

King Island Courier

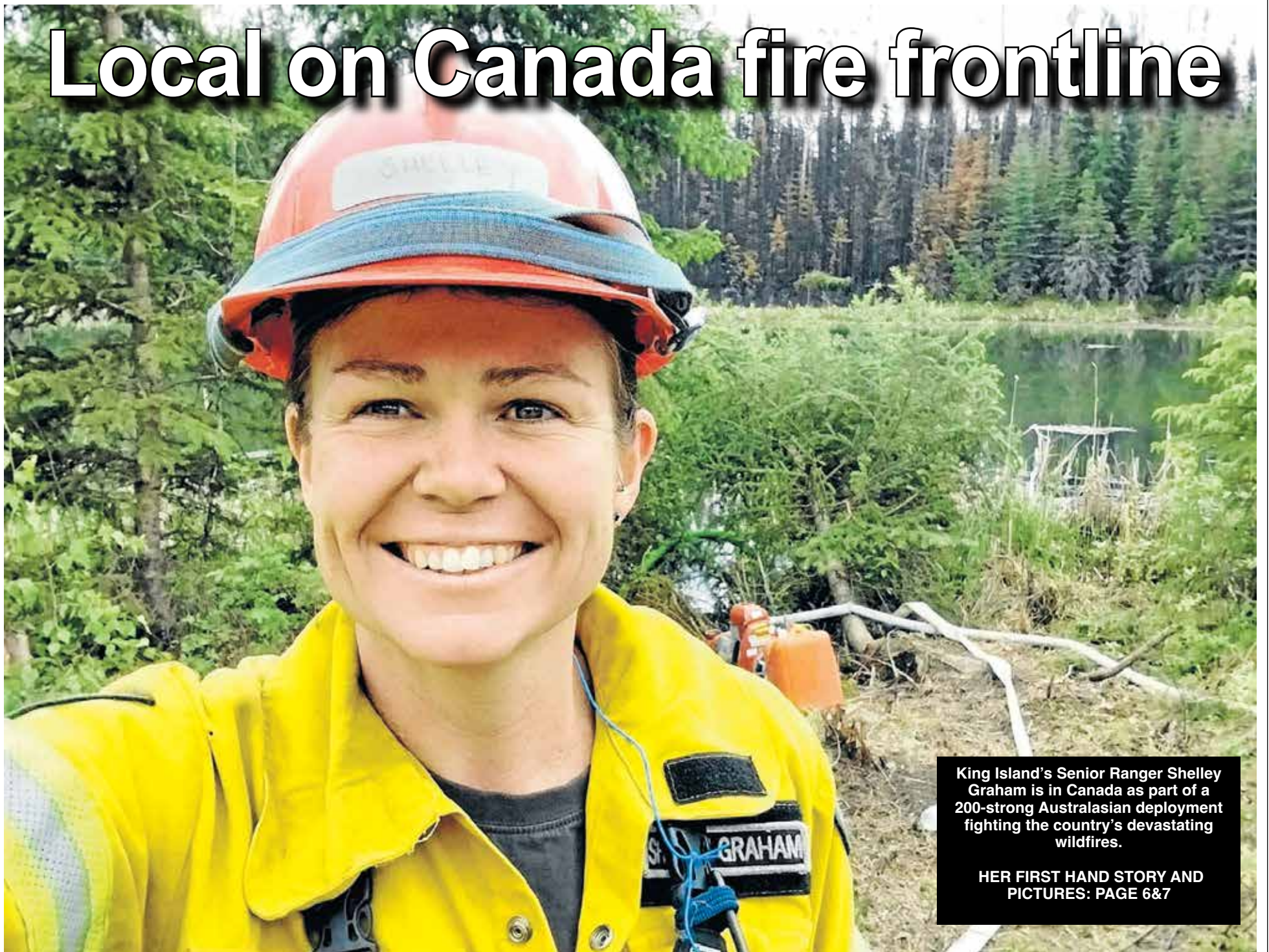
A Beacon for the Community

Vol. 38 No. 23

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023

\$1.50

Local on Canada fire frontline



King Island's Senior Ranger Shelley Graham is in Canada as part of a 200-strong Australasian deployment fighting the country's devastating wildfires.

HER FIRST HAND STORY AND PICTURES: PAGE 6&7

King Island's Senior Parks Ranger Shelley Graham on arrival in Canada.

Mine overburden a valuable resource GRASSY SEEKS SAFE HARBOUR

INDEPENDENT Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest raised the use of mine overburden to create an all-weather safe harbour at Grassy in Budget Estimates hearings this week.

Ms Forrest also grilled Police, Fire and Emergency Management Minister and Minister for Resources, Felix Ellis about providing fit-for-purpose facilities for King Island Ambulance and the SES.

Ms Forrest said there was an opportunity to use significant overburden from the Group 6 Metals Dolphin Tungsten Mine

Continued page 2

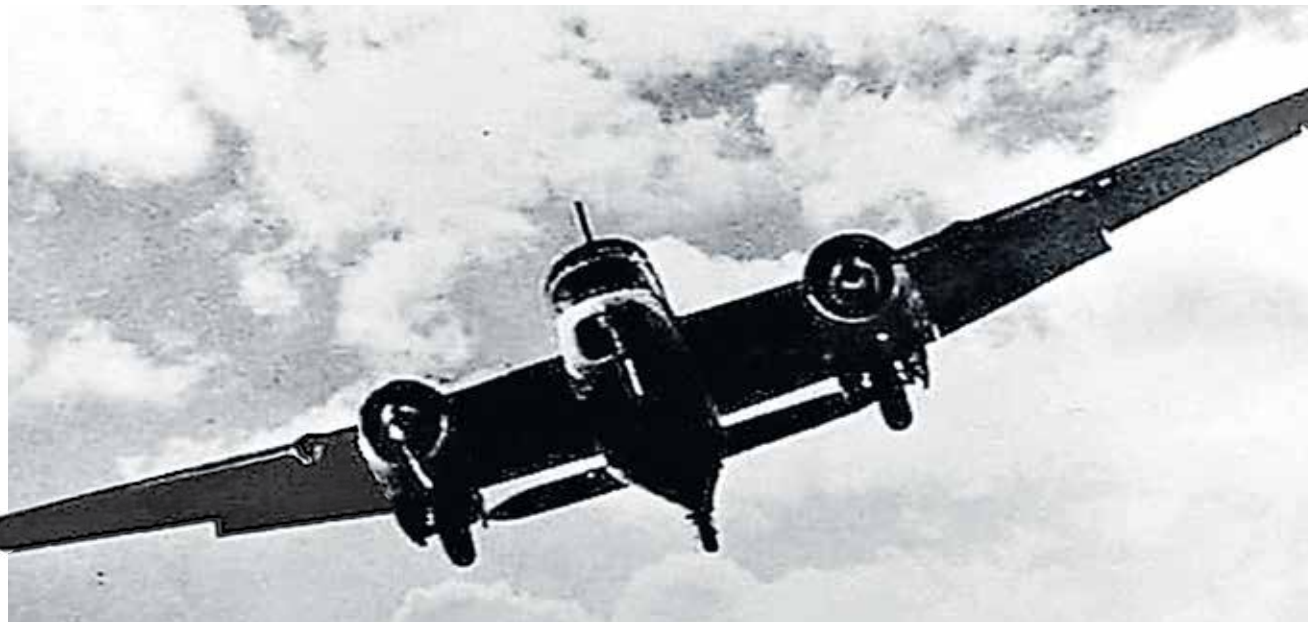
ISLAND BEEF PRODUCERS DOMINATE AWARDS – Page 5

