

Snake Season Arrives



Snakes have been on our planet for millions of years, but how much do we really know about these animals?

Ian Norton has had an interest in snakes since he was a young boy and was more than happy to share his wisdom and knowledge about these fascinating creatures that he has spent

the last 60+ years interacting with. So, what should you do if you come across a snake in the wild? If you have an interest in snakes Ian says 'Get horribly excited'.

For the rest of us, Ian said the main thing is to be respectful.

Continues on Page 8.



COVID-19 Grants

Read about the Grant Recipients and how they are growing their businesses through the COVID Pandemic.

Pages 6 & 7



NEED TO GROW YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE?

Flare Leap is a local business based in Launceston, specialising in:

- Website Design
- Social Media Management
- Online Learning
- Digital Marketing
- SEO & SEM
- Cyber Security

Contact us today for a no-obligation, free quote!

(03) 6327 1731

contact@flareleap.com



Big win for Tassie wine & gin guru



(Picture: Supplied) Natalie Fryar, who picked up top honours at the 2020 Australian Gin Awards

Tasmania's Natalie Fryar has picked up top honours at the 2020 Australian Gin Awards, with The Abel Gin Company awarded gold medals for both its Essence and Quintessence Native Tasmanian Gins. Established in 2016 The Abel Gin Company was two of 22 gold medalists from a list of 250 gins around Australia. Natalie is also turning heads when it comes to her sparkling, with her boutique brand Bellebonne listed as one of Australia's top two sparkling wine houses by champagne and sparkling wine expert Tyson Stelzer in his 2020 Sparkling Wine Report. Bellebonne is only one of two two sparkling wine producers to earn the coveted 7 stars in this year's report. Her Bellebonne Natalie Fryar Vintage Rosé 2017 scored an impressive 96 points in Stelzer's 2020 report, trumping most of the country's larger producers. Stelzer equates a score of 96 (out of 100) as "Top gold or trophy standard in a wine show". Bellebonne Natalie Fryar Vintage Cuvée 2016 earned 95 points too, with Stelzer

describing 60% chardonnay, 40% pinot noir drop as "brilliant". Tasmania claimed 19 places in Stelzer's Top 30 sparklings this year. Natalie says both the gin and sparkling wine accolades are a wonderful recognition of her creativity and the Tasmanian brand. "It is unexpected and it feels pretty wonderful when people recognise that you're trying to do something original, in the best way you know how, by engaging creativity." "It feels great that people can recognise what I can see in Tasmania, that incredible

richness and beauty that I've tried to capture in both the wine and the gin. "I have very much made Tasmania the centerpiece of everything I'm trying to do creatively" Natalie consults to numerous wineries including Pipers Brook Vineyard, who make sparkling wine under the Kreglinger, Pipers Brook and Ninth Island labels. Previous to this 'The Queen of Bubbles' spent more than 14 years as winemaker at Jansz Tasmania.



Have News?
Email news@tamarvalleynews.com.au

This could be your business...

DON'T MISS OUT!

Advertise here

Email: zac@hyperlocalmedia.info



BRIDGET ARCHER MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR **BASS**
Representing our community

6334 7033 | bridget.archer.mp@aph.gov.au | bridgetarcher.com.au | [BridgetArcherMP](https://www.facebook.com/BridgetArcherMP)

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

Park and Bike Program improves opportunities for cyclists



(Picture: SUPPLIED) Left-to-right: Owen Tilbury - President of the GRCC, Alison Hugo - Project Leader, Councillor Geoff Lyons, Lauren Harper - Tailrace, Malcolm Reid, Tamar Bike Users Group

The Great Regional City Challenge (GRCC) believes that communities are capable and willing to tackle the challenges and opportunities that matter to them, and that's why the GRCC concept was started to identify projects that could help us become one of the world's great cities. And to help them succeed a \$100,000 in seed funding was offered from the community and government plus projects have been offered hands-on support.

On Your Bike Tours Launceston, Tamar

Bike Users Group and Reclink Northern Tasmania were fortunate enough to secure \$10,000 for the Launceston - A Great Cycling City project as voted by the Launceston community.

Stage one of the project is to establish designated free parking areas in and around Launceston but preferably near outlying cycling lanes or cycle ways. The concept is to encourage the community to park their cars and ride into town for work, shopping, family outings and or other social activities.

Tailrace Centre is the first partner to provide a suitable site for Park and Bike.

Caleb Smith, Tailrace Centre Executive Pastor said, 'The team here at Tailrace were very excited to be part of the Park & Bike program. We had the space waiting to be utilised, and Alison's vision for the project had us all onboard after the first conversation. Seeing this program come to life was such a joyful experience; two teams of people who love the Launceston community and want to make a positive change in this city.'

The Project Facilitator, Alison Hugo from On Your Bike Tours Launceston highlighted how Launceston already has some fantastic cycling infrastructure in place and the program was really just focussing on activating the community to use it. Launceston's levee system for example has been very well designed to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists alike.

'The program will bring many benefits to the city including reduced traffic congestion and possibly alleviate some of the parking pressures in the city centre. Most importantly it promotes and supports active and healthy lifestyle choices. Riding is proven to have outstanding benefits to individuals' physical and mental health' Alison said.

The project supports the GRCC overarching goal for Launceston to become a vibrant city that is a highly desirable place to live, work and thrive.

Owen Tilbury, President of the GRCC said, 'A great regional city is a city with healthy citizens who enjoy regional qualities of less traffic and beautiful places to ride a bike. This project makes this easier for those who live on the edge of the city or in neighbouring towns to drive to the Tailrace and then bike to work, shop or visit. So simple, so great a concept!'

