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March 2025

Edition of
The Kentish Voice

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Blow off steam at rail festival



SteamFest is celebrating its 30th anniversary over the March 8-10 long weekend and is set to attract thousands.

Volunteers are working very hard to make this celebration of the steam age, vintage machinery and railways the best ever, including some big changes to the event layout and the welcome return of wood-chopping on the Monday.

Long-time crowd favourites, including the steam railway, the

tractor pull and the Tasmanian Lighthouse will be on display through the three-day event.

SteamFest is a volunteer-run event organised by the Redwater Creek Steam & Heritage Centre.

Proceeds go towards the ongoing preservation and restoration of historic machinery as well as the retention of the skills and accreditation needed to maintain and operate these machines.

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EDITORIAL

Lately, I've been walking around with a black eye.

It's all purple and puffy but doesn't hurt so I tend to forget it's there and that I need to explain. "Walked into a door," I say, trying to be funny. About something that should never be treated so dismissively.

It wasn't until a friend highlighted the theme for this year's Kentish International Women's Day being *Stamp It Out*, referring to domestic violence and hosting speakers with lived experiences, that I realised no one had asked me what happened to my eye.

Several people I spoke to face to face said nothing. Perhaps not wanting to pry, perhaps not believing it could be anything other than an accident. Or perhaps not noticing.

When I offer the explanation - Pickleball incident (it's all fun and games until someone gets hit in the eye!) - some say, 'I didn't want to ask.'

But we should ask. Just as it is everyone's responsibility to protect our children and our youth, we must also watch out for the signs that someone is being abused, and it's not always as obvious as a black eye.

With one woman a week being killed by their intimate partners in Australia, it is an ugly issue that we cannot shy away from anymore.

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Coercive control is one form of abuse where the partner cuts the woman off from family, friends and exerts financial control.

A law to criminalise this sort of behaviour was legislated in Queensland after the case of Hannah Clarke and her three children, who were murdered by their father. It emerged later that he had controlled every aspect of her life, from who she saw to what she wore, and when she left him, he lost all control.

I knew that man. He was my son's footy coach when we lived in Brisbane in 2009 and our families became friends. His first wife and their 12-year-old son presented as perfectly normal, although he was a bit over-zealous training the kids.

Domestic violence isn't something that happens to other people. Like cancer, most families have been touched by it, even from afar. It's the daughter-in-law who stops your son from coming to family functions; it's the old friend who keeps getting meeker and smaller under the weight of insults and criticism; it is a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner.

We need to watch for the signs, not just in our families and friends but in ourselves. Google 'gaslighting' for some of the red flags, for both men and women.

This is not a problem for only men to solve; we all need to play a part if we're going to *Stamp It Out*.

1800 RESPECT.org.au 1800 737 732

Heather

Still our rock: Bible Chapel turns 150



By Tim Dyer

It's a little strange for a small Tasmanian country church to have its founding moments retold, a century and a half later, in the opening scene of an award-winning novel.

On a Bright Hillside in Paradise, a fictional novel by Annette Higgs, tells the story of the surprising beginning of what is now the Sheffield Bible Chapel, the first gospel hall in the Australia-New Zealand region, then on a roadside block in West Kentish.

During the weekend of April 5-6, Sheffield Bible Chapel will celebrate its 150th anniversary, with the theme Still our Rock. Attractions include a photo and memorabilia display, a panel discussion and Q and A, with guests who have written and researched aspects of the Bible Chapel's history. Mayor Kate Haberle will officially open the event on Saturday at 11am.

The chapel will be open for the regular Sunday service where

everyone is welcome while there will also be opportunities to drop in and browse.

The small group of bible chapel founders gave birth to outpost gospel halls in Lorinna, Roland, Paradise, and Beulah. Gospel halls were never meant to be churches but, as the name hints, they were public buildings where all were welcome to come hear the message of Christianity.

An 1878 article in *The Examiner* by a correspondent who visited the hall on a special occasion documents a picnic held for 300 people and an evening service being given by Mrs Perrin, the widow of one of the founding visiting evangelists.

The original building was replaced in late 1920s on the same site at West Kentish. When the newly rebuilt hall and caretaker's cottage accidentally burnt down two years later in 1930, the decision to purchase land and rebuild in High Street Sheffield was made.

The current church building was completed in 1931 and named the Sheffield Gospel Hall. It was renamed the Sheffield Bible Chapel in 1981. Extensions for the murals were made in 1994.

For the 100th anniversary, historian Alan Dyer researched and published his first book *God Was Their Rock*.

This book charted not only the church's history but the history of about 50 pioneering families who were associated with the church in the early years.

Many local families have history with either the Chapel or one of its small Sunday Schools or outreach centres. If this includes your ancestors, or you are interested, come and check out some of your family history.

Pictured: Patricia De Sousa Elaine Deverell and Tim Dyer. Absent committee members: Susan Dunn, Joy Tekinay.



Crackpot Birdbath in a sea of lavender. Broken but still useful!

**Greetings to the
Kentish Community
Lady Crackpot here to let
you in on what is
happening at Tasmazia,
the Village of Lower
Crackpot and the
Crackpot Café**



Late **March** will be a busy time with the Australian Rowing Championships on Sheffield's doorstep. Tasmazia will be engaging in having a community mural painted involving the Rowing fraternity and for those interested we will be having a scavenger hunt during our regular hours of 10am to 4pm. Last entry for the hunt is 3pm. A prize will be offered to those completing the task.

We do plan to open the Café 8am till 3pm for those wanting to stop in for a coffee, sandwich, fruit cup, or anything else we can provide easily with the staff we have available on the day. The full menu will not be available on the days 24 – 30 March simply due to the expected numbers but we will endeavour to be going again by Monday March 31st.

April plans are for an Easter Egg Hunt to take place on Saturday 19th April. Guaranteed chocolate eggs for all kids participating. Entry will be the normal maze admission with 20% going to Make-A-Wish. Make-A-Wish will provide a sausage sizzle and we will have live music for those that care to sing along. A local face painter will be there to paint whiskers and noses on the kids, young and old!

Gift Vouchers Available

500 Staverton Road, Promised Land

Email: enquiries@tasmazia.com.au Phone: (03) 6491 1934

Elite rowers bring tourists to Kentish

Lake Barrington will come alive from March 24-30 as the Australian Rowing Championships, supported by the Tasmanian Government through Events Tasmania, returns to Tasmania's North West region.

The event will bring more than 6000 competitors, spectators, and visitors, providing a major boost to local businesses and tourism. With races running daily from 8am, the championships promise a week of intense competition and community engagement.

Local businesses should prepare for increased demand, with restaurants, cafés, and retail stores set to experience higher foot traffic. Extended opening hours, additional supplies of grab-and-go meals, and special activations such as live music and tastings will help capitalise on the influx of visitors.

Rowing Australia is also encouraging businesses to update their online presence on Google and the Discover Tasmania app to ensure visitors have the latest information.

Community members and volunteers are invited to get involved, with opportunities to assist at the event and welcome guests to the region.

The championships will also feature the Tastes of Tasmania Market on March 29-30 at the ROWunion Bar, where local producers can showcase their goods to thousands of attendees.

With elite rowers, passionate fans, and a vibrant local community coming together, the 2025 Australian Rowing Championships will be an unmissable event.

To participate or learn more, visit Rowing Australia's website for updates and volunteer opportunities.



Late news: Town Hall closes

The Sheffield Town Hall will be closed until at least March 16 due to safety concerns.

The International Women's Day event scheduled for March 6 will be held at Barrington Hall. Meetings planned for the facility can be held in the Supper Room.

Further information, please contact Kentish Council on 6491 0200.

Clean up Stoodley forest

Sunday, March 2, is Clean Up Australia Day and the Kentish Scouts are joining the Kentish Clean-Up Team to deal with the dirty secret in Stoodley Forest

Meet at the Stoodley Arboretum carpark at 9.30am. Bags and gloves provided. Please contact Leoni Read on 0429 705 062 if you can help.

We are a group of community-minded volunteers. On the second Saturday of each month, the team organises roadside clean-ups of one of the five main roads in the Kentish area.

We pick up at least 20 large bagfuls of roadside litter each time. More and more we are finding Kentish's nasty secrets.

You are invited to
International Women's Day
Stamp It Out
March 6th, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm
BARRINGTON HALL

Enjoy a catered brunch provided by Milieu Bistro.

Listen to guest speakers with lived experiences of domestic violence.

Meet the Service Organisations that support those impacted by domestic violence.

Raffles will be held on the day to raise funds for DV support services.

Please Rsvp to Cassandra 0447 325 343 or Ruby 0497 780 216
Financially supported by Kentish Council & The Kentish Community Men's Shed

Clean Up Australia
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Carriage drivers show they're masters



Carriage driving is part of the Tasmanian Masters Games for the first time this year and a competition will be held in Native Rock Road, Railton, on Saturday, March 1, 9am-4pm. The following day, the State Show Driving

Championships will be held at the Carriage Club grounds from 9am to noon.

Carriage Driving is open to all drivers over 30 years of age from across Tasmania. It will consist of:

- classes of carriages looking for best presented;
- classes for 30-50 yrs, 50-70yrs & over 70s of different size horses and ponies;
- designated tasks for drivers which are components of dressage competitions;
- a cones course which is usually timed but in this competition will be judged on the elements that drivers need to perform well in a timed competition; and
- long reining activities

The competitors will be vying for medals and these will be presented by Kentish Mayor Kate Haberle.

The State Show Driving Championships on Sunday, March 2, is a competition for all different classes of horses and ponies as well as different types of vehicles, from period to modern.

We are also including some long reining activities in the program to encourage drivers of all stages and levels to participate.

Spectators are welcome. Entry is free.

Food will be available - a sausage sizzle, thanks to the Kentish Community Men's Shed and coffee compliments of What the Froth Coffee van.

These events are our first time at Railton and we are starting off small but hope to encourage more drivers into this equestrian sport. Many will think of carriage driving as a pastime of historical interest seeing carriages at shows or events or tourist carriage rides. Maybe harness racing or, in the past, chariot racing but carriage driving can also be a competitive equestrian sport, with many types of carriages being used.

In the late 70s, HRH Prince Phillip was a part of Federation Equestrian Internationale which developed rules and competitions for carriage driving in Dressage, Combined Driving and Marathon (cross country) for both indoor and outdoor events. These featured single horses, pairs or teams of two or more.

The sport is very popular in Europe and attracts thousands of spectators as well as top level competitors. It is on its way to becoming an Olympic sport.

We are lucky to have a very talented Australian by the name of Boyd Exell, who has just achieved a world champion title - for the 11th time!

Today clubs around Australia have lots of competitive activities such as obstathons, timed cones competitions, Concours de Elegance, navigational drives, combined driving, marathons as well as pleasure drives along bush tracks, beaches and on private properties, including National Trust land such as Entally and Clarendon

Northern Tasmania Driving Society is a small club of volunteers with members across the North.

Our drivers are of varying ages, abilities, persuasion and levels. It is an equestrian sport in which one pony or horse can be used for both riding and carriage driving, so family members from kids to grandparents can take part. Different breeds of horses are driven from little mini's to large Clydesdales.

We are planning to have a Come & Try day on April 6 at the Carriage Club grounds in Native Rock Road, Railton. Check out Northern Tasmania Carriage Drivers on Facebook.

We would like to thank our local partners: Kentish Council; Cement Australia; Seven Sheds Brewery; Anvers Chocolates; Kentish Community Men's Shed; Kentish Topiary Group; Railton Neighbourhood Centre; Gear Café; Yolla @ La Trobe.

EV grants up to \$50k

The third ChargeSmart Electric Vehicle Charging Grant Program to expand Tasmania's public electric vehicle fast charging network is now open.

Organisations can apply for a grant up to \$50,000 but must co-contribute the same amount as the approved funding.

Grant funding is for the cost of purchasing and installing or upgrading existing electric vehicle fast charging infrastructure in Tasmania for public use.

Before you apply, you will need to have an early engagement meeting with TasNetworks to discuss whether your planned charging location is suitable.

Applications close at 2pm March 24, 2025.

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FEBRUARY 10 (9AM TO 12PM)
FEBRUARY 24 (9AM TO 12PM)
APRIL 7 (9AM TO 12PM)
MAY 5 (9AM TO 12PM)
MAY 19 (9AM TO 12PM)
JUNE 2 (9AM TO 12PM)
JUNE 16 (9AM TO 12PM)

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Kentish House

ACCESS 2
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Tiger snake fishes for a lift across lake



By Heather Eiszele

When three Freemasons set out for a day's fishing on Lake Barrington last month, they found themselves sharing the boat with an unwanted hitchhiker.