Island remembers air war heroes

KING ISLAND
RSL SUBBRANCH

“PERSONALLY, as Chaplain of the Unit, I flew over to King Island on Monday last and remained there until after the funeral which took place on Tuesday afternoon having been postponed in order that any relatives who could make the journey should have the opportunity of being present. Actually, the father of P/O [Pilot Officer] Kildea was the only relative to be present.... He was very much impressed by the kindly sympathy of the local people and also by the care and respect shown by the Service in making the necessary arrangements. Apart from the Air Force party which was flown over from the mainland for the occasion the [island] Military and V.D.C. [Volunteer Defence Corps] were represented and a large number of King Islanders were present.”

SO WROTE Flight Lieutenant Victor Deakin on 19 July 1943 to Geoffrey Edwards, younger brother of Neville (Bill), who was one of the four airmen who



Beaufort Bomber, courtesy of the Australian War Memorial

died in the Beaufort Bomber crash on King Island on 11 July 1943.

Victor was the chaplain at the Air Force base at East Sale in Victoria where the men's unit – 1 Operational Training Unit was located. From there, three Beaufort Bombers departed as part of a formation flying training exercise over King Island. Tragically, one never returned and their graves are in the King Island cemetery.

This Australian-manufactured plane was based on the British Bristol Beaufort, a twin-engined machine with a crew of four that could carry

either a torpedo or bombs. The Beauforts were used to patrol Australia's coastline and could also attack enemy naval fleets. Seven hundred bombers were constructed between 1941 and September 1944.

In the lead up to Anzac Day, it was mentioned that your RSL Sub branch is leading a special commemoration on Tuesday 11 July, commencing at 11 am in the King Island Cemetery to honour Pilot Officers Harold Snell, John Kildea, Clarence Leesue and Neville Edwards.

In addition, we will also be remembering islanders who served in the RAAF and lost

their lives during World War 2. So far, we have identified William (Buff) Cheese, John Lancaster and Nancy Morrison, who have relations still living on King Island. The commemoration will be live streamed by King Island TV.

Descendants of the seven personnel and those from the mainland will be attending.

The families have shared rare documents, including Chaplain Deakin's letter. We now know that one of the plane crew had a child. Clarence Leesue's wife had just conceived when he died, and neither would have known. Gwen Leesue gave

birth to their daughter, Merrilyn, in March 1944. A faded and damaged photograph sits at the base of her husband's headstone, which will be replaced as a formal part of the ceremony.

When the Defence Force was notified of the ceremony, the RAAF Commander Tasmania, Wing Commander Andrew Johnson, his senior Warrant Officer and a chaplain from East Sale RAAF Base, confirmed they will attend and participate. Andrew will be mentioning Bomber Formation flying and the risks involved, noting that the crash was just a few months after the

Dambusters Raid in Germany.

Despite our ceremonies occurring during school holidays, King Island District High School students will lay flowers at the graves, as they did every year from 1943 until the early 1970s.

At 7.30 pm on 11 July, in the Town Hall, there will be a community presentation on the King Island World War 2 Comfort Fund. This was a stand-alone approved fund that Jack and Alice Marshall led with an active team, which was well supported by the island community.

Comfort parcels were sent to service personnel around the world, including many non-islanders, and over 130 people sent around 500 thank you letters. Mr Marshall's case, which included the collection of letters, was donated to the Sub-branch by Jack and Alice's daughter, Sylvia Ransley.

Since 2013 a team of local women have been transcribing them. A truly remarkable achievement and more information will appear in next week's Courier.

If you would like further information or know of other names please email our Sub-branch Secretary, Mrs Margaret Bennett, at margiejenn51@gmail.com



King Island
Courier

A Beacon for the Community

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King Island Courier

Mine overburden of value to port

From page 1

that will be available from 2024.

"There's an opportunity here for G6M to relocate that inert overburden," Ms Forrest said.

"Despite this, the Infrastructure Minister [Michael Ferguson] continues to claim that Grassy Harbour is an all-weather safe harbour.

"Currently, TasPorts have run directions that deny ships access depending on the swell and the wind speed – several ships have been defined access in recent times, so that is not an all-weather safe harbour," Ms Forrest said.

"Here we have an opportunity to work across government to enable Group 6 Metals

to deal with their overburden in a way that works to support the redevelopment or construction of an all-weather safe harbour that actually shields weather from the other direction.

"What will you do, in your responsibilities here, to work together with the Minister for Infrastructure, who's in charge of TasPorts who seems to deny the reality."

G6M has met with the King Island Council and others in the past and said that it was open to ways in which the overburden from the mine could help the local community.

Mr Ellis avoided answering and continued to discuss royalties, and the support from the State Government to assist

with the mine's reopening.

"We will work through a process as is proper with that overburden," Mr Ellis said.

"Now, you are not an environmental scientist, neither am I. It is important that we work through with all of the regulators as part of this process."

Ms Forrest confirmed with the Deputy Secretary, of Resources, Strategy and Policy, Department of State Growth, Brett Stewart, that through a collaborative approach with the Director of Mines, the use of the overburden to develop a Grassy all-weather safe harbour was possible.

In another Budget Estimates session, Ms Forrest told Mr Ellis that the old Hydro

building in Currie is owned by a State Government business and could easily be repurposed as facilities for King Island Ambulance and the SES.

"Will you have discussions with perhaps your colleague, the Minister for Infrastructure, or perhaps as the Treasurer stakeholder minister, and the minister for Energy, the stakeholder minister in Hydro, and have a little chat about [the] vacant building?"

The Minister replied, "We look at wherever those opportunities lie... I'm more than happy to follow up around that.

"One of the other things in this Budget is there's \$10 million available over two years for better facilities."

Sharp adds seats to island route

SHARPAirlines will be adding an additional 4000 seats a year from King Island to mainland Tasmania from July 1.

"Over the last 12 years we have developed our services to meet the expectations of the King Island community, businesses, and corporate travellers, as well as the ever-increasing demand of tourists, golfers, and holidaymaker," Sharp CEO Alistair Dorward said.

"We do not take the role we play in providing these vital services for granted and have always strived to deliver excellence in customer service.

"On-time performance and safety are at the core of everything we do."

"Sharp Airlines does not increase fares at peak times; instead, we are consistent, and transparent and deliver services

at the most economical fares and freight rates possible.

"We also support the island through our Community Support Program, recognising that in every community, formal and informal groups need support or sponsorship to assist with important causes.

