



Dorset Business District Newsletter

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

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Out & About with the North East Tasmania Chamber

The North East Tasmania Chamber of Commerce was pleased to host its latest Out and About event at Little Rivers on 4 December, bringing members together in a relaxed and welcoming setting to connect, share ideas and celebrate the strength of our local business community.

The event was very well attended, with a strong showing of both long-standing members and many new members joining us for the first time. It was encouraging to see fresh faces engaging with the Chamber, building connections and experiencing firsthand the collaborative spirit that underpins our network.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of two Life Memberships, recognising outstanding and long-term contributions to the Chamber. Sue Farnell, our long-serving Secretary, was acknowledged for her years of dedication, commitment and tireless support, which have been instrumental in keeping the Chamber operating smoothly and effectively.

Life Membership was also

awarded to Susie Goodall, in recognition of her significant contribution to bringing the Chamber into the modern era. Susie's talents and commitment, particularly through the development of the Chamber's website and digital presence, have strengthened how we communicate, engage and support members across the region.

The Chamber extends its sincere thanks to Little Rivers for hosting, and to all members who attended and contributed to such a positive and engaging evening.

As we look ahead into 2026, the Chamber has many important agenda items firmly in focus as we continue working to strengthen the economic prospects of the North East. Key priorities include advocating for viable and improved access into the region through the development of Corkery's Road, and addressing housing availability to ensure local businesses can continue to attract and grow their workforces.

Above all, events like Out and About reinforce that we are stronger when

we work together. By collaborating, sharing ideas and supporting one another, the North East business community can continue to build resilience, seize opportunities and shape a prosperous future for our region.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable festive time as well as a smooth start to 2026.

Fiona Auton
Chair
NETCC



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www.netcc.org.au

New NETCC Life Members



• Two new Life Memberships were presented at the Chamber out and About gathering held on December 4 at Little Rivers. Pictured are recipients Sue Farnell and Susie Goodall with NETCC President Fiona Auton. [Images courtesy North-Eastern Advertiser]

This newsletter is proudly printed by

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Labor Tasmanian

Dorset Council – A positive period and growing confidence

It has been a positive period for Dorset and the North East, with several developments highlighting growing confidence in our regional economy.

The release of The Value of Blue Derby to the Tasmanian Economy reinforces the significant economic and social benefits Derby continues to

deliver, showcasing the value of long-term investment and collaboration. We were also pleased to welcome Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania to the region, providing an opportunity to highlight the strength and innovation of our communities.

Encouragingly, the sale of Scottsdale shopfronts to investors is a clear vote of confidence in the future of our town centres and local economy.

I would like to thank the North East Chamber of Commerce for its ongoing support of local businesses. On behalf of Dorset Council, I wish you and your members a safe, happy and prosperous Christmas, and every success in the year ahead.



The Governor the Honourable Barbara Baker with Dale Jessup from CMT Pty Ltd, Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO, and Mayor Rhys Beattie.

Rhys Beattie
Mayor
Dorset Council

Stop. Think. Protect. Stay safe from holiday season scams

The holiday season is not far away and many people are preparing for some rest and downtime over the summer.

With a busy year behind them, people are often more relaxed and laidback over this period and, naturally, might let their guard down a little bit. Unfortunately, scammers see this as a great opportunity to ramp up their activities.

There are a whole range of different scams that tend to be more prominent over

the holidays – here are some of the more common ones, with tips on how best to avoid them.

PARCEL DELIVERY SCAMS: Online shopping often spikes leading up to the holiday season. Scammers take advantage of this by sending texts or emails claiming a parcel is missing or delayed.

- Always avoid clicking on links in texts or emails, unless you're 100% sure of

the sender. Never provide personal data or payment to an unsolicited contact.

CHARITY SCAMS:

Charity scammers try and take advantage of people's generosity, especially during festive seasons. They'll pose as legitimate charities and pocket the donations for themselves.

- Only make donations to charities you trust. Don't make donations from links in emails or texts. Instead, visit the charity's website and make a donation manually.

FLIGHT & TRAVEL BOOKING SCAMS:

Holiday time is typically when people travel most. Be on the lookout for fake flights, scam travel websites, and suspicious accommodation listings.

- Book directly with reputable flight and accommodation businesses, or through a recognised



travel agent, can minimise your chances of being scammed.

