

GOOD NEWS SWANSEA

SUMMER 2016

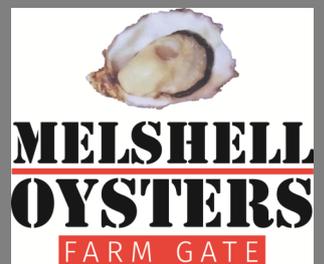
Ideally situated at the centre of the East Coast Swansea has much more to offer than most of us realise.

This newsletter is designed to promote the positives of our village and allow those reading it an insight into what we ourselves are proud of.



Melshell Oysters Farm Gate now open to the public!

Melshell Oysters is now selling the freshest oysters to the public from their funky caravan at their Dolphin Sands farm. After 30 years of farming oysters and selling to Victoria and local restaurants the business has finally taken the plunge and converted a caravan into an oyster tasting experience for the public. Visitors can learn about how oysters are grown in Moulting Lagoon and Great Oyster Bay while taking in the views. Oysters are available to be taken away or slurped down at a table on the rivers' edge. Situated on the bank of the Swan River, you can see the oyster racks and observe on shore operations at your leisure. The farm gate shop is operated by Cassie Melrose, who is trying to keep the farm gate an authentic simple experience that compliments other operations the farm undertakes. Melshell Oysters has added two local staff members and are excited to have added another activity for Swansea visitors to enjoy. Ian Melrose is the production manager at Melshell Oysters and is happy with the year so far with stock in great condition and both growing areas not being affected by the algal bloom at all this year.



Some Oyster Facts

- It takes 2.5 years to grow Melshell Oysters from babies 4mm (spat) to harvest size 70mm.
- Star Fish and Crabs are predators to Oysters
- Oysters filter 10 litres of water through their gills every hour!

Visitors can visit the farm gate shop 7 days 10am – 4pm. Yellow Sandbanks Road, DOLPHIN SANDS.
Phone 0428570334

Pleasing growth in Tourism

Visitors to East Coast/Freycinet Region

by Martin Crawford...Swansea (for Chamber of Commerce & Tourism)



As a "VERY EX" Tourism/Travel Operator, I still find it interesting to watch and analyse some of the trends in visitation to our State and the East Coast Region and hope the following data/key results will be of interest to community members and to the many people that play an important role in the day to day contact with our valued visitors.

Key Results for past year ending June 2015

- **Total visitors** to the State 1.15 million and up 8%
- Total nights spent in Tasmania by visitors increased by 3%
- Overall Visitor expenditure increased by 9% to \$1.89 billion.
- **Interstate visitors** to Tasmania increased by 9% and the Holiday content grew by 13%

Tourism Regions Increases

EAST COAST	12%	Cradle Coast.....	10%
Southern.....	12%	Northern.....	6%

International Visitors. It was pleasing to see that Tasmania enjoyed an impressive increase of 22% by international visitors (total 198,300) but interestingly the average length of stay decreased by 4%.

Whilst the growth of international visitors to Tasmania continues to grow, it still only represents 3% of the total visitors to AUSTRALIA, thus providing a huge opportunity for further growth in this lucrative market.

Largest source markets for International visitors to Tasmania

China up 38% UK up 33% USA up 25% NZ up 2% Hong Kong down 13%

I trust that these statistics will be of interest, particularly to our business operators within the East Coast region as your income from the Tourism spend is vital to our economy which is distributed amongst the local community in general, by way of wages/services etc

Your work and effort towards providing services to our visitors is appreciated and reflected in a recent survey which placed Swansea and Bicheno as number 7 of the most popular destinations in Tasmania. Nice work...

Good News Swansea is
an initiative of the
**Swansea Chamber
of Commerce**

Next Edition

We hope to produce Good News Swansea quarterly... But need your Input!