New West-East Tamar bridge closer to reality

A new bridge linking the West and East Tamar from the Riverside area to the Mowbray/Newnham area has been on the wishlist of many locals for some years.

In the 2018 State election, the Liberal Party promised that if re-elected they would commit to the planning, designing and costing of the bridge, and this is now well underway, with the Tasmanian Government currently completing a feasibility study for the proposed Tamar Bridge, and will engage with the community through the process to determine the most appropriate linkage with the West Tamar Highway.

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Michael Ferguson said the Tasmanian Liberal Government is committed to addressing the arterial congestion problem on the West Tamar and create choice and efficiency for road transport on both sides of the river.

'The current commitment is for \$2.5 million towards feasibility, community consultation, geotechnical surveys and development of design parameters,' Mr Ferguson said.

'The Tasmanian Government has also allocated \$25 million in 2022-23 as an initial contribution towards construction, with further funding to be committed over the following four years subject to feasibility assessment and once design, cost and Australian Government contributions are confirmed and finalised.

'The first stage of the project has been completed. This stage has identified the traffic impacts for each potential bridge location as well as identification of safety and capacity issues on the West Tamar Highway.

'The second stage of the project is underway. This looks at matters of constructability for each bridge location and will determine the likely bridge form and interchange requirements. It will also recommend a shortlist of upgrade options aimed at improving safety and connectivity on the West Tamar Highway,' Mr Ferguson said.

'The next stage of the Tamar River Crossing project is to determine a preferred alignment. The project working group has shortlisted potential options and intends to open public consultation on the topic later in 2020.

'The planning, design, costing and Stage 1 building for a new crossing is a key commitment in the Launceston and Tamar Valley Traffic Vision, which is a suite of projects addressing congestion, safety and travel time reliability on the Launceston and Tamar Valley road network.'

Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Shane Broad MP, was contacted for comment.

COME & PLAY WITH OUR HISTORY

BEACONSFIELD MINE & HERITAGE CENTRE

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
9.30AM - 4.30PM

t: 03 6383 1473
a: West Street, Beaconsfield

www.beaconsfieldheritage.com.au

Bell Bay Aluminium Crew Leader leads the way in Gender Diversity



(Picture: SUPPLIED Rob Burnett) Brett Robins, crew leader, Power Supply.

When Brett Robins started work as an apprentice electrician with Bell Bay Aluminium (BBA) 25 years ago, only a handful of women worked at the smelter. In 2020, close to 80 women make up the 500-strong workforce at the smelter.

This afternoon, in an online award ceremony, Brett was announced as winner of the Rio Tinto Gender Diversity Champion in Australia Award at the seventh annual Women in Resources National Awards (WIRNA) hosted by the Minerals Council of Australia. The Gender Diversity Champion Award recognises a male or female for their excellence in the encouragement, promotion and advocacy for the attraction, retention and promotion of women within their company and/or the Australian resources sector.

Brett, who is a crew leader in Power Supply at BBA said, "I was certainly not expecting to win this award. As a passionate advocate for diversity and inclusion, it is a great honour to be recognised in this way.

"With 85% of our workforce male, this work is very important. We need to engage and involve more of our employees at Bell Bay to change culture and make real advances

with a goal of balancing gender diversity." Brett has led the recruitment process at Bell Bay for electrical apprentices for many years and has mentored female apprentices, including the smelter's most recently qualified electrician who has now become the first female power controller in the site's 65-year history.

Two years ago, Brett embraced the opportunity to become a champion on site for inclusion and diversity. In this role, Brett has been instrumental in developing initiatives such as facility audits and work area reviews to ensure compliance with relevant standards, more importantly, ensure facilities are safe, comfortable, and provide the necessary amenities for female employees. Over that period, Brett has also identified shortcomings in the availability of clothing and equipment for female employees and has introduced a range of women's clothing, boots and safety equipment, including harnesses and gloves, specifically suited to BBA's female employees.

"While it is challenging, there is a lot of opportunity at Bell Bay to attract females into our workforce across a range of roles. I am looking forward to taking a lead role in

further educating and encouraging my work colleagues to come on this journey," Brett said. "I have two daughters and I want them to be able to work in whatever career they choose, without having to overcome challenges and obstacles that many males do not have to face. This drives me to work hard, with my employer and in our industry, to remove barriers to females who join our workforce and have ambition to succeed."

Bell Bay Aluminium general manager Shona Markham congratulated Brett and said, "This is a fantastic achievement for Brett and for Bell Bay Aluminium. To have Brett's hard work and passion for diversity and inclusion acknowledged nationally by peers across the resources and mining sector is a huge accolade."

"We are working hard to shift the dial on female participation in our workforce and I am extremely proud of Brett's work. This award reflects the commitment and leadership Brett demonstrates in his role. It also reinforces our belief that the long-term sustainability of our sector relies on attracting and retaining skilled people from diverse backgrounds."

Bridge and Heavy Vehicle Safety Funding for Northern Tasmania

More than \$1 million in funding is flowing into Northern Tasmania to deliver better and safer bridges and freight roads in the regions through the Australian Government's Bridges Renewal Program (BRP) and the Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSPP). Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer said the funding will be shared across seven projects, delivering long-term benefits to drivers, businesses and local communities.

"This vital funding is ensuring our roads and bridges are safer while also providing a much-needed boost to local jobs and the economy," Mrs Archer said.

"Every single local job we support in our region by investing in infrastructure projects means one less worry for another local and their family, reliable work on the books for local construction companies and more cash flowing through local businesses and communities doing it tough."

The Federal Government is providing \$290 million in funding under Round 5 of the Bridges Renewal Program (BRP) and Round 7 of the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program (HVSPP).

