



Dorset Business District Newsletter

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

Issue 10 | Oct - Dec 2025

Published Quarterly



Message from Chamber

I would like to extend my congratulations to Fiona Auton on her election as President. I will continue to serve as Vice President. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Sue, Andrew, Susie, and the Executive Committee for their invaluable support and guidance throughout my 4 years as President. It has been both an honour and a

privilege to represent the Chamber and its members. I extend my best wishes to Fiona for her role as President and express hope that the experience will be both engaging and fulfilling.

Thank you for your support.

Maria Branch
Vice President

A Message from the New Chair: Fiona Auton

Dear Chamber Members,

I'm thrilled to introduce myself as the newly appointed Chair of the North East Tasmania Chamber of Commerce. It's a real privilege to take on this role following in Maria Branch's carefully positioned footsteps. To work alongside such a passionate and hardworking business community across the North East is a pleasure, with many aspects to focus on initially.

As I step into this position, I want to build on the fantastic work already

achieved by the Chamber over many years while also focusing on the challenges and opportunities ahead. Over the next year, my priorities will include:

- **Support** – advocating for better childcare access and exploring housing shortages which are currently creating staffing pressures in businesses.
- **Regional growth** – supporting projects and initiatives that will keep our towns vibrant, sustainable, and attractive places to live, work, and visit.
- **Sidling Range upgrade** – working together with the State Government and road users to establish the best access across the Range including a detailed examination of Corkery's Road option.

Our Chamber is only as strong as the voices within it. That's why membership is also a critical focus for the entire committee. Being a financial member is essential to the success of the Chamber and the region. We want to hear from you—your ideas, concerns, and ambitions for our region matter. Together, we can make sure the North East continues to

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www.netcc.org.au

grow in the right direction.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the upcoming Chamber End of Year Forum in December, where I'll share more about our plans and hear your thoughts on the year experienced and ahead.

Thank you for the warm welcome from so many of you—I'm excited about what we can achieve together.

Warm regards,

Fiona Auton
Chair

North East Tasmania
Chamber of Commerce



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Labor Tasmanian

Dorset Council – A Renewed Sense of Optimism

Dear Chamber Members,
Spring is upon us, and with it comes a renewed sense of optimism and momentum across our region.

I'm proud to share that the past few months have seen a remarkable surge in private development applications



• **August Chamber Out and About Event:** Our special guest speaker was Taylor Clyne from Blue Derby Foundation.

and, in turn, investment—an encouraging sign of confidence in our local economy and the vibrancy of our business community.

From new commercial developments to planning for a new pier and the rise of innovative startups, investors are choosing our municipality as a place to grow, create, and thrive.

This influx of capital is not only helping to revitalise our regional towns but also creating jobs, boosting local supply chains, and enhancing the overall quality of life for our residents.

Council remains committed to supporting this growth and is focused on guiding the community toward developing an economic environment where people and businesses thrive. Together, we're building a region that welcomes opportunity and rewards ambition.

Thank you for your continued leadership



and partnership. Let's keep the momentum going.

Kind regards,

Rhys Beattie
Mayor
Dorset Council

Upcoming Chamber Workshops – FREE to Members

Focus on Success

Create a one-page strategic focus plan for your business.

Every business needs a clear plan — but getting it down on paper can feel overwhelming. This hands-on workshop will guide you through a practical process to create a one-page Strategic Focus Plan for your business or organisation.

Hosted by **North East Tasmania Chamber of Commerce**, and presented by **TCCI** - you'll leave with actionable strategies, fresh insights, and access to TCCI's EOCA-supported training and resources.

Wednesday, October 8
Scottsdale Library
10am to 12.30pm



Finding the Balance

Right to Disconnect & Flexible Working arrangements in Practice

Designed for small business owners, team leaders and support staff, this free half-day workshop will help businesses navigate the Right to Disconnect and the Fair Work Act's flexible work provisions, while balancing staff wellbeing and business needs.

Hosted by **North East Tasmania Chamber of Commerce**, and presented by **TCCI** - you'll leave with actionable strategies, fresh insights, and access to TCCI's EOCA-supported training and resources.

Wednesday, November 5
Scottsdale Library
10am to 12.30pm



For more information and how to register please visit our website: netcc.org.au/news-and-events
Non-members welcome to express their interest by contacting: chairman@netcc.org.au

Dorset Employment Connect: Opportunities await at expo

Are you looking for a new career pathway or training opportunity?

Dorset Employment Connect's Careers and Education Expo is returning in November and will showcase a diverse range of career and education opportunities from butchery and marine science, through to aged care and agriculture and everything in between.