"We believe in the future and prosperity of King Island and its vibrant community.

"With future developments such as the King Island Scheelite mine, increases in infrastructure spending, and further growth and development in tourism, I am pleased to announce Sharp Airlines' additional seats.

"This is designed to cater for the expansion and to further meet the needs of the travelling public," Mr Dorward said.

Ambo's 42 year honour

KING ISLAND Voluntary Ambulance Officers past and present and friends met last Sunday at the King Island Golf and Bowling Club to recognize Greg Morris and his incredible achievement in volunteering for Ambulance Tasmania for over 42 years.

"I believe Greg actually started volunteering before Ambulance Tasmania was formed but he was definitely helping King Islanders who were unwell or in distress before Ambulance Tasmania had a presence on King Island," said volunteer ambulance officer, Chris Green in his address.

"King Island would have been much more isolated, also less equipped than it is today."

"There are currently 10 active volunteer paramedics on the island, although we are called Volunteer Ambulance Responders and Ambulance Assistants, who have completed 80 years of volunteering.

Greg was thanked for his kindness, calmness, care and service to the people of King Island in all types of weather and circumstances.

Many said he was not only a supporter of all those who chose to volunteer with the service, but he created a community within a



King Island Volunteer Ambulance Coordinator Robert Jordon presents an award recognising 42 years of volunteer service by Greg Morris

community; is a mentor that has enabled some volunteers to create careers paths in nursing and other frontline services; he is a listener and an ear in tough times; and even after colleagues have left the island he has maintained contact and checked on their well-being.

Linda Newby who lives in Sydney said, for Greg, ambulance volunteering was much more

than the 'job', it was about the community and the creation of community ... giving back to the island.

"It's people like Greg that keep small communities alive, supported and cared for.

"All past and present ambos regard him, not only as a colleague but as a lifelong friend and wish him well in his retirement."

Clash over truck wash funding

FEDERAL Liberal member for Bradon Gavin Pearce has hit back over claims the former government failed to fund a promised truck wash facility on King Island.

Labor Senator Anne Urquhart last week said the Albanese Government would deliver truck washes and effluent dumps promised for Smithton, Stanley, Burnie and King Island.

"Despite promising funding on several occasions, the previous government failed to deliver," she said.

However, Mr Pearce said the Cradle Coast Authority was responsible for delivering the four truck washes.

"The Liberal/National government's commitment to this project has remained unwavering. The funding commitment originally made by the [LNP] federal government was \$4 million. Plus, at the request of the CCA, the Liberal/National government subsequently committed a further \$700,000 to address a funding shortfall to ensure the project could proceed.

In March 2020 the former Coalition Minister for Infrastructure wrote to the CCA confirming the Australian Government's commitment to provide up to \$4 million for the Cradle

Coast Authority truck washes project.

"The federal government does not release funds until Grant Deeds are signed, and benchmarks are reached," Mr Pearce said.

"In my dealings with CCA, I know they have found this an extremely complex project, with the organisation effectively managing four projects in one.

"Progress could not be made on any of the sites until an agreement across all four sites was finalised.

"CCA has been working on the project continually since the announcement of the funding, undertaking feasibility studies, costing, determining sites and reaching agreements between multiple stakeholders.

"In April 2023, I was advised that the CCA had submitted the Grant Deed to progress the payment of funds for the project.

"The current Federal Government was required to honour this commitment," Mr Pearce said.

Mr Pearce has called on Senator Urquhart to apologise.

"This was directly targeted at me and she has publicly called into question the tireless efforts of the Cradle Coast Authority."



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\$4.99
ea

SAVE \$2.46



Finish Ultimate Pro Dishwashing Tablets Lemon Sparkle 32 Pack
\$1.12 each

\$35.99
ea

SAVE \$18



International Roast Instant Coffee 500g
\$2.57 per 100g

\$12.85
ea

SAVE \$4



Nestlé Milo 1.1kg Value Pack
\$1.54 per 100g

\$16.99
ea

SAVE \$4.96



Pepsi Max Bottles 4x300mL
\$6.46 per Litre

\$7.75
ea

SAVE \$1.21



Skittles Giants Fruits 170g
\$2.94 per 100g

\$4.99
ea

SAVE \$2.55



Devondale Tasty Cheese Block 250g
\$22 per kg

\$5.50
ea

SAVE \$2.25



Ho Mai Cocktail Spring Rolls 510g
\$1.76 per 100g

\$8.99
ea

SAVE \$2.36

PLUS MANY MORE SPECIALS IN STORE AND ON FACEBOOK



WHERE THE *locals* MATTER

Specials available only at King Island IGA + Liquor. While stocks last. IGA Liquor supports the responsible service of alcohol. Tobacco and alcohol not sold to under 18's.

IGAI9226_140623

Have your say on councils

THE Tasmanian Government has commissioned the Local Government Board to undertake a Review of the role, function, and design of local government in Tasmania.

King Island is in the Western Community Catchment and the Board has outlined three possible structural reform scenarios. These scenarios are not the only options for reform.

Scenario 1 – Establishing two separate councils – one encompassing the current King Island, Circular Head, and Waratah-Wynyard LGAs, and the second retaining the current West Coast LGA

Scenario 2 – Establishing three new LGAs – An enlarged West Coast Council incorporating the town of Waratah and Savage River; B. An LGA based on Waratah-Wynyard council areas but excluding Waratah and Savage River and Circular Head; and C. King Island

Scenario 3 – Establishing a consolidated Western council

The objective of the Review is to create a more robust and capable system of local government, for the benefit of all Tasmanians.

“During Stage 3 of the Review, the Board will be engaging with communities to look at how we might reshape Tasmania’s local councils to increase scale and capability so they can better serve clearly identified communities of interest. The goal is to design local government in Tasmania in a way that allows all councils to develop and maintain the capability that communities need while delivering services locally, keeping jobs in local communities, and ensuring that all Tasmanians have a strong voice in decisions being made on their behalf.”

The views of communities will be important to the directions and findings of the Review. Go to www.futurelocal.tas.gov.au to read the Community Catchment Information pack and make a submission. Submissions are open until 21 June 2023.



King Island Three

KING Island Beef Producers had reason to celebrate this week when JBS Australia held their Great Southern Australia Producer of the Year event in Melbourne.

At the glittering awards dinner, Peter “Worm” Watson took out Runner Up Producer of the Year, Robert Williams, RJ Williams eighth place and Duncan Clemons, Manuka Properties ninth place.

Seven of the top ten finalists were from Tasmania.

The top 10 finalists were chosen from more than 2500 farms in the JBS supplier catchment in Tasmania, Victoria, southern New South Wales and eastern South Australia.

The first-place award winner was Ardsley Pastoral from Bathurst NSW.

The four other Tasmanian top ten finalists were Steve and Anne Ward, Barrington, Jason Griffin, Deloraine, Phil and Emma Jones, Burnie, and John Roebuck, Merseylea.

