



Dorset Business District Newsletter

Proudly brought to you by the **North East Tasmania Chamber of Commerce Inc**

Issue 13 | Jul - Sep 2026
Published Quarterly



Message from Chamber

Federal Budget 2026: Small business cannot keep carrying the weight alone

Across North East Tasmania, small businesses, farmers, tradespeople and family operators are facing growing financial pressure. Rising power prices, insurance premiums, wages, freight costs, supplier increases and workforce shortages are continuing to erode already thin margins, leaving many businesses focused on survival rather than growth.

Agriculture remains the backbone of many regional communities, yet farmers continue to face escalating input costs, labour shortages and transport challenges while providing vital economic and community benefits.

The 2026 Federal Budget includes some welcome measures. The permanent extension of the \$20,000 Instant Asset Write-Off provides greater certainty for businesses investing in equipment, technology and infrastructure. Support for startups and innovation, along with making Australian Standards freely accessible, are also positive steps that reduce costs and encourage investment.

However, these initiatives do not adequately address the immediate

pressures facing existing small businesses. Operators continue to absorb significant increases in operating costs while consumer spending and business confidence remain subdued.

Proposed changes to capital gains tax concessions and discretionary trust arrangements are creating uncertainty for family-owned businesses, many of which view their enterprises as both their livelihood and retirement plan. The reduction in regional skilled migration allocations is also concerning, particularly for regions already experiencing workforce shortages across hospitality, agriculture, healthcare and trades.

Small businesses are the economic backbone of regional communities. Governments must move beyond announcements and deliver practical measures that reduce pressure, strengthen regional workforces and create confidence for businesses to invest, employ and grow.

**Fiona Auton
Chair
NETCC**

Inside this issue

- Dorset Council Mayor's Report 2
- Health & Wellbeing – Tackling Indecision 3
- Tax & Super Changes for businesses 3
- Full wrap up of Dorset People & Business Awards 2026 4
- What is IP and Why Does It Matter in Business? 6
- Useful Contacts 6

NETCC Membership Benefits

Did you know that NETCC members receive associate membership with Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry which includes advice and discounted rates on TCCI training sessions?

Visit our website for more information:
netcc.org.au/become-a-member

2026 Dorset People & Business Awards – pages 4 & 5

This newsletter is proudly printed by

Janie Finlay MP

Authorised by Janie Finlay 253 Wellington Street Launceston 7250 janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au ph 63 24 20 60

Tasmanian **Labor**

Dorset Council – long-term sustainability and prosperity



Over the past quarter, Council has remained actively engaged in matters central to the long-term sustainability and prosperity of our region.

A key advocacy role I have been playing has been in relation to the proposed conversion of Rushy Lagoon into forestry. This work has involved representing community concerns, engaging with relevant stakeholders, and ensuring that decision-makers fully understand the economic, environmental, and social implications of land-use change. My focus has been on achieving a balanced, well-informed outcome that protects the region's long-term interests while supporting sustainable development.

In parallel, we have been working closely with the Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation (NTDC). Through a series of meetings and collaborative discussions, we have

contributed to shaping their strategic direction for the next three years. This is an important opportunity to ensure the priorities of North East Tasmania are clearly represented—particularly in areas such as regional investment, infrastructure, and sustainable growth.

Looking ahead, Council is now focused on preparing the upcoming budget for approval. This process is grounded in responsible financial management, ensuring we deliver essential services while investing in initiatives that support business confidence, community wellbeing, and long-term economic resilience.

We remain committed to transparent decision-making, strong regional partnerships, and practical outcomes that benefit our community and local enterprises.

Rhys Beattie
Mayor
Dorset Council



1300 400 843 | www.vie.com.au

MEET

REGINA BLAIR

PROPERTY FINANCE ADVISOR



YOUR NORTH EAST VIE ADVISOR
SCOTTSDALE APPOINTMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

TALK TO REGINA ABOUT:

- + Home Loans
- + Refinancing
- + Construction Finance
- + First Home Buying
- + Pre-Approvals

BOOK NOW



Health & Wellbeing – How to tackle indecision

Indecision, or analysis paralysis, refers to when individuals delay making important and stressful decisions or obsess over a few choices.

There are several reasons why making decisions can be difficult. For example, you:

- Are overwhelmed by possible options;
- Feel the need to make the 'best' choice and thereby delay until thorough you've done heaps of research;
- Have a fear of making the wrong decision and you end up stalling your decision in case you make the wrong one.