This annual event offers an interactive and informative day full of possibilities for jobseekers, students, and anyone looking to explore career and training opportunities. Come along and experience mocktail making with Hospitality Tasmania, step foot

inside the ADF's armoured vehicle or try your hand at forestry harvesting with the Arbore simulator.

Bringing together a range of local employers, training providers and career services, the Expo is the perfect opportunity to discover new pathways, gain insight into emerging trends, and even make direct connections with local businesses.

Whether you're considering a career change, returning to work, or exploring education and training opportunities, this event has something for everyone.

Dorset Employment Connect, along with its specialised youth program

Project Y, is dedicated to helping young people and jobseekers find meaningful employment and training opportunities in the local area.

Join us at the free Expo on Tuesday 18 November at the Scottsdale RSL Club from 9.30am-3.30pm to explore your future.

For more information, contact Dorset Employment Connect via email: admin@dorsetec.org.au and follow us on Facebook for sneak peeks of exhibitors.

Daisy Arnold
Employment Connector
Dorset Employment Connect
dorsetec.org.au



Dorset Employment Connect. Careers & Education Expo

Join more than 50 businesses, training and education providers to explore career paths, job ideas and training opportunities.



Tuesday November 18, 2025
9.30am-3.30pm
Scottsdale RSL

Free entry. Public event. All welcome.

explore your future...



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Lucky Shopper Promotion 2025



The Christmas season is fast approaching and Chamber, with the help of our new coordinator Helena Bowen, the Lucky Shopper Promotion is again ready to start in November.

Retailers/organisations in the Dorset Business District have the opportunity be part of this yearly promotion offering to their customers discounts and specials, chance to boost their businesses and invite the community to shop locally during the lead up to Christmas.

Chamber will assist by focusing on the participants through listing on our website and Facebook page. A full-page promotional advertisement will be placed in the North Eastern Advertiser indicating the participating outlets for customers to identify.

All participants will display a promotional poster as recognition to their customers and after shopping in the outlets, customers can enter, either by scanning the QR code or manually fill in tickets, which are located within the stores.

The customers can enter as many times (note: must be a separate purchase) as they wish, and the entry will go into a draw with up to 9 hampers as prizes. A window display of these hampers can be seen in D & Me Fashion during the month of December. Participating retailers/organisations kindly donate gifts, vouchers towards the prize pool, creating these amazing hampers, as a thank you for shopping locally, and for our lucky shoppers to have a chance to win.

The promotion starts on the 10th of November and collection of tickets and closing date is on Saturday 13th December. Date drawn will be Monday, 15th of December.

This year, the late-night shopping will take place on Friday, 12th of December, providing extra opportunities for locals to enter the promotion and in turn help support our wonderful outlets in the Dorset District.

Hope you all enjoy the experience of shopping in our wonderful region and Good Luck.



• Lucky Shopper organiser and D&Me Fashion owner Helena Bowen.



Promotion starts November 10th, Late-night shopping night Friday, December 12th

Save the Date



Chamber Out & About: Annual Christmas Forum

Our final Chamber event of the year will be a Christmas gathering to be held at Little Rivers, 22 Victoria Street, Scottsdale on Thursday December 4th. This event is free to all members and invited guests. For more information contact: chairman@netcc.org.au.



ALARM ACTIVATION



SIGNAL TRANSMISSION



BRIGADE ATTENDANCE

Alarm Signalling Equipment (ASE) Business Delivery Model - Project Update

Under Tasmanian legislation for building occupancy, it is a requirement that certain buildings must have monitored fire alarm signalling equipment (ASE) installed, ensuring early warning to occupants and rapid response from firefighters.

Following Telstra's 3G shutdown, the Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) undertook a staged upgrade of more than 2,000 ASE units statewide. The technical requirements for these systems are set out in the [ASE Installation Guidelines](#), and only licensed contractors with valid [TFS Fire Protection Permits](#) can install or maintain them.

TFS is now reviewing the ASE business delivery model and will consult with stakeholders and the wider community over the next 12 months. More information, forms and FAQs are also available via the [TFS Resources page](#).

For further details or to provide feedback, contact the ASE Project Team at: Monique.Careless@dpfem.tas.gov.au or call 0409 286 495.

• From TCCI News & Events, September 3, 2025

ADVERTISEMENT

Michael Ferguson

Liberal Member for Bass

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✉ michael.ferguson@dpac.tas.gov.au

Always here for you

Liberal

Authorised by M. Ferguson, Level 1, 53 St John St, Launceston



‘The Rollercoaster of Life’ by Janine

It was 1997, and what were we thinking! Craig arrived home from a Dorset Council assignment at the Sideling Lookout and announced that we would become tour operators. With no experience in the tourism industry, this was going to be a cheeky challenge. But that wasn't all. The region was primarily focused on forestry and farming, with tourism being a low-profile industry.

