



GRINDELWALD RESIDENTS' GROUP SUNDOWNER

The weather was kind to us on the evening of our Sundowner/Happy Hour in November inasmuch as the rain stayed away. The committee was happy to organize this event and we were thrilled that so many of our neighbours (approximately fifty residents) came along to spend a very enjoyable hour on the lawns in front of the Rotunda.

One of the GRG committee members had that afternoon mowed the area and other members were able to take along various tables and chairs for everyone's use. .

There were plenty of contributions in the way of food and soft-drink: thank you all

The evening commenced with the GRG Chairperson thanking everyone for coming along. She also introduced Mr John Watson who has very generously agreed to be the Grindelwald Residents Group Patron.

Mr Watson, who is also a Councillor on the West Tamar Council, responded to our Chairperson's comments and added that Grindelwald is a unique part of Tasmania and must be protected as much

as possible: this was much appreciated by all.

To all our neighbours who attended the first GRG Sundowner, thank you for coming and we hope you enjoyed it enough to be at the next one that will most likely be in May 2011.

To our neighbours that weren't able to make it to the November Sundowner, it would be great if you could make it to the next event.

Thanks, *David Broughton* - Secretary GRG

Happy Faces at the Happy Hour

How can I join GRG?

We work on the principal that all Grindelwald residents with the postcode Grindelwald are members of GRG if they have submitted their email address for the newsletter and other correspondence.

How much is the annual membership fee?

GRG does not collect membership fees.

How does GRG collect working funds and how are the funds used?

GRG relies completely on donations from the members and any donations are used for postage and stationary. The biggest single expense is the printed copy of the Newsletter and posting it to some public offices on our mailing list.

How can I become a committee member or help GRG?

The Annual General Meeting will be in August, date to be advised. You can get someone to nominate you or nominate yourself. We are always looking for new committee members willing to contribute. Other ways to help is to make sure that all your Grindelwald neighbours are on the mailing list and a small donation is always welcome.

Suggestions for any legitimate issue you feel GRG should attend should be addressed to the secretary: davarn@internode.on.net



Jocelyn and Cr. John Watson in the middle chatting with from left Sally Lahra and Irene Meindl



Heinz and Tricia Grunwald with Margaret and Hugh Kelly



Carol and Bruce Riley with Helen Armstead



Lorraine Greenacre, John Bagrie and Marlene Tennant



Tim and Leslie Kump, Charlie Tennant, John Bagrie and David Broughton



Bill and Anna Broadhurst, Roger and Judy Flowers far right, Tony Saunders in the middle and far right Misako and Neo Negi

Covenants in Grindelwald - do they still exist?

Grindelwald covenants and the administration of the same by Vos Nominees have been a topic of conversation between residents over the years and were amongst others, one of the factors for the formation of the Residents' Group.

Eric Lahra had an opportunity recently to meet up and discuss the covenants with Mr David Gray, the CEO of Vos Nominees and Mr Barry Sproal, their Corporate Solicitor and, as a result of this, Mr Gray agreed to write to our Newsletter to clarify some issues.

Below is his letter addressed to the Residents Group:



Vos Family Office

We are pleased to confirm several matters relating to queries that we understand have been raised by some residents.

We met with representatives of West Tamar Council last year in order to discuss several applications for subdivision. We agreed that for various reasons, no more land would be permitted to be subdivided in Alpine Cres, Pine Tree Ave or Mountain View Cres. In relation to the various building covenants that apply for a range of areas within the wider area of Grindelwald, we have the on-going obligation to approve or disapprove building plans prior to them being submitted to West Tamar Council for building approval.

We have often disallowed designs that we believe are not appropriate for the specific area, however we have also approved some designs that we believe are appropriate even though they may reflect a more modern version of "Swiss" themes which by nature are extremely varied in concept and design. Having been to Switzerland and having studied a wide variety of designs in that country, I know this to be the case.

Under the terms of the covenants, we can approve variations to what may be considered "traditional" as we deem appropriate. All plans submitted to us are seriously considered having regard to the covenants and the location of the property. We do not interpret the covenants as requiring all properties to comprise identical architectural features.

In the event that as some residents suggest, some buildings may have been approved by West Tamar Council but not by us, it then is beyond our scope to remedy - if indeed that is the case. It is then a matter for those property owners who have the benefit of the same covenants to enforce them should they be so inclined. We would not be prepared to take that action.