FAKE ONLINE SHOPPING SCAMS: Be wary of fake online store fronts or fraudulent sellers on social media platforms that sell products very cheaply. Scammers will take your money without delivering anything.

- Always research business names you don't recognise or that don't sound right. Look for reviews online and search scam alerts on the ACCC's Scamwatch website.

Source: Bendigo Bank. For more information go to: [bendigobank.com.au/security](https://www.bendigobank.com.au/security)

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Always here for you

Liberal

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



NETCC Lucky Shopper ‘wraps up’!

Congratulations to the winners of the Lucky Shopper Promotion for 2025

Helena Bowen owner of D&Me Fashion is our Lucky Shopper Coordinator this year, and with much appreciated assistance from Cynthia Summers and NETCC life member Mary Partridge, has run a very successful 2025 promotion.

The lucky winners are:

- 1st** Paula Barry
- 2nd** Janet Murray
- 3rd** Jac Forsyth
- 4th** O Denholm
- 5th** Shane
- 6th** P Anderson
- 7th** Kate Solomon
- 8th** Nathan F

Letters of Christmas

Lucas Rice

Reindeers – Adult

Tracey Brown

Reindeers – 10-16 years

Eleni Natoba

Reindeers – Under 10

Emma

The 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.

• Helena is pictured with Pip Hall and Tania Rattray MLC who drew the lucky winners. [Photo: Adara Hall].



Small Business Growth Strategy 2026 Implementation Plan

Recognising that Tasmania has a strong small business community that plays a vital role in our economy, the Small Business Growth Strategy 2026 establishes the objectives that will help government and the private sector to support business growth in Tasmania.

The Small Business Growth Strategy 2026 Implementation Plan (the Plan) sets out the actions that will guide the work of the government and private sector towards the objectives set out in the Small

Business Growth Strategy 2026. The Plan was informed by the consultations that occurred with businesses and key stakeholders across Tasmania during 2022 and initially covered the period from 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2024.

The plan has now been updated to include the period to December 2026.

Further consultation with key stakeholders including regional chambers took place in March/April 2024 to ensure the Strategy’s themes and associated

objectives remain relevant.

Input into the updated Plan is being provided by project partners the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Tasmanian Small Business Council, along with various Tasmanian Government agencies, including State Growth, Tourism Tasmania, the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, Office of the Coordinator-General, and Homes Tasmania.

The governance processes established to develop the Small Business Growth Strategy 2026 have been extended to oversee the delivery of the Plan. A working group that includes the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Tasmanian Small Business Council meets regularly to review the progress of the Plan’s initiatives.

This agile approach is similar to the way Tasmanian businesses operate and will allow flexibility to adapt to changes in the business environment.

View the latest Implementation Plan on the Business Tasmania website at: business.tas.gov.au/managing/business_growth_strategy_2026

‘Out & About’ Christmas Function



• Pictured left is Diana Hardy-Wilson and Carolyn Mokos; on the right is Neil Grose - TasFarmers Chief Operating Officer and NETCC Guest Speaker at Chamber’s Christmas Out & About event held December 4 at Little Rivers Scottsdale. [Images courtesy North-Eastern Advertiser]

Health & Wellbeing – The colour walk mindfulness trend

Summer has just begun and hopefully the weather will be nice enough to break up the day and go for a stroll. There are a lot of benefits to going for a walk regularly. It can improve creativity, reduce stress and anxiety, and increase focus and productivity.

I wanted to talk about a mindfulness trend that might change up your usual walk or encourage you to get out there and notice something new. It's called a "colour walk." Sometimes, the popularity of mindfulness trends is not always indicative of a practice being actually useful. But this one intrigued me as it just added a new element to advice I'd been given heaps of times regarding daily exercise and getting out of the house.

So, what is a "colour walk"? It is quite a simple concept: you choose one colour to focus on during your walk and try to notice as many things as possible of that colour as you go along. You may pick the colour orange and notice some orange flowers, someone passing by wearing an

orange shirt, a funky looking bug, terracotta brick paths, or an orange cat in someone's window (that would be so awesome and make my day!).

Paying attention to one colour helps to focus your attention and practice mindfulness during your stroll. By training your mind to observe colours intentionally, you stimulate your senses, slow down anxious thoughts, and reconnect with the present moment. When you're focusing on the colours, you're less likely to be distracted by your worries from day to day life, and can focus on what you are feeling right now. Different colours may have different effects on you. Perhaps noticing blue things makes you feel calmer, and yellow or red may make you feel more energised.

