



# Dorset Business District Newsletter

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

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## Message from Chamber

Hello and welcome to the 7th edition of the North East Tasmania Chamber of Commerce newsletter.

Our year has been a fulfilling, busy and successful one. We provided personal development workshops in the early part of the year to our members and business community. We launched our NETCC website giving members the ability to promote, market and develop business opportunities in our local area. The website has allowed Chamber to build a brand that is recognizable offering resources, information and support.

Chamber restructured the meeting procedure for members by providing guest speakers and events where they can engage and connect in a casual setting.

Early December, we held our end of year event with Mr Peter Gutwein as our Guest Speaker. Peter was presenting as Chair of the Migrant Resource Centre.

Peter spoke of the challenges he faced, connections he made on 'The Walk' from Burnie to Canberra recently. He expressed his passion and willingness to advocate on behalf of the migrants who want and have come to Australia to make a better life for themselves and their families.

The evening was well attended with members and invited guests and Peter enlightened all on how important and valuable it is for us as a nation to embrace and welcome migrants to our country. An informative and interesting evening.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our executive committee and members for their dedication and support given to Chamber throughout the year and to wish all residents and businesses of Dorset a happy holiday season and a prosperous and safe New Year.

**Maria Branch**  
President



• Guest speaker Peter Gutwein at a recent Chamber on Tap event held at The House Paddock, Scottsdale.



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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](mailto:chairman@netcc.org.au)

[www.netcc.org.au](http://www.netcc.org.au)

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# Reflecting on 2024 and aspirations for the year ahead

As 2024 draws to a close, it is the perfect time to reflect on Dorset Council's progress over the past year and share our aspirations for the year ahead. This year has been defined by collaboration, community-driven initiatives, and a strong commitment to creating opportunities that benefit the entire region.

One of the year's most significant achievements has been the funding Dorset Council secured for several priority projects. These include the completion of key infrastructure works, such as Gillespie's Road and Cascade Dam Road, as well as funding for future upgrades of Golconda Road. These projects reflect our commitment to delivering better connectivity and safer, more reliable infrastructure for our residents and visitors.



Another notable highlight has been our focus on enhancing community spaces and facilities. In addition to completing the Scottsdale Bike Park—a valuable recreational asset for locals and visitors alike—we have secured funding for three playground improvement projects and finalised structure plans for both Derby and Scottsdale. These achievements demonstrate our dedication to creating vibrant and well-equipped communities.

Access to reliable digital services remains a top priority for businesses and residents alike. While Dorset Council's primary role has been as an advocate, we have worked closely with service providers and stakeholders to ensure digital infrastructure improvements remain firmly on the agenda. I encourage the North East Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce to continue its vital advocacy in this space and to support programs that enhance digital literacy within our community.

In the realm of governance, Dorset Council has embraced a year of reflection and improvement. The Board of Inquiry process has prompted valuable discussions about transparency, accountability, and best practices. We remain committed to ensuring the highest standards of governance and strengthening our ability to effectively serve the Dorset community.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on driving economic growth, fostering innovation, and building resilience. The Council greatly values the Chamber's role in supporting local businesses and advancing economic development. From agribusiness to emerging small enterprises, there are exciting opportunities to harness the unique strengths of our region.

Youth engagement and workforce development will also continue to be priorities. Programs that help young people develop skills and access meaningful opportunities in Dorset are critical to sustaining a vibrant and future-ready community.

As we reflect on the year, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Chamber, local businesses, community groups, and residents for your unwavering dedication to our region's success. Your passion and commitment make Dorset a remarkable place to live, work, and visit.

As we look forward to 2025, I am optimistic about what we can achieve together. Collaboration is the cornerstone of progress, and I look forward to continuing our shared efforts to strengthen and enhance our community. Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year."