Laurie Appleby, Darren Hyland and Gerry McGlone spotted the highly venomous Tiger Snake on the water about four hours into their February 13 fishing trip.

Initially running over the 2m-long reptile, they didn't see it come out the back of the boat.

Because it was climbing up the motor.

Laurie said everyone's first reaction was to jump in the lake but, as Gerry doesn't swim and the water was 20m deep, that wasn't an option.

"We all moved very quickly to the front of the boat and tried to get him in a net but he was half wrapped around the motor."

Unable to dock on the rugged shore, the trio headed for the ski club boat ramp, with Darren keeping the snake at bay wrapped around the battery box in the engine well.

"We got back to the boat ramp as quick as possible and as smooth as possible," Laurie said. "It took a good quarter hour!"

Quickly jumping out, they found themselves with no reception to call for help.

Driving up the hill, Laurie eventually got on to snake catcher Ben Hyde from Deloraine (*left*) who said it was his third call-out for snakes in boats on Lake Barrington that week.

Laurie reckons they were just after a free lift to the other side.

Ecofest expands to weekend event

Ecofest will be held at Camp Clayton, Ulverstone, from April 5-6, creating a more laid-back and enjoyable festival experience.

This year the festival revolves around a "Random Acts of gREen" campaign. All exhibitors, presenters and workshops are showcasing how they aim to REthink our RESources and inspire REMarkable changes towards sustainability.

REvamp the tool box by REDistributing unwanted tools at our tool swap, REplacing them with RELiable RESources. The

ChildREN can REvel in the swap too, by bringing up to six clean, and undamaged toys to REshare.

Young attendees can engage in hands-on activities, interactive workshops, and educational sessions designed to foster a love for the environment and sustainable living.

Pre-purchase discounted tickets online—get a two-day pass from just \$18. Tickets will also be available at the gate. Gates open at 8:30am. Visit our website for all festival info and tickets www.ecofesttas.com.au



Free Legal Advice at Sheffield

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March Trivia

Your clue ? ♦

Could be your lucky eve Folks!

Monday 17th

New to the District? Come join us and share in some quizzing fun! Wear some green maybe, just 'cos.

VENUE: The Sheffield RSL and Citizen's Club

TIME: 6.30 for 7.00pm start. Finish approx. 9.30 pm. **COST:** \$10.00pp 8pp/table

Regulars: Please call the club, register your table as usual. Big help. Tks.

ecofest

5-6 April 2025 Sat 9-4 Sun 9-3
Camp Clayton, Ulverstone

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Image: Paul Boos, Emma Robertson

Bette's compassion touched many



Bette Fay Moran
June 24, 1940-
January 22, 2025

Cherished wife of Jack, loving and much loved mum to John, Glen and Joanne. Bette was also grandmother to Shaun and Flynn and friend of Christine.

Bette was many things to many people, but she was in the simplest of terms friend to all.

Bette had moved to Strathdevon around 18 months ago, where she

was able to receive the best quality care and support with her dementia diagnosis and mobility challenges.

Jack knew that Bette was in good hands, and he too developed a wonderful bond with staff and residents.

Bette Fay Hoyes was born on the June 25, 1940, in Gympie, Queensland to parents Bert and Agnes. She was youngest sister to Dawn, Joe and Lyn. Bette was educated in Queensland. Firstly, in Gheerulla, then Oakley State School in Brisbane, then in Miles. Most of Bette's early life was spent in Miles, where her dad was an ambulance driver.

Sister Lyn recalled fantastic childhood memories of climbing fig trees and fishing and that Bette was very particular about

her hair. One evening as they were getting ready for a night out, Bette couldn't get her hair right, so she stayed home!

Bette met John Moran, while on a working holiday in Tasmania. They met at the Elizabeth Town Hotel and Jack recalled that Bette was sitting in her girlfriend's car, waiting to go to a dance and he took her instead!

They bought their house in Morrison Street Railton in 1963 and were married on May 25, 1964, at Deloraine.

Bette and Jack went on to welcome Glen and Joanne into the family and they settled in Railton for the next 60 or so years.

Bette and Jack loved going to dances and the cabarets that used to be held at the Railton RSL, Joanne and Glen have vivid memories of attending these events growing up. The love of country music was a constant in Bette and Jack's lives.

Through her love of gardening, Bette turned her house into a home. She developed a lifelong friendship with Jean Gillespie and both ladies were keen members of the Gardening Club. Bette did lots of sewing, crochet and was a talented cross stitcher.

Bette worked hard to make sure Glen was treated as an equal, despite his lack of hearing. She was determined to learn to drive to be certain that Glen was able to attend his audiologist's appointments in Burnie.

For a period she worked night shift at Edgell's in Quoiba. And toward the end of her working career, she spent some time as the kindergarten aide at Railton Primary School. Mrs Moran was such a kind and supportive lady.

Bette and Jack made many wonderful friends through their love of County and Western Music, caravanning and being a part of the fishing community at Arthurs Lake.

Bette loved her dogs, she was grateful for their love and the company they provided on the land, with Joanne remembering that Tammie, of course, Lady and Minka always held a special place in her Mum's heart.

Bette and Jack had a special relationship. Married for more than 60 years, they lived a life full of love and deep admiration for each other. They were each other's best friend

Bette was quiet and humble, she lived her life with grace and humility. Her presence was composed, her actions thoughtful, and her words always kind. Though she never sought the spotlight, her gentle spirit shone brightly in the hearts of those who knew her. Her legacy is one of quiet strength and unwavering love, a testament to the simple yet profound impact of a life lived with authenticity and compassion.

- Kathryn Campbell, Celebrant

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Support veteran as he sweeps desert

By Scott Lowry, Kentish ADF Veteran

I'm excited to announce that I will be participating in the Simpson Desert Motorcycle Adventure from May 26 to 31, 2025, as a volunteer sweep rider for Frontline Safari.

This event raises funds for Saltwater Veterans Australia, an organisation dedicated to supporting ADF Veterans transitioning to civilian life.

As an ADF Veteran with more than 20 years of service, I'm no stranger to the challenges of outback Australia. I'll be riding my Yamaha TTR250 from Tasmania to Maree, South Australia, and across the Simpson Desert, using my motorcycling experience to ensure the safety of participants.

I'm seeking sponsorship to help cover travel costs and essential bike expenses, including fuel, oils, and spare parts.

If you'd like to support this cause, donations can be made to: BSB: 067872; Account Number: 22005992

Your contribution will help me challenge myself physically and mentally while supporting fellow veterans.

Thank you for your support. Scott, 0405 088 228.



MR PERFECT

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Mr. Perfect Kentish BBQ 2025

Feb. 22nd
March. 29th
April. 26th
May. 31st
June. 28th
July. 26th
Aug. 30th
Sep. 27th
Oct. 25th
Nov. 29th
Dec. 27th

In case of bad weather please join us at the Blacksmith Café for a hot drink and a chat

BBQs are held on the last Saturday of each month 11am - 12:30 pm at Health Park Sheffield

Market Moves with Corinne Nicholson Principal Roberts Real Estate



Row your way to property sales success

As nature paints our landscape in rich autumn hues, an exceptional opportunity awaits property owners in the Kentish region. The upcoming Australian Rowing Championships promises to transform our charming town into a bustling hub of activity, drawing 2000 competitive rowers, their support teams, and an anticipated crowd of 5000 spectators. This influx of visitors presents an unmatched opportunity to showcase your property to a diverse, national audience.

The recent interest rate reduction has created an even more favourable environment for property transactions in our Kentish Municipality. Whether you're contemplating a sale or simply curious about your property's potential in this dynamic market, I'm here to provide a comprehensive property appraisal and develop a tailored marketing strategy that could unlock your home's full value.

Contact Corinne on 0488 611 968 or email corinnenicholson@robertsre.com.au

39 Devils Gate Road, Barrington – 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom on 64 acres. \$665,000. Breathtaking views of Mt Roland & Lake Barrington. A perfect weekend with natural springs, reliable water supply, abundance of dried wood for cozy fires with ample space for rural pursuits.

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SERVICES AUSTRALIA (CENTRELINK)

Visiting Sheffield (9:30-11 am) and Railton (12-12:30pm)
Wednesday 5th March.

Contact Kentish House to book specific appointment times alternatively, walk-ins are welcome.

FOOD PICK UP & BREAD PICK UP AT KENTISH HOUSE

Food & Bread Pick-up: Wednesday's 9:30 - 11am

Amounts available vary, items available are on a first in-basis.

MR PERFECT BBQ

Gents of Kentish you are invited to a **FREE** blokes BBQ

Saturday 29th March 2025

11:00am - 12:30pm Health Park Sheffield *

In case of bad weather join us at Blacksmith Café for a hot drink and chat

KENTISH HOUSE PLAYGROUP

Enjoy play time and activities with your child/ren 0-5 years.

Tuesdays 9:00-11:00am during school terms

Please note all Kentish House events/programs are COVID Safe.
Please do not attend if you are feeling unwell, experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms.

FlowerFest attracts record numbers



A huge thank you to everyone who got involved with Sheffield FlowerFest at the Town

Hall in February. The show attracted record entries – both in the number of people taking part and the number of individual entries. Judges said the quality of exhibits was very high.



Grand Champion this year was Kate Jackson (*left*) from Nook, whose stylish arrangement using only weeds took out the top award vying with splendid blooms of dahlias, roses and a magnificent potted maidenhair fern.

As well as individual plant, flower and foliage exhibits,

members of the Kentish Garden Club decorated the stage of Sheffield Town Hall with inspiring arrangements of flower baskets filled with hydrangeas, dahlias, lilies and foliage with quirky garden ornaments. The arrangements were overseen by Robyn Russell from Latrobe who also lent many of the ornaments and baskets.

More than 600 people visited the two-day show, admiring the displays and shopping at the various stalls, buying raffle tickets and listening to the soothing harp music from local harpist Kate Fraser. Thanks, too, to Kentish U3A and Sheffield Seed Library for additional and informative displays.

New challenge to decorate your gate

To increase the beauty of flowers beyond the spectacle in Sheffield Town Hall, Kentish Garden Club launched a new competition to beautify the town. 'Decorate your Front Gate or Fence' was a great success with 13 front gates or fences being decorated with flowers, plants and ornaments.



The winner was Anne Bruty, 23 Main Street, Sheffield for her creative display on a free-standing front gate featuring colourful gum boots filled with flowering plants (*above*). Anne took home a smart new wheelbarrow donated by sponsors the Sheffield Shed and \$50 from the garden club.

Highly commended by judges Mayor Kate Harberle and Deputy Mayor Penny Lane, were the gate decorations of Lu Proud (20 Main Street) and Debbie Smith and Andrew Thomas (10 High Street).

Thank you to all our sponsors for their ongoing support (see sponsor list and winners of the Mega Raffle on Page 24).

Next garden club meeting

The next meeting of the Kentish Garden Club is Thursday, March 13, at 7.30pm at the Bible Chapel, 45 High Street, Sheffield. Guest speaker is Ina Ansmann from The Tuffledore at Lower Barrington on raising truffles.

The meeting is preceded by a visit to a garden in High Street, Sheffield. All welcome. For more information, call Jennifer Stackhouse (KGC President) on 0488 047 011.

Life-long scout Luri joins Kentish pack

Kentish Scout Group is very excited to introduce our new Scout Leader, Luri.

Luri (scout name) originates from Queensland and has settled in Tassie with her husband and gorgeous little baby boy after completing her scout journey as a Joey, Cub, Scout and Venturer.

With a love for everything scouts, she is fast becoming a fantastic asset for our group with lots of fresh ideas and the kids are loving them!

Luri loves cooking after being a chef for 15 years and is currently pursuing her latest passion with beekeeping.

We currently have space in both our Cub (ages 8-10) and Scout (ages 11-14) sections as well as openings for assistant leaders.

This term's Cub program includes: water safety and kayaking, science night, a bush walk and Geocaching, while the scout program includes Geocaching along with Snug Regatta, Relay for Life and a dinner party organised and cooked by the scouts.

If our program interests you or your scout-aged child, please feel



free to come along to one of our nights to see if you think you would fit well into our 'scout family'.

