

People's Agenda

You might have listened to Politicians views/agenda, Political Party's views/agenda...but let's try to listen to Common Man's Views/agenda...on how they want to see their very own Tasmania to be developed moving forward.

Diverse Tassie spoke to people who didn't support any particular party but had definite views on how and what can be done for a better living of every Tasmanian.

A series of comments made by people on what they would like to see happening in Tasmania. Because of the page limit we couldn't print all the responses, but we will be posting all the responses on our social media page.

#1 : People's Agenda.

Hi, housing for those with mental illness is a great problem in Hobart. I belong to a voluntary group called Hobart Hamlet housing which is seeking funding for a project on housing for those with mental illness.

Many thanks, Sujatha.

#2 People's Agenda:

Glenn & Barbara Jackson, Franklin:
Please listen to the people who elected them and bring forward in parliament

what they need which may not be not what the party want.

Please remember that they are elected by the people of their electorate to represent that area not all of Australia/Tasmania.

Please organise / advertise more local meetings to receive feedback/information from the people in the electorate.

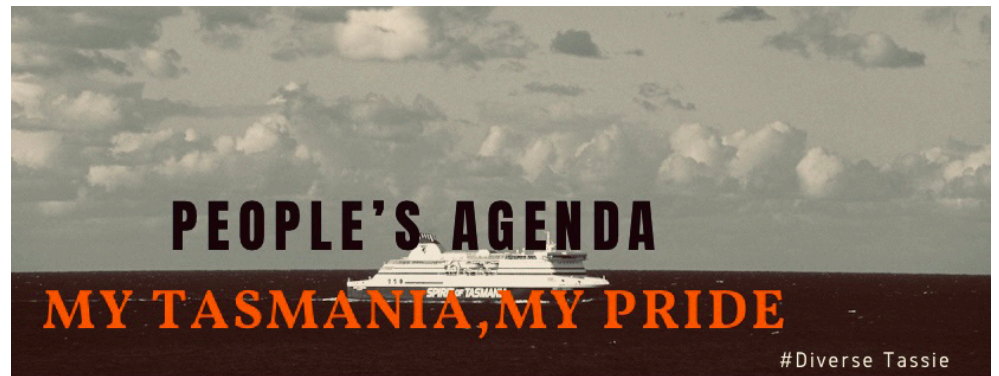
Please be constructive in ensuring healthy wellbeing of the electorate is well funded, as well as all essential frontline services and schools are funded appropriately.

Please Ensure roads and highways are maintained correctly to ensure safety of all users.

If new infrastructure (Hospitals, Prisons, schools, ambulances or fire stations) are required ensure that the workers at the ground level are involved at least in the preliminary discussions.

#3 People's Agenda:

I've been thinking about politics in general. It's on the nose and the talent pool is very low on both sides. All we can hope for over the coming years is a concerted effort with low cost housing and make sure we are able to create thousands of full time jobs in the building



and construction industries.

In another life full time employment meant a minimum of 25 hours per week and now the experts say 1 hour is being employed. Hence 5.5 percent unemployment! It's really closer to 10 or 12 for the underemployed. Tasmania has a great opportunity to provide plenty of work on local projects. It should've the exception rather than the rule to go off-shore for anything. Ie ferries, shipbuilding etc. when the polities say they are going to be transparent, believe me that means they are certainly not going to be transparent. TAFE training should be a massive priority for all politicians mostly who are either lawyers or teachers. We need thousands of qualified tradesmen in all fields.

— Gav White.

#4 People's Agenda :

Life in Tasmania is bit crazy, Petrol prices are rising, Rentals are scary, Tourism is

down, Hospitality industry is shaky, Taste was cancelled, Falls was canned, Dark Mofo took a negative stand, Hospitals are struggling, Hospital waiting times increased for patients.

THIS IS TIME FOR NEW AWAKENING : Construction is booming, New Ferries are looming, Vaccine roll out needs grooming, Tasmanian stranded overseas are shown no respite but flights to New Zealand are given green signal, Domestic flights are still tricky as one COVID case can lock down the whole city, Online shopping is eating into local businesses, Mental health is on decline, Pokies agenda is pushed back.

COME ON TASSIE VOTE WITH AUTHORITY CHOOSE A GOVERNMENT OF MAJORITY,

VOTE WITH DIRECTIONS NOT EMOTIONS :

A NEW ALLIANCE IN TASMANIA

CDAT, or the Culturally Diverse Alliance of Tasmania Inc. was made public as the State's newest multicultural, not-for-profit organisation with more than 120 members including 20 organisations already registered.

The launch of CDAT was held at In the Hanging Garden on Sunday, 21th of March 2021. It was brilliantly featured by the attendance of His Excellence Governor Professor Kate Warner, our three Patrons namely Leigh Carmichael, Craig Everest, Grace Williams, and a significant number of community members. It was a historic event, a milestone, and a memorable night. The

Smoke ceremony was carried out by one of the patrons Craig Everest, a member of our Aboriginal communities. The spread of the smoke across the ceremonial setting was mind-blowing including the cultural dance that left an unforgettable feeling to all participants.