For The Bass Electorate, this will include replacing bridges, No. 955, 954 & 2387 on Dalrymple Road, replacing bridge No. 1502 on Banks Road over Main Creek, Strengthening of the Winkleigh Road Bridge 2634, Replacing Bridge 1600 on Nook Road over the Little Forester River, as well as strengthening and widening of 1300m of Carisbrook Lane.

For more information and a list of successful applicants, visit:

www.infrastructure.gov.au/bridges

www.infrastructure.gov.au/hvspp



financial streams

Retirement & Superannuation Planning

Financial advice for the people of the Tamar Valley

Contact Andrew for an
obligation-free chat today!



03 6338 9224



andrew@financialstreams.com.au



Batman Bridge due for painting



Above: Photos of the Batman bridge showing the current condition of the railings.

The Tamar Valley is home to many wonderful attractions and opportunities for sight-seeing. One such attraction, is the famed Batman Bridge.

The iconic bridge, connecting the East and West sides of the Tamar Valley can be seen on postcards, murals, and Tasmanian souvenirs alike, but its current state of upkeep is of concern to locals.

When driving over the bridge – it is easy to see the cause for concern, especially when we are encouraging

Rust, dirt, grime and flaking paint plague the railings and A-frame of the bridge, it's iconic white paint wearing away as it's exposed to the wind and rain in the valley. On the Tamar Valley News Facebook page, the bridge quickly became a topic of discussion when we put out the call for Letters to the Editor.

"Just wondering if anyone cleans the bridge in the pic, cause (sic) it's filthy." Said one reader, while another suggested "Get it sponsored by Hawthorn i.e. taxpayers. Might get a makeover by state roads then."

We reached out to the Department of State Growth and informed them of the state of the Batman Bridge, and passed on our readers concerns.

In addressing the issue, a Department of State Growth Spokesperson said "The Department of State Growth undertakes routine inspections of bridge assets across the State Road Network, with a primary focus on safety. The Department maintains 1,300 bridges state-wide and regular cleaning is not a cost-effective use of the maintenance budget; however, repainting is undertaken when required."

"The Batman Bridge is routinely inspected by our maintenance contractors with defects logged and scheduled for repair; however, general cleaning is not included in the routine maintenance schedule. The bridge is on a key route linking the north east and north west regions and only essential maintenance is conducted in order to minimise disruption to traffic and freight movements."

"The Batman Bridge is scheduled to have its A-frame painted during this summer as part of its essential maintenance to provide protection from the weather."

As the Tasmanian Government is encouraging local tourism and travel throughout the state, we should ensure that our local attractions and infrastructure are well-kept and, in particular, ensure the Batman Bridge remains photogenic.



Beaconsfield Primary School

Now Accepting Enrolments for Kindergarten in 2021

If your child was born in 2016 they will attend Kinder in 2021

Please contact Beaconsfield Primary School on 6383 1215 to register your child's details.

**SEE
YOUR
AD
HERE**

Visit: www.TamarValleyNews.com.au/Advertise
Or

Email: zac@hyperlocalmedia.info



COVID-19 Grants



Above: Grant Recipients with George Town Mayor Greg Kiesser and Bell Bay Aluminium General Manager Shona Markham.

George Town Council and Bell Bay Aluminium are pleased to announce the recipients of their Business Resilience, Recovery and Stimulus Grant partnership to assist small to medium-sized businesses in the municipality recover from and adapt to the impact of COVID-19.

Following an application and assessment process administered by the George Town Council, nine businesses have secured grant funding that aims to stimulate economic growth, increase employment and offer professional support and assistance to help the municipality's business community return to normal business operations as quickly as possible.

The A\$100,000 partnership between Bell Bay Aluminium and George Town Council is one of a number of major community investments the smelter is supporting in Northern Tasmania as part of a US\$25 million commitment Rio Tinto has made to support communities around the globe during the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery, through its Partnership to Progress program.

Bell Bay Aluminium general manager Shona Markham said, "As an active member of the George Town business community, it is very important that the smelter is able to support smaller local businesses across a range of industry sectors who have been impacted by COVID-19.

"I thank the George Town Council for partnering with us on this initiative and I am delighted that, in the current economic climate, nine diverse local businesses will receive funding to be resilient and adaptive and to recover for the future," Shona said. Mayor Kieser said, "I am delighted this project has been delivered in partnership with Bell Bay Aluminium, which has contributed \$50,000 to the Business Resilience, Recovery and Stimulus Grants program, matching Council's funding of \$50,000. It is a testament to the leadership at Bell Bay Aluminium that we have been able to collaborate and develop a program that will assist businesses throughout our municipality.

Council is pleased to announce that the program has been able to support nine very diverse businesses, funding projects from \$6,950 to \$12,520 across a range of industries including hospitality, accommodation and hair dressing to artisan agriculture, distillers and viticulture."

The Grant recipients included:

Taste of Tam O'Shanter

Aiming to shine a light on the north-east coast of Tasmania. Taste of Tam O'Shanter showcases the amazing locally grown fresh produce in the region by transforming it into bottled preserves and award winning products sold locally at the Launceston Harvest Market, online and in local

stores throughout northern Tasmania. Taste of Tam O'Shanter's mantra is zero waste through ensuring all off cuts and wastes that are composted or recycled.

The Hair Parlor

The Hair Parlor has been operating in George Town for the past 9.5 years offering hair and beauty treatments as well as an extensive retail product. The Hair Parlor strives to be at the forefront of 'on trend' hair and beauty fashion, as well as offering the more traditional treatments and services.

