



Dorset Business District Newsletter

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

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Published Quarterly

Message from Chamber

Hello and welcome to this edition of the Dorset Business District Newsletter.

At our AGM, the committee decided Chamber would restructure the general business meetings and hold more Social Events so members can interact, mingle and form business connections. These Events will feature Guest Speakers, and it is our great pleasure to announce for our December Christmas Event, Mr Peter Gutwein will be our Special Guest, speaking about The Walk – Step Up Together, his experiences and about the Migrant Resource Centre. More information about this Event will be detailed later.

Our general business meetings will continue to be held each month and members are still invited to attend, featuring around the table/members moments and Chamber will hold the Social Events every three months. We look forward to this change in providing positive experience to our members and special invited guests in the hope it will encourage unity and support for the Dorset Business Sector.

As we are heading towards the last quarter of the year, and summer is just around the corner, have you asked the question, is your business ready for the coming peak season? Now is the opportunity to take a moment and get a business health check. Business Tasmania can give you the tools and assistance to be ready and prepared for visitors coming into our area.

Here are some of the resources available:

- For new businesses, a great guide has been created to help strengthen new businesses:

www.business.tas.gov.au/starting/guide-to-starting-a-small-business-in-tasmania

- For operational businesses, a range of resources are available:

www.business.tas.gov.au/managing

- The [emergency management & disaster recovery](#) page assists businesses to prepare for an emergency event, including the Emergency Preparation Toolkit and the business continuity plan.

For more information, connect with the Business Tasmania team on 1800 440 026 or via email at ask@business.tas.gov.au

Chamber hopes that the months leading up to Christmas is successful and prosperous, and we encourage all to shop locally and support our business community.

**Maria Branch
President**



• NETCC President Maria Branch and Secretary Sue Farnell at VNT/THA event held recently in Derby. Story on page 5. Photo courtesy of Blue Derby Foundation.



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NETCC Membership

Did you know that NETCC members receive two free calls to TCCI for advice and discounted rates on TCCI training sessions?

Contact us at the North East Chamber for more information:

chairman@netcc.org.au

Membership form inside >

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Supporting our North East Business Community

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Authorised by Bridget Archer MP, Liberal Party of Australia, 100 St John Street, Launceston TAS 7250.

Collaborating for a Digitally Connected Dorset

On 29 August, the Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation (NTDC) facilitated the Dorset Community Digital Planning Workshop. This significant event brought together key stakeholders, including NBN and Telstra, to explore the challenges and opportunities in advancing the region's



digital infrastructure and capabilities.

During the session, participants identified several key concerns, such as mobile coverage—particularly during peak holiday seasons—the affordability of digital services, and the need for community-wide public Wi-Fi. These issues reflect ongoing collaborative efforts between Dorset Council, NTDC, and service providers to advocate for funding and improvements in digital access across the region.

Rather than taking the lead, Dorset Council is working alongside digital service providers and regional partners to advocate for better digital infrastructure. A key priority is securing funding to enhance mobile connectivity and broadband services in high-demand areas such as Bridport, Scottsdale, and Derby, as well as extending the digital footprint to outer regions.

In addition to infrastructure, we are

committed to promoting digital literacy within the community, particularly for disadvantaged groups such as older residents and those with lower incomes.

There are opportunities for the North East Chamber of Commerce to play a pivotal role in advocating for these improvements and participating in initiatives aimed at supporting digital literacy training. Together, we can make a substantial impact by helping businesses and individuals across the North East improve their digital skills.

The Dorset Community Digital Plan is a collective effort to create a more digitally inclusive future. We look forward to collaborating with local businesses, community groups, and residents as we seek funding and roll out projects that will keep our region connected and prepared for the future.

Andrew Wardlaw
Commissioner - Dorset Council

Business Tasmania: Enabling Business Grant Program

For those considering applying for the Enabling Business Grant Program later this year, the guidelines have been updated with two major updates.

The program is now opening a week earlier on 22 October 2024.

GST does not apply to grants distributed under this

program, but grants may be treated as assessable income depending on individual circumstances. Applicants should seek independent advice on the tax implications of any grants received.

The Enabling Business Grant Program helps Tasmanian businesses to grow, adapt and innovate by providing grants of between \$2,500 and \$10,000 for capital purchases that align to the enabling business and technology themes of the Small Business Growth Strategy 2026.

The guidelines have been made available in advance of the program opening to provide applicants plenty of time to review them, consider their eligibility and identify the eligible capital purchases to include in an application. View the updated guidelines on the Enabling Business Grant Program page.



