix Pollitt from The Policy Institute at King's College in London.

Orygen and the Institute are partnering to conduct polling and research in Australia and the UK to understand the drivers of the youth mental health crisis and developing policy solutions.



Receiving The McKinnon Prize for Federal Leader of the Year Award alongside Emerging Federal Leader of the Year, Senator David Pocock. The McKinnon Institute is dedicated to creating a political environment that inspires trust and confidence in politics and our democratic system.



# Hello, Possum!

Tasmanian and Western Australian based artist Mel McVee has recently completed a mural outside Able Australia in Newnham.

Jess Brown, area manager of Able Australia said the mural features a possum and Tasmanian flora, including Fagus, Tasmanian Pepperberry, native buttercups, and Milkwort. It was commissioned with thanks to the Brian M. Davis Charitable Foundation, to create a bright, welcoming entrance for all who visit.

“Clients played a role in choosing the final design and also joined in the fun, painting alongside Mel,” Ms Brown said.

Locals may have spotted more of Mel’s art around town, including the recently completed front façade of the Paterson St East Car Park. To view more of Mel’s work, visit [melskiart.com](http://melskiart.com)



## Our Community - Lilydale

Most people who live in the Lilydale district don’t want to live anywhere else. And with a population growth of almost ten percent between the 2016 and 2021 censuses, it seems that others are keen to join us.

The Lilydale district offers fresh air and a rural environment with just enough amenities to meet most day-to-day needs - IGA, post office, medical centre, pharmacy, coffee shop, takeaway, petrol station/hardware, tavern, school, library, swimming pool and its very own safe shop and locksmith. It is a gateway to wineries, beaches and walking and cycling trails of the northeast. All within 25 minutes of the centre of Launceston. What’s not to like?

Rural communities such as Lilydale provide much wealth to the wider community. Ours is very much a farming district, generating a wide range of produce. For newcomers expecting a bucolic paradise, it can be a bit of a shock to discover that cows can be very loud and that heavy machinery and chainsaws are part of the backdrop to a working week.

It can also be a shock to discover that the amenities that city residents take for granted are in short supply. Want to take a long walk from the centre of Lilydale? The only option is on the gravel on the side of a road, as footpaths run out after about 100 metres in any direction. Looking for something for your teenager to do after school? Once the pool closes at the end of March, there are almost no options. Worried about crossing the main road, with its traffic of logging and other trucks? There is no staffed school crossing and the major intersection in town can be an adventure to navigate. Did I mention mobile phone black spots? Or Internet outages?

Tasmania is Australia’s least urbanised state. Many Tasmanians choose to live outside the cities. Our district is home to a wide diversity of productive, creative talent in all the major business categories that generate wealth for northern Tasmania. It is an ongoing challenge for government at all levels to provide the services and infrastructure to support rural communities such as Lilydale.

Tony Naar

*President, Lilydale District Progress Association*



*Bridget Archer holding a listening post outside the Lilydale IGA*

## Feedback sought from Tamar Valley locals

Comprising more than 65 members and growing, the Tamar Valley Business Association is dedicated to supporting the wide range of businesses in the Tamar Valley area and advocating for economic and cultural growth of the region.

A major focus of the Association at present is the development and implementation of a plan for Beaconsfield to create a vibrant, connected community with a thriving business hub.

Donna Hodgson, Secretary and Membership Officer of the TVBA said the initiative looks at undertaking several projects around the town centre and the Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre to enhance the facilities available to residents and to increase the tourism potential by retaining tourists in the Beaconsfield town centre for longer.

“Investing in the infrastructure for residents will create a positive cycle of economic development, community engagement, healthy activities, and cultural preservation that benefits the town, its residents, and the surrounding areas,” Ms Hodgson said.

A funding commitment from the Tasmanian Liberal Government of \$50,000 towards a masterplan has boosted the group’s efforts and they are seeking feedback from the local community on the proposed plan. Please email [tamarvalleybusinessassociation@gmail.com](mailto:tamarvalleybusinessassociation@gmail.com) for more details.



*Bridget Archer and members of the Tamar Valley Business Association meeting to discuss the proposed plans*

# Sustainability Festival Success



Bridget Archer at the Festival

Tamar NRM's 2024 Sustainability Festival was held on Saturday 2nd March at the Inveresk Precinct.

Sandy Astill, Sustainable Living Festival Coordinator, said this year's theme of "Going Circular" was a winner with both attendees and participants.

"Throughout the Festival, there was a strong emphasis on the positive steps taken by individuals, businesses and governments to embrace circular practices," Ms Astill said.

"Every participant, whether an exhibitor, stall holder, artist or workshop host, embraced the Festival's theme, resulting in an event filled with innovation, inspiration and meaningful conversations."

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer who volunteered at the event on the day, spoke highly of the Festival.