Latitude Wines T/A Delamere Vineyard

Delamere is a family owned and operated vineyard located in northeast Tasmania in Pipers Brook. The owners both professional winemakers have extensive experience in the wine industry, both in Australia and abroad. Delamere pride themselves on 100% estate grown and made traditional method sparkling wine, pinot noir and chardonnay, that show cases the uniqueness and high quality Tasmanian produce. The vineyard operations consist of grape and wine production, an on-site Cellar Door and online wine sales and provides winemaking services to other Tasmanian wine businesses including labelling and packaging services.

Café 1069

Café 1069 in Macquarie Street George Town is a boutique café / burger & piz-

za bar, with a passion for good quality coffee and locally made produce. With an already extensive menu they also offer take-away and a home delivery service which they are looking to expand upon.

Low Head Tourist Park

A locally owned and operated family business providing high quality and standard of self-contained accommodation, including services and facilities for caravans, motorhomes, RV's and campers, the Low Head Tourist Park have approximately 5,500 guests per year, from intra and interstate, as well as overseas.

George Town Bowls Club

Along with offering community and sporting facilities of lawn balls and croquet to George Town, the Club has a function room used for weddings, funerals, birthdays and community events.

Tasmanian Tamar Tourism Industry Group

Tasmania Tamar Tourism Industry Group Pty Ltd own and operate both residential and commercial properties in George Town. In early 2020, TTTIG proposed to commence a retail and accommodation development in George Town and have now decided to postpone the venture and renovate the venues to lease and attract new business to the municipality.

Build Resilience



(Photo: Zac Lockhart) Left-to-right: Julie Cooper, Mathew Cooper and Irene Wicks from Fanny's Bay Distillery at Tam O'Shanter

For the team at Fanny's Bay Distillery, operating at Tam O'Shanter Bay, the COVID-19 business grants are an opportunity to improve their marketing and advertising, and raise awareness for who they are and where they are.

"As times have changed, so do our marketing plans need to change, to reflect these times coming," Said Mathew.

When asked about the challenges they have faced from the COVID-19 Pandemic, the lack of people visiting

the distillery had an impact, but they also experienced a flow on effect from the lack of customers visiting local bars and restaurants.

"We sell to bars and clubs, and when they closed it affected us," Said Julie. The team at Fanny's Bay Distillery have been resilient throughout the pandemic, and have set some goals moving forward as the state reopens.

"We're at the pointy end of all this, and within 12-18 months the marketing

plan has to change."

"It's a great hobby, it's a great thing to drink, and we enjoy it," Said Irene.

Fanny's Bay Distillery is open for business, and welcomes visitors for a talk and tasting.

For Karen Robson at the Taste of Tam O'Shanter, who received two grants, she will now be able to improve her website, and also purchase a labelling machine which will help her to signifi-

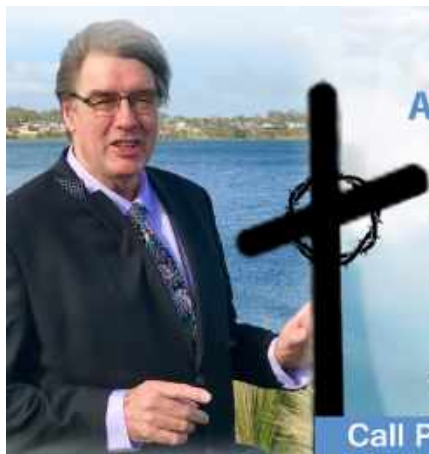
cantly cut down time spent on cutting labels and fixing them to jars.

"My main source of income, which was from the Harvest Market was closed for three months, and we deal with a lot of wineries in the Tamar Valley which were closed also, so it was very quiet for three months."

"I'm hoping to increase business by 15-20% this year, and in the next 12-18 months I can put in a commercial kitchen and build the business more."

Advertise Here

Email zac@hyperlocalmedia.info



George Town Baptist Church

A Caring Church For Changing Times | Bringing the Word of God to life for today

We Promise You a Friendly Welcome, and an Inspiring Message.

Weekly service 10:30am Sunday mornings

KYB, Fridays 10am to 11pm | Prayer Meeting 7pm

Youth Ministry for grades 7 to 10 monthly - call for information

Pastor Bob preaches each Sundays morning at George Town Baptist Church and, on the 1st Sunday of every month 5pm at The Point Baptist Church in Beauty Point

48 Goulburn St
George Town
Tasmania

Call Pastor Bob at 0434 028 179 for more information | find us at <http://www.georgetownbaptistchurch.org.au>

Snake Season Arrives



(Photo: Zac Lockhart) Ian Norton, from Reptile Rescue Incorporated Tasmania handling the Tasmanian Tiger Snake.

Snakes have been on our planet for millions of years, but how much do we really know about these animals?

Ian Norton has had an interest in snakes since he was a young boy and was more than happy to share his wisdom and knowledge about these fascinating creatures that he has spent the last 60+ years interacting with.

So, what should you do if you come across a snake in the wild? If you have an interest in snakes Ian says ‘Get horribly excited’.

For the rest of us, Ian said the main thing is to be respectful.

“Stand still, and let it go on its way if it’s on the move.”

If the snake is sunbathing, and not on the move however, Ian says snakes are becoming more complacent to the movement of people.

“They don’t often move out of your way,” Ian Said, “They will expect you to walk around them.”

More often than not, snakes can live harmoniously with us, and not cause any problems, however Ian says that’s “Until you get too close to them, and then they will respond accordingly.”

If you find yourself face to face with a snake in your own home, Ian’s advice is to isolate it, and call for help.

“Isolate it. If you find it in a room, then close the doors and call for help. Never try and remove it yourself,” Ian said.

If you are ever unfortunate enough to receive a bite, Ian said that first aid is a life saver.

“First aid for snake bites involves bandaging the limb with a pressure immobilisation bandage, bandaging the limb about as tight as you would for a sprain, staying still, and

calling 000 for an ambulance as a matter of urgency.”