Dorset Community House

The Dorset Community House is the heart of Dorset.
We are physically located in Scottsdale and we are here to help make the whole of Dorset and the people that live here happy, healthy and whole.

Services We Provide:

Community Events	Affordable Fruit and Vegetables
Playgroups	Community Transport
Bright Dorset Youth Programs	No Interest Loans
Social Meals	Emergency Food Relief
Community Garden	Finding support and information
And More!	

3 Cameron Street, Scottsdale
0474 100 219
admin@dorsethouse.org.au
Like us on Facebook
#heartofdorset



Lucky Shopper Promotion 2024

The Christmas season is fast approaching and Chamber, with the help of our exceptional organiser, Mary Partridge, the Lucky Shopper Promotion is again ready to start in October.

Retailers/organisations in the Dorset Business District have the opportunity to 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 29th of October and collection of tickets and closing date is on the 13th of December. Date drawn will be Monday, 16th of December.

This year, the late-night shopping will take place on Friday, 6th 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 NETCC Life Member Mary Partridge.

🎵 Promotion starts October 29, Late-night shopping night Friday, December 6





North East Tasmania Chamber of Commerce Inc.

ABN 802 7568 4732

2024–2025 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM/INVOICE

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO KEEP DETAILS UP TO DATE

Business Name [in full]	
Street Address	
	(Post Code)
Postal Address	
[if different from above]	(Post Code)
Phone	
Mobile	
Email	
Facebook details	
Instagram details	
Website	
Website directory to link your digital media presence from the details above. The listing is FREE and incorporated in your Chamber membership. Please circle YES to give the Chamber permission to include your digital media presence or circle NO not to be included	
Please circle YES or NO here	YES NO
Annual Membership Fee (no GST applicable) 1 st July 2024–30 th June 2025	
Full business member (voting rights)	\$100.00

Direct deposit BSB: 067407 Account No: 10179563 [your business name as reference] Cheque payable to NETCC Inc.

Please return completed form

via post NETCC Inc., 24 King St, Scottsdale 7260 or email secretary@netcc.org.au

Method of payment Direct Deposit/EFT ☐ Cash/cheque ☐

It's not too late to renew or become a NETCC member!

Below is a list of benefits that you will receive when you join or renew with your Chamber of Commerce.

Business Membership- \$100.00 (great value for money)
For business owners or representatives with one voting right with each membership paid.

Benefits of becoming a Business Member:

- Access to TCCI resources and training – Valued at \$399.00
- Attend monthly meetings which includes receiving Dorset Council reports plus invited special guests. These meetings are a great opportunity to advocate and be involved in your Business District.
- Free workshops and events hosted by Chamber.
- Included on Chamber's data base – networking.
- Listed on Website – networking.
- Receive quarterly E-Newsletter and each member will

receive one (1) 50% discount rate to advertise with each yearly membership renewal.

- Participate and engage with locals to promote your business through the Lucky Shopper Promotion.

The Lucky Shopper is a yearly promotion held from October to December. Chamber provides the retailer with posters, QR codes and tickets for their customers to enter whilst shopping locally. This is to say thank you and help promote your business.

Your Chamber of Commerce is here to help with issues of concern, be engaging and offer support when needed. If you would like to find out more about NETCC and what it can do for you and your business, please email:

Maria - chairman@netcc.org.au, or

Sue - secretary@netcc.org.au or visit www.netcc.org.au

The van Dieman Project - Digital Solutions Tasmania

We understand that the digital world is changing everything in business, and we're here at The van Diemen Project to help you make the most of these opportunities for your business.

Recognised across Tasmania in how we support, advise, and encourage small businesses, we're proud to coordinate and deliver the Digital Solutions program across Tasmania. Our services include webinars, business advice, one-on-one mentoring, and much more.

The Digital Solutions – Australian Small Business Advisory Services are supported by the Australian Government.

Whatever topic you want to learn about—whether it's refining your website with search engine optimisation, using artificial intelligence in your business, social media marketing, protecting yourself and your data online, and everything in between—we have the skills across our network to help.

Our mentors, based across Tasmania,

have experience running their own small businesses. Through the Digital Solutions program, you'll not only learn valuable tips but also how to put them into practice right away.