**Andrew Wardlaw**  
Commissioner - Dorset Council

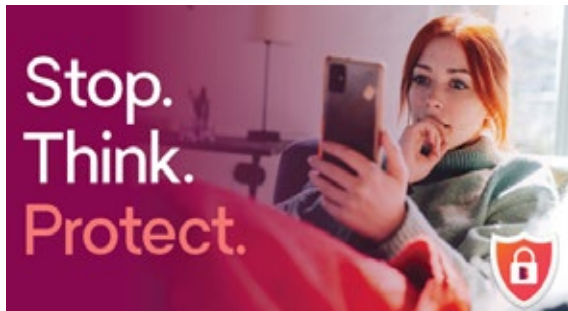
## Cyber Safety: a rise in bank impersonation scams

Bank impersonation scams are on the rise. Scammers are posing as trusted banks to trick you into sharing personal information or codes or transferring money. But by staying informed and alert, you can stay safe.

Help protect yourself and your finances by knowing what to look for. Here are five signs that whoever's contacting you isn't legitimate:

- There's a suspicious link in the email or SMS.
- The message uses strange words or phrases or looks different to other messages.
- They tell you to transfer money to another account.
- They ask for personal information or account details.

- There's a sense of urgency or threat, like "Your bank account has been accessed" or "Your bank account has been locked".
- You may also be contacted by someone claiming to be from your bank. If you're unsure if they're legitimate, hang up or ignore their messages. Then, contact your bank directly to find out more.



• Article extracted from Bendigo Bank 21/11/2024

### Protect yourself from scams



**STOP** - don't give money or personal information to anyone if you're unsure.



**THINK** - ask yourself, could the message or call be a fake?



**PROTECT** - act quickly if something feels wrong.





# News on NBN Network fixed wireless upgrades

More homes and businesses across Tasmania's North East can now access higher nbn network speeds on their nbn fixed wireless connection.

The higher nbn network speeds are being made possible through a \$750 million investment into the nbn Fixed Wireless network – \$480 million from the Australian Government and an additional \$270 million from nbn.

Faster speeds, especially during busy periods, will help meet the growing data demands of regional Australia and

supports the rise of remote healthcare and working and learning from home.

With works now being completed on towers across the North East, nbn Local Representative Sam Marshall said it was a great time for residents to check their address on the nbn website to see what types of speeds they can access.

"Homes and businesses across regional Tasmania now have access to the fastest wholesale speeds ever offered on the nbn Fixed Wireless network," he said.

"These upgrades mean that nbn can now offer wholesale download speeds of up to four times faster than what is available today on Fixed Wireless and I'd encourage residents to head to the nbn website to check whats available to them."

You can check your address at: [nbn.com.au](http://nbn.com.au).

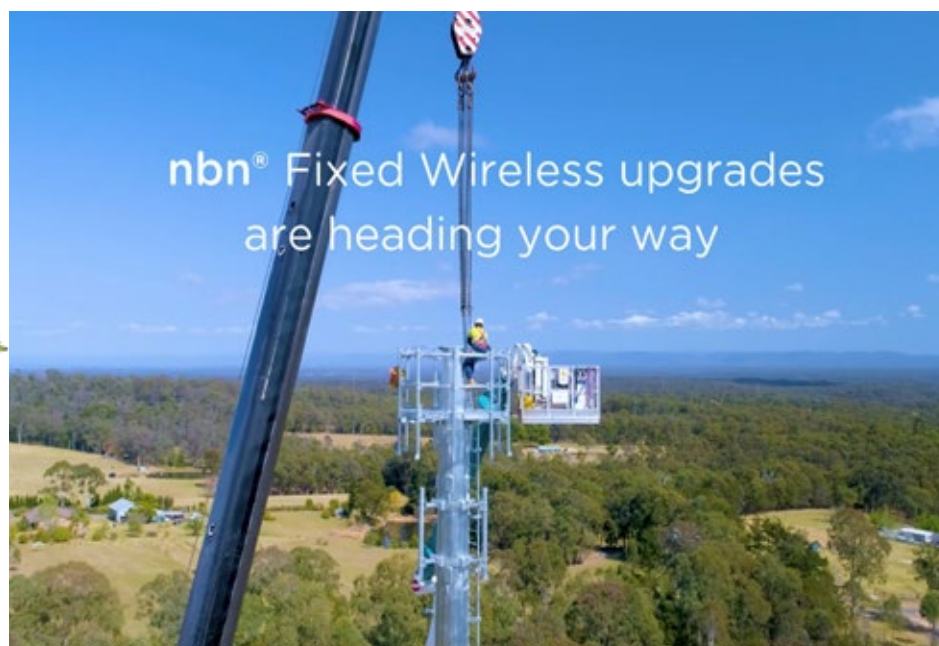
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**Specialist, nbn Local**