I think everyone feels like this from time to time, and there are lots of reasons that can cause these negative feelings and periods of indecisiveness, such as anxiety around failure, perfectionism and overthinking, lack of confidence, and being stressed and under a lot of pressure. Like procrastination, indecision leads to anxiety, worry, regret, shame, rumination, and ultimately negatively impacts one's quality of life, social life, and wellbeing. Indecision in turn can cause procrastination, but procrastination can also be used by indecisive people as a coping mechanism for the problem of making a difficult and important decision.

Here are some strategies you can use when you're feeling stuck:

1. Start Small, Grow Big: The Power of Incremental Growth. Making tiny, low-risk choices on purpose is one of the fastest, most research-backed ways to beat indecisiveness. You practice deciding on small things until your decisions become easier. Practice makes perfect, and in the case of making decisions, this is no different. You can start with things that matter little if you change your mind later, like what to eat for breakfast for the next three days, what to wear to work etc. Beginning with tiny, clear steps leads to what's known as the power of small wins. Regular, visible progress improves your motivation. It also helps you keep moving

forward. As with everything else in life, we get better by practice and starting small, making smaller decisions, and consciously and deliberately observing the positive outcomes helps in building self-confidence and promoting a sense of self-efficacy.

2. Stop chasing the 'perfect' choice

Worrying so much about making the 'right' or 'best' decision can hold you back from reaching any decision at all. Breaking the cycle of perfectionism and overthinking will require a mindset shift. Remind yourself that no decision guarantees a perfect outcome. Since there's often no way of knowing what decision will end up being the 'right' one, getting comfortable tolerating some amount of uncertainty in your decision-making process is crucial when you need to choose.

One way to do that is thinking about how you'd handle the worst-case results of your decision. This can make the decision feel less risky and like it's not the end of the world if something goes wrong. Also, be kind to yourself if a decision doesn't turn out as expected; don't beat yourself up, you made the decision and now you can focus on what's next.

3. Cultivate self-compassion and positivity. Indecision can feel awful. And it's hard to make good decisions from a place of pain and fear. So, we have to start with some compassion for ourselves. Life is hard and making decisions is tough. Acknowledge that it's okay to not be sure what to do, it's okay to be scared. Along these lines is making sure to monitor self-talk. One of the causes of indecision is low confidence and having negative and self-critical thoughts, doubting one's competence. Monitoring and listening to one's thoughts and self-doubts while decision-making is equally important.

4. Talk things over. If you have a big decision to make, talking it over with someone may be useful. Receiving objective advice from a trusted person can really help with clarity but also reassure us that we are on the right track. What's

more, you'll gain a wider perspective that could enhance your ability to make future decisions. But remember, you can't rely on other people to make the decision for you; that doesn't help in the long run, and next time you feel indecisive you'll offload the difficult decisions and avoid agency in your own life. These are your decisions, and only you can make them.

5. Practice Mindfulness and Emotional Awareness. Being mindful teaches you to notice your thoughts and emotions without letting them control your actions. Often, what we call "indecisiveness" is really emotional discomfort, fear, guilt, or worry that we haven't yet acknowledged. Simply labelling your emotions, for instance, "I'm anxious about choosing this," lowers activity in the brain areas responsible for fear.

Here are some ways to get started:

Label your feelings out loud when trying to make a decision so your brain can process it.

Write down one decision you made each day and note how it turned out. Seeing a running list of choices you handled well, evidence of your competency and ability to make good decisions, strengthens belief in your own ability. Remind yourself that every decision carries some uncertainty, and that's okay.

6. Make it work. Rather than spend your time worrying you made the wrong decision or regretting it, why not use that time and energy making the choice work? Choosing the 'best' option does not always guarantee that things will turn out well in the long run, just as choosing a less-than-ideal option does not guarantee failure or dissatisfaction. How you apply yourself to that choice is what really counts.

Once you've made the decision, avoid second-guessing yourself. We may not always make the right decision, but we can make the decision right.

**Supplied courtesy of Ellen,
Well Being Committee**

Tax and super changes for businesses – from 1 July 2026

From 1 July 2026, a range of changes will come into effect that may impact how businesses manage their finances, employees, and obligations. As a business owner, now is the time to review these updates and speak with your accountant or advisor to ensure you understand your responsibilities.