It also gives you the opportunity to appreciate your surroundings in a new way, since we don't always pay close attention to our surroundings on walks we've been on heaps of times.

It's also something you can do no matter where you are in the world -

there are lots of colours in cities and towns, as well as rural areas.

Colour walk variations:

Rainbow walk: In this variation, instead of choosing one colour to focus on, try to spot all of the colours of the rainbow. Start with one colour and once you've spotted something, move on to the next colour until you've gone through the whole rainbow.

Follow the colour: Many people take their usual route when doing a colour walk, but you can also switch things up by allowing the colour to choose your path. Whether you will turn left or right will depend on which side you spot the colour. This method encourages you to let go of your expectations about where the walk will take you. Make sure you plan extra time for making your way back home, as you'll likely be taken from your usual course.

Supplied courtesy of Ellen IP Australia Well-being Committee



'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
RUOK?TM

Get tips at ruok.org.au

Fringe Benefits Tax and the festive season: what you need to know

If you're planning end-of-year celebrations or giving gifts to your staff, it's important to understand how Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) may apply. FBT can affect costs for parties, events and gifts provided to employees and their associates, depending on factors such as location, attendees and the value of the benefit.

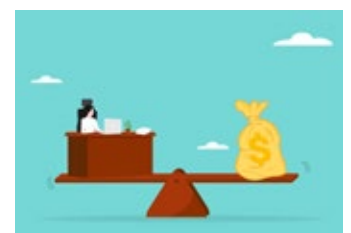
Visit the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) website to learn about exemptions and view practical examples.

Keeping accurate

records – such as guest lists, invoices and receipts – is essential, even if the expense is exempt. This helps ensure compliance and avoids unexpected tax bills.

You can also subscribe to the ATO's Small business email newsletter to stay up to date.

Source: Business Tasmania





All good now! Our Boutique Riverside Retreat in the Heart of the North East

BEGINNINGS: Graham and I met in the late 90's while bushwalking. Graham was leading an organised walk on the old Abt railway from Queenstown to Strahan. Because my Mum had just died, I had decided to take my elderly Dad on a father-daughter bonding walk.

Well, our friendship developed over the next year or so – till Graham decided to leave Hobart. So he moved North to join me in Scottsdale. At the time, I had employment with UTas and Defence Science as a researcher.

Because of our love for the natural beauty of the North East, we decided to start a tourism business here. Our vision was – and still is – for thoughtful hospitality with an emphasis on both local and natural history.

THE STATUS QUO/PROBLEM STATE: Tourism professionals and even our bushwalking friends didn't believe tourism could be successful in the North East. They kept saying "...but there's nothing in the North East – just forestry and farms!" "There are no iconic tourism attractions."

It took us a year, but in 2001 we found our ideal property: 36 Acres on the Ringarooma River in Branxholm. Graham quickly commenced construction of six self-contained cottages. He harvested and milled timber onsite, including hardwood beams and macrocarpa pine for all the joinery. Stone was sourced from Mr Victoria for cottage construction and landscaping. Most of the work was done by Graham, with just a few trades people assisting.

SOME HURDLES: Unfortunately, we quickly ran into problems with some Branxholm residents and then our Council, which cost us greatly in delays and money. It was a very stressful time! ...And in the midst of this stress our son,



James was born in 2003.

We had started construction without too much difficulty, but the Council had been refusing us a connection to the town water supply, despite our property being fully inside the town's water district.

We had to find a water supply. So, we established a water licence and forestry lease to collect water from a creek 3km away. Our water connection was about 1km downstream of the town's former water connection into the same creek.

Meanwhile we had been subjected to the traditional "Branxholm Welcome" – a practice that has thankfully died out now! This involved numerous acts of vandalism and social ostracism.

Unfortunately, the criminal vandalism culminated with the total destruction of our 3 km water pipeline! Our Council then dried up the creek and our water supply by illegally raising the level of the town weir. Three years later, after taking our Council to a Tribunal, the illegal weir was removed allowing water to flow back into the creek.

Meanwhile, we had to build new water infrastructure. This consisted of rain-water tanks, water pumps and a complicated network of underground pipes to collect rain water from every roof on our property. But we were back on track to open our business!