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## Michael Ferguson

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

## Protect and Recover: Cyber resilience service

Small businesses looking to prevent and recover from cyber incidents can now access the Small Business Cyber Resilience Service, a newly launched initiative by the Australian Government.

Delivered by IDCARE, this service provides free, tailored one-on-one assistance to help small businesses navigate cyber challenges, enhance their cyber resilience and recover from cyber incidents.

Additionally, case management support, including mental health support, is available to help small businesses bounce back after a cyber incident.

You can access the service by calling 1800 595 170 or by submitting a request through the online form at:

[www.idcare.org/smallbusiness](http://www.idcare.org/smallbusiness)



# NETCC Lucky Shopper ‘wraps up’!

## Congratulations to the winners of the Lucky Shopper Promotion for 2024

### The lucky winners are:

**First:** Claire Hall, The House Paddock

**Second:** P Simmons, Amcal

**Third:** Mandy Walters, Becks

**Fourth:** Maggie Cohen, Eastside Motors

**Fifth:** Gina Lethborg, Two Sisters

**Sixth:** Jo Holmes, D&Me Bridport

### Reindeers

**Under 10:** Dylan Jones

**10-16 years:** James Coxen

**Open:** Tayla Gofton

### Letters of Christmas:

Lily Muir

Chamber of Commerce would like to take this opportunity to thank the participating business owners for their loyalty and support and to the community for shopping locally, backing our businesses to build a stronger and viable economy in the North East.

Our gratitude and thanks to Mary Partridge for all her years of dedication and support.

The Chamber is appreciative of all she has done for the community, and wish her the very best for the future.

- Mary is pictured drawing the lucky winners with Tania Rattray MLC. (Photo courtesy of the North Eastern Advertiser).



*Local business, local jobs*

## Small Business is the engine room of our economy

Small business is something I am passionate about because that's where I came from.

We want small businesses to grow, thrive and create more jobs, which is why, as part of our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, our Government is backing in Tasmanian small businesses.

In recent weeks we've announced a suite of packages to boost visitation around the State and support small business, particularly those in the tourism and hospitality industries.

Our draft 2025-26 Small Business Growth Strategy Implementation Plan has now been released. The plan sets out the actions our government and private sector

is taking towards achieving the strategy's objectives and provides certainty and confidence for small businesses.

Our Government understands that doing business is much easier when we cut red tape. We have taken this issue seriously and have cut 86 per cent of the 198 red tape issues identified during a recent review. Why? Because we want to reduce the unnecessary burdens on business owners.

We recently opened a second round of the Enabling Small Business Grant program offering grants to up to \$10,000 for equipment and capital upgrades, and the Hospitality Business Boost Program providing grants of up to \$5000, which were well subscribed.

When it comes to driving visitation across the State right now, the government is investing \$6 million to subsidise passenger fares on the Spirit of Tasmania to boost demand and provide for additional day sailings.

Looking to the future, we are supporting our tourism and hospitality businesses, and local councils, to prepare for the arrival of the new Spirit vessels by investing an additional \$5 million in a Spirit Preparedness Fund. This Fund will support the development of new products and offerings, enhance existing attractions, and support councils to

deliver key infrastructure such as signage and EV charging stations.