“On average around 300 people are bitten by snakes in Australia every year” Ian said. Whilst most bites occur lymphatically, there are cases where the bite has been a direct hit to a major blood vessel, which can have a more dramatic effect.

“Signs and symptoms can include vomiting, headaches, lapse in and out of consciousness, shock and hypotension” said Ian. “Just get help, and don’t remove the bandage!” Said Ian.

In his 60+ years of working with snakes, Ian said he has only been bitten twice.

“One of them was a tiger snake, which put me in the twilight zone for several hours, with quite a dramatic effect.”

“In the north of the state, especially in the Tamar Valley, we see more Copperheads than Tiger snakes.”

Ian said that because Copperheads are cannibalistic, they self-regulate their own population, and also help suppress the population of Tiger Snakes.

“We recommend if you have a copperhead on your property, and it’s not causing any major concerns, to leave it there.” Said Ian.

For those with pets at home, Ian said the best advice to protect you and your pets from the possibility of a snake bite is to keep your pets water bowls in the open.

“People have a habit of putting the dog dish under the tap, usually on the side of the house, and there’s a lot of bushes and shrubs.”

“Snake wants a drink, and one of the first things they’re looking for when they come

to your property is water.”

“They come in, see the dish of water, have a drink and then they might curl up in the shade under the bushes. The dog comes to the dish to have a drink and gets bitten on the snout.”

Ian added that dogs are highly susceptible to venom from snakes, especially tiger snakes.

If you think your pet has been bitten by a snake, then you should react quickly, and take them to a vet.

Ian also suggested leaving bowls of water at the boundary of your property, along your fence line, so snakes don’t have to come into your yard and your house in search of water.

“And keep pests out of your yard, mice are an attractant, and if you have a garden pond, frogs will attract snakes as well, and it’s natural that they will come and feed.”

For those thinking of buying products claiming to be snake rappellers, Ian’s Advice was not to waste your money.

“They’ve been shown not to work. On many occasions I’ve caught snakes surrounded by them, and in one instant, the snake was laying in the shade of the snake rappeller while it was buzzing away, creating vibration that supposedly drives the snakes away, but it doesn’t.

“They live with vibrations and noise every day.”

“The most important thing,” said Ian, “Make sure your windows, doors and flyscreens are intact. They will come inside if given the opportunity, and you’d be surprised at the small gaps they’ll get through.”

“As we approach summer, people are going to go camping, again, always zip your tents to the top, to make sure snakes can’t get in. If you leave the flaps to your tent open, you might share your bed, and we’ve had people bitten in their bed while camping.”

“if you’re going out of a night time for any purpose, maybe going to the loo, put something on your feet and take a torch, because on summer nights, snakes can be active.”

Ian said you can expect snakes to be active in any temperatures above about 18 degrees, however 36-38 degrees is intolerable for a snake.

“The best days for snakes are rainy days and overcast days in summer”

If you need a snake removed from your property, you can call Reptile Rescue on 0499 116 690 which is a state-wide emergency number, and they will arrange for a local snake handler who can respond and remove the animal.

If you have been bitten, stay calm, still, call 000 for an ambulance and bandage the limb.

You can read more of our interview with Ian on our website.

HST

TREE SPECIALISTS

6339 6161

E: quote@hst.net.au

TREE REMOVAL

TREE PRUNING

QUALIFIED ARBORISTS

MECHANICAL MULCHING/SLASHING

FREE QUOTES

Clean Up to foster Behaviour Change



(Picture: SUPPLIED) Members of the Northern Climbers Club who cleaned the Zig Zag Track at Cataract Gorge at last years event.

Covid 19 has retrained us in ways we would never have imagined. It has changed our behaviours in the way we greet people, wash our hands and keep our distance.

According to research, it takes on average more than 2 months before a new behaviour becomes automatic — 66 days to be exact.

November 2 – 8th is the week set for the second Tamar NRM and Clean Up Australia Catch it in the Catchment community Clean Up event.

Catch it in the Catchment is not just another Clean Up...it's about long-term behaviour changes that will make a difference, changes that are necessary if we are serious about stemming the impact of wastes that enter our waterways on route to marine environments.

2019 saw the one-day event attract over 300 participants from communities along the East and West Tamar and Launceston. Everyone contributing a small amount of time to help catch rubbish before it entered kanamaluka/ the Tamar estuary.

1165 kg's rubbish (not including large items such as shopping trolleys, car parts, cables to name a few) were prevented from contributing to long term estuarine pollution, of which the majority was plastic packaging. Either intentionally or accidentally dumped or dropped, much of this waste accumulation can be prevented.

Plastic straws alone, collected during 3 separate clean-up events at Royal Park, numbered over 700! This is one item we can easily eliminate from our habitual use – simply say “no straw thank you”

Community groups from around the

Tamar were well represented last year and, with the 2020 event now being a week-long event, it is anticipated more schools and businesses will have the opportunity to join in. Trish Haeusler, Catch it in the Catchment Coordinator, said a lot of interest has already been shown with last year's groups registering and new groups signing up. It was a very impressive community response last year and we are aiming to make this an important event on the Calendar for all communities in the Tamar Catchment.

The amount of plastic waste has been surging during the pandemic and the increase in single-use plastics has long-term impacts on the environment.

The proliferation of single-use disposable items such as food and non-food packaging, beverage containers and confectionery wrappers are always among the main rubbish items volunteers report and Clean Up Australia Chairman, Pip Kiernan says she fears it will be worse this year.

Ms Kiernan noted that Australia creates 2.5 million tonnes of plastic waste each year but only 12% of this is recycled with the rest ending up in our parks, roadsides, bush, waterways, oceans or in landfill as rubbish.