- Tanya, Scout Chairperson 0438 559 317

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Rural life throws up many challenges and we recognise that navigating those ongoing challenges can become tiresome.

Our team are passionate about building thriving and sustainable communities. To achieve that, we first have to make sure our people are healthy.

It's not easy to reach out for support, but we have tried to make it simple. Call directly or submit a call back request



Home school kids work at own pace

By Heather Eiszele

Learning is the goal, not testing, says home school parent Rebecca Tran.

She is one of a growing number of parents in Tasmania who have chosen the personal approach to educating their children, without the structure of the school system.

“Home school is not school,” says Rebecca. “It’s flexible and there’s no typical week – that’s the beauty of home school. It’s not Monday to Friday, six hours a day. You don’t need all that time to teach.”

She, Amy Edwards and Josephine Herman are members of the Tasmanian Home Education Network and are part of a group which meets regularly at Health Park in Sheffield with their children

for play and interaction. Despite the demands of being their children’s full-time carer and missing out on benefits such as school music programs and sports, they all say they want the best for their kids.

Josephine researched educational models extensively when she was pregnant with her first child but couldn’t find one that was affordable and aligned with her principles.

“So I decided to do it myself,” she said, adopting aspects of the Steiner and Montessori methodologies as well as the high-performing Nordic system.



Outdoor ed: (left) Josephine Herman, Amy Edwards and Rebecca Tran with their children.

“My eldest daughter is very good at self-directed learning but she’s not interested in anything that doesn’t involve animals,” Josephine said. “I then find resources that have animals because she doesn’t care about counting dots or counting strawberries but if it’s animals, she wants to learn straight away.”

“So home school gives me the freedom to be able to tailor my child’s education towards her neuro-type and her development, going as far or as slow as she wants to go.

“All of my family is neuro-divergent and I thought I could better teach her one-on-one knowing all her quirks and differences. Being sensitive to that rather than having her fit into a system that wasn’t designed for children like her.”

Amy is mother to 10-year-old Gene who has always been home schooled. At the monthly Sheffield Produce Market, he helps run the stall, dealing with customers and money, while playing the drums and coming up with ideas for other stalls.

“He’s thinking about running carnival games,” said Amy. “The sky’s the limit! Home school kids feel free to be themselves as there’s not as much peer pressure.

“I wanted my kids to develop their own sense of self.”

In terms of socialising, home school kids were exposed to a greater range of ages, while those in school fraternised with their own age groups. Scouts and sports, such as swimming, offered other opportunities.

Said Rebecca: “It’s not so much teaching them, it’s showing them how to learn. By the time they get to high school, they know how to learn. They are interested and they enjoy learning. “It’s worth every sacrifice.”

For more information or to register for home schooling, visit <https://oer.tas.gov.au/home-education/>



Got something to say?
Please send Letters to the Editor to:
editor@thekentishvoice.com.au

Doors open to Kentish's history

The Kentish Museum held a very successful one-day soft opening in late February opening its doors and welcoming local community members to explore its exhibits. Visitors enjoyed a first glimpse of the museum's collection with many expressing interests in the region's rich history being preserved.

"It was a special day, as the Museum began to buzz with the excitement of visitors eager to explore the history of the Kentish municipality," said Sandy Brattstrom, one of the volunteers involved in cataloguing and presenting the collection.

"Groups of individuals with a keen interest and shared passion for preserving local heritage filled the space.

"And, after 15 months of tireless dedication from our small group of volunteers, what once seemed like a formidable challenge was ultimately achieved and the Museum was brought back to life."

With only a few projects left to complete and feedback from the soft opening still being reviewed, the group looks forward to announcing the Museum's upcoming hours and days of operation on its soon-to-be-launched Facebook page.

In the meantime, the museum is looking for more volunteers. There are many opportunities available that cater to different interests and talents including: front of house operations; visitor inquiries; research; tour scheduling; designing and developing new exhibits and educational programs; photography; volunteer recruitment and training; social media promotion; fundraising; artefact care; cataloguing and database entry.

Volunteering at the Kentish History Museum is not only fun and rewarding, but it also offers a fantastic opportunity to meet new people, gain valuable skills, and make a meaningful impact in your community.

As the Kentish Museum continues its journey to uncover



fascinating stories and seek out unique items that represent the rich history of the Kentish Municipality, the Museum invites you to be a part of this adventure and make history come alive.

Celebrate the power of stories in film



Inaugural winners Riley Sapsford and Holly Winter.

Entries are open for the 2025 Weindorfer Short Film Festival. Young people, aspiring filmmakers and established professionals are encouraged to celebrate the power of storytelling through short films.

"The Weindorfer Short Film Festival champions creativity as a tool for education, social connection and inspiration," said Sandra Rowden-Rich, Vice-President of the Weindorfer Association.

"We encourage filmmakers to craft stories that inspire and remind us that even a short film can have a lasting impact."

Whether you're an emerging filmmaker or a professional, this is your opportunity to tell a story that captivates and educates.

2025 Theme & Entry Details

This year's festival welcomes 5-minute short films that explore themes including:

- The value of Tasmania's natural wilderness
- The Cradle Mountain World Heritage Area
- The influence of the pioneers of conservation of Cradle Mountain, and the environment
- How individuals can make a positive difference.

Categories & Entry Fees: Under 19 – \$5; Open – \$25; Concession (student or pensioner) – \$15. Prizes include cash awards and accommodation at Cradle Mountain.

Film Submission Deadline: Sunday, April 13, 2025.

Premiere Event: Saturday, May 4, 2025 (Weindorfer Day)

Finalists will receive recognition, mentorship, and a platform to have their films showcased to a broad audience.

How to Submit

Filmmakers can find submission guidelines at: https://weindorferfilmfestival.com.au/film_submission_guidelines/
Honouring the legacy of Gustav and Kate Weindorfer, the festival aims to inspire filmmakers to showcase Tasmania's natural beauty, culture, and heritage while fostering creativity, community and connection.

For more information, please contact: Sandra Rowden-Rich, info@weindorferfilmfestival.com.au or phone 6459 0422.

SHEFFIELD CRICKET CLUB WINS UNDER-18 COASTAL TITLE



Back Row from left Logan Heazlewood (Assistant Coach), Charlton Skirving, Noah Milburn, Ryan Brown, Macklyn Jones, Beau Woodiwiss, Jack Ritter. Jonah Evans, Alex King (Coach); Front Row: Rory Saunders, Lachlan Davies, Simeon May, Roland Skirving, Tyson Crawford, Cameron Welsh.

Our Under 18 team defeated Burnie in the Under 18, T 20 Grand Final which was recently held at Sheffield.

Burnie batted first and scored 99 runs. Beau Woodiwiss took 3 for 14 and Macklyn Jones 2 for 15. We passed their score with both Noah Milburn and Jonah Evans scoring 30 runs and Beau Woodiwiss scored 21 runs.

Our A grade men's side are currently second on the ladder. We had an outright win again Wynyard with Aiden Marshall having a great game scoring 70 runs and taking 7 for 18. Ulverstone then defeated us on 1st innings and in our last game we defeated Burnie on 1st Innings with Alex King scoring 151 and Clayton Campbell 58. Marc Simonds took 5 for 56.

Our 2nd Grade side won the One Day Grand Final which was played at Sheffield. We defeated Devonport in a closely contested game.

Our 2nd grade side are currently sitting on top of the ladder. In our recent win against Burnie, Josh Marshall took 5 for 9 and Dayne Suna 4 for 9. Against Ulverstone Jonah Evans scored 63 and Roland Skirving 54.

Our ladies have now qualified for this year's Grand Final to

be played at the Devonport Oval on March 1. Our pre final was held at Sheffield where we defeated Devonport. Devonport batted first and scored 103. We were 4 for 104 when we passed their score. Top scorers were Georgia Anderson 32 not out Georgia King 28 and captain Kylie Bramich with 26.

Our under-16 side also qualified for the finals. In our last roster game, Roland Skirving scored 96 and Jack Ritter 84 not out. Unfortunately, they were defeated in the semi final by Devonport. I

In this game Macklyn Jones took 4 for 28 and Lachlan Davies top scored with 26 runs.

Our Men's social team made the Grand Final which they narrowly lost against Latrobe.

Early this year Sheffield hosted part of this year's national under 17 Carnival when Western Australia played ACT here.

This is a great reflection on the recent improvements to our facilities. A special thanks to our Council and Daniel Campbell for the work they put in to have our ground in tip-top condition.

- Peter King, President



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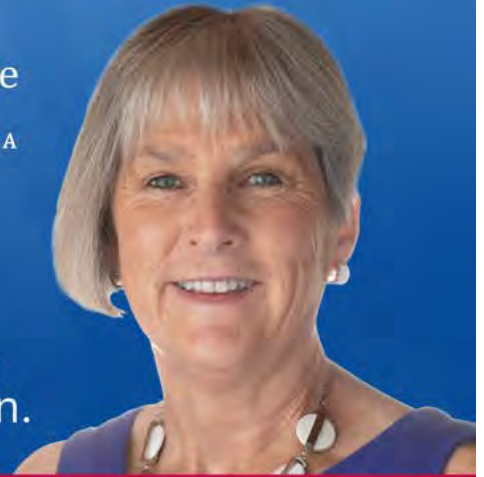
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Let me know how I can help.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can assist you, your club, group or organisation.

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Call my office to make an appointment or email me with your enquiry:



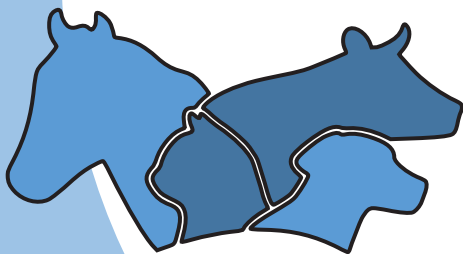
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RAILTON PARKRUN

January and February saw some milestones for several members of our wonderful parkrun community. Narelle Jacobs celebrated her 250th park run at Railton. There was a fantastic turnout on January 18 with 87 people participating. A special 'shout out' should go to Chloe and Will, who were married the day before and invited wedding guests to join them as they completed their first event as husband and wife. Narelle Howe recently completed her 200th run, well done Narelle.

At Railton we love supporting our junior runners. Lucy Crowden who is fully supported by her Mum and Dad recently completed her 25th event - great effort Lucy.

John Kent completed over 250 events, which includes taking on the role of tail walker every second week, thank you John. Both Desi and Bernie Binns have now completed 50 events as volunteers, many thanks.

Congratulations also to Rebecca Bott who ran in her 200th at Railton. In February Jason Kuys completed his 100th event and the following week Bronwyn Kent, who is one of the parkrun directors, completed her 100th run. Well done, Broni.

Railton parkrun was nominated at this year's Kentish Australia Day Awards in the section of Community Event of the Year. At the awards, Mayor Kate Haberle shared that since the first parkrun on October 28, 2017, 2019 individuals had competed in the event and 219 people had volunteered. She went on to say that each week the event requires eight volunteers.

Railton parkrun was awarded a Certificate of Achievement in the Community Event of the Year category. With special mention to our co-directors Lisa Ireland, Bronwyn Kent



Park stunners: Catherine Stark, Desi Binns, Bernie Binns, Helen McKendrick, Marg McLachlan and Rose Mitchell.

and Linda Cassidy. Our three parkrun directors were later presented with Australia Day Unity Pins as a thank you for their commitment to the event. Without these ladies and our wonderful band of volunteers, the event would not take place.

An open invitation is extended to come along to the Railton event. Park runners and their 'bark runners' (dogs on leashes) meet every Saturday morning at 8:50am at the Syke's Sanctuary entrance on Kimberley Road for a safety briefing. For anyone new to the Railton Course, the parkrun Director will provide you with an overview of the course prior to the event commencing and reinforce some vital safety considerations.

SHEFFIELD GOLF

Summer is definitely here with some warm, sunny days and excellent numbers playing the course, which is in excellent condition thanks to the volunteers who maintain it. Hopefully some much-needed rain is not too far away to keep the fairways looking their best.

Monthly Medal Winners:

Members: IGA Don Store Monthly Medal was won by the in-form Glen Connors who not only won with a magnificent score of Nett 66 but also won Nearest the Pin on the 2/11th and 4/13th. Well done, Glen. Our long-serving secretary Neville Pulford also had a Nett 66 and was unlucky to be beaten on a countback.

Vets: Sheffield Mechanical & Tyre Monthly Medal was won by Rowan Sherriff with a Nett 67, closely followed by David Macmillan with a Nett 69.