CDAT Vision is to endeavour to connect all Tasmanians with the diverse cultural groups, who now call Tasmania home. To empower migrant and refugee communities through mentoring and sharing of knowledge. To advocate, by being productive and instrumental in bringing about change for our culturally diverse vulnerable communities.

The pillars of CDAT are mentorship, education, and advocacy with the aim to bridge the gap between the Aboriginal community and the new migrants. CDAT supports the view that we must develop, cultivate, and work with our Tasmanian Aboriginal

communities and offer our support to their struggles and their rightful place in the nation.

CDAT Team look forward to working with government, organisations, and community leaders for the betterment of our great State.





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safehavenhub.org.au

Intergenerational and cultural connection for Harmony Week

During March each year, Harmony Week is observed to celebrate our diversity and acknowledge the importance of inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for everyone.

In the spirit of Harmony Week, a Cultural Feast was held by Clarence High School (CHS) in collaboration with the Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania (MRC Tas), as part of Food Connections Clarence.

Two classes of Hospitality students prepared a delicious selection

of dishes for MRC Tas Aged and Community Services clients and other community members. Prior to the event, Chinese Community chef Kui Lin Tai, affectionately known as Mrs Chia, conducted a mentoring session at the school,

“I’m really happy to be sharing my culture and my recipes with the students because food is so important in Chinese culture and in bringing the community together,” she said.

Mrs Chia has been a chef for 40

years and is originally from Malaysia where she ran a restaurant. When she moved to Hobart 35 years ago, she started up a Malaysian/Chinese restaurant, which she ran with her children for many years. Mrs Chia has worked at MRC Tas for nearly 20 years, supporting social

activities and cooking for Aged and Community Services clients.

Clarence High School teacher Amanda Sutton said the experience was beneficial for students and community members alike,

“This was a great opportunity



for the students to connect with the elderly and isolated in our local community and learn that you have to taste a culture to understand it,” she said.

“One of the best ways to experience culture is through food. Food is a great way to share cultural beliefs, values and way of life, and for my students to appreciate and accept the differences.”

Food Connections Clarence is a group of organisations, businesses, schools, and volunteers that are committed to working together with Clarence City Council to help improve access to healthy, low-cost food to those most vulnerable.

Cast your vote and carry-on.

A reflection piece: incorporating experiences of growing up in Zimbabwe under a dictatorship.

By Mike McGuire

Autumn brings so many changes within the natural world, the shedding of those old, outdated leaves, and plants which creates excitement for what is to come.

The leaves die gracefully, golden in colour – and allow the swirling winds to occasionally whip them up into miniature tornadoes – along our otherwise well-manicured sidewalks, laneways, and driveways. Our herbs that have gifted us with wonderful flavours throughout the warm months go to sleep. They promise to return to delight our bellies once more. They tell us to exercise patience. That thyme infused sizzling roast-meal will return – do not you worry!

The murmurings on the street become louder, as the local barista questions the rugged up couple on their way to earn a life, “Cold out there is it?”

“You bet!” They say in unison. They glance at each-other, almost sheepishly...it is obvious they want to say more. “Go-on...what is it?” the barrister offers encouragingly. The young woman reflects, “Well...with the elections approaching, - together with the colder temperatures – every-body seems low. Almost, as if it’s fashionable

to get depressed during the seasons transitions.”

“Mmm, I see,” The barrister grunts, adjusting his woollen jumper. “So, what shall we be like?” He spits out, in a slightly defensive tone. The young man, - nudges his partner - edging her to offer her story and so she does:

“I remember when I was 12-years-old, growing up in Zimbabwe, Southern Africa. It was election-times. Mugabe, the dictator was a shoo-in for the win. Every-body knew it! But still they risked their lives to vote. I remember waiting outside in our garden, on a 43-degree hot day, - nervously watching the dark, dense bush – waiting for my brave mother and her friend, Molly to return from a three-hour trek to their local voting booth.

I did not get why my mother wanted to cast her vote so much. Even as a 12-year-old – I had the political awareness of how pointless it was to risk everything for nothing. What I lacked however was wisdom. My mother, after returned with Molly later that evening, holding hands triumphantly – as if they had won the presidency themselves! “I’m so confused! You know nothing will change right?” I told my mother, - in a condescending tone.

“My child, haha – you don’t understand. It’s not the end result for us in Zimbabwe – but the power of coming together with one-another to have our

say! Molly has never cast a vote before in her life – but after today – she appears empowered – like she has head butted that dictator directly down below to feed the worms!”