More than 550 livestock suppliers, food service and retail customers and other stakeholders gathered at the Melbourne Convention Centre for sessions, demonstrations and industry networking which focussed on the supply chain playing a vital role in the performance of the ultimate piece of beef or lamb on the diner’s plate and featured celebrity chefs, grading, butchering and cooking.

The event marked 10



years of JBS Australia’s Great Southern branded beef and lamb success and is the world’s largest farm-assured grassfed premium meat protein program.

On average 3500-4000 beef carcasses and 12,000 farm-assured lambs are processed each week by JBS. Around 70% of the beef and lamb from each Great Southern carcass is exported.

JBS Southern chief operating officer Sam McConnell said the original vision of the program was to identify and engage with

Island life

ROGER HANSON

KING Island beef producer Robert Williams and his partner Elvira Bolotova, a former journalist in Russia, were overwhelmed when named in JBS Australia’s Great Southern 2023 Beef Producer of the Year top 10 list at a gala event at Melbourne Showgrounds.

They were as one of three King Islanders named in the top 10.

Ex-rock lobster fisherman, Peter Watson, who took over his parent’s two properties in the north of the island, was named runner-up. He buys and sells beef cattle.

Duncan Clemons, from Manuka, who buys/sells and breeds cattle was named in the top 10.

“It was a huge day and it was totally unexpected and overwhelming,” Robert said.

“I was taken completely taken by surprise, it’s an amazing outcome for King Island and Tasmania’s beef industry. There is a lot happening in the industry.”

JBS Australia is the largest meat processing company in the country and

exports to more than 80 countries worldwide.

The company ensures they purchase the best livestock in Australia with a key focus on food safety, animal welfare, product quality and customer service.

Robert said he is not a big supplier, but puts an emphasis on quality over quantity.

Over two properties Yambacoon Estate and Cracks, Robert and Elvira run at their peak about 280 black baldies and Herefords.

“It was a gobsmacking dinner,” Robert said.

“The whole day was unbelievable,” Robert said.

JBS hosted 500 for the dinner and ran beef information sessions during the day.

“The seminar during the day was tremendous.

“They had chefs showing how meat is cut and the different cuts and they also showed how meat is graded.”

Robert’s partner Elvira, who loves living on King Island and working the farms with Robert, is

BE READY FOR THE CONVERSATION.

What’s the Voice referendum about?

It’s about whether we should change the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by setting up an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. A referendum is the only way to change the Australian Constitution.

What is the Voice?

The Voice would be a permanent body that gives independent advice to the Australian Parliament and Government on matters that affect First Nations people.

The Voice aims to help the Parliament and Government to make better decisions and deliver better outcomes for First Nations people.

How will the Voice be set up?

How it’s set up would be determined after the referendum with input from First Nations people, the broader public and the Government. The Parliament would then make a law to set up the Voice.

The intention is that its members will be chosen by and representative of, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across Australia.

Be ready for the conversation, get informed at

Voice.gov.au



Scan here to visit the website

beef producers dominate in JBS top 10



the best producers, set high standards for quality, consistency and product integrity, and not deviate from that.

“We’ve remained true to what we said we were going to do a decade ago

“We continue to see performance improvements, in both quality and consistency, driven by sustained investment in genetics, nutrition and pasture programs and general herd management to overcome seasonal highs and lows, helping smooth-out

production flows to deliver high-performing product year-round,” he said.

Mr Connell spoke of the future of the Great Southern program. It is about market access and potential claims around sustainability and said that the Middle Eastern and South East Asian high-end markets are returning.

“Market access is a big one for us. Great Southern is positioned well for future opportunities in regions like the European Union, where free trade agreement discussions are progressing,

and the recently completed UK FTA. The quality of the beef, the fact it is grass-fed, farm assured and HGP-free, means it continues to grow in a lot of premium export markets. International chefs are loving the product for its quality and consistency,” he said.

On the issue of carbon and methane emissions, Mr McConnell confirmed that JBS Southern was doing a lot of work in the area of sustainability, however, he said the company is cautious about making potential future

carbon or methane and brand claims at this time.

As the top ten runner-up, Watson’s quality and consistency in the product are evident. Peter Watson was surprised and delighted earlier this year with his Angus Beef Champion Carcass win at the King Island Show.

Duncan Clemons is a fourth-generation cattle farmer who runs Manuka in central King Island and is part of the JBS King Island Beef Farm Assurance program.

suits farming couple

originally from the city of Irkutsk in Siberia. She worked as a journalist for over 20 years, in various newspapers, radio, and later in a news agency.

“When I was starting out as a journalist 35 years ago, it was very interesting work,” Elvira said.

“This was the era of Glasnost heralded by then-leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

“Journalism in Russia experienced an unprecedented rise.

“However, as democratic reforms rolled back, and the cost of printing services grew, journalism increasingly turned into a service of information and marketing services.

“Now, with the outbreak of the war with Ukraine, journalism in Russia has finally died. It is sad.”

Elvira’s home city Irkutsk has a population of about 600,000 and is the capital of a large Siberian region.

“I was born and raised in a small provincial town. And life on the island is a bit like a carefree childhood.

“But of course the

standard of living in provincial Russian cities is much lower than in Australia.

“Most of the population still use stove heating and do not have basic amenities in the house, for example water supply, a bathroom and toilet.”

Elvira said in Russian provinces there is practically no infrastructure for sports or creativity.

“On King Island we have golf, equestrian sports, shooting, a yacht club and diving.

“I recently started playing golf and I am grateful to my friends and mentors,” Elvira said.

“Most importantly, King Islanders and Tasmanians are friendly and open people.

“I’m very lucky that I met Robert and ended up on this beautiful island.”

Robert Williams and Elvira Bolotova show their award at the JBS gala dinner at the Melbourne Showgrounds.