Interestingly, we understand that Councils in general, and West Tamar Council in particular, no longer support the idea of developers including building covenants in new subdivisions. Covenants such as those in the Grindelwald development would no longer be permitted.

Sincerely,
David Gray
CEO – Vos Nominees Pty Ltd

Why Not Take a Bus?

Most of us have seen the bus picking up children on their way to school but not being aware that we have an efficient public transport service between Grindelwald and Launceston.

Manions' Coaches have been serving West Tamar community over 50 years and are still operated by the original family members with several vehicles and staff of 35.

The bus to Launceston comes up Waldhorn Drive and down Atkinsons Road only. There is a designated stop outside the Tamar Valley Resort and the Launceston stop is in Brisbane Street close to Charles Street corner.

By supporting the local bus company, we guarantee the continuing service to Grindelwald, save money with petrol and parking fees and reduce pollution.

Further information is also available at www.manionscoaches.com.au



TIMETABLE MONDAY TO FRIDAY

Grindelwald	Launceston	Launceston	Grindelwald
(7.05am *)	7.25am	10.30am	10.55am
7.55am	8.05am	1.10pm	1.35pm
10.00am	10.20am	3.10pm	3.50pm
12.20pm	12.45pm	5.40pm	6.25pm
2.40pm	3.05pm		
4.15pm	5.00pm		

(* 7.05am phone 6383 1221 for pick up day before)

TIMETABLE SATURDAY

Grindelwald	Launceston	Launceston	Grindelwald
8.55am	9.25am	9.30am	9.50am
10.55am	11.30am	4.30pm	5.15pm
2.00pm	2.40pm		

No Service on Public Holidays

John Watson - Patron for GRG



Grindelwald Residents' Group is pleased to announce that Mr John Watson has agreed to become Patron for the GRG.

Mr John Watson, who is a Councillor for the West Tamar Council has been very approachable and shown interest in our concerns regarding upgrading and maintenance issues in the Grindelwald area.

At our first "Sundowner - get-together" in November GRG were delighted to have Mr Watson and his wife Jocelyn

attend and mingle with residents who were able to voice any matters of concern. Mr Watson also addressed the group and expressed his enthusiasm for participation with the GRG to preserve this beautiful area.

As many of the residents may know, Councillor Watson recently retired from his position as Liberal Senator in which role he had been serving Tasmanians for three decades.

Mr Watson graduated with Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Commerce from University of Tasmania and in his early professional career worked as a Chartered Accountant in Audit for Price Waterhouse in Melbourne.

His Parliamentary Committee service included the Senate Select Committee for Superannuation for which he was Chair for approximately ten years.

He devoted many years to strengthening Australia's financial regulatory framework and superannuation system and served as Member in John Hewson's Shadow Ministry, responsible for Superannuation & Taxation.

In the early nineties he was also Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition as well as Parliamentary Secretary to the Business and Economics Group. He also represented Australia as a member and as Leader of several key overseas delegations.

In recognition of his work in 2008 John Watson received the IFSA Excellence Award from the Investment & Financial Services Association. This is the first time that the IFSA Board have decided to make such an award to a former Parliamentarian.

Other awards include the CPA Australia (2007) Meritorious Services Award in recognition of professional contribution and an earlier Meritorious Services Award from the Institute of Chartered Accountants (2004).

John Watson, who owns property in the West Tamar area, was elected to the West Tamar Council in 2009.

The Residents Group is delighted to welcome Councillor Watson for the position of Patron.



Residents' Ragwort Raid

A few weeks ago Robert Wilson was looking out onto Lake Louise and to his horror he saw very invasive Ragwort weed had taken hold on Isle of Shalom. He realised that quick action was needed to prevent it spreading to the whole of the village.

Bob remembered the old saying; "If you ever need a helping hand, the best one is at the end of your arm" and within hours he had organised a group of willing helpers from the Grindelwald community.

On Friday 4th February the group went into action to eradicate the weeds from the island. The working bee continued the following Friday afternoon and has now become a regular Friday project.

The volunteer group is growing, we are having a great time beautifying our own area and enjoying meeting our friends and neighbours.

Further projects have been identified and new volunteers are always welcome.

All you need to do is turn up with some of your basic gardening tools, (hoe, rake, shovel, maybe a wheelbarrow, etc) plus gloves and working boots on the Island bridge on Friday at 4 pm.