Ladies: Winston and Geneen Duff Monthly Medal was won by Janice Milner with an unbelievable score of Nett 63, closely followed by Denise Morgan with a Nett 64. Well done, ladies.

Thanks again to the generosity of our sponsors.

An Ambrose 3 was held on January 21 with Glen Connors, Tony Wootton and Mark Jones taking home the prizes with a score of Nett 53.833.

A highlight for January was the RSL Ambrose 4 day held on January 25. This is always a well supported day and a big thank you to the RSL Club, Jamies Smithurst and Ashleigh Corbett for organising the event.

Winners on the day were Leigh Tuson, Helen Lloyd-Jones, Anna Balestrieri and Greg Collis with a score of Nett 53, closely

followed by Glen Connors, Tony Wootton and David Jago with a Nett 53.5.

A presentation was made to Laurie Lang for the tireless work he did on the website over many years. Thanks again Laurie and best wishes to you and Judy for the future.

Jan Thomas Memorial Day Stableford was held on January 28 for the lady members. It is a day we fondly remember Jan and the contribution she made to the club. Thank you to Lyle Thomas for sponsoring the day. The day was won by Lu Proud with 33 points.

Walters Contracting 3 Person Classic was held on February 8th with David Jago teaming together with Rowan & Winsome Sherriff to win the day with an excellent score of 91 points, with closest rivals being Scott Westbrook, Roland Proud & Ryan Patterson with 85 points. Thanks to Walters for sponsorship.

On February 11 a Pinehurst was played with a draw for partners and groups. Two ex-Roland boys Rowan Sherriff and Jason Crosswell teamed well together to take home the prizes with a Nett 68 closely followed by Gerry Hopkins and Doug Callander with a Nett 69.

Another highlight for the club in February was Farmers Day held on the February 13. With an excellent field of 72, the ladies (*pictured, p30*) were kept very busy in the kitchen to ensure no one went hungry.

Overall winner for the day was R. Allen from Ringarooma. A big thank you to Wade and Helen Rockliff for organising the day and also a big thank you to all the major sponsors. An event like this wouldn't go ahead without your sponsorship. The day raised \$2600 for Cancer Council Tasmania.

Continued Page 30



KENTISH PONY & HACK CLUB

Kentish Pony & Hack Club is calling out to any locals who may have a horse or pony sitting in the paddock that would be suitable for pony club.

The club has recently had a lot of interest from young people who would love to join but don't own their own horse or pony.

The club meets once or twice a month and has supervised instruction with opportunities to gain certificates in horse care, riding and management.

This is a great opportunity for young people to get together

and share in their passion for horses, learn new skills, share experiences and interact with each other.

If you are able to help with the loan of a horse or pony for a few hours each month, please contact kentishponyclub24@gmail.com or message Karan on 0429 231 612.



KENTISH EQUINE EDURANCE RIDERS

The annual Kentish Equine Endurance Ride is being held on Saturday, March 29, from the Sheffield Pony Club grounds.

This year's event will include three separate courses of 80km, 40km and 20km.

It is expected that we will attract over 80 entrants from around the state, as they prepare themselves and their horses for the Tom Quilty, the national championship event which is being held at Sassafras in May this year.

Local horse riders are encourage to come and participate in the shorter 20km or 40km events if they are interested in having a go at the sport. Volunteers and spectators are welcome.

Local traffic please be aware horse will be crossing the Bridle Track Rd, Stoodley Rd and Sheffield Rd at Stoodley during the event on Saturday from 7am through to 5pm. Caution horse signs will be erected for the event.

We would like to thank the community for their support. If you would like more information please call Lydia Rigby on 0439 380 980 or Jean Treloar on 0408 122 793.



Please email your sports news to:
editor@thekentishvoice.com.au

Mayor's message: plenty of events ahead



As I reflect on the month of February, it has made me realise what a busy and engaging region we live in. The students and staff at Sheffield, Railton and Wilmot have had a wonderful start to the year. The teachers have worked very hard to provide excellent learning programs, with the students settling into their new routines and responding well

to their learning. The AGM of the School Association will be held on March 19 (*see next page*).

The Kentish Museum held a soft opening on Saturday, February 22. It was pleasure to walk through all the rooms and appreciate all the hard work that has gone into giving the museum a complete overhaul. The displays are very well organised and clearly labelled. Thank you so much to the exceptional volunteers who have worked tirelessly - your commitment to ensuring the museum opens up again is outstanding and we appreciate this very much. If you would like to volunteer to keep the museum functional, please contact Sandy Brattstrom for details.

The Annual Report for 2023/2024 was tabled at our council meeting on February 18. It summarises the implementation of the Council's 2023/2024 Annual Plan and provides details of the Council's achievements for that period. This document is now available for community feedback in preparation for our AGM on March 25. It is a very detailed report and I would like to acknowledge the dedication of the staff in collating the

information and presenting the report in such a professional manner. Public submissions close on March 9.

I attended Flowerfest in the Town Hall on February 1. What a beautiful array of flowers and plants. The Kentish Garden Club are to be congratulated for the amazing effort in organising this event to ensure its huge success. The event attracted many visitors to our town and we were very proud to showcase our whole area during this time as many businesses in town benefitted from the increase in numbers.

The National Rowing Championships will be held at Lake Barrington at the end of March. We are expecting 6000 visitors to the region including 2000 participants in the competition. It will be a very busy time for all the businesses in Kentish and it is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our beautiful area.

The Sheffield Under-18 cricket team won the grand final on February 21. Congratulations boys on a fine effort and for Alex King who coached them to victory. The enthusiasm and commitment in Cricket Club is exceptional and this will ensure the success of the club into the future.

March will be a very busy month beginning with the Northern Tasmanian Driving Society Inc hosting the Show Driving Championships in Railton on March 1.

Steamfest will be held over the long weekend March 8-10 as well as the Gowrie Park Rodeo, Polocross Kentish Cup and the 3rd Annual Pet Show at the Uniting Church in Main Street.

The Kentish Equine Endurance Ride through Stoodley and the Bridle Track will be held on March 29.

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Time to prune stone fruit, plant winter veg

I have just had the Kentish Garden Club visit my garden. I had spent the previous two weeks cleaning it up ready for the day, and as I sit here writing, I remember that one of my jobs for today is to pick all the nectarines now that they are ripe.

That then reminds me to tell you that all your stone fruit trees need to be pruned after they have fruited, and fed, so that they can grow next season's branches. Plums, apricots, nectarines, peaches and cherries are all stone fruits.

Walking past the Forest Walk, next to a stand of Poas (native grasses), I disturbed a large number of the common brown butterfly. I estimate there were at least two dozen of them, on a Tea Tree (*Leptospermum*) next to the Poas.

The Poa is the host plant for their caterpillars.

The other thing I noticed is a Helena Emperor Gum Moth caterpillar on one of my birch trees. The tree is only 2m high.



Yes, that's right, those caterpillars should be on Eucalypts, so thinking I'm doing a service to it, I moved it to a gum. I soon found he wasn't happy with me. So he is now back on the birch tree. I felt a bit sad for him, because there's not many leaves on the tree. I tried to introduce to him some leaves from another birch but he didn't like them either, so he is climbing around this almost deciduous birch, chewing on whatever he can find. I'll keep an eye on him over the next week or so to see what happens.

Interestingly, once they spin their cocoon, they can stay in there for anything from three weeks to two years, depending on conditions, before they emerge.

I'm constantly amazed by nature.

If you are planning to have your own home-grown veggies over the winter month, March is the best time to start planting cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, ale, carrots, and parsnips, but you need to be quick.

Every week counts as far as the growing season is concerned. Happy Gardening.

- Robert Gower

Sheffield School Association Inc calls for election nominations

Elections for the School Association will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. Nominations are being called for two community and three parent vacancies.

Nomination forms are available from the school office and must be to the Returning Officer, Nikki Jackson by COB Friday, March 7, 2025.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the school on Wednesday, March 19. For enquiries phone 6491 8222.

Calling for Expressions of Interest to fill a casual vacancy on the committee of the School Association for one year.

A written application can be sent to Nikki Jackson by COB Monday, March 17, 2025.



FRIENDS OF RAW

Friends of RAW network has been created in consultation with key industry stakeholders, to address an unmet need from frontline workers experiencing individuals sharing the harsh impact of situational stressors and mental health challenges.

Friends of RAW aims to help individuals navigate the day-to-day situations they find themselves in by equipping them with the skills to understand and set boundaries, have safe conversations and know how to **Recognise** the signs, **Ask** the questions and **Work** together.

The network is designed to empower individuals to bridge the gap and be a conduit to connecting people to RAW's support services.

Friends of RAW is aimed at front line works, business owners, live stock agents, cropping contractors, farmers, local community and groups who are impacted by or will come in contact with others who are directly affected by drought and need support to navigate their way through it.

To kick start involvement, we have an practical and tangible training session designed to up skill individuals to better navigate unexpected conversations and situations.

Ready to Join the Network?

Find & Register for a Session Near You at
www.ruralaliveandwell.com.au/friendsofraw

Recognise. Ask. Work together.

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Two Metre Tall Brewery
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EAT & DRINK

- Enjoy a Huon Valley pitstop at Harvest and Light in Geeveston, with its wine bar, photo gallery, picklery and platters.
- Award-winning potato vodka, small-batch gins, rum and sought-after liqueurs await at Hellfire Bluff Distillery on Turrakana / Tasman Peninsula.
- Derwent Valley destination Two Metre Tall Farmhouse and cider tempts you with barrel-aged ales, ciders and mead.

STAY

- Stay at Ratho Farm, a classic homestead in Bothwell complete with hearty meals, convict heritage and the country's oldest golf course.
- Pitch your tent or roll up your rig at New Norfolk Caravan Park on the banks of the River Derwent.
- Seeking the shack life? Wake to water views from your cosy coastal hideaway at Sunken Sea Shack in Abels Bay.



Ratho Farm



The Agrarian Kitchen

PLAY

- Soak in bespoke Elsewhere Sauna and reset with a swim as you sweat, cleanse and repeat at Drip Beach.
- Forage and feast on a full-day cooking and gardening class at the Agrarian Kitchen Cooking School in New Norfolk.
- Savour a premium summer spread as you solve puzzles on a magical mystery picnic with Riddle Me Adventures.



Hobart and south

EVENTS

- Ranelagh comes alive with music, family fun and the region's freshest food at A Taste of the Huon (9–10 March).
- Dive into Dover Seafest (16 March) to celebrate the sea's bounty and fill up on mouthwatering snacks and brews.



Freshly shucked oysters



The Surfside Restaurant and Bar

EAT & DRINK

- Set up your day with a tasty breakfast or brunch from Governors Bicheno before exploring the east coast.
- Chill out with beach views, a bevvy and burger at Surfside Restaurant and Bar in Beaumaris.
- Refuel at Binalong Bay's the Hub – Seaside, where your wood-fired pizza comes with Larapuna / Bay of Fires area vistas.

STAY

- Kick back and relax with your clan at sun-filled Awesome Beach House by the Bicheno waterfront.
- Wake to uninterrupted water views and stunning sunrises on a beachfront stay at Swansea Beach Chalets.
- Camp in comfort among the rugged beauty of the Freycinet Peninsula with a stay in a glamorous Numie Glamping tent.



Swansea Beach Chalets



East Coast Natureworld

PLAY

- Let the charismatic creatures at East Coast Natureworld steal your heart, then stick around to see devils in the dark.
- Take to the water in St Helens for a Secret River Gem Hunting tour by pedal-powered kayak.
- Wonder at the shimmering white sands and crystal-clear waters of Tasmania's famous natural landmark with the eco-friendly Wineglass Bay Cruises.



East coast

EVENTS

- Dive into a delicious Devil's Corner Moulting Lagoon Experience (6 April) with a vineyard tour, oyster shucking, divine lunch and tasting.
- Awaken your senses in Swansea with the tastes, smells and sounds of ECHO Festival (East Coast Harvest Odyssey), 14–16 March.



ECHO Festival



Little Rivers Brewing Co.

EAT & DRINK

- Dine on fresh-grown produce among the sunny pastures and friendly farm animals at delicious Apricus, just outside of Launceston.
- Sample traditional method sparkling wines worthy of French champagne cult status at Clover Hill Wines in lush Lebrina.
- Head over to Little Rivers Brewing Co. in Scottsdale for beer, spirits, scrumptious pizza and locally made artisan snacks.