FOODWORKS
KING ISLAND

GROCERIES

\$3⁷⁵

EA

SAVE FROM

\$2⁰⁷

Smiths Crinkle Chips 170g Varieties

\$2⁹⁹

EA

SAVE FROM

\$2⁸⁵

Sanitarium Weet Bix 575g

\$6⁷⁵

EA

SAVE FROM

\$1⁶⁸

Uncle Toby Oats 1kg Varieties

\$3⁵⁹

EA

SAVE FROM

\$2⁹⁸

White Wings Cake Mix 410-560g Varieties

\$10⁹⁹

EA

SAVE FROM

\$2⁸⁸

Moccona Coffee 100g Varieties

\$2⁵⁰

EA

SAVE FROM

\$2⁶⁷

Natural Confectionery Lollies 180-220g Varieties

\$5⁵⁰

EA

SAVE FROM

\$1¹⁵

Cadbury Old Gold Block 180g Varieties

\$2⁹⁹

EA

SAVE FROM

\$3

Campbell's Soup Country Ladle 500g Varieties

\$3⁹⁹

EA

SAVE FROM

\$1

Coca Cola Soft Drink 1.25L Varieties

\$16⁹⁹

EA

SAVE FROM

\$5⁸¹

Cold Power Laundry Liquid 1.8/2L Varieties

\$8⁷⁵

EA

SAVE FROM

96¢

Meadow Lea Spread 1kg

\$8⁷⁵

EA

SAVE FROM

\$1⁴⁴

Cracker Barrel Cheese Vintage 250g

\$7⁹⁹

KG

SAVE FROM

\$1⁸⁴

Don Strassburg 500g

\$6⁹⁹

EA

SAVE FROM

\$1

McCain Wedges 750g Varieties

\$8⁶⁵

EA

SAVE FROM

\$2²⁵

Mrs Mac Pies 4pk 700g Varieties

\$6⁹⁹

EA

SAVE FROM

\$6⁸⁴

Bulla Ice Cream Classics 2L

\$6⁹⁹

KG

SAVE FROM

\$1

Chicken Drumsticks

\$9⁹⁹

KG

SAVE FROM

\$2⁵¹

Cocktail Franks

\$18⁹⁹

KG

SAVE FROM

\$3

Champagne Ham

\$15⁹⁹

KG

SAVE FROM

\$2⁷⁶

Middle Rasher Bacon

\$7⁷⁵

KG

Broccoli

\$11⁹⁹

KG

Navel Oranges 3kg Bag

\$6⁷⁵

KG

Red Seedless Grapes

\$7⁵⁰

KG

Green Zucchini

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SCAN HERE TO SHOP ONLINE

Local firey on Canada f



Across Canada 4,000,000 ha have been burnt.

CANADA has experienced weeks of wildfires that have devastated millions of hectares and more than 100,000 residents have been evacuated and displaced.

King Island's Senior Ranger, Shelley Graham left a few weeks ago as part of the Tasmanian contingent to join a 200-strong Australasian deployment and hundreds of firefighters from across the world to support the effort to fight the country's wildfires.

Last week choking smoke labelled a "smoke storm" blew into the United States with New York and Detroit being named the most polluted cities in the world topping Dhaka in Bangladesh and New Delhi in India, according to the IQAir World Air Quality Index.

Reports are that air quality has improved as the fires are producing less smoke. The Canadian press and scientists are using the word "unprecedented" as records are shattered and there is a nationwide crisis.

Fire crews are exhausted.

"I have been deployed to the Lake Chipewyan Fire," Ms Graham said.

"The fire has now been classified as "contained" and the Big Stone indigenous community have just been allowed to move back into their homes after being evacuated for three weeks, which is very satisfying.

"However, there is some severe fire weather coming, so that may change.

"The situation across Canada is still dire, there are over 400 active fires and most of those are classified as out of control. More than 4,000,000 hectares of land have been burnt. We are having new startups most days and there are still about 20,000 people displaced from their homes.

"Tasmania and Canada use very similar remote area firefighting techniques, so the work is very familiar to me. - aerial insertion and extraction to very remote areas, water bucketing using helicopters and the use of pumps and hose lines.

"The work has been hard and dirty, working over 12 hours per day and 14-day shifts. Initially, the risks were that we were unfamiliar with the local factors that influence wildfire behaviour, and the terrain and wildlife, however, that is becoming familiar now that we are a couple of weeks in.

"We see bears most days as well as many squirrels, beavers and moose. Working with people from across the world has been interesting, we are working with crews from Canada, from all over America, Australia and New Zealand.

"I'm currently on two days off and then I'll be back on the fireline for another 14 days before

heading home. I'm looking forward to seeing my family and getting a decent cup of coffee."

Canadian officials warn it could be a marathon fire season and welcomed the help of firefighters arriving from other countries.

RIGHT:
Firefighters
are flown into
remote areas.

Pictures:
SHELLEY
GRAHAM

RIGHT: Most days the
firefighters see bears,
squirrels, beavers and moose.

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Starting a walking group is easy, and the Heart Foundation Walking team will be there to support you every step of the way. As a Walker Organiser, you will plan your group's walking routes and meeting place, the time and day of your walks, and will welcome new members to your group. We will promote your group on our website and provide you with training and resources to help you manage your group. You'll also get a thank you gift for signing up, ongoing communications from us and invites to events and workshops.

■ How to apply

To become a volunteer Walk Organiser, simply head online to <https://walking.heartfoundation.org.au/lead-a-walk> to complete the registration process.