“I realized that for my mother and Molly – it was enough to offer one-another the hope and respect of supporting each other on this life-risking trek through the thick danger infused bush. A young white woman, together with a young African woman – hand in hand, rallying against the evil that had gripped the country for decades.” The barista, wide eyed and mouth agape, lets out a nervous laugh in appreciation to the storyteller.

“Amazing! But what does this mean for us in Tasmania? C’mon, I know there is a special metaphorical lesson in there, as with all African tales!”

The young woman looks around onto the nearby

passers-by, the commuters stuck in rush hour traffic, with the political billboards hanging on the tall grey buildings above. She shrugs her shoulders, “Well... there won’t be any life-risking treks for us on the way to our local booths will there!? We will cast our vote, have our say and then...we will carry on with our lives...and that yes, - those wonderfully flavoursome herbs that have fallen asleep – will once again grace us.”



The views and opinions expressed in the articles are those of authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of “Diverse Tassie”.

Mandated use of Check in TAS for contact tracing

Tasmanians have done an amazing job of keeping on top of COVID-19, and it's critical that we do not become complacent, despite the rollout of vaccines.

As more contagious strains of the virus emerge – at the same time as people in Tasmania are moving and mixing much more freely – we must remain vigilant and ensure that we are ready to rapidly identify all contacts should a new case or outbreak emerge.

We all have a part to play in keeping Tasmania safe, from government, industry, business and community groups, through to every individual person in Tasmania.

The Director of Public Health has determined that, from 1 May 2021, the free Check in TAS app will be the only system used for collecting contact tracing

information in Tasmania.

This means that the specific businesses, community groups and event operators currently required to collect contact tracing information under the existing Public Health direction – who haven't already registered for Check in TAS – need to register and then ensure their patrons can easily use the Check in TAS QR code at their premises, ahead of the 1 May deadline for compliance.

This includes hospitality businesses, as well as places of worship, cinemas, galleries, tourist premises, concert venues, amusement parks, auction houses, hair dresses, beauty treatment premises, spas, swimming pools and others.

I ask every Tasmanian to download the Check in TAS app to your mobile phone so you are ready to use it to check in at

the many thousands of locations in our State that will be displaying Check in TAS QR codes.

The contact details of each individual, including everyone in a group, and employees/operators, must be recorded by scanning the Check in TAS QR code on entry to the premises. This simple process takes only a few seconds per patron, and leaves business and event operators free to provide their usual customer service. All the operators and staff need to do is display the QR code and ask: 'Have you checked in?'

Check in TAS is the easiest and safest way for Public Health to collect accurate, reliable and accessible contact tracing information that can be used to help protect Tasmanian communities from COVID.


support this change, and the Department of State Growth will work to educate and support businesses and organisations as we make this change, including one-on-one assistance for businesses, and close engagement with regional chambers of commerce and other peak bodies, as well as enterprise centres.

Keeping on Top of COVID is a priority for the Tasmanian Liberal Government, for our economy, for jobs and for keeping Tasmania open for business. Most importantly, Keeping on Top of COVID is about protecting the lives of Tasmanians. I urge everyone in Tasmania, do your part to help us Keep on Top of COVID.

Further information, including the types of premises, is available online at <http://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au>

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Abu's diary

Diary of a wild Maltese Shih tzu - Mountain dog trained, strong and free. Raised by a goofy long-legged couple who spend endless amounts of energy fighting against their garden enemy no 1 – the Mighty Possum Army

18th diary entry:

Last entry? Who could forget folks!? I won first place in a dog fashion show...you bet I did! My lucky number that they wrapped over my neck and my FIRST place ribbon now rest proudly above my bed, pinned to the wall. The undisputed champion. Todd, the lazy cat from next door reckons I need to be humble about it. Pffft, seriously Todd – how ironic. Your very existence screams – self-obsession. You do not emit any stink. How dare you? What kind of hairy creature smells of “Organic Lavender shampoo” that the humans whip up in the hope of covering their own beautiful aromas.

This entry? Another majestic road-trip with my most beloved folks! We camped at the wonderful Mole Creek campgrounds over the Easter break. Luckily, we found ourselves and our little red tent perched at the water’s edge. The serenity was mind-blowing. A welcome break from the mechanical lives’ humans tortures themselves with through-out their days – such as air conditioners!