STAY

- Lap up luxury with mountain views, stargazing and a cedar hot tub at the Eco Cabin Tasmania in Deloraine.
- Stay in a Swiss-style chalet or waterfront spa villa at Tamar Valley Resort, in the charmingly novel village of Grindelwald.
- Stylish tents with wood heaters and elegant bathtubs await at Wingtons Glamping near Clarence Point, close to nearby bushwalks and wildlife.



Wingtons Glamping



Luxury Golf and Scenic Tours

PLAY

- Tempt your tastebuds with raw and roasted nutty delights on a self-guided tour of Hazelbrae Hazelnuts in Hagley.
- Let Luxury Golf and Scenic Tours tee you up with some of Australia's most scenic and top-ranked courses.
- Paddle the clear waters of Flinders Island and find secret bays and beaches on a Roaring 40s Kayaking tour.



Launceston and north

EVENTS

- Celebrate the aromatic bulb and ruby fruit at Hagley's Tasmanian Garlic and Tomato Festival (9 March).
- Pay a visit to Scottsdale to celebrate the humble potato. You'll find music, markets and mash galore at Spud Fest (16 March).



Tomato harvest



Hellyers Road Distillery

EAT & DRINK

- Enjoy a tour or tasting at Hellyers Road Distillery in Burnie, Australia's oldest continually operating boutique single malt whisky distillery.
- Pair wine and cheese with stunning seaside views across to Stanley and the Nut at Lanigan's in Rocky Cape.
- Mosey down to Appleby's Mediterraneo Bar and Grill, serving up pizza, artful food plates and sea views at Boat Harbour.

STAY

- Calm the senses at Captains Rest, offering long bathtub soaks, cottage serenity and views of tranquil water and wilderness in Strahan.
- Choose from spa rooms, family stays and apartments at Stanley Seaview Inn, with striking coastal views of the Nut.
- Stay on tranquil King Island at Yambacoon House, a 1900-built haven within easy reach of golf, beach and wildlife adventures.



Captains Rest



Wings Wildlife Park

PLAY

- Let the friendly guides introduce you to the joy of snuggling with animals at Wings Wildlife Park in Gunns Plains.
- Visit Creative Paper in Wynyard for a hands-on tour to discover the history of handmade paper and make your own.
- Tour the Lobster Ponds Haven at Flowerdale to acquaint yourself with large freshwater lobsters and learn about the endangered species.



West and north west

EVENTS

- Flock to the Forth Valley Blues Festival (21–22 March) for toe-tapping grooves and community fun in a picturesque place.
- Boundary-pushing international arts and culture experiences pop up all over Tasmania during Ten Days on the Island (21–30 March).



Ten Days on the Island

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Make the most of our longer days at
discovertasmania.com.au/longerdays

TASMANIA



SHEFFIELD RSL SUB-BRANCH

We had our AGM on Monday, February 3, followed by the monthly committee meeting. Our secretary, Stuart Wilson, and I stood down and our new committee is:

- Vice President: Bernard Binns
- Treasurer: Ron Davies
- Social: Geneen Duff and Sandra Hillier.

There were no other nominations so we are looking for a couple more members to volunteer to take up empty positions.

I would like to thank the Kentish community for all their support and friendship over the last few years while I was president. I know you will give our new committee the same support.

Any enquiries to the sub-branch should be directed to Bernard Binns on 0429 099 904 or Ron Davies on 0417 138 070.

HUB REPORT

"It's neat and tidy!" ... "The Best Op Shop in Australia!" from a lady who has done lots of traveling around Australia. It's been great to have so many positive comments from visitors in town, thanks to our wonderful volunteers.

Recent donations

- Men's Shed \$3000.
- Mountain Echoes \$3000.
- TAS Junior Beef Expo \$1000.

We are open Monday to Friday 10am-3pm. If you are unable to donate items during that time, please let us know.

We are very aware that items left when we are closed are often taken by people as they pass by. This means less donations we are able to make to the community.

- The Committee



Sheffield's 3rd Annual Pet Show
For all creatures great and small!
Fundraising event for Library Aid International
Held at the Sheffield Uniting Church, Main Street, Sheffield

Entries Now Open!
Entries close 7th March

Sunday 9th March 3pm - 6pm
Entry to see the show is by Gold Coin Donation (owners of show exhibits get free admission as they pay the show entry fee). All proceeds go to Library Aid International

\$5 Entry, Per Pet

Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Chickens, Ducks, Ferrets, Sheep, Cats, Dogs, Birds, Horses, all creatures great and small are welcome!

Do you have a purrfect cat, a pawesome doggo, a lovely lamb or a pony that thinks they're a dog? Enter them in our 'all creatures great and small' pet show, and let's celebrate our pets! It's \$5 per pet entry fee (pay on the day). Lots of prizes to be won! There will be a coffee and snack van on the day, so bring the family and come on down to the uniting church grounds to celebrate Sheffield's adorable pets!
Enter by emailing: henast@live.com
Or by texting or calling: 0414 179 746

Don't forget to enter our RAFFLE on the day. A fantastic prize hamper up for grabs! \$2 per ticket or \$5 for x3 tickets. Drawn at 5:30pm on the day, Sunday 9th March.

CLAUDE ROAD EASTER MARKET

Saturday, March 15, 9am-1pm

The Claude Road Easter Market is coming up and we have *lots* to offer! The Hall will be festooned with all things Easter and will be filled with great crafts, jams and bric-a-brac so come along and have a look then stay to have tea or coffee and a bite to eat, or grab a takeaway.

Hopefully the weather will be fine and we'll have lots of stallholders outside, too. Inside tables are already fully booked. Outdoor stallholders do not need to book – just come along anytime after 7.30am and set up in the next available spot.

WORKING ART SPACE SHEFFIELD

Sheffield Art Gallery – 6 Pioneer Crescent, Sheffield

Exploring Possibilities

Until the end of March, the Gallery will be exhibiting works by Joanne Males (Treloar). Inspired by the breathtaking beauty of the Australian landscape during recent travels, Joanne has captured diverse vistas, from rugged coastlines to serene outback scenes, with a vivid and heartfelt touch.

Opening hours: 10am to 3pm daily.

Working Art Space – 4-6 Albert Street, Sheffield

Printing classes: Every Tuesday between 10.30am and 2.30pm. Minimal cost of \$3.00 per person to cover inks and paper.

Interested? Contact Fay on 0400 491 272 or email faylilly@hotmail.com

Botanical Drawing: Saturdays from 1.00pm to 3.30pm. If you would like to take part, please contact Colette Binder on 0439 426 665 for more information.

Pottery: Wednesdays from 10am. \$20 membership and \$3.00 a week to attend either or both days.

On Tuesdays and Wednesdays please feel free to pop by our Albert Street Gallery to view our pottery and other art displays.



RAILTON
Rsl Sub Branch
Expressions of interest
: For the lease of the Railton RSL Kitchen
Please reply via email: railton.rsllsub@gmail.com
By 15th March 2025

SHEFFIELD LIBRARY

Tasmania Reads, the annual celebration of reading and stories, will be held from March 23-29 and will feature a range of reading-inspired events and activities for all ages.

Celebrating Tasmanian writers, authors, illustrators, and creators, it highlights the connections and benefits that can be found through stories and reading.

Hear best-selling authors speak about their new release books at one of these special events at Devonport Library:

Claire Van Ryn - Monday, March 24, 5:30-7pm

Anne Buist & Graeme Simsion - Tuesday, March 25, 5:30-7pm

Bookings are required for all author talks. Book via Eventbrite or call your local library.

Book Chat at Sheffield Library: Thursday, March 27, 4-5pm

Focus this month will be Tasmanian books, movies or authors.

Sheffield Library opening hours: Tuesday 3-6pm; Wednesday 9-11am and 3-6pm; Thursday 3-6pm. We are located at Sheffield School, 12 Henry Street. Phone 6491 8233.

Book Review

For Thy Great Pain Have Mercy On My Little Pain

By Victoria Mackenzie

This beautifully written and thought-provoking book tells the fictionalised story of two real medieval women, Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe.

Julian is an anchoress (religious fanatic) who does not leave the cell she's been confined to for 23 years.

Margery frequently leaves her husband and 14 children at home to go on pilgrimages and speak publicly of her visions; actions that often get her accused of being a heretic.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, it was immersive. Margery is known for writing through dictation *The Book of Margery Kempe*, considered to be one of the earliest autobiographies in the English language.

Julian of Norwich is considered one of England's greatest mystics and her book *Revelations of Divine Love* is the earliest surviving example of a book written by a woman in English.

Reviewed by Anne

This book is available to borrow from Libraries Tasmania.

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Authorised by Mark Shelton MP, 10A Marlborough Street, LONGFORD 7301

KENTISH LIONS



We have been busy so far this year. We catered to the Axeman's Woodchop on January. If you haven't been before, it's a wonderful event held each year at Gowrie Park on January 1.

We are doing a Bunnings sausage sizzle every month raising funds to help our community.

We have provided assistance to a number of families in the Kentish community. And we continue to do so.

March brings Steamfest so come along. We will be catering all weekend with sausages, burgers, steak and egg and bacon as well as cold drinks. We'll also be selling tickets for our wood raffle which will be drawn at the end of Steamfest.

We have a few new members as well which is very exciting.

Our next meetings are March 10 and 24. If you are interested to know more about Lions, email kentishlions@gmail.com.

KENTISH PROBUS CLUB

The next meeting of the Kentish Probus Club will be Tuesday, March 11, at 10am at the Sheffield Bowls Club. This will be followed by the AGM.

The Guest Speaker this month is John Arnason from Ottawa.

Outing this month is a luncheon TBA. Visitors are always welcome. Further information, contact Annelise on 6496 1220.

Submit your community news to:
editor@thekentishvoice.com.au



NORTH WEST FILM SOCIETY

Mar / Apr / May 2025

North West Film Society screens at

Reading Cinemas Best St Devonport

Bookings essential for all movies via Humanitix

Preview all films at: www.nwfs.org.au/upcoming-films



12th March @ 7pm

Memoir of a Snail

M | 95 mins | 2024 | Australia | Animation, Drama

A poignant, heartfelt, whimsical chronicle of the life of an outsider finding confidence and silver linings amongst the clutter of everyday life.



9th April @ 7pm

The Critic

M | 101 mins | 2023 | UK | Drama, Mystery, Thriller

Based on the 2015 novel Curtain Call, The Critic is a whodunnit wrapped in a Faustian pact. A story of ambition, blackmail and desire with an anti-hero theatre critic (played by Sir Ian McKellen) at its dark heart.



14th May 2025 @ 7pm

Kneecap

MA | 105 mins | 2024 | UK | Docudrama, Comedy

(MA15+ Strong coarse language, drug use, nudity and sex scenes)

Real life members of Irish rap group KNEECAP play themselves, charting their rise to become unlikely Irish civil rights figureheads, rapping in their native Irish language and contending with police, paramilitaries and politicians.