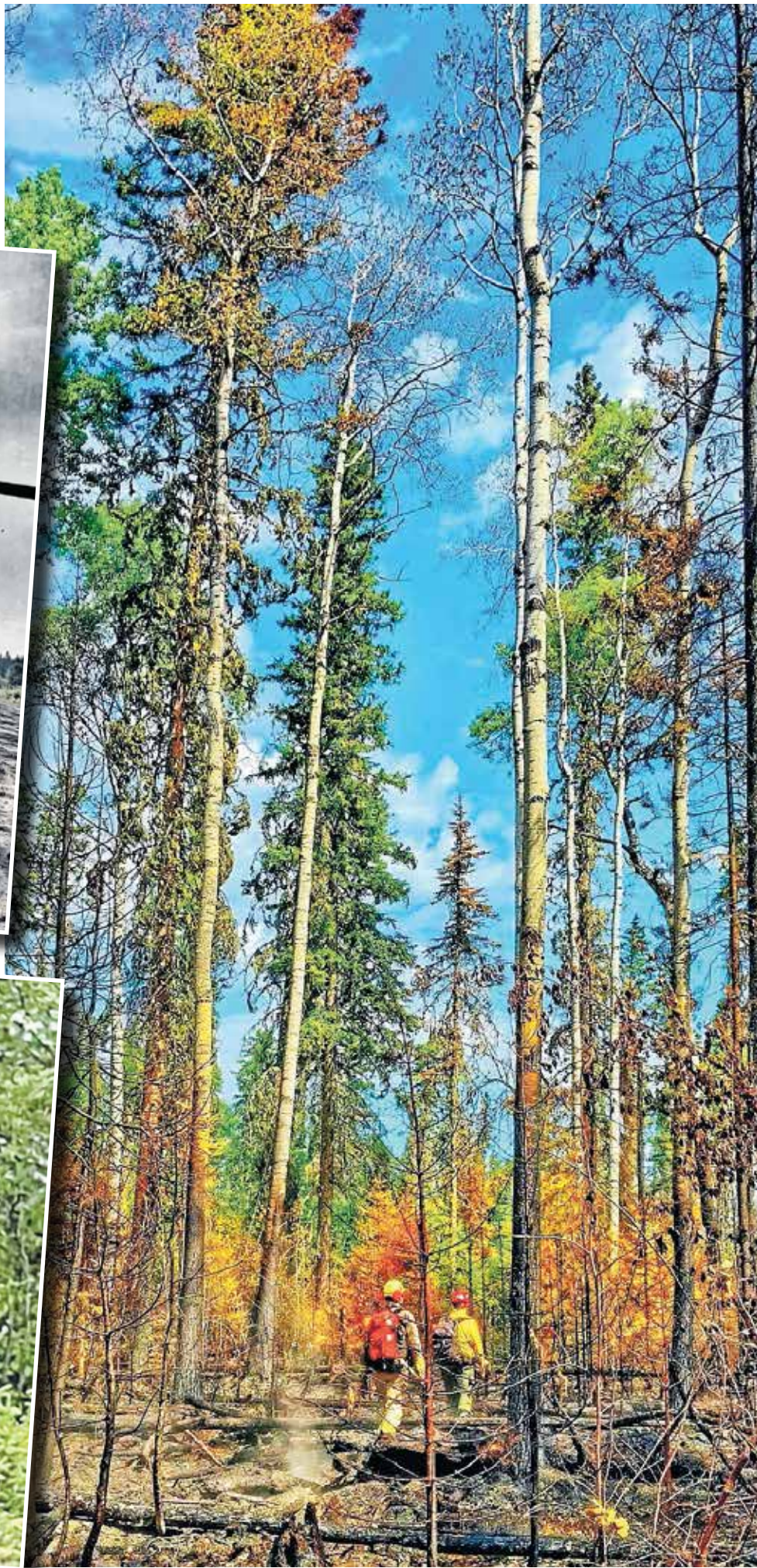
■ For more information

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Jim McKenzie, Jim McKenzie Agencies,
PO Box 210, Currie 7256 or email to **info@mckenzieagencies.com**
Applications close on 19th of June 2023

LANDSCAPE RESTORATION GRANTS AVAILABLE



Landcare Tasmania is delivering the Landcare Action Grants Open Round on behalf of the Tasmanian Government.

Landscape restoration projects and community projects are eligible. Round 1 Applications open 16th June and close 31st July 2023.



More information available at:
landcaretas.org.au/landcare_action_grants

Recipe secret tightly held



Winter woollies on King Island start with spinning local wool and fibres. Tracey Collyer shows how it's done at the POKI Market.



Sewing, quilting, for the kitchen, and souvenir keepsakes, Sandra Zander tries to have something for everyone at the POKI Market. Erika Buhck and Trish Doherty have had stalls at every market since POKI began, featuring handmade soaps, plants and homemade jams, preserves and relishes.



Traditional recipes stay in the family. Trish Doherty with her Nan's relish - a secret recipe from 1939.

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STALLHOLDERS at the Produce of King Island (POKI) Market never quite know what the market will bring, whether it's sun or rain and wind or if tourists will flock in or be out and about across the island.

Last weekend's market was no different. There were some new stallholders and the regulars took up their positions and displayed their wares. It was steady but not overly crowded when compared to last month's market when it was difficult to move in the Town Hall.

As the winter chill sets in,

woollen hats and beanies sat beside delicately handknitted and croqueted baby jumpers, booties and bonnets.

The big sellers once again were plants and home produce. Trish Doherty who sells her preserves each Friday at the CWA in Edward Street said that sales were okay and that most stalls seem to have made sales.

It was relaxed and a chance for people to casually catch up. When asked if the Courier could print her Nan's 1939 relish recipe she said, "No way.

REX joins Strait route

REGIONAL EXPRESS (REX) airline will start daily flights between Melbourne and Hobart on August 17.

The full-service flights on their newly acquired Boeing 737s start at \$79 one way.

The airline's deputy chairman John Sharp unveiled details of the new route in Hobart and was joined by Premier and Tourism Minister Jeremy Rockliff, Hobart Airport CEO Norris Carter and Tourism Tasmania CEO Sarah Clark.

The flights from Melbourne depart at 12.15 pm and arrive in Hobart at 1.30 pm. The return Hobart-Melbourne service will take off at 2.15 pm and touch down in Melbourne 75 minutes later. This schedule will provide

good connections for flights to and from Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane.

Fare of \$79 one way is less than half the cost of the cheapest Qantas fare at \$180. Business Class will be available from \$349, more than \$500 cheaper than a comparable Qantas fare at \$897.

"Hobart is one of the world's greatest tourist destinations which we are delighted to add to our network," Mr Sharp said. Premier Rockliff said the service will provide even more options for travel for both Tasmanians and visitors.

"Tourism has bounced back from the pandemic and is once again firing on all cylinders," Mr Rockliff said.

It's a secret. Not even Donna (her daughter) has this recipe...yet".

So if you missed buying at Saturday's POKI, pop into the CWA on Friday morning.

Mandy Potter, a POKI coordinator said that everyone seems to be pleased, even if the day was quieter. She agreed with other stallholders that while there were some visitors, most were locals.

"The busy time is between 10am and 11am when families with young children come to POKI. I think that

fits with their shopping, children's morning sport and maybe buying a doughnut, hot dog or other quick-grab food," said Deb Richardson.

The results of the POKI market raffle are Roger Frerk who won the crayfish, Jan Sharman won the \$50 butcher shop voucher, Michelle Mathers won the \$50 FoodWorks voucher, Jim McFadzean won the \$50 bakery voucher and Wendy Constable won the metal decorative art.

The next POKI market date will be posted on the Facebook King Island

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Reform that spells election doom Merge and be damned



STANSFIELD says
with Brad Stansfield

MANY years ago, during a discussion about Tasmania's forest industry and the then Labor-Green Government's so-called Forest Peace Deal, a wise man told me words to the effect that "there's many, many bodies buried in the politics of Tasmania's forest industry, and there's room for plenty more".

Never were truer words spoken. Subsequently, Labor and the Greens lost the 2014 election in a landslide and nearly a decade later Labor is still paying the political price of that ill-fated deal with the Greens.

The same could be said of the politics of forced council amalgamations in this state.

Despite history having proven that trying to force councils to amalgamate is to governments what kryptonite is to Superman, the topic just keeps on raising its head in political conversation.

The last to attempt it was Tony Rundle's Liberal government which proposed in 1997 to reduce the number of councils from 29 to 15. While it's broadly agreed that the main reason for Rundle's loss in the subsequent 1998 election was the proposed Hydro corporatisation, those in the know will tell you it was the attempted forced council mergers that caused the most damage.

Ever since then it's been an article of electoral common-sense for Premiers and Local Government Ministers to loudly proclaim "no forced amalgamations", while simultaneously embarking on increasingly creative policy gymnastics to try and bring those same council amalgamations about.

Former Premier Peter Gutwein's briefly lived "kumbaya" process in 2020 where it was

suggested that the three political parties (and independents) all sit down and agree to forced amalgamations before it could happen was the lowlight of this farce.

So, in many ways the words of the latest Local Government Minister, Nic Street, could be regarded as either a breath of fresh air or as political suicide – depending upon your point of view.

After an unelected panel of somebodies but mostly nobodies released their latest report recently proposing that Tasmania's existing 29 councils be reduced to nine, Minister Street took the heretical step of proclaiming that it was not a matter of if forced council amalgamations will happen – but rather, of when.