QUIETLY SUCCESSFUL: On a bright sunny day in late 2008 the State Tourism Minister opened Tin Dragon Trail Cottages to about 120 guests. It was our great pleasure to have descendants of the Moy family present at the opening ceremony and to have Norman Moy give the opening address!

Our cottages – Ah Moy, Ah Ping, Chintock, Fon Hock and Ah Back, celebrate the hard-working Chinese families who mined for tin near Branxholm. We also developed a short sculpture walk through Henry Ah Pings tin-mining lease on our property. The walk features sculptures by Folko Kooper.

Over time, Graham has planted numerous endemic native trees and grasses and we have been rewarded by the return of quolls, bandicoots, wombats and abundant other native animals and birds. An area that was a muddy cattle camp on the river bank is now a thriving wetland with burrowing crayfish and native hens and platypus.

After all the years of dispute, we still had our water licences and forestry lease in place. So, Graham being a most resourceful person, took advantage of these



permissions and the nearly 100m elevation of the creek above our property to construct a micro-hydro power system. He did this with minimal assistance—mostly just the help from our 70 year-old friend, Ron!

More recently Graham also installed solar PV with battery storage (Tesla power walls) so that our property generates up to 210 kWhr per day. We are carbon positive—meaning that we put more renewable power into the grid than we use!

Our core business is short-stay self-contained accommodation. But we also have a workshop space for individuals and groups. This latter venture opened just before the Covid-19 border closures. However, we have hosted a few groups including photographers and bushwalkers.

Our accommodation may not be considered "luxury", but we have endeavoured to provide thoughtful hospitality. We aim to make our guests feel comfortable and "at home". We see our property as a retreat into nature where guests can enjoy bushwalks, native wildlife, the river and our farm—chooks, alpacas and vegetable gardens. It is a place where romance and friendship can thrive!

Tin Dragon Cottages
3 Cox's Lane, Branxholm 7261
tindragontrailcottages.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/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

Local business, local jobs

Useful Information & Support Numbers Dec 2025/Jan 2026

Dorset Based Support Services

Dorset Community House

- Mon-Fri 0474 100 219
Closed Dec 19th - Jan 4th

Rural Alive and Well (RAW)

- Mon-Fri 1800 729 827
Closed Dec 24th - Jan 1st

Better Health 4 Dorset

- Mon-Thurs 0448 393 203 (Bec)
Closed Dec 19th - Jan 4th

Royal Flying Doctors Service Tasmania

- Mon-Fri 6391 0509
Closed Dec 24th - Jan 1st

Food and Accommodation

- Salvation Army Financial Assistance 13 72 58
- Salvation Army Case Manager
At Better Health 4 Dorset, Scottsdale
Closed Dec 22nd - Jan 9th
- Housing Connect 1800 800 588
- Red Dirt Café - Nugget Sellers, Scottsdale
0408 635 230 (Karen)
Thursdays 4.30pm - 6.30pm

Mental Health Support

Lifeline Tasmania lifeline.org.au

- 131114 (24 hour) & 1800 984 434 (8am-8pm, 7 days)

Mental Health Service Helpline

- 1800 332 388 (24 Hour support, 7 days)

Launceston Medicare Mental Health Centre / Head to Health

- 1800 424 578 Mon-Fri 9am-7:30pm, Sat & Sun 10am-2pm

Kids Helpline + Webchat Counselling

- 1800 551 800 (24 hr/ 7 days) <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>

HeadSpace Youth (Ages 12-25)

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

Standby - Support after suicide

- 1300 727 247 (24 hr/ 7 days)

Domestic & Family Violence Support

- 1800 737 732 (24 hr/ 7 days)

Beyond Blue Mental Health Support

- 1300 224 636 (24 hr/ 7 days)

Working it Out - LGBTQIA+ Support

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

<https://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 Community & Health Directory

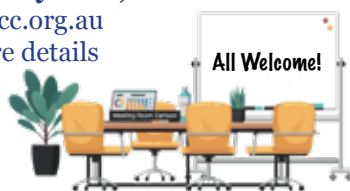
Available At: <https://dorsethouse.org.au/dorset-suicide-prevention-network/>

Chamber Meetings

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

**Next General Meetings:
February 2nd, March 2nd**

See netcc.org.au
for more details



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