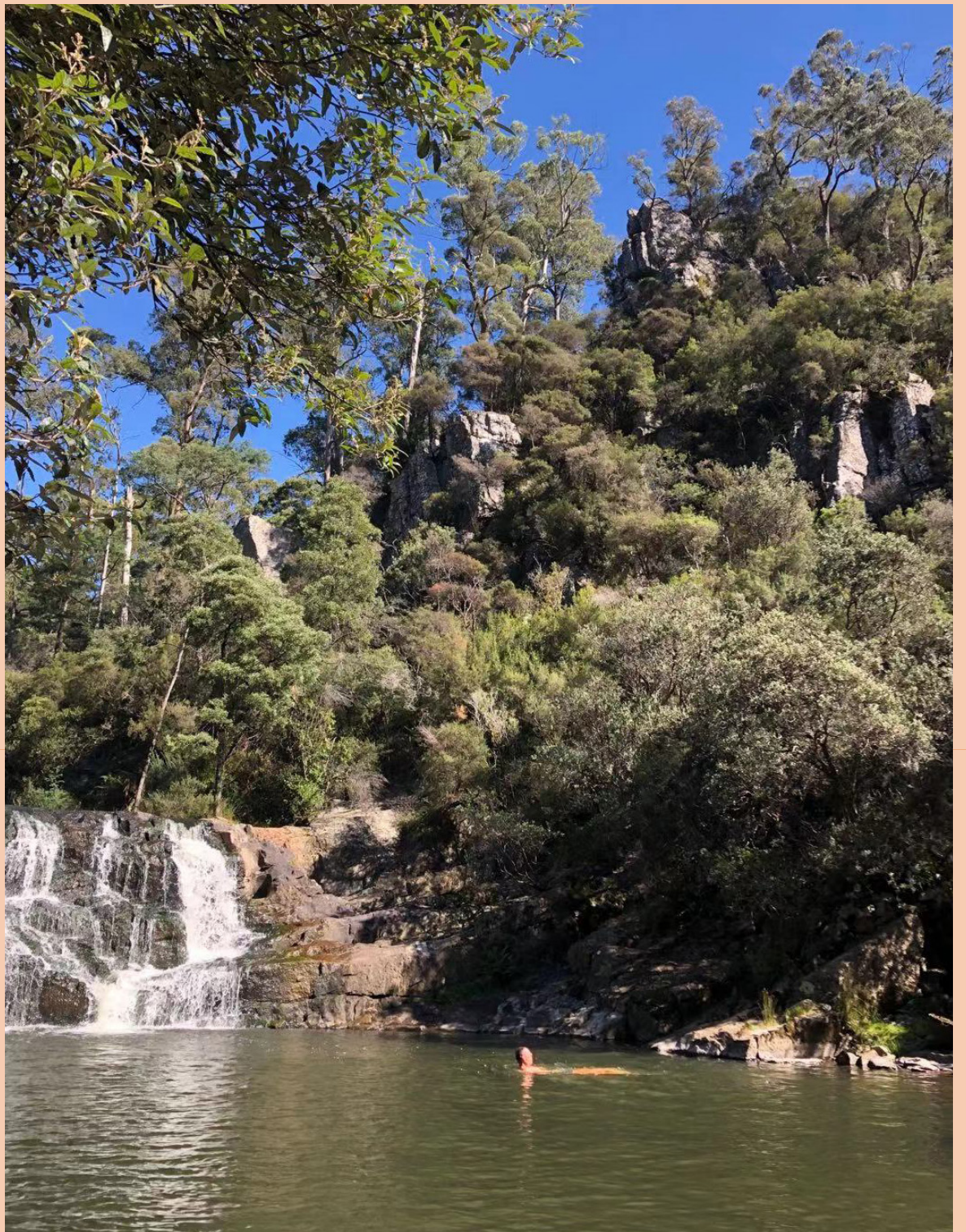
Seriously, my parents – bless your most priceless souls – have been flicking through endless catalogues, frantically searching for the cheapest and most efficient air con model. I hate how those machines invade our living space with their arrogant wafting and gushing of “warm air”. They trick the humans into feeling warmer.

Haven’t they learnt by now? The answers lie in-front of them. Stop shaving and cutting your hair away!! All these fancy sounding hair clippers and dressers that dominate the adverts in the newspapers that my dad leaves strewn around the lounge-floor. The shavers that offer the cleanest cuts, to get rid of beards, chest hairs...arm pit hairs.... leg hairs....NO! Stop eradicating the hairs! They are your friends, you arrogant species.

Okay, I get it. In summer-time – I admit – my gorgeous over-grown coat does cause me to pant a little too much, like that Tasmanian devil from those Looney tunes! But when winter comes...and winter is coming folks; I parade around like, I have defeated the seasons. Winter does not even come close to hitting my bones.

Todd keeps telling me that humans have always cut their hair for other reasons and has nothing to do with the seasonal patterns of our world but more with romanticisms. What a silly Todd – get your stinky feline nose out of the gutter!

“Some of the worst mistakes in my life were haircuts.” – Jim Morrison



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HIGHWAY TO HELL AND BACK

by Rodney G

You may recall that recently I wrote an article about resisting aging, with the heading, “Don’t let the old man in.” In that article I explained how I was so determined to do the things I use to be able to do, that I planned a trip from Hobart to Perth Western Australia and back on a motorcycle, towing a small camper trailer I was building.

Well, I wish to report that I was true to my words, and I finished the trailer and with the company of my little Jack Russell rough coat terrier, who had to endure all the trials and tribulations of the trip, I made the journey all the way to Perth Western Australia and back to Hobart.