Pepper Bush Adventures became operational within six months, when Barnboughle Dunes was only a thought bubble and mountain biking was nowhere on the horizon. Initially, everything we did was experimental. Still, in a short time, Craig's passion for the bush steered us toward nature-based touring for international visitors.

In the year 2000, Craig was the first tourism operator from Dorset to attend the Australian Tourism Exchange. Craig

attended the ATE annually until 2009. His passion for northeast Tasmania and our nature-based products caught the attention of international buyers.

We learned early that the international tourism industry is a fickle business. After investing marketing dollars in Craig's role as a delegate on a world trade mission tour with Tourism Tasmania, visiting the USA, the UK, and Singapore, a few days after arriving home, the World Trade Centers were attacked, and international travel declined.

There were more tough years ahead. SARS, Bird Flu, followed by the World Trade Centres, and then the Global Financial Crisis. All these international events had an impact on our sales. After each event, we made a steady recovery. In 2015, we employed our son, Ben, who has developed into a highly regarded wildlife and birding guide. However, COVID-19 took hold in 2020. Australia closed its

borders for two years, which shut the door to our customers. Those were difficult times, but, as with the earlier setbacks, we rode them out and found our way back.

Since the Australian borders reopened in 2022, we have been experiencing our best and most consistent sales years. We entertain visitors from North America, the UK, and Europe. Some clients come to Tasmania solely to participate in one of our tour programs. In recent years, we have entertained the former FBI Director, a prince,



and a princess of Saudi Arabia. We offer outings for high-end visitors departing Saffire Freycinet.

Locally, we offer two magical after-dark wildlife-viewing experiences, complete with campfire dinners. We combine these products with day tours that visit northeast Tasmania's natural assets, including Mt. William, regional forests, and waterfalls, or perhaps some birdwatching.

Our products are regarded as some of Australia's best and are often reviewed as a highlight of visits to Australia. We value the onsite wildlife and take care not to overtax them with visitors. Last year, we called on Colleen from the Scottsdale Veterinary Service to help us with our alpha kangaroo's infected toe. It cost \$800 and was worth every cent.

All tours are booked as private charters and depart on demand. Travel agent suppliers often plan travellers' programs around the availability of Pepper Bush.

We appreciate local support and value our local suppliers, including those for accommodation, catering, fuel, and mechanical services. We are pleased to share our international sales dollars into the local economy.

Pepper Bush Adventures
65 King St, Scottsdale
tasmanianwildlifetours.com.au



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/justice-of-the-peace/find>

Join us – become a NETCC member!

Annual membership renewals are now due for Chamber Members. 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

FAST 5
FIT AND STRONG TODAY, BOTH MENTALLY & PHYSICALLY

MIND	MOOD	CONNECT	BODY	MEANING
What are you going to do this week to keep your mind clear?	Shitty mood? What action can you do to improve that?	What can you do this week to stay connected with friends and family?	How are you keeping your body strong this week?	How are you staying forward focused and hopeful for the future?

Practical ways your community practices their FAST 5

- "Start to eat a little better food"
- "Listen to music"
- "Go fishing"
- "Sleep"
- "Time with family"
- "Get off the farm"
- "Time with pets"
- "Get outside"
- "Go to the gym"
- "Exercise"
- "Motorbike ride"
- "Read a book"
- "Mindless TV show"
- "Do something creative"
- "Take deep breaths"
- "Try something different"
- "Music/ Radio"
- "Podcasts"
- "Making treats for others"
- "Ride the horses"
- "Clean the house"
- "Call a friend"
- "Go for a walk"
- "Find some sun"
- "Enjoy the view from the porch"
- "Make a cup of tea"
- "Have a bbq with friends"
- "Go camping"
- "Visit the neighbouring farm"
- "Prioritise family and friends"
- "Kick the football"
- "Team sports: cricket, basketball, netball"
- "Brunch with friends"
- "Book Club"
- "Trivia Night"
- "Attend a regular networking group"
- "Annual Agfest outing"
- "Eat Breakfast"
- "Drink plenty of water"
- "Coffee"
- "Sleep"
- "Eat more regularly"
- "Prioritise eating a little better"
- "Go for a walk"
- "Take a break, get out of the weather"
- "Breathing exercises"
- "Go for a swim"
- "Not feeling guilty when I take 5-10 minutes for myself"
- "Holiday back home"
- "Prioritise connections with close people"
- "Set goals"
- "Recognising achievements"
- "Know what I am working towards"
- "Plan something to look forward to this week"

Chamber Meetings

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

Next General Meetings:

October 6th, November 10th

See netcc.org.au for more details



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