"It was wonderful to speak to so many locals who came along to support the event and I think everyone left feeling as though they gained some extra tips and information around the circular economy and best practices," Mrs Archer said.

"Events of this size are challenging to put together, but the Tamar NRM team did a wonderful job and deserve a round of applause for delivering a fantastic event for our community to enjoy."



Winners of the Sustainable Business and Community Awards

# A Slam Dunk for Elphin Sports Centre

An urgent call for help in addressing the court shortages and infrastructure challenges faced by the Launceston Basketball Association has been answered.



More than 12 months after a petition was launched calling on all three levels of government to provide necessary court infrastructure for the local basketball community, \$21.5 million will be injected into Elphin Sports Centre after a commitment by both major parties during the recent state election.

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer said the investment is fantastic news for the Association, club members, players and volunteers.

"I supported the Launceston Basketball Association in December 2022 as they launched a petition calling on all three levels of government to provide necessary court infrastructure and upgrades," Mrs Archer said.

"While I tabled the petition in federal parliament last year, work has continued behind the scenes, and state election commitments has ensured that the project will now get off the ground."

"I would like to commend LBA president Craig Gibson and his team who have worked tirelessly to advocate for the needs of their basketball community resulting in this fantastic outcome."

The \$21.5 investment will fund improvements to the existing four courts and construct three additional courts. A new shared function centre, change rooms and additional parking spaces are also included.

# Launceston Tennis Centre Masterplan

Up and coming tennis stars may return to Launceston in the near future with plans to redevelop the Launceston Tennis Centre back on the table as part of a wider proposed Racecourse Crescent sports-precinct plan by the City of Launceston.

Plans to upgrade key infrastructure for the tennis centre, including changerooms and toilets with funds including \$500,000 from the Coalition were put on hold while the grant program was reviewed.

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer said that as expected, the project was found to be eligible, however the delay of the review combined with infrastructure blow outs due to COVID shelved the plans.

“With plans put on hold, the Launceston International has been moved to Burnie but I am hopeful that the renewed focus on the sporting

precinct will create facilities that are fit-for-purpose for many sporting codes, including tennis.”

The proposed redevelopment of the NTCA Sports Complex will also take into account the Elphin Sports Centre and the various community groups utilising the current NTCA facilities for cricket, AFL and Soccer.

City of Launceston Mayor Matthew Garwood said the Council has engaged with the facility management group throughout the development of a new masterplan to understand their various wish-lists, strategic objectives and future requirements.

“Those conversations were incredibly beneficial for all parties involved and have been critical in the development of the master plan,” Mayor Garwood said.

The City of Launceston will soon begin the next round of engagement with precinct users and various sports’ governing bodies to refine the concept masterplan.

“I will continue to work with Council as the plans progress,” Mrs Archer said.



# George Town Mountain Bike Trails Complete!

Have you tried Humbugs & Haystacks, Rickerty Split or Slab Hunter yet?

These are the creatively named three trails that have recently opened as part of the final upper section of the Tippogoree Hills Trail Network.

Officially opened at the end of January, coinciding with Round 2 of the Tas Gravity Enduro Series, the trails add a further 10 kilometres of riding to the trail network that has proved to be extremely popular with tourists and locals.

The opening of the final three trails brings to completion a four-year project designed to boost George Town’s economic and tourism opportunities by attracting the booming mountain bike tourist market.

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer has advocated the project over many years.

“I actively supported the development of the concept when serving as George Town Mayor and eventually secured \$4.4 million in funding for the project in 2019 federal election,” Mrs Archer said.

“I am so incredibly proud of this project and the completion of the final section of the George Town Mountain Bike Trails is a worthwhile celebration for our community.

“The trail has firmly put George Town on the map as a destination for mountain bike enthusiasts of all levels, evidenced by the growing number of visitors from near and far.”

George Town Mayor Greg Kieser thanked local employer, Bell Bay Aluminium for their support of the major infrastructure project.

“The entirety of the lower section of the Tippogoree Hills Trail Network has been built on land owned by Rio Tinto’s Bell Bay Aluminium smelter who have been a major supporter of the mountain bike trails since its inception,” he said.

The new trails are all rated Blue Square, or intermediate, with a mixture of jump, gravity, and adventure trail styles, accessible via shuttle service

or pedalling up the service access road. When combined with the existing trails in the lower section of the Tippogoree Hills, riders can enjoy prolonged descents of up to 9km from the top back to the trail head in Lauriston Park.

For information on what to know before hitting the trails, visit [georgetownmtbtrails.com.au/](http://georgetownmtbtrails.com.au/)



Bridget Archer and local keen young mountain bikers at the opening of the final section of the Tippogoree Hills Trail Network

# SPORT



City of Launceston Mayor Matthew Garwood and Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer outside the Launceston Tennis Centre which is to be included as part of a sporting precinct masterplan by the Council. *Details page 11.*

## Tippogoree Hills Mountain Bike Network complete *- Page 11*

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