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www.southhobart.org.au office@southhobart.org.au

THE SOUTH HOBART PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

The next meeting of the Association will be held on Wednesday 10th June 2026 at 7:30 pm in the *South Hobart Community Centre*, 42 D'Arcy Street, South Hobart. All are welcome to attend, especially any new residents.

BUSHCARE WORKING BEES

The Rivulet Group will meet on Sunday, 14th June, 2:00 pm to 4:30pm, meeting at the MacFarlane Street footbridge, South Hobart and **The South Hobart Group** will meet on Sunday, 21st June, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm, meeting at the lower car-park at Cascade Gardens, South Hobart. All equipment provided - Any enquiries to John (Rivulet) on **0417 617 572** and Janet (South Hobart) on **6223 8132**.

SWEET BEATS ON MY STREET

Do you love cake or baking? Live music and dancing? Or simply hanging out with your neighbours and community? How about combining all that into one event? Thanks to support from Hobart City Council's Events Team, Sweet Beats on My Street is back for another year of celebrating our community and multiculturalism through shared cakes, dancing, stories, and more! We will be running the event on 28th June from 12-4pm. It will, hopefully, be held in Lower Wellesley Park, which is the agreed venue at present. Also, if you're a local business that runs a food van, offers face painting, and/or kids' arts and bush play programs, we'd love to hear from you. And, for what might be my favourite part of the event, we are hoping to give our young MCs more microphone time this year! So, we'd love to hear from parents and youngsters whose children are keen to get involved. For more details, please contact secretary@southhobart.org.

LANDCARE IN SOUTH HOBART

Landcare Australia originated in Victoria in the mid-1980s to tackle soil erosion and land degradation in rural areas of Victoria. It was funded by the Hawke Federal Government from 1989. Landcare arose originally from the joint vision of the *National Farmers' Federation* (NFF) led by Rick Farley, the *Australian Conservation Foundation* (ACF) led by Phil Toyne, and the Hawke Labor government under Minister Cooke, then Minister for Resources. The

vision was a grassroots partnership between farmers and conservationists to tackle land degradation across rural Australia.

Landcare funding was originally intended to assist farmers and rural property owners to combat soil erosion on agricultural and rural land by working collaboratively with local communities. These farmer-community partnerships aimed to address soil erosion and land degradation on individual properties and in local communities.

The first pilot programmes were on the Mainland, including in Central Victoria (e.g. tree plantings along water courses and the prevention of gully erosion in paddocks). Tree plantings were a major component of Landcare projects. Landcare was the precursor of *Greening Australia* and *Bushcare* which came much later.

Rosemary Sandford, a resident of South Hobart since 1986, was Tasmania's first state Landcare Coordinator [1988-1989]. In that capacity, she initiated the first urban Landcare project in Australia. Rosemary suggested to the Hawke Government that it should pilot fund plantings in urban areas as well as in rural areas, and she nominated for funding the badly eroded and degraded hillside above the Upper Wellesley Street Oval (now a soccer ground). Rosemary contacted this Association and put her suggestion to it. The SHPA, including Maggie Nettleship, then President, applied for and received Landcare funding to address major gully erosion on that and adjacent slopes. Many Tasmanian endemic species were planted and cared for by members of the SHPA and the South Hobart community over subsequent years. Some trees died, but the majority still stand as habitat for local birds and wildlife.

[Dr. Rosemary Sandford, a former President of the Association, still resides in South Hobart, is a member of the SHPA and regularly walks her dog through Upper and Lower Wellesley Park.]

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METRO CHANGES

If you are a bus user, you might want to double check your timetable as some have changed recently. The *Department of State Growth* has announced that changes were coming in May, including some school bus services. Timetables will be updated to reflect real travel times and, hopefully, improved reliability. To prepare for possible changes to routes that you use, go to metrotas.com.au and scroll down to "Hobart Timetable Update".

ST. DAVID'S PARK LOSS

The two *Giant Sequoias* in *St. David's Park* are now gone. The City of Hobart announced their removal following repeated attempts to save the trees. The *Sequoias* were hit by a number of events. Everything possible was done to save them, including carrying out a three-stage soil microbiological treatment to try to breathe new life into the trees' root system. The trees were planted in 1937 to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. At eighty-eight years of age, the trees, at 30 metres in height, are just "babies", as *Giant Sequoias* can live to over 3,000 years. In time, the trees will be replaced by two young *Giant Sequoias* and the wood from the felled trees will be used in Council projects, including a new waterfront interpretation project.

A GREAT INITIATIVE

This article appeared in the May Newsletter of Neighbourhood Watch (Tas). "In keeping with our mantra of at least *Do One Thing* (DOT), a recent article from Neighbourhood Support in New Zealand promotes the initiative of *Love Your Drain* or *Be a Grate Mate*. Quite simply, the campaign is about encouraging residents to care for the stormwater drain in their street. Small acts like clearing leaves and rubbish help prevent flooding and protect waterways & promote neighbourhood connection and resilience."

TASMANIAN LAND CONSERVANCY

Wildlife does not recognise property boundaries. Tonight, an eastern barred bandicoot will visit multiple properties – moving between patches

of vegetation, foraging in the dark, crossing fences where she can. She does not know where a reserve ends and a garden begins.

More than 650 species in Tasmania are listed as threatened, many occurring on private land. And with around half the State privately owned, the future of nature is being shaped across farms, bush blocks and backyards. Encouragingly, people are stepping forward. Through *Land for Wildlife* and *Gardens for Wildlife*, people are restoring habitat and reconnecting landscapes. Through *WildTracker*, they are using cameras to understand which species are present – helping to fill critical knowledge gaps. Together, these efforts add up to:- 38,000+ hectares cared for by *Land for Wildlife* members; 2,000+ landholders restoring and protecting habitat; 500+ properties monitoring wildlife through *WildTracker*; and demand is growing. More people want to take action than ever before. We're at a critical point. What happens now will determine what survives – and what is lost. Property by property, these actions are building something larger: a connected landscape where nature can endure.

Tonight, that bandicoot will keep moving – searching for food, for cover, for safety. Whether she finds it depends on the choices we make together.

Tasmania Land Conservancy is a not-for-profit, apolitical, science- and community-based organisation that raises funds from the public to protect irreplaceable sites and rare ecosystems by buying and managing private land in Tasmania. For more information, email info@tasland.org.au or phone +61 3 6225 1399

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Contributions are welcome and should be forwarded to the Newsletter Editor: dhalserogers@gmail.com by the first Monday of each month.

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