“We have all lived through immense changes in recent months and considerable shifts have occurred in how we have spent our leisure time and what products we buy and use. Unfortunately, a side effect has been a startling uptick in demand for single-use plastics.” Ms Kiernan said she is hopeful that Catch it in the Catchment will help address the environmental impact of this increasing reliance on plastic and also offer an important opportunity for the community to reconnect.

Ms Kiernan added, “Every single piece of rubbish disrupting natural ecosystems comes from one person making a decision – often unconsciously – to discard it. We're asking you to be part of the solution, by registering today to get involved with Catch it in the Catchment.”

This is a great day to connect with your community and be involved in a worthwhile event.

We all live in a catchment that connects our activities directly with our local waterways – opinions, debate and talk are good – community action is better.

Registration is easy

- Contact catchitinthecatchment@gmail.com or message Catch it in the Catchment Facebook page.
- Let us know where you plan to clean-up and at what time during the week of 2- 8th November. We can assist with site suggestions
- Individuals can contact us, and we

will match you with a local clean-up group. Plastic Free Launceston is offering school and community groups a free workshop to audit one bag of rubbish collected from each site and explain the link between our actions in the Catchment and the impact they can have on our local waterways.

The data collected will give us a snapshot of what types of rubbish were collected.

This Tamar NRM event is in partnership with Clean Up Australia and proudly supported by George Town Council, West Tamar Council, City of Launceston Council, NRM North and Plastic Free Launceston. It is a COVID 19 Safe event



WORK & HOPE FOR ALL

Employment Plus helps you:

- overcome barriers
- gain independence
- learn new skills
- find sustained work

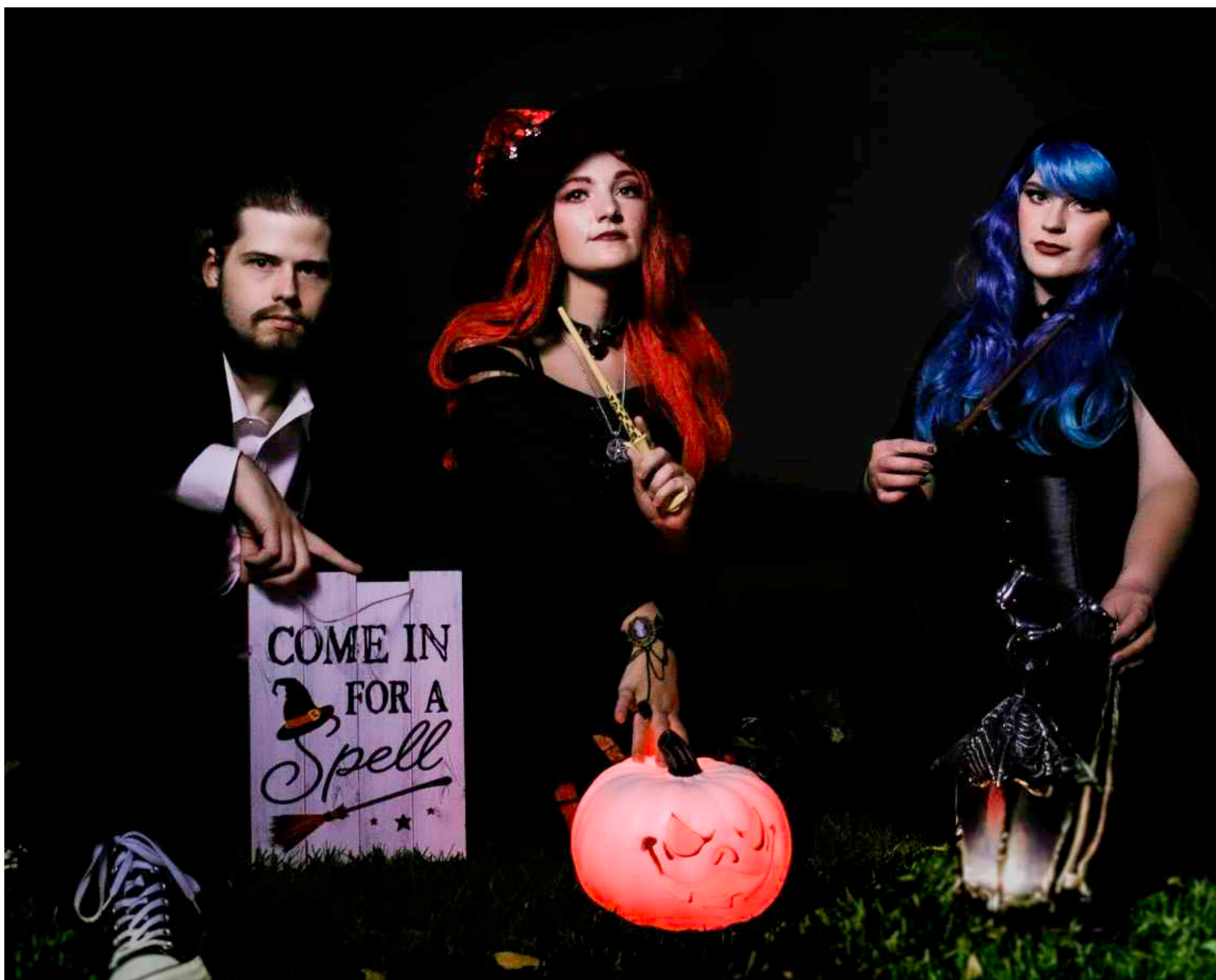
Talk to us and receive:

- obligation-free help
- Centrelink assistance
- job hunting resources
- personal support and guidance

IT'S NEVER JUST A JOB!