The trip was to accomplish several things. One was to meet up with another friend who was doing a similar trip, although much younger and possibly fitter than myself. Another reason was to show the people who told me I was too old to do such a trip and I’d never finish it, that I could.

Another I guess was to impress my father with my trailer manufacturing skills that neither of us knew I had.

I hadn’t seen my father in a long time. Sadly, as I was leaving, I heard he had passed away. There seemed little reason to hurry now, but for some reason I knew I needed to be there sooner than later.

The so-called friend who got me to ride through a day of heavy rain, getting soaked to the skin, to meet up with him on the Nullarbor, at the time and date agreed upon, text me when I was but half a day away, that he had

decided to give it away and head home. To my disappointment when I offered to meet up in Ceduna, I found out he was already home in Tasmania.

Feeling let down, but not to be put off from my quest, I decided the only course was to soldier on. From leaving the boat in Melbourne it took me four days to arrive at my destination. With the many frequent stops for my little dog Rocket. Although at the time I found it a bit of a pain but in hind sight my body needed those breaks just as much did Rocket.

I must say the Canam Spyder F3 that I was riding never missed a beat, and the little camper trailer I built worked every bit as good as I had expected. In fact, many people were so impressed with its design they took photos.

On a personal note, I have to admit the trip did take its toll on my body, and I was rather sore when I got to Perth. The return trip was even harder. Accomplishing 800km days I would think a very demanding ordeal for anyone on a motorcycle, and possibly if I had taken longer, I would have fared much better than I did.

After attending my father’s funeral, there seemed little point in remaining as anyone who cared about me was now back in Tasmania.

During the trip I travelled at all hours of the day and night. I saw one very large kangaroo which made me stop and camp for the rest of the night. Other than that, I saw one very large Wedgetail Eagle, and was exposed to swarms of locusts. Once crossing west towards Nullarbor and then on the return a week

later in the same area. I’m still picking them out of my grill.

The most pleasant stop was at a lake out from Ballarat. Lots of trees, green lawns, camp fires and other little dogs for my Rocket to play with. After paddling in the shallow waters and playing with the other dogs, and sniffing around to find some rabbits, he was so happy that he came over to me and hugged my leg. Something he’d never done before.

The next morning, I needed to get up very early because I had to ride to the Spirit of Tasmania in Melbourne. The alarm failed me, and I woke up half an hour later than I had planned. To add to my problems, I didn’t know my way back to the main freeway because I followed someone to the lake. Now I found myself having arguments with the GPS that wanted to send me down goat tracks and I was desperate for time. After ignoring the GPS and going on gut instinct by 6:00am I was on the M8 freeway heading towards Melbourne. The experience was rather frightening, because road was wet, and with my three-wheeler bike and trailer, being pushed along by traffic that wanted to do a far greater speed than I felt comfortable, on a road where I was totally unfamiliar, knowing I had to keep up the speed to not miss the boat.

To add to my woes, the GPS that I was relying upon to directions, fell out of its holder and by sheer luck was still linked to the power cable rather than falling to the road and its destruction.

I got to the boat, and all of a sudden, I had to come up with the G2 pass for Tasmania. Now considering nowhere else on this trip across several states, going both ways was I asked for a G2 pass. I did have them all but after being soaked to the skin in Victoria several of these were nothing but a soggy ball of paper. Desperately I searched my emails, keeping in mind that several efforts earlier were totally unsuccessful, but this time the God’s were with me.

Then I was asked for the proof my dog had been wormed. Well, he had been wormed a few days earlier, but when I did it, I wasn’t thinking of the Tasmanian animal restrictions, so the copy of the invoice was lost.

They let me do the trip anyway with the idea they would need to sort this out at Devonport. Fortunately, I have a habit of taking pictures of receipts, and up until this time I never seem to need to refer to them, but low and behold, I found the receipt when I purchased the wormer.

By the time I had got through all the red tape at Devonport it was pushing close to 7:30pm. I had told my wife I expected to be home after 8pm. With a distance of close to 290kms that was obviously impossible.

Without thinking it through I pushed for home as fast as the speed limit would allow.

Mistakenly I thought the Caltex truck stop in Epping would be open, even though it was around 8:30pm. I found myself rather stressed to find it in darkness with my gauges telling me I had 90kms to go until empty. My wife was trying to contact me, but I didn’t want to worry her, so I pushed on the Campbell town. Arriving to my joy to find a petrol station still open.

I was so close to home after this cruelling journey, I didn’t want to spend another night sleeping in my camper cuddled up to my dog. As nice as he is, he tends to hog the bed.

Upon arriving home, the family was keen to see that I was home safe and well. After a nice hot shower, a massage with hot stones, and fourteen hours sleep, I was on the road to recovery. Upon reflexion over the previous few weeks, I asked myself would I subject myself to another trip like the one I had just completed? After experiencing pain in joints and muscles telling me what the future might be like for me if I chose to continue this path. I’d have to say, “No way in hell, I must have been crazy.