Annual or Part Memberships available

For more details visit the NWFS website - www.nwfs.org.au

Our membership recruitment desk operates between 6:30 pm and 7:00 pm at every screening. Find us on Facebook - [nwfilmsociety](https://www.facebook.com/nwfilmsociety)

Pending distributor approval

The Kentish Voice - March 2025

Page 23

A huge thank you to our generous sponsors for supporting Sheffield FlowerFEST 2025. Gold Sponsors

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Hadley's Orient Hotel, Hobart

Major Sponsors

Flame N Plasma
Nita Pountney, Sheffield
Plump Berries, Devils Gate Road, Barrington
Sheffield Post Office, 58 Main Street, Sheffield

Sponsors

23 Rows Vineyard, West Kentish
Ampol Service Station, Main Street, Sheffield
Bossimi's Bakery Café, 55 Main Street, Sheffield
Bunnings, Devonport
Devils Gate Vineyard, Barrington Road, Barrington
Du Coeur, 50 Main Street, Sheffield
Hair on Main, 50 Main Street, Sheffield
IGA, The Don Store, 59 Main Street, Sheffield
Moo Choo, Main Street, Sheffield
Mountain Mumma, 60 Main Street, Sheffield
Mt Myrtle Dahlias, Yolla
Out in the Garden, Railton
Sheffield Fruit & Veg, Pioneer Crescent, Sheffield
Sheffield Shed, 61 Main Street, Sheffield
Slaters Country Store, 52 Main Street, Sheffield
Trina Hole, West Kentish
Turnbulls Pharmacy, 57 Main Street, Sheffield
Wilderness Lab, Claude Road

Raffle winners 2025 Mega Raffle Sheffield FlowerFEST

First prize *One night's accommodation at Hadley's Orient Hotel, Hobart*

won by Gwynneth Mills (ticket orange A15)

Second prize *Flame N Plasma dragonfly sculpture*

won by Jenny Smith (ticket blue D64)

Third prize *Nita Pountney painting*
won by Cindy Thompson (ticket blue D79)

Other winners

Darryl Herse (apricot M30)
Chris Johns (orange A1)
Judy Rollinson (yellow K25)
Dot Thompson (grey G98)
Veronica Aylett (apricot M52)
Janice Reeves (red C37)
Jess Lewis (purple F41)
Chris Stanton (orange A1)
Marg McLachlan (apricot M74)
Stacey Jenkins (yellow K73)
Anna Maddick (red C68)
Wayne Thompson (grey G52)
Kate Haberle (blue D59)
Diana Dodson (yellow K35)
Carol Wilson (blue D45)
Brian Lakusta (grey G11)
Prue Reddish (red H13)
Nadia Mutch (apricot M30)
Lain Martin (red H56)
Veronica Aylett (apricot M54)
Sandra Grogan (orange A76)
Jenny Smith (blue D63)
Cally Bennett (grey G81)
Raewyn Collison (grey G84)
Jennifer Stackhouse (yellow K4)
Kylie Clinton (grey G3)

Visiting service

If you need help with Centrelink, Medicare and Child Support payments and services, we plan to visit your community soon.

**Services Australia will be visiting
Sheffield and Railton.**

The team will be located at the following venues and times:

**Wednesday 5th February 2025
Wednesday 5th March 2025**

**Kentish House, Sheffield 09:30 am to 11 am
Kings Hall, Railton 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm**

Please phone Cassandra @Kentish House on 0447325343 to book a specific appointment time or walk-ins are welcome.



servicesaustralia.gov.au

Kentish House Craft Group

TERM ONE 2025

- Friday 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th Feb. 9-11 am
- Friday 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th March. 9-11 am
- Friday 4th, 11th April. 9-11 am

All craft sessions are held at
Kentish House
18 Station St. Sheffield

Head to Gowrie Park for nature fest



As we swing into Autumn, Mount Roland Land Care also swings into action with lots of tree planting and a special nature-based presentation.

On Saturday, April 5, MRLC is hosting a special event that will interest all who love the natural environment of Kentish. To be held at Wilder Tasmania, Gowrie Park, this event will feature fabulous guest presenters, live music and great food.

Also featured will be the top 10 entrants in Naturally Kentish – a creative opportunity for residents under 20 to express their love for the natural environment of Kentish, in any artistic form – music, pictures, video, sculpture etc. Those attending will be able to vote for their favourite entry, with the winner announced on the day and presented with \$500.

Entries for Naturally Kentish close on Sunday, March 16. Details can be found at www.mountrolandlandcare.org.au

This event will also launch our 2025 tree planting program. This year our target is to plant 2000 native seedlings, and we have been working hard with local property owners in Kentish to organise tree planting at 10 sites through Autumn and Spring – including Railton, Wilmot, McCoy's Road, Carey's Road, Nook, Claude Road and Johnston Street, Sheffield.

Details and timing of these events will be released on April 5 and everyone will be invited to participate in the public tree planting days that have been so successful and popular in the last two years.

Typically the tree planting event kicks off at 10am on Saturdays, with tree planting for two hours followed by lunch. We hope to again see many of those who have participated in previous tree plantings, but also look forward to seeing new faces, too. It's a great communal atmosphere, everyone is welcome (though pre-registration is essential), no special skills required, just a base level of fitness.

Our tree-planting program continues to be supported by the Tasmanian Government through its Healthy Tas program.



Supervisor: all creatures great and small need trees.

We expect our Autumn tree planting will include six sites and kick off mid-April. Our Spring tree planting will commence late August and there will be four sites.

We are also aiming to make a video of our tree planting events this year. So we're looking for a skilled person (or a team) able to work with us to produce a short 5-10 minute video as part of our Autumn planting. Please get in touch soon if you are interested, or know someone who might be.

Foxgloves now a declared weed in Tasmania



On February 19, the Tasmanian Government announced that Foxgloves have been listed as a Declared Weed in Tasmania. This comes as encouraging news for many across Kentish and beyond who have been battling this weed for years.

Foxgloves are best known as a much-loved cottage garden plant,

and they've been around in gardens for a very long time, well over 100 years in Tasmania. In recent times, something has changed, and they have become an environmental weed of great significance, invading bushland, plantation land and degraded pastures right across the state.

Foxgloves are also toxic, any contact with the skin can create problems, eating foxgloves can be fatal. As such they are a health risk for humans, but also native animals, farm animals and companion animals.

The Declaration still allows hybrid sterile foxgloves to be sold and grown in Tasmania, and it doesn't prohibit growing even weedy foxgloves in some urban areas. The management focus is on protecting our native areas – such as Mount Roland Regional Reserve and the Tasmanian World Heritage Areas.

Mount Roland Land Care has been lobbying for Foxgloves to become a Declared Weed for more than seven years, and welcomes the action taken by the Tasmanian Government. It now looks forward to allocation of Government support and resources to assist the 'war on foxgloves'.

Full details: [https://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/declared-weeds-index/foxglove-\(digitalis\)](https://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/declared-weeds-index/foxglove-(digitalis))

WEINDORFER FILM FESTIVAL 2025

Create a short film
inspired by the love of wilderness, conservation, the Weindorfer legacy at Cradle Mountain Tasmania, or how one or two people can make a positive difference in the world.

**ENTRIES
OPEN NOW**

Win the Weindorfer Award
CASH PRIZE!

Entries close 13 April 2025
Winners announced and films viewed at Weindorfer Day in
Wilmot, Tasmania, Sunday 4 May 2025

See weindorferfilmfestival.com.au for details | Phone 0364590422







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Department of State Growth

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As we head into autumn and cooler wetter weather, it's a good idea to check your tyres for pressure, wear and deterioration

KENTISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Electors of the Kentish Municipality and members of the community are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Council for the 2023/2024 financial year to be held at the Sheffield Town Hall, 66 High Street, Sheffield at 6.00pm on **Tuesday, 25 March, 2025**. As per the Local Government Act; *Only electors in the municipal area are entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting.*

Bookings are essential via Council's website or by phoning 03 6491 0200.

The agenda for the meeting includes the formal presentation of the Annual Report for 2023/2024 (copy available from the Council Office or website) and any submissions received.

Electors and members of the community are invited to make submissions on any aspect of the Annual Report for discussion at the Annual General Meeting. Submissions are to be in writing and received at the Council Office by midnight on Sunday, 9 March, 2025.

Electors may present motions at the Annual General Meeting and if passed, the resolution will be considered by Council at its next meeting.

KENTISH EASTER CLOSURES

The Council Office and Depot will close for the Easter Period on **Friday, 18 April, 2025** and will reopen on **Wednesday, 23 April, 2025**.

The Sheffield Waste Transfer Station will be closed on **Good Friday** and **Easter Sunday**. The Wilmot Waste Transfer will be closed on **Easter Sunday**. Open other days as per the normal schedule.

Recycling collection services scheduled for **Friday 18 April** will be collected the day after on **Saturday 19 April**. Residents should put their bins out the evening before. There will be no changes to the Waste/FOGO service.

Council wishes everyone a safe and happy Easter.

RATES REMINDER

A reminder to ratepayers the fourth and final rate instalment for the 2024/2025 financial year is due and payable on or before the **30 April 2025**. Should you be experiencing financial difficulties, please contact our Rates Officer to discuss payment arrangement options.

LARGE COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME

The Kentish Council Large Community Grants Program (\$501 - \$2,500) builds community capacity and resilience by supporting community-led projects.

Clubs and organisation are invited to apply to Council for financial assistance. Applications are new open.

Guidelines and application forms are available from the Council website www.kentish.tas.gov.au or by phoning Darren Harris on 6491 0200. Applications close on **Monday, 31 March, 2025**.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION EVENING

Council will hold the following Community Information Evenings:

- **Railton Meeting** – Thursday, 27 March, 2025 at 7pm at the Railton Kings Hall
- **Wilmot Meeting** – Thursday, 10 April, 2025 at 7pm at the Wilmot Hall
- **Lower Barrington Meeting** – Thursday, 1 May, 2025 at 7pm at the Lower Barrington Hall

All residents are invited to attend. RSVPs are essential via Council's website www.kentish.tas.gov.au or phone 6491 0200.

BIN REPAIRS

If your waste, recycling or FOGO bin is broken and needs repairing, please contact the Council Office on 6491 0200.



NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of Council will be held at the Council office on **Tuesday, 18 March, 2025** commencing at 6:00pm.



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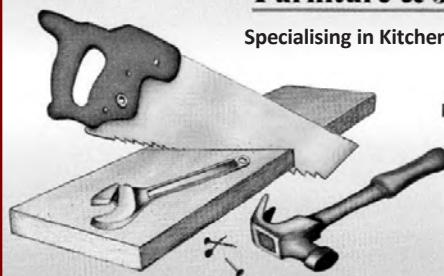
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Tim Padman 0439369455 / 64911181



February at the Shed gets to be a bit fraught as Steamfest looms and members steel themselves for that long weekend where we hope to be busy with visitors anxious to sample our sausages sizzled on our vintage wood-fired baker's oven. Bannon's Forge will ring with the clash of hammer on anvil as our doughty smiths demonstrate the ancient craft of the Blacksmith.

Our Shed is proud to be associated with Kentish House in an effort to Stamp It Out at a gathering to celebrate International Women's Day at Barrington Hall on March 6. Along with other sponsors, we wish to raise the profile of this social disease and send the message that beating up on women is not OK.

Another surprise was notification that our Shed has been nominated by Relationships Australia in their category Communities in Action for suicide prevention Life Award. Our President Terry Hughes and Vice President Bruce Long will trek to Launceston to attend the award ceremony. Even if we are unsuccessful, they will get a good lunch.

The Tasmanian Master Games Carriage Event is to be held at Railton on March 1-2. Our crew will be catering a sausage sizzle for the competitors. Never a dull moment.

The Shed is open Thursdays and Saturdays 9am to 1pm. For information, please call Terry 0429 122 520.

Women face hurdles in gender health gap

By Jon Delaine, Rural Health Tasmania

This month we celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) on Saturday, March 8. IWD is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating equality.

This action includes accelerating women's health equality and addressing the gender health gap. The "gender health gap" refers to the differences in health outcomes and access to healthcare that women face, as well as among women of different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. These gaps impact women in many ways, including differences in life expectancy, maternal mortality, access to preventive care, and the prevalence of certain diseases.

The gender health gap is also influenced by social determinants of health, such as income, education and employment.

Many women, particularly those from lower-income, rural, or minority backgrounds, face significant barriers to accessing

quality healthcare. Expanding access to affordable (or free) healthcare through services, addressing geographic barriers, and investing in telehealth can make healthcare more accessible.

Women are more likely than men to experience mental health issues, such as depression, anxiety, and PTSD. Yet, stigma around mental health, combined with limited access to mental health services, often prevents women from seeking or receiving the care they need. Expanding access to mental health services, offering supportive environments for women to talk openly about mental health (such as Rural Health Tasmania), and reducing stigma can help ensure women receive appropriate care.

By focusing on these areas, we can work toward closing the women's health gap and ensuring that women have equal access to the resources and care they need to live healthy lives.

If you would like to speak to any of the Kentish Rural Health team about your mental or physical health, drop into the clinic Monday-Thursday, 1b Henry St Sheffield.

(continued from p16)

Saturday, February 15, a Stableford was played with Neil Denney being too strong for the rest of the field with a score of 39 points with Scott Westbrook close on his heels with 38

points. Another Stableford was held on the February 18 with Helen Clarke's return to form to win the Ladies competition with 37 points and David Jago winning the Vets competition with 37 points. Good hitting everyone.

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Catering Queens: (from left) Denise Morgan, Winsome Sherriff, Janice Milner, Helen Rockliff, Norele Jones, Janice Williams, Kathy Davies, Susie Coombs and Judy Denney.