Key changes to be aware of include:

- National Minimum Wage increases
- Payday Super begins
- Small Business Superannuation Clearing House closes
- instant asset write-off thresholds
- loss carry back tax offset for eligible companies

- changes to company fees and charges
- updates to Paid Parental Leave arrangements
- payroll tax rebates for apprentices and trainees
- superannuation guarantee rate increases
- denial of tax deductions for ATO interest charges.

These changes may affect your payroll, reporting, and overall cost of doing business.

Preparing early can help you avoid unexpected impacts and ensure your business remains compliant. Getting prepared and planning ahead now

will make the changes easier and will help your business stay compliant and avoid unnecessary stress when the changes take effect.

For assistance in understanding your obligations, you can speak with your accountant, bookkeeper or access free support services available through Business Tasmania. To find out more about the support available to you, please visit: business.tas.gov.au/free-personalised-support

or contact the friendly team at Business Tasmania on 1800 440 026 or via email at: ask@business.tas.gov.au

Sourced from Business Tasmania

2026 Dorset People & Business Awards

Dorset champions in the spotlight

Around 120 people filled the Scottsdale Mechanics Institute Hall for the inaugural Dorset People Business Awards gala evening on March 27.

After months of planning and public engagement, the community came together to celebrate the individuals, businesses and organisations who consistently go above and beyond.

The historic venue came to life on the evening, with Hubert and Dan's boutique catering, live entertainment from the Jam Plan and floral arrangements by Flowers of Ironstone.

The community was called on to nominate their colleagues, friends, family and favourite businesses, and they understood the brief, delivering some 300 heartfelt nominations via online and in-

person ballot boxes. From this, 75 finalists were selected across 19 categories.

Some categories were referred to external judges, while the others were decided by People's Choice voting, which in one week received a total of 10,309 votes.

Many of the nominees, finalists and winners expressed their appreciation for being recognised – often unsung heroes who strive for excellence each day while serving for the Dorset community, with no expectation of praise or accolades.

Overall, this opportunity to pause and celebrate the talent, innovation and dedication within our region has been a reminder of Dorset's strong community spirit, which will hopefully in turn foster growth and confidence in our local workforce.

This initiative was proudly presented by Dorset Employment Connect, and after several years in the pipeline, we have been able to bring the vision to life thanks to generous community partnerships.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to our principal partner North East Tasmania Chamber of Commerce, major sponsors Bridestowe Lavender Estate and Woolnorth Renewables, and our generous community sponsors: Dorset Council, TasTAFE, Harcourts North-East, D&Me, McPhersons Chainsaws, Little Rivers, Pipers Brook Vineyard and Bridport Bay Inn.

Planning is currently underway for the next Dorset People and Business Awards in March 2027.

By Daisy Arnold

Marketing and Events coordinator,
Dorset Employment Connect



• Jane Kilburn - Outstanding Employee Award



• Phoebe Singline - Aged Care Worker of the Year



• Nic Betts owner NB Media - Most Innovative Business Award



• Danica Beeson, Lou Hayward (Teazed owner), Emma Dobber - Excellence in Hairdressing, Beauty & Wellbeing



• Cynthia Summers owner Scottsdale Shoe Shop - Excellence in Retail Award



• Kim Weston of Bridestowe Lavender Estate with Natalie Wise - Local Tourism Leader Award



• Paige Springer - Growing Futures in Hospitality Graduate with Harrison Hughes from Winnaleah District High School and Phil McKenzie from Barnboughe Dunes.



• Michael, Jillene and Joel Brill of Stronach Industries Group - Longstanding Business Award



• Scott and Fiona Auton, owners of The House Paddock - Excellence in Hospitality



• Blade Manders (CEO) & Fiona Onslow-Agnew of Celebrate Aminya - Exceptional Workplace Award



• Karen Whelan - Support/Disability Worker of the Year and Borys Szydowski - Outstanding Customer Service



• Ava Beeson - Project Y Excellence Award



• Explore Learning Educational Centre - Excellence in Early Learning and Child Care Award



• Mitchell Doohan, TasTAFE Apprentice of the Year



• Kylie Rattray - Agriculture Champion Award with Elizabeth Hadley accepting Young Professional of the Year Award on behalf of son Will Hadley.