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CULTURALLY DIVERSE ALLIANCE OF TASMANIA

SPEECH BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR
THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER
AC GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA
IN THE HANGING GARDEN,
HOBART, SUNDAY 21 MARCH 2021

Good evening. Dick and I are thrilled to have been asked to attend this significant new Tasmanian initiative and for me, as Governor, to have the privilege of saying a few words.

Thank you, Craig Everett, for your Welcome to Country. Can I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land—the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

That survival and continuity is so well demonstrated by an event we have just been to – Nunami Sculthorpe Green’s takara nipaluna/walking Hobart, which she organised with Tasmania Performs as part of this year’s Ten Days on the Island program. The walk gives voice to the palawa perspective, history and continued presence within contemporary

Hobart, and exposes the layers of history beneath its asphalt.

Zelinda Sherlock first spoke to me some months ago about her proposal with colleagues to form the Alliance, but because I was unable to take up the very kind offer of being inaugural Patron, due to my term expiring shortly – in June this year – my being able to speak now has much personal significance.

I say this as it is likely that this is one of the last launches of an organisation I will be attending as Governor. And, more importantly, because Dick and I are strongly committed to the very principles that underlie CDAT.

Australia prides itself on being one of the most multicultural societies in the world and we see ourselves as being a place where all cultures, languages and faiths have an equal opportunity to belong, contribute, achieve and succeed.

And while most Australians see cultural diversity as a good thing, we know that we are nevertheless a country where racism persists and that overt and subtle racism has the effect of discriminating against people of LOTE backgrounds and those of non-European descent.

For this reason, organisations such

as this are needed to bring CALD for the organisation and to meeting the people together to support each other Board members. to celebrate cultural differences. I am Thank you. looking forward to hearing John Kamara and Mike Dutta speak about their vision



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Negative effects of online activities

Online Games and Social Media and direct engagement has restricted kids and teens outdoor activities such as playing cricket, football, swimming etc creating a negative effect on their physical and mental health.

A report published by IZA Institute of Labor Economics even suggests that just one hour a day on social media can make a teen miserable.

The study also theorized that this may be caused by issues of cyberbullying, an increase in social comparisons, and a decrease in real-life, face-to-face activities.

According to a University of Alberta study, “Social media makes it all feel a little closer to home, when in reality statistics show that kids are actually safer today than they were in the past,”

“The safety concerns are not really founded, but they’re heightened because of social media. That didn’t happen in their grandparents’ days.”

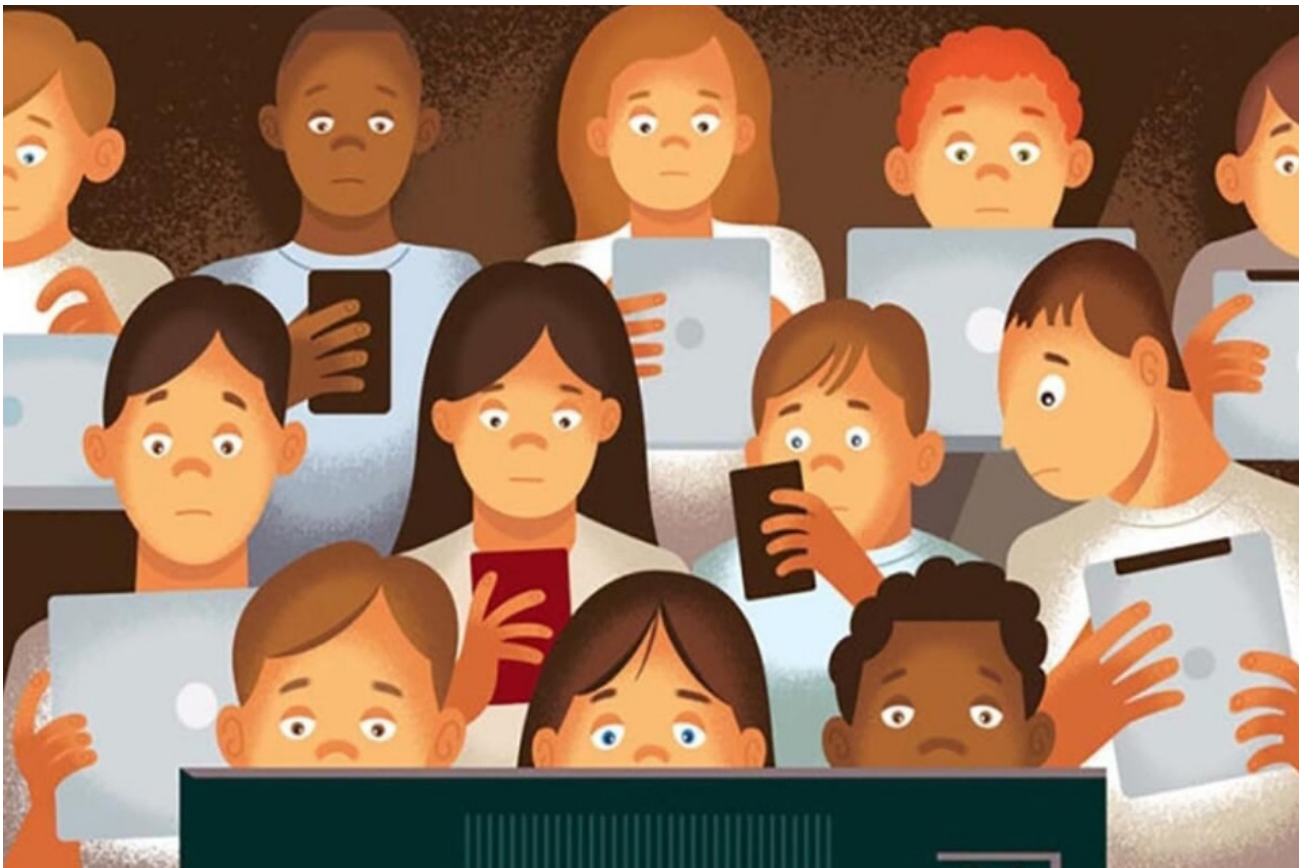
Another 2015 study by the British Psychological Society finds that teenagers being obligated to be responsive to social media (liking posts, answering texts