Boosting tourism isn't just about bringing visitors here from interstate or overseas – it's about getting locals out, too; a strong learning from the COVID-19 period. We will launch a new voucher scheme – Eat Local, Stay Local – to encourage Tasmanians to travel and eat out during the cooler months, providing 100,000 vouchers, valued at \$100 each.

It's my hope that this program will encourage visitors to get out and experience the delicious treats at cafes like the Beehive or House Paddock in Scottsdale, or to book that weekend away and stay on properties like Jetson Farm.

2024 has also been a fantastic year in Tasmania. There is much to celebrate from our top restaurants and tourist attractions to the many winemakers and vineyards which have received accolades on a local and international stage.

As Minister for Hospitality and Small Business, I will keep working hard to make Tasmania the best place in Australia to do business. This includes in our important regions like the North East and I look forward to spending more time in this beautiful part of the world.

**Jane Howlett, Minister for Hospitality and Small Business**







# Spotlighting on members - Branhholm Fabrications

Branxholm Fabrications is a local business which services a vast array of customers throughout North-East Tasmania. Our clients include agriculture, horticulture, forestry and timber industry, mining, transport and local council just to name a few! We currently employ 12 local people in a variety of roles, ranging from talented fabricators, machinists and painters as well as administration, sales and marketing and human relations.

Each year we endeavour to take on at least one new trade apprentice. Our young apprentices are usually sourced in collaboration with the local High Schools who have amazing trade programs and work closely with us to find exciting new team members.

It's hard to define our business in just a few words. But if forced to do so, we would say that we make things, we fix things and we supply things! The range of things we fabricate is only limited by your imagination! If you come in with an idea for something you would like made from steel, chances are, we can make it, whether it be a customised sprocket, some garden art, horse jumps, or a new shed! Some of our bestsellers are our custom-made potato bins, tractor weight blocks (with personalised company logos), the Tassie



• Owners Shane and Jo McGrath with boilermaker/workshop supervisor John Davis.

Calf Catcher, heavy duty tractor quick hitches and utility trays and canopies.

Our potato bins have evolved over recent years and now include a range of standard styles, all built to meet your specifications and individual requirements. Demand for the bins is high, with orders secured for well into 2025, so we currently have all hands on deck trying to keep up with production!

Another of our success stories is the Tassie Calf Catcher! Mainland sales of the safety-inspired calf catchers has now surpassed the Tassie sales and we have plans to further expand our marketing on the big island. Last year, we attended the Elmore Field Days (in Victoria) with great responses from the punters and we hope to take another batch of calf catchers over to display at other shows and field days in coming years.

While we pride ourselves on producing top quality work and offering exceptional customer service, we also strive to foster a safe work environment for our team and anyone visiting us in the workshop. Hence, we have spent much time this past year improving our work health and

safety systems, and in the process, have achieved certification in ISO 45001:2018. This achievement follows our gaining ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems the previous year. This has been a huge commitment from all staff, and we are incredibly proud of our team.

Our talented crew love a challenge and always look forward to something new to build or fix coming through the door. Whether it be patching up boats, horse floats, potato harvesters, fertilizer spreaders or replacing your baffle plate. One of our special projects has been the development of the Santa Maria Grill (see image) for two of our local hotels and we encourage people to get along to the Weldborough Hotel and the Pub in the Paddock at Pyengana to check out their fancy grills!

As well as fabrication and repairs, we also provide industrial spray painting, abrasive blasting, machining and CNC plasma cutting, Enzed hydraulic hose repair and sales of steel, welding consumables, bearings, high tensile nuts and bolts, and Swap N Go gas.

We look forward to seeing you soon in the workshop to discuss your next project!





## METAL FABRICATION

- Machining and CNC Plasma Cutting
- Industrial Sandblasting and Spray Painting
- Enzed Hydraulic Hose Doctor
- Welding Consumables
- Bearings and High Tensile Nuts and Bolts

2-8 Station Road, Branhholm  
p: 03 6354 6103 | m: 0419 583 019  
e: [branchfab@outlook.com](mailto:branchfab@outlook.com)  
[branhholmfabrications.com.au](http://branhholmfabrications.com.au)



• Some bestsellers: custom potato bin, Santa Maria Grill, and tractor weight block with logo.