Positive stories relating to Swansea for inclusion in the newsletter can be sent to

rphs1.mayshaw@iwwt.com.au

Freycinet Volunteer Marine Rescue

2015 was busy on a number of fronts for Swansea's marine rescue volunteers. All volunteer marine rescue units in Tasmania now operate as independent incorporated bodies affiliated with Surf Life Saving Tasmania. Despite a long association with Australian Volunteer Coast Guard the change to operating as Freycinet Volunteer Marine Rescue will save several thousand dollars each year, freeing up valuable funds for training and equipment.



From 1 July 2016, all response crews will have to meet minimum training standards intended to enhance their own personal safety when dealing with emergencies at sea. Training commenced in May 2015 and will be ongoing. Volunteers have the option of undertaking additional training, taking them right through to commercial coxswain. Although members give up their time for this training, the cost is being covered through additional funding provided by the state government as part their commitment to community water safety.

Highlight of the year has been the installation of local radio receiving equipment that monitors Automatic Identification System (AIS) signals from vessels operating off the east coast. This data is fed directly to the internet where it can be viewed at www.marinetraffic.com or through the Marine Traffic App. Initial trials have shown Freycinet VMR's receiver to have excellent range.



Having proved the capability of the receiver, the next step is the installation of a 'blue box', the transponder for our rescue vessels that will allow anyone to 'track' our vessel whenever it is on the water. This equipment has been purchased with community support, a grant from the Great Oyster Bay Community News, and a donation from Grace Grove's community support school project that raised funds for each of Swansea's volunteer emergency services.

While marine rescue volunteers have been busy, so also have MAST.

MAST has long recognised that Swansea boaters face challenging tides and is now firmly committed to addressing the problem. In association with Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, minor works have been undertaken on the Gordon Street Boat Ramp to improve safety and access. Plans for a new boat ramp adjacent to the jetty have been circulated. MAST has allocated \$700K toward the project and is actively seeking federal funding to raise the remaining funds required.



For those who often wondered if they would live long enough to see the Coles Bay or Lake Leake roads sealed there is every chance of seeing a vastly improved boat ramp at Jubilee Beach.

Col Barney

An update from the Swansea Returned and Services League (RSL) Sub-Branch



On behalf of the Swansea Returned and Services League (RSL) Sub-Branch, it is certainly a privilege to provide an article for this wonderful publication – particularly since it showcases what an extraordinary community we live in. To that end, I would like to firstly thank the residents of Glamorgan-Spring Bay for the increasing support you have shown for the Club since I assumed office in April. It is very much appreciated.

As you may or may not be aware, the Swansea RSL sub-branch has faced a few challenges over the past years. Specifically rising costs to services, utilities and seasonal variances in patronage have meant that business continuity has been difficult – something I expect other small businesses in town

would be familiar with! However, over these last months I am very happy to report that subtle changes in operating procedures and a renewed focus by the Committee on community involvement have seen good results and a growing trade.

Of course, the bistro has long been a draw card for our Club; and in past years has been a significant venue for dining within the township. Lately, however, the bistro has struggled as a viable lease; and Friday night meals were only possible through the very hard work of a select few within the Club. It was certainly evident that a different approach was needed if quality and affordable meals were to be available in the longer term. But what?

Enter the solution...

It is with great pleasure and excitement that, in conjunction with Chief Executive Officer Ms Julie Orr, I can announce a joint cooperative partnership between the Swansea RSL sub-branch and the May Shaw Nursing Centre. In short, the Club and the May Shaw have signed an Memorandum of Understanding which sees the May Shaw assume control of the RSL bistro; with a mission to provide excellent meals and a community focus within the Swansea precinct. This will include high-quality table service, sumptuous menu options and a venue that allows for family dining, special needs attendance and a range of function options. A kitchen upgrade has commenced, and further capital works will occur in the dining precinct and scullery to ensure the highest standard of service and comfort. As the first of its kind across the State between two Community-focused identities, this partnership has the promise of an outstanding addition to Swansea and surrounds.

Meals will commenced in late November, with a grand opening occurring. I strongly encourage you to come and take a look – we would sincerely love to see you at the Club.



Nick Wilson
President
Swansea RSL Sub-Branch Inc.