For further information phone Bob 0419 589 878 or Eric 0419 729 293.



Please..... don't feed waterfowl.



by Lorraine Greenacre

Feeding ducks is tempting. You have an old loaf of bread, it's a nice day for a walk, and the ducks seem so desperate for food. Feeding ducks and geese has been a pastime for generations, but the more we learn about wild waterfowl, the more we realize how detrimental feeding them is.

Feeding bread to ducks and geese is the equivalent of feeding your child nothing but candy. Ducks and geese like bread, and will clamor for it much like a child will ask for candy. But bread has no nutritional value for waterfowl, it fills their stomachs up so that they do not eat the foods they need in order to remain healthy. Birds without proper nutrition will quickly succumb to disease and death.

Once they get a taste for junk food they stop eating the healthy natural foods in their environment.

Visible symptoms of poor nutrition and advanced stages of starvation are often seen at artificial feeding sites. For example, waterfowl may have drooping wings or may lose their ability to fly. When wild ducks are fed human foods their organs become engorged and fatty on the inside and they quickly die from malnutrition, heart disease, liver problems and other health complications. An overfed, malnourished duck is sluggish and can't escape from predators. Feeding wild ducks adversely affects natural migration patterns, which are critical for their ongoing survival.

Nutrition is not the only reason we shouldn't feed wild ducks and geese. Feeding wildlife causes many problems, for the ducks and for the environment as well. Here are just a few of them:

Overcrowding

Where birds are fed, more birds will come, usually leading to a crowded situation. More birds mean more droppings. Excess faeces cause water pollution, creates an unsanitary environment for human recreation, and leads to the spread of disease in the bird population.

Disease

Many avian diseases have been attributed to duck feeding. There are documented cases of waterfowl dying from enteritis, aspergillosis, and avian botulism, all due to excess food left on the ground & floating in the water. These diseases spread quickly throughout populations due to the overcrowded situations that feeding waterfowl causes.

Aggression

Ducks and geese, although acclimated to humans, are still wild animals and thus unpredictable. Many ducks and geese that get used to humans will become aggressive towards humans and towards each other. Some will not survive because they can't compete.

Are there any safe treats? The answer is no. It is unsafe to feed waterfowl any foods, even in urban settings. You may think just a "little something" won't hurt, or see others doing it and feel entitled too. For every person you see feeding them there are dozens more you don't see.

Ducks defecate at the site of scattered food or bread.
NOT HEALTHY!

FOOD ATTRACTS MORE
THAN JUST DUCKS.....



1. Bacteria in faeces creates much higher risks for illness or disease.
2. A single outbreak of Duck Virus Enteritis which is caused by artificial feeding kills all of the ducks.
3. Artificially fed ducks emit a parasite causing a condition in humans called Swimmers Itch.
4. Most waterfowl die-offs in the past 10 years have been attributed to artificial feeding.
5. Food waste bobbing on the waters edge is ugly.
6. Ducks that are overfed create dangerous amounts of waste that harms fish and other animals living in ponds.

The saddest part is that feeding goslings can cause deformities that make it impossible for them to fly. When young geese are overfed, they outgrow their wings, causing their wing bones to twist. It's a condition known as "angel wing syndrome".

So the next time you are out enjoying your community's lakes, ponds, canals, golf courses and other places where ducks live, simply observe the beauty of the animals and refrain from interfering by feeding them.

Educate others about the dangers of feeding ducks. Most people don't realize they are doing anything wrong, some mistakenly believe they are helping.

Ducks feed naturally on bugs, seeds and wild plants only. If you care about waterfowl and other birds stop feeding them and allow them to return to their natural habitats

Keep wildlife wild.



Calendar of Events

Please note the following upcoming events to your diaries. Everybody is welcome

Residents "Sundowner"
Friday 20th May 2011, 6 pm
at Edelweiss Function Centre

Annual General Meeting
Sunday 21st August 2011, 3pm
at Tamar Valley Resort
Geneva Room

Grindelwald Residents' Group (GRG)

Patron: Cr. John Watson
Chairman: Robert Wilson
Secretary: David Broughton

Contact GRG by email:
davarn@internode.on.net

Joke Corner

The best way to garden is to put on a wide brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell somebody else where to dig.