and direct messages) throughout the day affects their mental health.

A University of Michigan study seem to indicate that in young adults, Facebook use leads to decline in subjective well-being. The more young adults use Facebook, the worse they feel moment-to-moment and the less they feel satisfied with their lives overall.

Thus, it is clear that, we have to inspire our young people to do more outdoor activities that can positively enhance their mental health and well-being.

Some solutions:



- Attending more outdoor games.
 - Inspiring them to read books.
 - Parents should give more time for recreation.
 - Face to face debating competitions.
 - Involvement with hobbies.
 - Intercultural and interfaith involvement.
 - Counselling at school about negative effects of excessive online gaming and social media use.
- Md Juman Hussan.



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Speak Your Truth By Tara Bufton

I waded around the edges of a movement called *Mad In America*. Testing the waters, as they say. I was first made aware of this movement by a film maker called Phil Borges. Being a film maker myself, I was very interested in the story he was telling.

He made a film called, *CrazyWise*, based on an idea he formulated while doing his life's work. Borges travelled the world making short films and beautiful books about Indigenous Cultures. Much of his work is about righting the wrongs and helping people with injustices. He was employed by human rights organizations, the U.N and such. <http://philborges.com/>

I was so impressed by his work. Beautiful and good. Not do-gooding. Just good. I contacted him and chatted a few times. Organized an interview for my Youtube channel a few times, but failed to get my shit together to actually conduct the interview. No, to be fair...I wasn't really set up to do online interviews and I wanted to do it well, with quality sound etc.

Perhaps it was the Universe speaking.

By the time I was set up and ready Phil had done a number of presentations with his film *CrazyWise* and even a Ted Talks. He was more heavily involved in fighting

the good fight against the mental health care system in America.

After looking again at my Youtube work, he and his team declined to be interviewed by me, due to "being on quite different paths in the Mental Health Care sector."

I was hurt and disappointed. But I understood.

I don't really speak my truth in this arena.

I speak about mental health in a way that helps me survive in this society. I adhere to the broken brain paradigm ... outwardly...while inside I believe that medication is part of the problem. That our culture's response to mental health conditions is a bigger problem for the people with mental health conditions than the conditions itself. That there must be a better way.

I don't have the answers but I'm absolutely certain that the mental health care system we are subject to doesn't either.

Phil Borges, in his travels, discovered that many indigenous cultures treat psychosis very differently than we do. They don't devalue the people with so called mental illness – in fact in some of the cultures he

visited he saw these people held in high regard. They were often the shamans and healers of their communities.

Now that idea has stuck with me. It's an idea I played with before I discovered Phil Borges. I thought of it the very first time I experienced mental difference.

I have often felt that my thoughts and consequent actions have healed people. Yes, that is sounding very similar to a delusion associated with bipolar.

But, I'm speaking my truth.

I have often felt I have had some insight into things that others don't see.

I don't understand this. I honestly don't even know if it is a delusion or a reality. But it could be.

Medicine has been very wrong many times in the past. Why could it not be wrong about this?

My sister-in-law is from Liberia. Moiyatu told me about the African belief in the spiritual world. She told me about people having spiritual power to affect another person.

We are so ready to write off African, and other cultures, spiritual knowing



as mumbo jumbo, but maybe we have something to learn?

There is no way to actually know what happens in a metaphysical sense. So, I guess it's just a social construct – our community's accepted spiritual view of the world.