## 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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## 'Tis the season to remember those who...



- Have lost a loved one
- Are struggling financially
- Have had a tough year
- Don't feel safe at home
- Are working through the holidays
- Are spending the holidays alone
- Have challenging family relationships
- Are unwell over the holidays
- Are experiencing stress
- Are feeling overwhelmed by world events

'Tis the *season* to be *asking*  
**RU OK?**<sup>TM</sup>

Get tips at [ruok.org.au](http://ruok.org.au)

## Useful Mental Health and Support Numbers

For Emergency Call 000

Non-Emergency Police 131 444

NESM Hospital Scottsdale 6778 8522

### MENTAL HEALTH TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

#### Mind and Body

Look after your body as well as your mind. Eat a well-balanced diet, keep hydrated and get into a regular sleep pattern.

#### Exercise

Engage in regular exercise. Find a sport or activity that you enjoy. Exercise is a great tool for improving mood and reducing stress and anxiety.

#### Self-Care

Practise self-care. Make sure to look after yourself. Relax, breathe, smile, go for a walk, do something you enjoy.

#### Stay Connected

Keep in touch with friends, family or other supports. Even if it's just a short phone call or brief conversation while out and about, connecting with others is a great protective factor for our mental health.

#### Challenge

Practise showing kindness and compassion to yourself. Share kindness with others. Research shows that being involved in acts of kindness and compassion helps to keep our minds positive.

### Food and Accommodation

Salvation Army Financial Assistance 13 72 58

9am-5pm Monday - Friday (Except Public Holidays)

Housing Connect 1800 800 588

9am-5pm Mon-Fri (Except public holidays)

Red Dirt Café

Open BBQ at Anzac Park Thursdays from 4:30-7pm 26/12, 27/12, returning to the Nugget Sellers on the 9/01/25.  
Contact Karen on 0408 635 230 (Wed & Thur 1-4pm)

### Mental Health Support

Lifeline Tasmania [lifeline.org.au](http://lifeline.org.au)

131114 (24 hour) & 1800 984 434

(8am-8pm, 7 days a week)

Mental Health Service Helpline

1800 332 388

(24 Hour support, 7 days a week)

Launceston Medicare Mental Health Centre

(formerly Head to Health)

1800 424 578 Mon-Fri 9am-7:30pm,

Sat & Sun 10am-2pm

Kids Helpline + Webchat Counselling

1800 551 800 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

[www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

HeadSpace Youth (Ages 12-25)

1800 650 890 (9am-1am, 7 days a week)

Standby - Support after suicide

1300 727 247 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

Domestic & Family Violence Support

1800 737 732 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

Beyond Blue Mental Health Support

1300 224 636 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

Working it Out - LGBTQIA+ Support

03 62 311 200 (9am-5pm, Mon-Fri)

[www.workingitout.org.au](http://www.workingitout.org.au)

MensLine Australia

1300 789 978 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

Open Arms - Veteran & Family

Counselling Services

1800 011 046 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

### Dorset Based Support - Non-crisis

Rural Alive and Well (RAW)

Mon-Fri from 3rd Jan

1800 729 827

Better Health 4 Dorset Hub

Mon-Thur from the 6th of Jan

- 0447 307 213 Lou,

0448 393 203 Bec

Royal Flying Doctors Service Tasmania

Mon-Fri from the 6th of Jan 03

6391 0509

Dorset Community House

Mon-Fri from the 20 of Jan

0474 100 219

Dorset Community & Health Services Directory - DSPN

[www.dorsethouse.org.au/dorset-suicide-prevention-network](http://www.dorsethouse.org.au/dorset-suicide-prevention-network)

• Dorset Suicide Prevention Network Services Directory extracted from North-Eastern Advertiser December 19, 2024.

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