We offer one-on-one mentoring for less than \$15 an hour. Through the Digital Solutions program, we can help your business in various areas, including:

- Digital marketing and social media
- Website planning and development
- eCommerce strategies
- Small business software
- Business branding
- Cybersecurity and data protection
- Online sales and payment systems
- Customer relationship management (CRM) software

Our goal is to ensure that Tasmanian businesses not only learn new strategies and tools but also apply them effectively to achieve immediate results.

For more information, visit The van Diemen Project at: www.vdp.com.au or Digital Solutions Tasmania at: www.digitalsolutionstas.com.au.

• Image supplied by The VDP.



Visit Northern Tas/THA networking event held in Derby

On behalf of Chamber, Maria Branch (President) and Sue Farnell (Secretary) were invited to attend the VNT/THA networking event held at Lot 40, Derby. Below is a summary of the evening written by Darren Martello.

Hospitality businesses play such a crucial role in providing amazing experiences for visitors and locals alike. It is often the experience someone has in a café or restaurant, the interaction they have with locals, the stories they hear about the place, that will have them returning and sharing their experience with others.

On Tuesday 17th September, more than 25 hospitality and tourism operators gathered at Lot 40 in Derby to hear from Visit Northern Tasmania CEO Tracey Mallett and from Dave Noonan of Tasmanian Hospitality Association's Great Customer Experience on the importance of creating wonderful experiences for guests which in turn contributes to the visitor economy.

Tracey spoke of the importance of storytelling, brand, sharing your positive

impact and the direct translation this has on visitor numbers. Visit Northern Tasmania's role in tourism is to ensure regional dispersal and yield across the north of the State and a good experience can directly translate to positive economic benefits to a business. Dave then spoke about the collaboration and education potential to provoke business growth. Through engagement and interaction, the room was able to compile a whole itinerary of things to do for anybody visiting Derby and surrounds.

Additionally, the benefits of a listing on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) were touched upon, with operators encouraged to utilise the services of Visit Northern Tasmania to ensure they are listed and up to date on this platform which ensures their businesses and events information are fed through to the Tourism Tasmania team, Discover Tasmania and Visit Northern Tasmania websites, and through to the VNT's new events platform. This is a free listing, which provides other great marketing opportunities such as

inclusion in The Off Season and other Tourism Tasmania marketing campaigns.

It was an eye-opening session for many and the key message around working together and co-promoting each other, will lead to longer visitation in the town and therefore greater contributions to the economy. It was the second stage of the Great Customer Experience in the area and The Blue Derby Foundation are keen to delve further into this education and skill development opportunity for all businesses within Derby.

If you wish to learn more about The Great Customer Experience Program contact Darren Martello, GCE North/North East Region Manager:

m: 0428 020 179

w: tha.asn.au e: darren@tha.asn.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>

Chamber Meetings

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

For more information
contact the secretary on
0438 523 436



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~ Cut out and keep for reference ~
DORSET SUICIDE PREVENTION NETWORK

SERVICE FINDER

24 HOUR CRISIS NUMBERS

Emergency	000
LifeLine	13 11 14
13YARN	13 92 76
Suicide Call Back Service	1800 659 467
Mental Health Services Helpline	1800 332 388
Beyond Blue	1300 224 636
Rural Alive and Well	1800 729 827
1800RESPECT	1800 737 732
Mensline	1800 789 978
Kids Helpline	1800 551 800
StandBy (Support after suicide)	0400 183 490

COUNSELLING & SUPPORT SERVICES

A Tasmanian Life line (8.00am—8.00pm 7 days)	1800 984 434
Alcohol and Other Drugs	1300 139 641
Anglicare	1800 243 232
Baptcare	1800 290 666
Child Health - Dorset	(03) 6778 8522
Community Health Social Worker - Dorset	(03) 6778 8522
Cornerstone Youth	(03) 6335 3100
Dorset Community House	0474 100 219
Dorset House Transport	0474 100 219
Elder Abuse Helpline	1800 441 169
Family Violence Counselling and Support Service	1800 608 122
Head to Health (Launceston)	1800 424 578
Laurel House	1800 697 877
Lilydale Family Healthcare	(03) 6388 9295
LGBTI Qlife	1800 184 527
NESM Hospital Scottsdale	(03) 67 788 522
Ochre Medical Bridport	(03) 6356 1500
Ochre Medical Scottsdale	(03) 6352 2522
Relationships Australia	1300 364 277
Royal Flying Doctor Service	(03) 6391 0509
Salvation Army	(03) 6323 7500
Tasmanian Rural Financial Counselling	1300 883 276
Wellways	(03) 6333 3111

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welcome and
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