☎ 0429 330 449 | ✉ debi.bennett@salvationarmy.org.au

Halloween Approaches



(Photo: Amanda Hamilton) ABOVE: An American Halloween RIGHT: Abrea Hamilton, 10, of Salt Lake City, Utah

For most of us, Halloween is a fairly new concept in Australia and traditionally thought of as an American event.

As time goes on, Halloween in Australia gathers an ever-growing crowd of kids trick or treating, and having fun with costumes, and more and more households are choosing to participate in Trick or Treating, placing signs or balloons outside their house to show they're open to visitors from the neighbourhood monsters (also known as children.)

The adoption of Halloween in Australia has sparked debate between locals however, with many of the opinion that this is a sign of becoming "Americanised" and giving companies yet another opportunity to commercialise a holiday.

For those worried about our society becoming more Americanised however, rest assured that the Australian version of Halloween still remains vastly different to the American version.

Speaking with Halloween Enthusiast Abrea Hamilton, aged 10, in Salt Lake City, Utah, we quickly learned that Halloween is taken

extremely seriously in the USA.

Abrea, who spends up to 5 hours getting ready to go trick-or-treating, said that Halloween is fun and exciting.

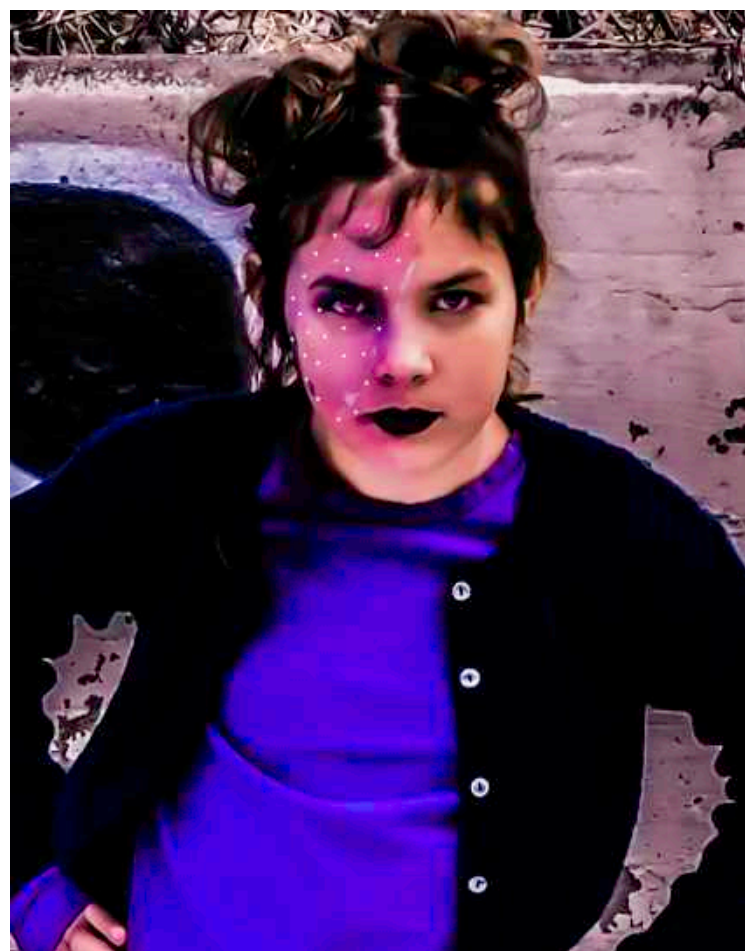
"My favourite part of Halloween is decorating the house, dressing up and going trick-or-treating."

When asked what Australians who don't celebrate Halloween are missing out on, Abrea said the decorations are at the top of the list. "The insane house decorations, costumes, music like 'Pumpkinhead Harvey' and of course, candy!"

Are you planning on celebrating Halloween in the Tamar Valley?

Email news@tamarvalleynews.com.au – we would love to ask you some questions for a story.

Want to write a letter to the editor about Halloween in Australia? Visit our website at www.TamarValleyNews.com.au



Martime Museum Reopens



(Picture: SUPPLIED) LEFT: Don Heather and John Watts, RIGHT: Adrienne Smeeton

After the enforced closure due to COVID19, the Maritime Museum at the Low Head Pilot Station will be open seven days a week from 10am to 4 pm from the start of the school holidays, with all COVID safe precautions in place.

The Sunday soundings of the Foghorn at the Lighthouse have also resumed and will continue each week starting at noon.

The Museum is housed in the 1835 Pilots Row and is run by a dedicated team of volunteers of who undertake the diverse range

of tasks required to operate this important tourism and research asset. Another team operates the Foghorn at the Lighthouse.

Those who meet and greet you at the entrance to the Museum look forward to welcoming local and intrastate visitors to view the thirteen rooms of displays.

If you haven't visited for a while, you will not have seen the latest "Stories of the Pilot Station" exhibition in the Sir Raymond Ferrall Room.

At the recent AGM of the Low Head Pilot Station Support Group, three long-serving volunteers, Adrienne Smeeton, Don Heather and John Watts were all presented with Life Membership in recognition of their exceptional service to the Group.

Adrienne's involvement with curation of exhibitions and displays, Don's work with the Ponrabbel II engine and John's involvement with maintenance of grounds, buildings and artefacts were contributing factors that instigated these awards.

Chairman Des Wootton also presented the comprehensive outline of the last twelve months operations and thanked all members and supporters who assisted in any way.

Despite the long closures, there were just under 6,000 visitors to the Museum and an estimated 1,200 to the Foghorn from the beginning of July 2019 to the end of June 2020.

New Facilities for Tamar Valley School

The Tamar Valley Steiner School will benefit from new and improved learning spaces thanks to a Morrison Government grant.