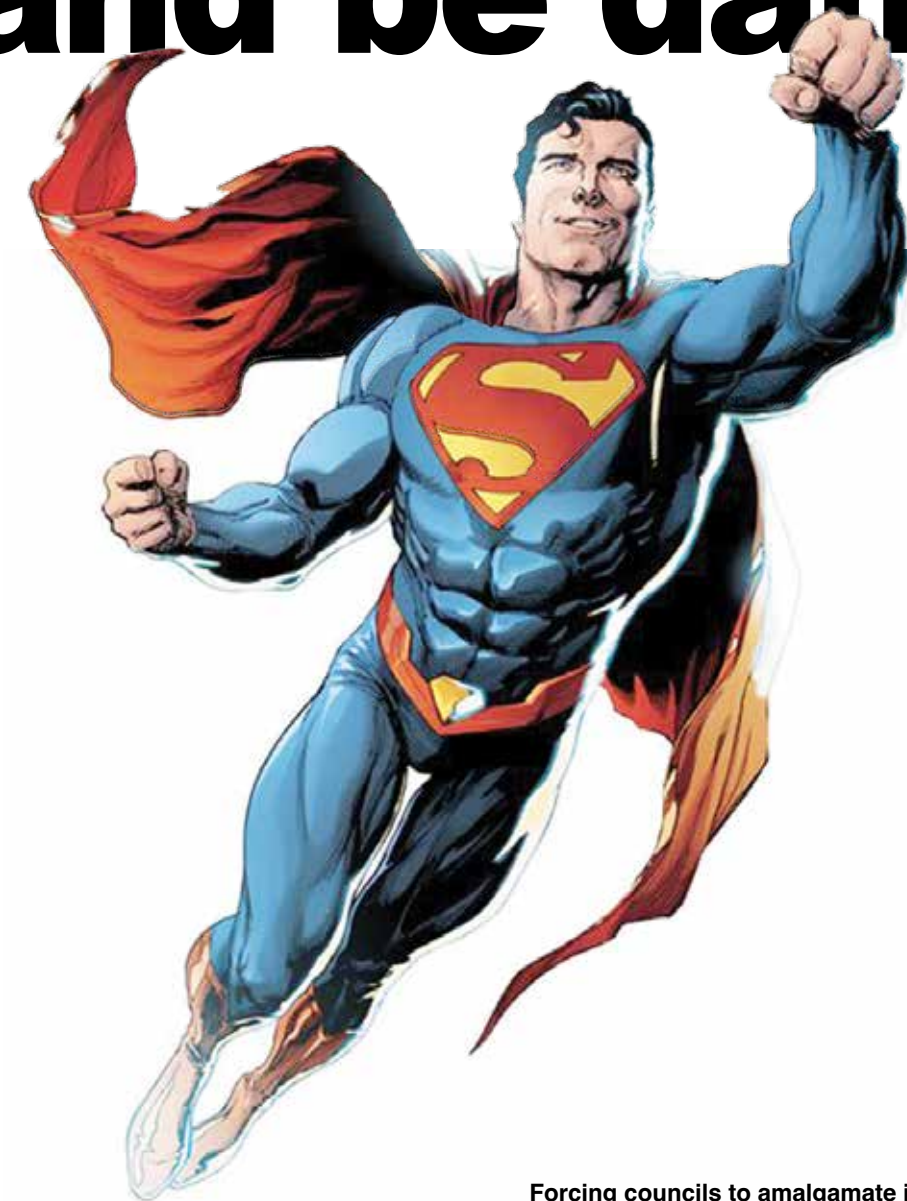
It's been clear to anyone watching closely for the past 12 months or so that this policy confirmation was coming.

But what I can't for the life of me understand is why, given that the Government has apparently taken the politically courageous decision to go down this road, its design is seemingly being dictated by the aforementioned group of unelected no-names, and why the policy is not clearly being communicated as part of the Rockliff Government's broader agenda.

It's no secret that Premier Rockliff is keen to leave a lasting legacy as a "reformer" who takes unpopular decisions despite them being politically unwise, such as increasing the size of the Parliament, and the Macquarie Point AFL stadium.

In that sense, forced council amalgamations is right on brand.

So why not own it – announce it months ago in the State of the



Forcing councils to amalgamate is to governments what kryptonite is to Superman.

“

It baffles me as to why these politically courageous decisions keep on being made by the Rockliff Government without any apparent consideration being given as to their political consequences

State speech; explain why you're doing it and why in your view it's the right thing for Tasmania?

It would also seem logical to have made at least some attempt to try and take the heat out of the inevitable political tsunami this decision will ultimately bring the Government's way.

For example, it would have been politically astute to rule out merging some of the smaller, geographically disparate councils such as King Island, the West Coast, East Coast and the Tasman.

Being a "reforming" premier or a "reforming" government is all well and good. But that

last time I checked, those governments that call themselves "reformists" tend to lose: Giddings-McKim 2010-2014; Rundle 1997; Field-Brown 1992; Newman (Qld) 2015 and most recently Perrottet (NSW). Worse, their party invariably ends up out of power for at least three terms.

Presumably, Premier Rockliff wants to be re-elected at the next election, due no later than the first half of 2025.

So it baffles me as to why these politically courageous decisions keep on being made by the Rockliff Government without any apparent

consideration being given as to their political consequences.

And then, once the decision is made, without any apparent consideration as to how it can be done in a way that mitigates the political damage to the Government.

Perhaps forcibly amalgamating councils is a worthwhile exercise for the Government to undertake and to expend political capital on. It's certainly more worthwhile than the Macquarie Point AFL stadium.

But no one should underestimate the political consequences this decision will have.

It will make the stadium look

like a political walk in the park.

In any case, it's almost certain not to pass the Parliament in the current circumstances, with at least one of the Liberal turncoats in John Tucker highly unlikely to support forced amalgamations.

My free advice to the Government: walk away from forced amalgamations, while you still can.

Brad Stansfield is a political and campaign strategist and a partner at Font PR and Font Publishing, owner of the King Island Courier.

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Shooters hit the target



Nika, left, and Nicholas Pretorius and Rudolf Britz.



Stacey Alexander, left, Stacey Campbell, Andrew Smith, Kevin Smith and Bear Alexander.



Ron, left, Ray and James Hill



Rudolf Britz, left, Shane Keeler and Michael Alexander.



Ron and Gypsy Hill.



Ron, left, and Sean Johnson.

LAURA KEELER

IT WAS a fantastic day at the King’s Birthday clayshoot on Monday. There was a great turnout of shooters and spectators.
Linda Crouch Memorial – 25 Target Double Barrel Handicap. Sponsored by King Island Dairy

1st – Shane Keeler 25/28
2nd – Rudolf Britz 24/28
3rd – James Hill 22/25
Leigh Williams Memorial – 25 Target Continental Handicap. Sponsored by Rod and Robyn Williams and King Island Dairy
1st – Michael Alexander 24/25
2nd – Evan Hill 23/25

3rd – Eric Mills and Campbell Keeler 21/25
Junior High Gun. Sponsored by Ron and Yvonne Hill.
Won by Gypsy Hill
Thank you to all our sponsors, their support for our club is greatly appreciated.



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Golf

Wind adds to challenge

A RATHER windy Saturday saw 15 golfers turn out.

The conditions were challenging and the scores weren’t that flash.