There is a way of knowing what is happening in Mental Health Care in Australia. All you need to do is go down to your nearest psych ward and you'll see. It's no better than the bad old days. And outside the hospitals is not much better. The mentally ill are your homeless and hungry, your demoted and drugged, your laughed at and scorned.

Phil Borges has been my glimmer of hope that I am more than a woman with a broken brain. I'm holding on to that quietly.

Volunteer Grants 2021

Key funding opportunity for community organisations: An important message from Andrew Wilkie MP

Good news!

The Federal Government has launched the 2021 Volunteer Grants, a program that provides small grants for organisations and community groups to use to support their volunteer program. Each electorate has total funding of up to \$132,450 with a minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$5,000 available per organisation.

I am pleased to call for expressions of interest from eligible organisations in Clark.

What can the grant be used for?

Equipment for volunteers such as laptops.
Fuel and travel costs.
Training costs.
Background screening checks of volunteers.
Promoting awareness of volunteering opportunities.

Is your organisation eligible?

To be eligible your organisation must be a legal entity with a current ABN and:

- Be a community based not-for-profit organisation;
- Have at least 40 percent of the organisation's staff be volunteers;

- Seek a minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$5,000; and
- Have a bank account with an Australian financial institution in the name of the organisation applying.

(Community groups that are not legal entities may seek an auspicing body to apply on their behalf, please see grant opportunity guidelines for more information)

How to apply?

If you would like to apply for this grant please send me an Expression of Interest (EOI). EOIs close on Friday 16 April 2021. To lodge an EOI, email Lizzie Drew lizzie.drew@aph.gov.au. Please briefly address each of the following:

- Address and contact details of two people within the organisation.
- Confirmation of your not-for-profit status, that you have a current ABN and that you are a legal entity.
- Confirmation of volunteer numbers within your organisation.
- An outline of what you will use the grant funding for, how it will meet the objectives of

the grants program and how it will benefit the work of volunteers in the community.

- How much you are seeking (must be between \$1,000 and \$5,000).

Once the EOI process has closed, I will work with an independent committee to identify local volunteer needs and nominate projects that best meet the aims of the program. These organisations will then be sent an application form from the Community Grants Hub. The Department will then conduct a final eligibility and compliance check. Please note, only nominated organisations will receive an invitation to apply for the

grant.

If you have any queries, please first read the information available on the website <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/volunteer-grants-activity-2021-volunteer-grants> then either email or call Lizzie at my office on 6234 5255 if you require further clarification or information.

Feel free to circulate this email through your networks.

Best wishes
Andrew Wilkie MP
Independent Member for Clark

Josh Willie MLC

Labor Member for Elwick



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Phone: 6212 2306

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Party and Independent Commitments on Multicultural Affairs

The Liberals, Labor, the Greens, Councillor Kristie Johnston, and the Honourable Sue Hickey MP have replied to a questionnaire sent by the Multicultural Council of Tasmania (MCOT).

- The questionnaire asks for support for at least \$650,000 of spending in 2021-22:
- to support community language schools,
 - for cultural and language awareness training in our emergency services,
 - for dedicated multicultural gathering spaces,
 - to tap into experience and qualifications obtained outside Tasmania,
 - for emergency relief for temporary visa holders ineligible for JobSeeker who have suffered significant income loss in Tasmania due to COVID-19, and
 - for anti-racism campaigning.

The reply from the **Liberals** outlines related announcements such as yesterday’s **\$474,000 “Supporting our Multicultural Communities” policy**, which includes funding for a Multicultural Hub in Launceston based on the successful Multicultural Hub in Moonah.

The reply from **Labor** states that **“Labor will commit \$750,000 to the Multicultural Council of Tasmania to achieve the priorities outlined by the Questionnaire”**.

The reply from the **Greens** states **“Yes”** to every commitment sought by MCOT for spending in 2021-22, and commits an extra \$250,000 for emergency relief for temporary visa holders, anti-racism campaigning in public schools, and extra base funding for MCOT.

The reply from **Councillor Kristie Johnston** states **“Yes”** to every commitment sought by MCOT for spending in 2021-22.

The reply from the **Honourable Sue Hickey MP** states that **“Ms Hickey notes the specific funding requests and undertakes to work with MCOT to see those resources provided in the term of the next government”**.

The questionnaire and replies are at https://www.mcot.org.au/state_election.

MCOT is hosting a Clark candidates forum from 6:30pm to 8:30pm tonight (Tuesday 13 April) at the Multicultural Hub, 65 Hopkins St Moonah. Media are

welcome (RSVPs appreciated given 065 131 capacity limits).

office@mcot.org.au | www.mcot.org.au | 65 Hopkins Street Moonah TAS 7009 | 03 6170 9196

Contacts: Mr Dattaraj Mahambrey, MCOT Chair 0435 130 115

Mr Duncan Spender, MCOT CEO 0401

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