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer said the government is providing \$322,412 towards the project through the Capital Grants Program, which provides funding for non-government schools to improve capital infrastructure.

"Students and staff at Tamar Valley Steiner School will benefit from three classroom refurbishments, upgrades to sewer, electricity and stormwater infrastructure, heating, the installation of a new ramp and the relocation of two portable classrooms," Mrs Archer said.

"Tamar Valley Steiner School in St Leonards has a wonderful school community, and these new and improved facilities will further enhance the learning environment.

"Students and teachers thrive when their schools have modern and up-to-date facilities – that's why the Morrison Government is proud of the Capital Grants Program, which has benefited thousands of schools across the nation.

"This project is being fast-tracked to help support our local school, create jobs, and drive economic growth, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I congratulate Tamar Valley Steiner School on their successful grant application and look forward to seeing the positive impact the new and improved facilities will have on students and our community."

To learn more about the Capital Grants Program visit <https://www.education.gov.au/capital-grants-non-government-schools>.



THE
TASMANIAN
BROWSER

Want access to free-to-read
Local Journalism?

- No Paywall
- No Clickbait
- Local Tasmanian News

Visit:

www.TasmanianBrowser.com.au

And find us on Facebook!

Proudly Locally Owned & Operated by

HYPERLOCAL
MEDIA

Advertise Here

Email zac@hyperlocalmedia.info

Low Head's Beattie Traill - the 'Grace Darling of Tasmania'

By Lorraine Wootton



(Picture: Thomas Brooks) The Rescue of the SS Forfarshire by Grace Darling. Oil on canvas painting by artist F. S. Lowther in 1886.

The latest exhibition in the Sir Raymond Ferrall Room in the Maritime Museum at Low Head Pilot Station is entitled "Stories of the Pilot Station". One of the stories features a young woman named Beattie Traill, whose heroic efforts in saving one of the pilot boat crew at the Tamar Heads saw her named as the "Grace Darling of Tasmania". For those who don't know, Grace Darling was the 22 year old daughter of the light-keeper of the Longstone Lighthouse that guards the rocky shores of the outer Farne Islands on the east coast of Northumberland in northern England. In 1838 the SS Forfarshire, en route from Hull to Dundee, was wrecked during fierce stormy weather a mile off the lighthouse. Grace and her father rowed out in a small coble boat and rescued nine survivors they found clinging to rocks. Both were recognised with bravery awards and Grace became an international celebrity. Sadly, Grace died of TB only 4 years later, but there is a monument of her bravery in nearby Bamburgh, and her story is told in the Grace Darling Museum there. SEE: <https://rnli.org/about-us/our-history/>

timeline/1838-grace-darling
Similarly, in June 1865 Beattie Traill who had grown up in Kincardine, Scotland, was the 22 year old daughter of Joseph Traill, the deputy light-keeper stationed at the Low Head Lighthouse. However, Beattie did not row a boat out to perform a rescue in tempestuous seas, she swam out! There was a heavy cross sea and strong winds from the North West on Wednesday 24 June, 1863 when the boarding boat crew of Gustavus Hardy, Thomas Edwards, Charles Wm Kidd, James Hurst and coxswain, John Hewitt, put Senior Pilot, George Foster on board the brig Fawn, arriving from London. The boarding boat was returning with a lug sail set and had reached "Dotterel" point, just inside the lighthouse, when it pitched end-over-end, throwing out the crew and ending bottom up. The men clung to the capsized boat, but were dashed off time and time again. A passing schooner hoisted a distress signal. A brig and then the Fawn passed with the pilot on board, but with no attempt to assist. Men from the lighthouse and

telegraph station launched a boat from the pilot station, but were unable to reach the exhausted men. The boat was drifting out to sea, when suddenly it righted, though still submerged with the waves rolling over her. The men's distraught wives and others watched helplessly from above. With great exertion the men manoeuvred the boat closer to shore, only to strike a rock and again they were thrown out about 200m off shore. Miraculously, the strong flowing tide brought them closer to shore and they were dragged to safety; but one man, Gustavus Hardy remained and was seen floating in the foaming sea. His wife and children were watching from the above on shore. Mrs Traill knew her daughter was a strong and expert swimmer and asked if she would attempt a rescue and she went in search of a rope. Despite protests that it was far too dangerous, Beattie Traill, fully clothed with a rope secured around her waist, swam out to the drowning man, attached the rope and towed him back to shore where he was revived. She attributed her success to the crinoline

she wore, which buoyed her upon the water and kept her afloat. It was the latest in fashion, but only one hoop remained and she'd lost most of her clothing when she emerged from the sea. Local subscriptions were taken up and Beattie was presented with a gold locket and chain, a purse of sovereigns and other gifts. The government gave her 50 pounds as a reward 'for saving a life at George Town at the risk of her own'. Gustavus Hardy kept in touch with his rescuer throughout his life at George Town, Pipers River, Scottsdale and Penguin where he worked as a painter and decorator, constable, postmaster and teacher. He died at Scottsdale in August 1930, aged 96. Beattie Traill married Thomas Phillips and they moved to Latrobe where he was the local undertaker for many years. After her husband's death in 1902, Beattie moved back to Launceston where she died on Boxing Day 1923. She deserves to be remembered as a true heroine.

GEORGE TOWN & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

MONTHLY MEETINGS are held on the 3rd Monday, starting at 7.30 pm usually at The Grove, 2 Cimitiere St, George Town.

January, February and March meetings are held at Low Head, Hillwood & the Piper District respectively. Meetings are free and open to the public, but a gold coin donation towards supper is appreciated.

Annual Membership is \$15 single or \$25 for a couple are due in October.

CONTACTS: Email: info@gtdhs.com Website: www.gtdhs.com