

Rodney woos cricket fans



Former Australian Test Cricket fast bowler Rodney Hogg delighted cricket fans at the Cressy Town Hall on February 28th when he was the guest speaker at a Cressy Club reunion dinner. Rodney's relaxed and humorous style was appreciated by the many fans who attended, along with the good luck he brought to the three Cressy teams playing on the day - they either won or were well placed to win when matches resume this weekend. Rodney is pictured right with Cressy Club Patron Michael Bassett.

Interested in photography?

A photographer is a person who, technologically, captures an image by a camera and then transfers it to a visual state either on a visual display unit or on paper. When a group of photographers gather together to discuss, learn and show their images to each other then the meeting can be regarded as a camera club.

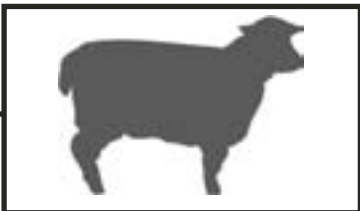
In Launceston 119 years ago such a group gathered together to form the Northern Tasmanian Camera Club and this club is still getting together today, albeit not in the "old" pharmacy in Brisbane Street, Launceston but at Glenara Lakes meeting room in Youngtown. The discussion is not about glass plates, darkrooms and chemicals but about digital cameras, photo editing software and electronic digital images.

The NTCC has a membership of 40 from all walks of life, employment and social status. In fact photography is a very good social leveller because irrespective whether one owns a \$50 or \$4000 camera, it is the final image, the product, that is the prime result.

The members meet at Glenara on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm to spend two hours of sharing experiences of all aspects of photography - the seeing, the digital capture of images, the making of images, interpretation and presentation of images either for competition or personal gratification.

The next full meeting is on Tuesday 10th March commencing at 7.30 pm. After an initial discussion of the recent club trip to the Steppes region on the Central Plateau, a member will present 5 of his personal images for discussion. Then guest speaker Phillip Kuruvita will present some recent images followed by discussion, and judging of the monthly competition theme "OPEN".

The club's website www.ntcc.org.au gives many details about the club and its activities. It is commend it to all interested people in photography. Peter S. Manchester AFIAP, AAPS, FTFP. President. telephone 6343 2640 or 6344 5652.



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Greg offers his help

Hundreds of Victorian Bushfire Appeal donations filled Western Tiers Independent Greg Hall's, office, overflowed into the back office of Service TAS and then into one of their meeting rooms recently.

Greg had offered his office at Deloraine as a collection point for clothing for the fire appeal. The Deloraine office was the only parliamentary office between Longford and Devonport where clothing could be left for rapid dispersal to the people in need.

Many hundreds of bags were donated and the Rotary Club of Deloraine and Meander Valley Transport volunteered their services to transport the

donated items to Longford.

Pictured above are just some of the many donations received for distribution amongst bushfire victims in Victoria, once again demonstrating the caring nature of the people of Tasmania.



Golden oldies football reunion

A Tasmanian Golden Oldies Football Reunion is to be held at the Longford Club on Wednesday 11th March, from 11.30am until 3pm. Guest speaker will be Michael Perry, Richmond Premiership player 1971, Victorian State player, 1967.

A free bus will collect those wishing to attend at the Retreat Hotel in Launceston at 10.30am, and your contact for this is Badger Luttrell on 6326 1389.

A free bus will leave the North West Coast from the Ulverstone Football Club at 10am, calling at the East Devonport Football Club at 10.30am, and Latrobe Football Club at 10.45am. Contact for the North West Coast bus is Graeme (Gypsy) Lee, who can be contacted on 6424 4802.

Big names who have intimated that they will be attending include Darrell Baldock, Bob Withers, Noel Atkins, Ray Stokes, Graeme Lee, Graeme Wilkinson, Jim Ross, Badger Luttrell - the list seems never ending.

There will be memorabilia auctions during the course of the lunch, which will cost \$25 for 2 courses.

All former sports players from any code are cordially invited and will be made most welcome.



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Independently Speaking

With Greg Hall, MLC
Deputy President
Independent Member for Western Tiers

Financial Time Bomb

During these difficult economic times nationally and globally, I am concerned that there is another financial time bomb ticking in Tasmania.

I refer to the exponential growth of our public sector here in this State over the past few years.

One could speculate that the doubling of the cost to taxpayers of Tasmania's public sector over the last decade is significantly to blame for the budget cuts now being implemented.

More than 5300 additional full time equivalent (FTE's) public servants have been employed in the past 10 years, with a total wages bill of \$1.8 billion per annum.

In addition wage increases have been negotiated of between 18.4% and 24.4% over 38 months for 11,000 employees.

I have no issue with Union's trying to get the best outcomes for their members.

But, can we afford it combined with a large increase in numbers employed?

We are the smallest State, with the smallest economy, and yet public servants make up 16.3% of the total Tasmanian labour market - the highest proportion of any State.

The next highest is South Australia (13.7%) and the lowest Victoria (10.7%).

I don't have an issue with appropriate and necessary levels of staffing in education and health for example. But it is time that the State Government bites the bullet and urgently reviews the growth in the non service delivery Hobart based bureaucracy rather than relying on band aid cost cutting measures that inflict pain on regional Tasmania.

I believe that most Tasmanian taxpayers would like to see increased accountability when it comes to the cost of the public sector with more scrutiny of decisions to employ additional numbers.

Whilst I always like to have an optimistic outlook, the reality is that there are serious storm clouds on the economic front, with jobs already being lost in the private sector.

The State Budget has already been plunged into a fiscal deficit of around \$150 million and this will only worsen as revenues continue to evaporate as the economic downturn bites.

Many of these external factors are of course beyond the control of the State Government, but control of the burgeoning Hobart based public sector should be an absolute priority!

Upper Florentine Valley - how was it?

Readers may remember I mentioned last month that I organized a visit for Members of the Legislative Council to the Upper Florentine Valley, which took place on Friday 20th February. The purpose of the visit was to get an understanding of all the issues, in light of the significant community interest in the forestry operations and protests.

A briefing was provided by both sides of the forestry debate with representatives of both the Wilderness Society and Forestry Tasmania available to answer questions from Independent Legislative Councilors.

This visit to the Upper Florentine was intended to assist in giving interested Members of Parliament first hand knowledge of the complex issues involved that are of interest to the Tasmanian community, nine Independent MLC's attended.

I am pleased to say that the day was extremely informative and constructive and it was very positive, in that all sides of the debate could come together for a mature discussion of these contentious and important issues for our State.



Greg Hall MLC

**Independent
Member for
Western Tiers**

Your Independent member of the
Legislative Council working for the residents of
Longford, Perth, Cressy and surrounding areas.

P.O. Box 361, Deloraine, Tas 7304

Email: greg.hall@parliament.tas.gov.au

Telephone 6362 8020