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Upcoming Events:

Saturday, March 8: Tandara Day sponsored by CamperPlus and G. Connors

Monday, March 10: AGM at 7pm - all members welcome

Saturday, March 22: Las Vegas Ambrose 3 sponsored by Spreyton Butchery Sheffield Golf Club 0418 199 873.

Green Fees (per day): Adults \$20.00; Juniors \$5.00



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This month our group celebrated its fifth birthday. The singers are just sensational! At present our members age between the ages of 9 and 76. We have gone from strength to strength and are now a very accomplished group of performers.

In the past, our Mountain Echoes choral ensemble has performed at MuralFest, garden festivals, the launch of the Mountain Echoes mural at the Epicurean Café, at the Kentish Community Carols and in nursing homes. We have led Twilight Lantern Parades, sung in many of the Devonport Jazz Festival Gospel Nights, and even led the Christmas Carols Service at the St Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church in Moonah in Hobart.

The latter was the 'home church' of the Abdou family who sang with us and later moved to Perth WA. It was a wonderful experience for our singers, as it is a very multicultural church, with a very large congregation with members not just from Egypt, but many coming from Syria and Ethiopia.



Our singing group is youth-focussed, but we would really welcome new singers of any age.

We have a small team who help to keep the group singing. Most important are Mark McCormack and his wife Sandra, well-known performers and music teachers, who lead the singing. They are supported by a committee including Sally Mineur, Elizabeth Zuluaga and Leoni Read.

For further information, please contact Leoni on 0429 705 062.

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Tassie's most controversial medic,

In these monthly articles, an occasional mention has been made of Dr Victor Ratten, who had a medical practice in Sheffield between Jan 1908 and April 1916. He brought a new style of medical practice to this sleepy little country town that jolted this rural community into the 20th century.

Energetic and confident, Victor Ratten (29) arrived clean shaven, without whiskers or moustache, driving one of the first motorcars to come to the Kentish district. He established a massive practice, opened his own private hospital, became health officer for the Kentish Municipal Council, joined the local Light Horse Brigade as their doctor and was appointed a JP. People were amazed at the speed with which he could reach the sick and injured, his sociable 'persona' and his sporting prowess. When WWI broke out, Dr Ratten sailed with the first contingent of soldiers to the Middle East, where for several months he served as surgeon to wounded and dying soldiers before returning to his practice in Sheffield. In 1917 he purchased a medical practice in Hobart and the following year was chosen to be surgeon general of the Royal Hobart Hospital, where his flimsy US medical credentials were ruthlessly challenged by jealous British-educated doctors.

Dubbed "Tasmania's most controversial and flamboyant medic", Ratten's reputation surpassed all other Tasmanian doctors, with one possible exception. For a doctor who so impacted our island state, we need to look in more detail at his time in Sheffield and follow his intriguing Tasmanian story to the end. Since I last wrote Ratten's story over 20 years ago, recent researchers have unearthed several roguish and dishonest aspects of his character.

Ratten's Early Life

Born 1878 in Kew, Victoria, Victor Ratten was the oldest child of **George & Eliza Ratten**. Victor was educated in two private schools in Vic and NSW run by his father, who later became an ordained Anglican minister. As a youth, Victor won several cycling championships. After training as a dentist in Sydney in 1899, he commenced a dental practice in country NSW but in 1903 moved to Brisbane. Subsequently, he went to the USA, where, in March 1907, he fraudulently procured a diploma of medicine from Harvey Medical College, Chicago.

When Victor returned to Brisbane with his medical diploma, the ambitious and charismatic young doctor courted **Blanche Greaves**, daughter of a Brisbane Irish-Catholic publican. Convent educated, with plenty of natural vivacity, Blanche loved music, singing and theatre; her talented voice having won her a part in the musical comedy *The Skirt Dancer*. Victor Ratten came to Tasmania to visit his father, now rector of St Paul's Church, Stanley. Then while in Hobart, Ratten presented his recent American certificate to the Tasmanian Medical Board and was registered as a doctor on 22 May 1907. He then purchased the practice of **Dr Ed Chisholm** in Sheffield who was returning to Sydney. Back in Brisbane, Victor Ratten married Blanche Greaves in Oct 1907 and, following their honeymoon, settled in Sheffield, where in due course their two sons were born – **John** in 1909 and **William** in 1911.

Sheffield Medical Practice and Hospital

Victor & Blanche took over the house/surgery of Dr Chisholm on the corner of Main & Henry Sts, near to the present-day Chinese restaurant. Dr Ratten then rented a house off Main St (where the Visitor Centre now stands) and opened his own hospital in Sheffield. Dr Ratten hired local nurse **Flora Buck**

(36) as matron. After running Dr Ratten's hospital for four years, Matron Flora Buck discovered she was pregnant and left for Launceston to await her baby's arrival. This baby was born in Oct 1912 on Flora's 40th birthday and was registered Florence Buck. Because Florence (always known as Flossie) was never told who her father was, years later, after she had her own family of three boys and a girl, her sons were led to believe that their mother's father was Dr Victor Ratten. This was because their mother Florence's facial features strongly resembled Victor Ratten's, and they had been discouraged from having a DNA test. However, only two years ago, with her sons now in their late 70s, their only sister took it upon herself to establish the truth once and for all and submitted her DNA for testing. No Ratten connection was detected.

Meanwhile, in 1909, Dr Ratten purchased the block diagonally opposite the surgery, across Main St, and built an elaborate 11-room house facing Main St, with his adjoining surgery facing Henry St. It also had an underground cool cellar. Separate from the residence was Ratten's big entertainment room with a large fireplace and two billiard tables for special social evenings. To complete the complex, a large circular water fountain adorned the front lawn and a concrete swimming pool was built on the Henry St side of his house. When the Tasmanian branch of the British Medical Association (BMA) was formed in 1911, Dr Ratten applied for membership but was refused on account of his 'American' qualifications.

In 1911, Ratten had Sheffield builder **James Sellars** construct his own much larger private hospital in Main St next door to his house. His specially designed nine-room hospital he called *St Helen's Hospital* became operational in Oct 1912 when **Sister Jean Davidson**, ex-matron of Geelong General Hospital, took charge. Ratten loved surgery, and it was locally bragged, "There isn't a rabbit in Sheffield left with an appendix."

Not only did Dr Ratten have one of the first cars owned by Kentish residents, he changed it every two years. His second car was purposely fitted out in Melbourne to allow the rear 'dickie' seat to be lowered to a horizontal position and a stretcher to slide in and out the back of the vehicle. In Jan 1912, his third car was an imported Lorainne Deitrich from France and his fourth motor vehicle a 33hp Fiat from Italy – one of the most expensive cars imported into Australia to date. It was registered in Jan 1914, the same month Dr Ratten was fined for excessive speeding along Marine Terrace, Burnie. Before the Railton–Sheffield railway line opened, the Kentish Council hired Dr Ratten and his motor car to convey the governor and the premier up to Sheffield for their public visits.

But it was as a local sportsman that Ratten really distinguished himself. The Sheffield Cricket Club soon made him their opening batsman, and the following year, patron of the club. In 1909 when all the local football teams were reorganised into a new Wilmot Football Association, Dr Ratten was appointed president and immediately provided the perpetual Victor Ratten Shield awarded annually to the premiership team. He chaired meetings of the local tennis club, was vice president of the local fishing club and enjoyed pigeon shooting.

Ratten's passion for horse racing was shared with his good friend and fellow racehorse owner **Tom Butler** of Randwick, Sheffield. However, in mid-1911, everybody was shocked when Dr Victor Ratten made national headlines for race fixing at the Mowbray Racecourse and was given a lifetime ban from all Tasmanian racecourses. It involved his chestnut gelding Ally

flamboyant Dr Victor Ratten By Alan F Dyer

Sloper, recently purchased from **Hugh Powell** of Sheffield. The horse had been bred by **Law(rence) Bray** and his jockey was **Walter Morphet**, both of Sheffield. Within a few years, Ratten's persuasive powers had his lifetime ban lifted, and he ultimately became one of the most influential members in the Tasmanian racing industry.

In Sheffield, Ratten joined the Aus Light Horse Regiment, and by 1912 he became medical officer for the whole 26th Light Horse Regiment, carrying the rank of Army Captain. Being a medical reservist, when WW1 broke out in Aug 1914, within six days Dr Ratten closed his hospital, arranged for a substitute doctor to take over his practice and reported for duty with the Aus Army Medical Corps. As he left town, the Sheffield band paraded in front of his residence playing patriotic songs.

'There isn't a rabbit in Sheffield left with an appendix.'

Dr Ratten departed for Egypt aboard the troop carrier *Geelong* in Oct 1914. Assigned to a huge field hospital on the northern coastline of Egypt, he spent many hours of surgery treating injured and dying soldiers. But five months later in Mar 1915, Dr Ratten arrived back in Melbourne in charge of the hospital ship *Kyarra*, which was filled with wounded soldiers being invalided home. Twice at sea, the doctor had the ship stop while he undertook appendicectomies on soldiers. Once the wounded were off-loaded, Ratten boarded the *Loonganna* for a quick visit to Tasmania while waiting for army orders to return to Egypt. Somehow, however, Dr Ratten gained a discharge from the army and resumed his medical practice in Sheffield.

Then, in April 1916, Dr Ratten announced he had sold his medical practice to **Dr David Hamilton** and was moving to Hobart. He closed St Helen's Hospital and sold the bedsteads and mattresses to the Devon Hospital. His specially built hospital was sold to **Herb Tredennick**, who practised dentistry there for nearly 40 years. Ratten's high-class furniture and household goods were auctioned off by **Harry Day**. To accommodate his two billiard tables, Dr Ratten purchased Padman's Hall, opposite the Methodist church, and opened a public billiard saloon run by **Jimmy Clarke**. At the Rattens' farewell dinner held in Maddox Caledonian Hotel, **Hon E F Blyth** presented Dr & Mrs Ratten with a hall clock made of polished cedar wood engraved 'V.R.R. from his Sheffield friends 18/4/16' and a plush case containing seven smoking pipes, each engraved with a day of the week.

Hobart & Royal Hobart Hospital

In Hobart, Dr Ratten purchased the private surgical practice of **Dr J E Wolfhagen** in Davey St who ran his own private hospital. The following year, 1917, the Tasmanian Government – needing to fill the vacancy of surgeon-superintendent of the Royal Hobart Hospital – appointed Dr Ratten to that position. He became an immediate success, undertaking complex operations, such as successfully removing a piece of shell from the backbone of a returned soldier that the Launceston surgeons wouldn't touch.

But Ratten's appointment brought him into conflict with the same medical establishment in Tasmania that had denied him membership back in 1911. It brought to a head the nearly decade-long dispute between the local branch of the British Medical Association (BMA) and the Tasmanian Government

over the role of the hospital surgeon-superintendent doing free surgery in the hospital. They had lobbied hard to have the position of hospital surgeon-superintendent abolished so that they could practice surgery in the hospital and charge their wealthy clients. The government flatly refused their request, and **Premier Lee** filled the vacancy by bypassing all BMA doctors and appointing newcomer Dr Victor Ratten. This raised the ire of these BMA doctors, who had all gained their degrees from long-standing, credible universities, and they now began to question Ratten's flimsy diploma gained in what seemed like a matter of months from an unknown American college that no longer existed. Their merciless attacks forced the government into a royal commission to prove whether Ratten's American credentials were genuine.

After the longest delay in 1918, the Royal Commission received confirmation that there had been a Harvey Medical College in Chicago, Ratten had been a student there and his certificate was genuine. But later researchers found Harvey Medical College closed in 1905, prior to Ratten's arrival, and that his diploma was fraudulently acquired. But with his gregarious personality, Ratten found he could influence parliamentarians to support him when needed. They passed a law that allowed him to continue practising.

Dr Ratten served as surgeon-superintendent of the Royal Hobart Hospital from 1917 to 1936. His reputation was based largely on his exceptional surgical ability. Ratten halved the time taken to perform appendectomies, pioneered stomach surgery in Tasmania with gastrostomies and, about 1925 or 1926, performed a craniotomy. None of his critics could match his performance. Old Sheffield patients like **Mrs Wm Braid** and **Ed Best** travelled to Hobart so Ratten could do their operations. Ratten was loved by the public and government, who in 1925 awarded him a MBE and in 1932 an OBE. At the same time, he was hated by many in the medical profession until a truce was declared in 1932.

When Ratten's long association with the Royal Hobart Hospital concluded in June 1936, he resumed private surgery in his old private hospital in Davey St until his death in 1962. He became a very wealthy man. He owned his own hospital, several business premises, mining shares and a stable of racehorses, which won the Hobart and Launceston cups several times. He bought an exclusive island down the Derwent estuary, which he accessed via his own motor launch.