Congratulations to the winners of the Dorset People and Business Awards

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:

Apprentice of the Year - sponsored by TasTAFE
Mitchell Doohan,
J&J Mechanical Tas

Outstanding Customer Service Award
– sponsored by North East Chamber of Commerce
Borys Szydowski, Bridport Pharmacy

Young Professional of the Year
Will Hadley,
Heatherfield Angus

Outstanding Employee Award
Jane Kilburn,
Dorset Council

Project Y Excellence Award
Ava Beeson

Support/Disability Worker of the Year
Karen Whelan,
Dorset Community Care

Aged Care Worker of the Year
Phoebe Singline,
Celebrate Aminya Celebrate Health Care

Tradesperson of the Year
William Brown,
DB Electrical Tasmania

Educator of the Year
Andrew 'Butch' Krushka,
Scottsdale High School

**Local Tourism Leader Award – Sponsored by
Bridestowe Lavender Estate**
Natalie Wise, Rotary Club of Scottsdale

Agriculture Champion
Kylie Rattray,
Scottsdale High School

INDUSTRY AWARDS:

**Excellence in Hairdressing,
Beauty & Wellbeing**
Teazed

Excellence in Hospitality
The House Paddock

**Excellence in Early Learning
and Child Care**
Explore Learning Educational Centre

Excellence in Retail
Scottsdale Shoe Shop

Excellence in Tourism
Barnbogle Dunes

Exceptional Workplace
Celebrate Aminya Celebrate Health Care

**Most Innovative Business – sponsored by
Woolnorth Renewables**
NB Media

Longstanding Business Award
Stronach Industries Group

Useful Contacts

All Emergency Services

Fire 000
Police 000
Ambulance 000

NESM Hospital 6778 8522

Ochre Medical 6352 2522

Tas Police (Non-urgent)
131 444

Parks & Wildlife Scottsdale
Field Centre 6352 6421

Service Tas 1300 135 513

TasNetworks
Power Outage 132 004

TCCI 1300 559 112

North-Eastern
Advertiser 6352 2642

To find a Justice of the Peace in your area, go to:
[https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/commissioners-for-declarations-and-justices-of-the-peace/find](https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/commissioners-for-declarations-and-justices-of-the-peace/justice-of-the-peace/find)

Join Us – become a NETCC member!

Annual memberships are still available for anyone wishing to join our Chamber. Benefits include: access to TCCI resources and training; free workshops and events hosted by Chamber; NETCC directory listing; and monthly meetings and events

with invited special guests.

All are great opportunities to network and be involved in your local business community.

Contact secretary@netcc.org.au for a member form or apply/renew online at: netcc.org.au/become-a-member

What is IP and why does it matter in business?

Intellectual Property (IP) refers to the parts of your business that you have created and are unique to you. Some examples of IP include, your business name and logo, a unique product, design or invention, website content, photos and marketing materials, as well as a recipe, process or method you have invented or discovered.

IP is extremely important to your business because it is the thing that helps protect what makes your business unique and stand out from your competitors. It prevents others from copying your work and adds value to your business.

If someone can recognise it as yours, or you created it, there's a good chance it's your IP.

For assistance, the Australian Government's IP website has tools and guidance to help you learn how to protect your IP and what to do if someone has copied your ideas. The Australian Government has just launched a chatbot that can assist in answering questions and helping you find suitable resources.



You can access it here:
ipfirstresponse.ipaustralia.gov.au/

The Tasmanian Government provides access to a confidential and obligation-free visiting patent and trademark attorney program which provides up to 30 minutes of free advice. The details about this program and other helpful information about IP, is available on Business Tasmania's website:

business.tas.gov.au/how-do-i-start-a-business/help-to-start-a-business/intellectual-property.

Sourced from Business Tasmania

Chamber Meetings

NETCC Meetings are held the first Monday of the month (except long weekends).

Next General Meetings:
Jul 6th, Aug 3rd, Sep 7th AGM
See netcc.org.au for more details



Subscribe
Want to join our email newsletter list?
OR interested in
Advertising
contact:
chairman@netcc.org.au

Your feedback is welcome and appreciated!

oodals

Proudly supplying Graphic Design Services for the
Dorset Business District Newsletter

Contact Susie on 0417 329 975
oodals.au hello@oodals.com.au

LITTLE RIVERS BREWING CO.

littlerivers.com.au

Proudly brought to you by the
North East Tasmania Chamber of Commerce Inc

www.netcc.org.au
4/33 King Street (p) 0438 523 436
Scottsdale Tas 7260 (e) secretary@netcc.org.au