The stableford aggregate blind draw event provided much entertainment when the final results were announced.

Players scored as an individual, handed in their cards and Captain Richards paired up on a random selection.

The winners were Adam Hely 31 points with Tim Barnes 28 points. Runners up on a count back were Pud Watts 35 points with Garry Batchelor 24 points.

Best individual scores and no prizes Geoff Watts 35, Lance Anderson 32, Adam Hely 31 and Rab Denby 30.

The rest of the field in the 20s.

Nearest the Pin 3/12th Jim Cooper and his magic blue weapon again. 18th Adam Hely with the straightest hit for the whole round. Money Hole Rab Denby on 7th birdie.

Next Week will be the Cape Wickham stableford event. Reminder: Memberships are due.

Winners
Adam Hely and Tim Barnes





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Conflict comes home

The previous year, 1939 had seen a resurgence in football but with the war breaking out in Europe, this was certainly going to change. The community prepared to farewell Australian conscripts and volunteers and the dynamics of most people's lives changed drastically. With this background, the KIFA had real difficulty in getting a quorum for the AGM as the clubs kept holding off with their AGM.

TROY SMITH

WHEN a quorum was finally gained it was found that people had taken some dodgy liberties with the KIFA president L C Ross stores during the KIFA dinner.

Mr Ross (and it appears a few others) had quite fairly had enough and wrote letters to the King Island News admonishing the "lack of respect and bad sportsmanship" shown to him.

A lot of the goodwill that had advanced the game so much the previous year went missing.

Mr Ross resigned but eventually came back to the president's role in an effort to get the season moving. The press reported that "the mountain laboured and bought forth a mouse."

To add to this, a motion was presented to the KIFA and passed to revert to district football with Currie gaining the immediate Currie area while Grassy and North shared the North and South.

This motion and others were passed and then subsequently rescinded at the next meeting due to perceived "preferential treatment". To make matters worse the KIFA secretary Mr J C Dwyer had left the island, as had the Grassy Football Club founding figure president/



At the Grassy Football Club Player Revue held in the 1940s GFC stalwart and 1940 club secretary Eddie Henderson, far right, took to the stage.

captain/coach and star player, the Reverend Gil W Duthie. Both of these gentlemen were instrumental in the energy and focus of the successful previous season.

The newspaper football writer was also gone and the write-ups we rely on today were very short and inconsistent.

To the association's credit, the season got underway, even if it was somewhat subdued. The Grassy football club appointed a new president Mr P Brennan, the vice president was Mr I Edwards whilst the secretary remained the redoubtable Mr Eddie Henderson. The new captain was Frank Elliot. No references were found to the other 2 clubs' AGM, but M Scott was the new NFC secretary and Keith Reville was their captain again.

The crowd for the opening game was described somewhat sarcastically: "The Currie oval certainly had no difficulty in coping with the influx of spectators". North was strong from the get-go thrashing Grassy by booting 15 goals, whilst Grassy remained goalless.

Ron Stillman and Watty Scott getting some kudos alongside the brilliant McHughs and Bogie. Whilst Bill Fisher did his best to "infuse some system into Grassy's play".

North then beat Currie by 27 points with Reville and the McHughs getting mentions. Grassy copped another pasting when North kicked 16-16-112 to Grassy's 1-9-15. The brilliant

Frank (Pop) Elliot was wasted up forward whilst the Williams and McHughs were prominent for North.

North won their first 5 games with Currie pushing them at Yambacoon to get within 4 points.

The only glitch for North came when a player was reported for striking the central umpire (W Laming). No tribunal result was found for this most serious charge.

Grassy then got within 2 points of Currie and pushed North to a 6-point loss late in the season kicking 9 goals in that game. North also dealt with Currie by 6 points with the McHughs and Williams again prominent whilst Lofty Darley and Whitty did some good work for Currie.

While more of the local boys were being feted and farewelled as they shipped out to training camps and to Europe, North went on their merry way recording strong victories over all and sundry. The NFC recorded 9 wins to Curries 4 wins and Grassy was winless.

The last game between Currie and Grassy was not played and although we couldn't find the results of one North v Currie match it was reported that North were undefeated for the season. The best players mentioned throughout the season were for North; Bob and Max McHugh, Keith Reville, Lindsay Williams, Max Williams, Watty Scott, Fred Summers, Watson and William Bogie.

For the CFC: Lofty Darley, Pat and Phil Farrell, Len Barnes, Jim Graham, Bill Groom and Jack Marshall. Grassy was best served by: Frank Elliot, P Brennan, Monty Yeomans, Plant, Alf Moles. Bill Fisher & Towns.

Grassy hadn't qualified for the finals so we were straight off to another North and Currie Grand final. The first quarter was very even with both sides kicking 4 goals and the second followed the script with the play being mainly held in the centre of the ground and at half time Currie had worried North with a 3-point lead. The pace

was telling on the older Currie players in the third term and North took advantage, building a 14-point lead at the last change. Two quick goals to North made it look like it was all over, but Currie matched those goals. North again goaded and ran out 21-point winners in a great match.


The best players for North were Lindsay & Max Williams, Jack Coulter, Watty Scott, Bob McHugh, Watson, Jack Summers and Tom Wiltshire. Jack Coulter kicked 4 goals, Alf Moles 3, Jack Summers, Watty Scott and Bob McHugh 1 each.

Currie was best served by Len Morrison, Jack Marshall, E (Ted) Curbishley, Len Barnes, Earl Smith and the Farrells - Phil and young Dave.

The Currie goals came courtesy of Dave Farrell, Len Barnes, Bill Groom and Drake. Jack Summers was declared the winner of the best junior trophy but there was no mention of best players and goal kickers nor were any junior or schoolboy football games recorded.

Throughout the year there were ongoing King Island War Service fundraisers from balls through luncheons and sporting events to raise money for the fund and for Comfort parcels, containing socks, balaclavas, handkerchiefs and similar. These were sent regularly to King Island 'sons' in camps and to those deployed overseas and by mid-year more fundraising and weekly wages donations were called for as 'the number of parcels was growing large.'

Please help us celebrate
the full life of



JOCELYN LOUISE BOWDEN

With heavy hearts, the Bowden family would like to announce the unexpected passing of our dear Joc.

A short Quaker service celebrating Jocelyn's life will be held at 2pm on Sunday 18 June at the Friends Meeting House in Hobart.

A memorial will be held at 10am on Sunday 25 June at the King Island Golf Club. Jocelyn requested her memorial be a celebration of her life with some live music from friends. Please come with your best stories of Jocelyn.

If you would like to play, please bring your instrument and get in touch with Liz on 0419 779 339.



TGS OTWAY BASIN MARINE SEISMIC SURVEY COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

TGS welcomes you to attend a community information session regarding their proposed marine seismic survey within the Otway Basin.

TGS will provide information about marine seismic surveying and an overview of their proposed project followed by an opportunity for the community to discuss any queries or concerns.

Please join us on **26th June** between **6:00 – 7:00 pm** at the King Island Club.