Because of his philandering ways, in midlife Victor and Blanche separated, but the popular Dr Ratten, with his 1952 Rolls Royce and fast river launch, had no shortage of lady friends. Dr Ratten dominated the racing fraternity in the south. He was chairman of the Hobart Turf Club and committee member of the Tasmanian Racing Club from 1947–1961. Even when he became ill, he still attended these meetings in his dressing gown, constantly smoking cigars.

Dr Ratten died in Hobart on 30 Dec 1962, aged 84. As a mark of respect, the doctor's cortege passed by the Royal Hobart Hospital on its way to the Cornelian Bay Cemetery, where he was cremated.

His elder son, Wing Commander **John Richard Ratten** (1908–1945) of the RAAF, won the Distinguished Flying Cross and died on active service in World War II. Today, a mural of Dr Ratten operating on a kitchen table by the lights of his motor car is depicted on the side of a building he once owned in Henry St, Sheffield.

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of U3A before, have a look at our timetable below and see what might interest you -we are always looking for new activities and ideas for learning and keeping active.

Contact the course leaders for more information.

Our members are mainly retired or semi-retired but we

Kentish U3A is off to a great start for 2025. We already have more than 125 members signed up and all our activities are underway for the year. If you haven't been part

also have some associate members who are under 50. It is a great opportunity to join in activities, meet people, share knowledge and keep physically and mentally active.

Our annual membership fee is \$45 and for this you can join in any or all of our activities. We have a small committee that meets monthly to run the group.

Our AGM is on March 13 and we would love to see lots of members there. All positions on the board will be up for grabs, but we really need to replace our retiring secretary, so please consider how you might be able to help.

DAY	COURSE DETAILS
MONDAY	
Move with Ease	10-11.am Sheffield Uniting Church Nita: 0437 795 374
Pétanque/Molkky	11.15-12.45pm Health Centre Park Contact Nita: 0437-795-374
Social Mah-Jong Group 1	1.0 pm (1 st &3 rd Mondays.) Blacksmith Café Ali: 0410 742 012 Text only.
TUESDAY	
Weigh Me	10-11am Sheffield Uniting Church Contact Lynne: 0407 240 450
Pickleball	9-11am Railton Recreation & Community Centre Kate 0407 510 857
Topiary	10am-12pm Topiary Paddock Crockers St. Railton Leoni: 0429 705 062
French for fun	12.30-1.30pm at Gear Café Railton Contact Leoni: 0429 705 062
Table Tennis	3-6pm. Sheffield Town Hall Contact Don: 0458 343 059
Basic Guitar	2-4pm Sheffield Uniting Church Mark 0428 515 445
WEDNESDAY	
Cycling the flat paths	(1 st Wed.) Contact Margaret: 0421 648 123
Walking for leisure	(2 nd Wed.) Contact Margaret: 0421 648 123
Nature Walks	(3 rd Wed.) of the month Greg: 0438 589 173
Balance and Bones	9-10am. & 10-11am Jennifer: 0400 376 937
Cryptic Crosswords	1pm (2 nd & 4 th Wed) Blacksmith Café contact Margaret: 6491 1175
THURSDAY	
Challenging Walk	(1 st Thur) of the month Contact: Lindsay 0434 984 570
Ukulele	10-12pm Uniting Church Hall Contact Mark 0428 515 445
Zumba	2-3pm. Contact Uniting Church Hall Colette 0439 426 665
FRIDAY	
Kayaking	Kayaking (All Day activity) Contact: Jennifer 0400 376 937
Balance & Bones	9-10am Health Centre Contact Jennifer: 0400 376 937
The Joy of Maths	10-11am Uniting Church contact John: 0457 262 040
Cribbage	2-4pm Sheffield Uniting Church Contact Mark: 0428 515 445
Games (board/cards & tile)	1-3pm Uniting Church Hall Contact Alison 0410 742 012 leave Message.
SATURDAY	
Botanical drawing	1-3:30pm Working Art Space Albert Street Contact Colette 0439 426 665

Kentish U3A Inc.

Membership forms can be downloaded from <https://kentishu3a.u3anet.org.au>

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March Crozzle

All words go in a straight line but in any direction – Up, Down, Left, Right, Diagonal. Most words are joined to another word by at least one letter, so any letter may be used in more than one word. Circle the words in the graph as you find them and when all the words are circled, there will be letters left over. Write these in the spaces below to discover the Theme Word.

A T T A L T R O P N O V E D P
 N H K E E R C M S A H C O R H
 N C A M D A L E R T C H E C T
 I A H W S D H N O D A S A W I
 U E R E L B U R N I E E K E E
 G B B A L E G D I R B Y E H L
 N S O S W L Y C V S E T E B I
 E R A W Y N Y A R D B C R L L
 P E T O A K T E T S M E C Y L
 A N H T C I T A R L U O R T I
 R R A O O S B O P C C H U H C
 D U R N I L A L I U G N H E O
 O T B S E M U B A Y D E P N O
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 Narawntapu
 Pardoe

Penguin
 PortLatta
 PortSorell
 PreservationBay
 RockyC
 SistersBeach
 Somerset

SulphurCreek
 TableC
 TheNut
 TurnersBeach
 Ulverstone
 Wivenhoe
 Wynyard

— — — — — — — — — —
 — — — — —
 — — — — — — — — — —

CRYPTIC PUZZLE TASMANIA Answers P39

1. Developing cob? (6)
2. Chopped up acorn (7)
3. Atom split by warmonger (8)
4. A system matrix core (5)
5. Turned amalgam (5)
6. How lead is refined (3,4)
7. Recycle tin rake (6)
8. Boon on 100 (11)
9. Stumped Sir Don (6)
10. Broke the bat (3,3)

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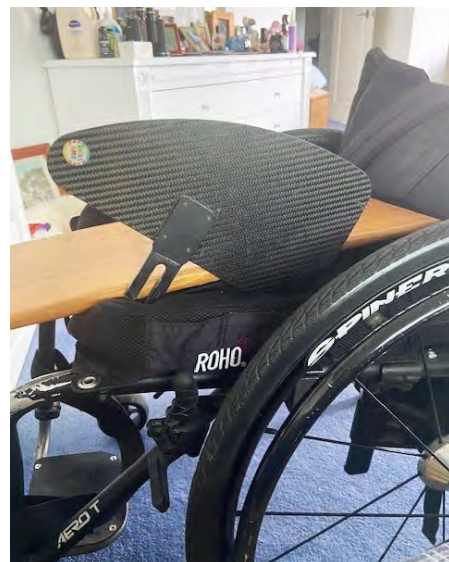
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The AEC strives to have a workforce that reflects and supports the diverse community we serve. We encourage people from all backgrounds and locations to join our team, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people with disability and culturally and linguistically diverse people.

To register and find out more, visit aec.gov.au/electionjobs.

Hydro grants open

Hydro Tasmania has launched its 2025 Community Grants Program, now in its ninth year.

Community Advisor Kate Hickey said applications were welcomed from community groups across the state.

"Most groups are run by volunteers on very small budgets," she said. "It is very rewarding to see and hear what our grants allow community groups to achieve

"In 2024, we provided \$28,000 in grants to six deserving organisations.

"Our grant program is one way we can give back to the Tasmanian community."

Applications for grants of up to \$5000 are open until Friday, March 28.

For more information, visit <https://www.hydro.com.au/sustainability/community-support/community-grants>

App to help mental health

The Mental Health Council of Tasmania will launch an App for the 7 Minute Challenge, part of its Take a Minute campaign, in May. The Challenge encourages people to take a minute each day for a week to focus on the things that give their life meaning and purpose. Visit www.takeaminute.com.au/app to be notified of the app's release.

Lower Barrington Baptist Church

Sheffield Road, Lower Barrington
All warmly welcome Sundays at 10am
1st Sunday - Holy Communion
Kid's Church - weekly in term time
Men & Ladies Bible studies
Fri 18 April - Good Friday Service 10am
Sun 20 April - Easter Sunday Service 10am
Enquiries: Steve - 0409 944 296.



Sheffield Baptist Church

"Caring and Making a Difference in Our Community"

104-106 Main Street, Sheffield
Service Time 10:30am each Sunday
All welcome - friendly atmosphere
Fellowship Tea every third Sunday
5:30pm - 7:30pm Favourite hymn singing, good food and fellowship
Ph: 6491 1150

CHURCH NOTICES

Holy Cross Catholic Church

High Street Sheffield
Mass is celebrated Sundays at 11.30am.
All Welcome.
Parish Office Ph 6424 2783



Sheffield Uniting Church

Home of Library Aid Int'l, Kentish U3A and Mountain Echoes Choir



Corner of Main/Henry streets
A church serves its community in many ways. At present, we do not hold Sunday Worship. Instead, we invite you to join in a time of quiet reflection and prayer at an Ecumenical Service 8.30am Mondays. We also offer a place for friends to meet, laugh and relax. Phone Leoni Read 0429 705 062.

Traditional Anglican Church

For service information, please ring 6425 5605

St John's Kentish Anglican Community Church

92 Foster Street Railton
Every Sunday at 10 am.
Holy Communion is celebrated on the Second Sunday of the Month
Prayer Group Monday 10am
Bible Study Group on alternate Thursdays @ 6.30pm
'Ekklesia' Food Outreach Program
Thursday 10am King's Hall Railton
Contact: John Gray - Honorary Priest - 0417 524 979; 47johngray@gmail.com

Roland Gospel Hall

Sunday Worship 10am - 11am
Fellowship (Family Service) 11am-noon



Sheffield Bible Chapel

45 High Street Sheffield
"A caring church for the whole family"
The Sheffield Bible Chapel conducts weekly services beginning 10am.
Enquiries please phone 6491 1447
Youth Group Enquiries, phone Joy Tekinay on 0428 666 494.

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

	Exploring Possibilities by Joanne Males, Sheffield Art Gallery
Mar 1, 02	Tasmanian Masters Games Carriage Driving 9am-4pm, Native Rock Road, Railton
	Steam Engine rides 11am-4pm, Sheffield Steam & Heritage Centre, 14 Spring Street
Mar 1	Sheffield Ladies Cricket Grand Final , Devonport Oval
Mar 2	Clean Up Australia Day 9.30am, Stoodley Arboretum carpark
	State Show Driving Championships , Carriage Club grounds, Native Rock Road, Railton
Mar 3	Sheffield RSL Sub-branch Annual General Meeting, 7pm, RSL Club
Mar 5	Services Australia 9.30-11am Sheffield; 12-12.3pm Railton
Mar 6	International Women's Day brunch 10.30am-1.30pm, Barrington Hall
Mar 8, 10	SteamFest , Sheffield
Mar 9	Public Submissions close for Kentish Council AGM
Mar 11	Kentish Probus Club AGM 10am, Sheffield Bowls Club
Mar 12	Sheffield School Association Elections (see p19)
Mar 13	Kentish Garden Club 7.30pm, Bible Chapel, 45 High Street, Sheffield
Mar 15	Claude Road Market 9am-1pm, Claude Road Memorial Hall
	Artisan's Market 4-7pm, Sheffield Arts Centre, 6 Pioneer Crescent, Sheffield
Mar 16	Entries close Naturally Kentish (see p25)
Mar 17	Trivia 6.30 for 7pm, Sheffield RSL, 77 Main Street, Sheffield
Mar 18	Kentish Council meeting 6pm, Council Office, High Street, Sheffield
Mar 22, 30	International Rowing Championships , Lake Barrington
Mar 25	Kentish Council AGM 6pm, Council Office, High Street, Sheffield
Mar 27	Book Chat 4-5pm, Sheffield Library, 12 Henry Street
	Community Information Evening 7pm, King's Hall, Railton
Mar 29, 30	Taste of Tasmania Market , ROWunion Bar, Lake Barrington
Mar 29	Produce Swap 3pm Barrington Hall, 52 Barrington Road
	Kentish Equine Endurance Ride
	Mr Perfect BBQ 11am-12.30pm, Health Park, Sheffield

Cryptic Puzzle Answers

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. Cygnet | 6. Low Head |
| 2. Cuprona | 7. Tarkine |
| 3. Tomahawk | 8. Blessington |
| 4. Temma | 9. Risdon |
| 5. Yolla | 10. The Abt |

Crozzle Solution:

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