

Bicheno named Australia's best town for 2026

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council is pleased to share that Bicheno has been named Australia's best town in the *Australian Traveller 100 Best Towns 2026*.

The announcement places Bicheno at number one out of 100 towns selected by a panel of travel experts from across Australia, with 10 Tasmanian towns featured in the overall list. The result highlights the town's growing national profile as a standout coastal destination.

Bicheno is widely recognised for its striking coastal scenery, rich wildlife experiences, and relaxed seaside lifestyle. Its turquoise waters, rugged coastline, and sheltered bays attract visitors year-round, along with its well-known nightly little penguin parade.

As a working fishing town, Bicheno also retains a strong connection to the sea, with an authentic coastal character that continues to define the community and its way of life.

Celebrating the achievement

To mark the recognition, Council will make commemorative coasters available to local cafés, hotels, and hospitality venues as a small memento for visitors and the community.

If you're travelling through Bicheno, they'll be a simple keepsake of the town's recognition as Australia's best town.

While this is a special moment for Bicheno, Council recognises that all towns across the Glamorgan Spring Bay region have their own unique character and strengths.



Bicheno skate event supported through Council grants program

A youth-focused skateboarding and wellbeing event was recently held in Bicheno, supported by Council through its Community Small Grants Program.

The "Skate of Mind – Big Heart Project", delivered by Big hART, was locally coordinated by the Bicheno Skate Park Subcommittee of Bicheno Community Development Association.

The free community event at the Bicheno Skate Park brought together professional skateboarders, artists, and youth mentors to deliver workshops, demonstrations, and creative activities including film, photography, music, and digital storytelling.



Council support helped enable the delivery of the event, encouraging youth participation, building confidence, and strengthening community connections through positive use of public spaces.

A big thank you is extended to the volunteers and community members who helped make the event possible.

Council's Community Small Grants Program is open for applications from local groups and organisations seeking support for community-led projects and events:

<https://gsbc.tas.gov.au/community-projects/community-small-grants/>



Message from the Mayor

Welcome to this edition of SeaSpeak. Council has commenced a robust discussion on rates for this year. The Councillors and staff are mindful of the current economic climate and have taken steps to keep the rate income increase to a minimum. Of course, we must factor in the capital works and operational budgets that we require to function, but our staff are working diligently to achieve that outcome with the smallest possible increase. As a Council we continue to work with various government departments to meet our statutory obligations in Crown Land management and with other stakeholders like Parks and Wildlife. It can sometimes be a long process and a difficult journey dealing with State Government Departments. We are fortunate that over the years many of us, including staff, have established good relationships with both the Ministers and senior advisors. Council recently appointed a new property manager who has extensive experience and is systematically working through the various Crown Land leases to ensure that they are fit

for purpose. Some of the leases are more than 40 years old and were initiated before we became an amalgamated council, so it is a big task.

Whilst it is always a pleasure to conduct a citizenship ceremony on Australia Day, we have taken the view that those who are granted citizenship should not have to wait months to become Australian citizens. With the approval of the Department of Home Affairs, we will be conducting citizenship ceremonies as needed in coming months to welcome new residents.

Just a reminder that Councillors cannot direct staff on any operational matter, but we can raise whatever might be concerning you. All Councillors can be contacted by email council@freycinet.tas.gov.au. Our individual contact details are shown in this publication.

Until next time, stay safe and enjoy our winter wonderland.

Cheryl Arnol
MAYOR

Don't forget to register your K9 friend

Our loyal K9 friends play such an important role in our lives providing companionship, assistance, security, which may also lead to physical, social and psychological benefits to humans and their K9 friends. Registering and microchipping your furry friend is the law and ensures its safe return should it become lost. Please ensure that your dog is wearing its registration tag, it's the law. If a dog strays from home and can be identified, Council is able to ensure its speedy return home. **Under the Dog Control Act 2000**, dogs aged 6 months and over must be registered by 1 July each year. If you fail to register your dog within this time frame, you may receive an infringement notice. If you have a valid concession card and wish to receive the concession on:

One desexed dog only, a customer service officer must sight this card to validate it. In the unfortunate situation that your dog is deceased or no longer resides at your

premises you are required to notify Council within 14 days. Once notified, officers will cancel the registration and you will not receive registration reminders. Please advise Council if you change your postal address to ensure that you receive your registration. Be a responsible pet owner and register your pooch.



Council Meetings for 2026

Upcoming Council Meeting Dates

Ordinary meetings of Council are held at the Triabunna Council Offices typically on the **fourth Tuesday of each month commencing at 2pm, unless otherwise stated below.**

Meetings are live streamed on Council's YouTube channel and members of the public are invited to register to attend the Council Meeting in person.

Upcoming Dates at the Triabunna Council Offices:

2pm	Tuesday 23 June 2026
2pm	Tuesday 28 July 2026
2pm	Tuesday 25 August 2026
2pm	Tuesday 22 September 2026
2pm	Tuesday 27 October 2026
2pm	Tuesday 24 November 2026
3.30pm	Tuesday 8 December 2026
5.30pm	Tuesday 8 December 2026 Annual General Meeting



Scan this QR Code for Council's YouTube Channel.



From the Acting Chief Executive Officer's desk

Welcome to the Winter Edition of SeaSpeak. This edition highlights some of the recent work and opportunities Council has been involved in across our region.

Council has provided in-principle support for the 2027 Australian Three Peaks Race, an iconic endurance event combining sailing, running and mountain climbing. We look forward to continuing discussions with the organisers as the event develops, noting the significant exposure it brings to the region.

Council has also resolved to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Sorell Council regarding the proposed Wielangta Forest Mountain Bike Trail. This partnership represents an important step in exploring regional recreation and tourism opportunities and reflects

the strong working relationship between neighbouring councils.

In addition, Council has made submissions to both the Local Government Reform Bill and the Review of the Southern Tasmanian Regional Land Use Strategy (STRLUS), ensuring our community's interests are represented in important state planning and reform discussions.

Council continues to work closely with Resilience and Recovery Tasmania to support ongoing bushfire recovery efforts. Recovery remains a long-term focus, and Council is committed to supporting affected communities through collaboration and ongoing engagement.

Dick Shaw
Acting Chief Executive Officer



Maria Island

Rates reminder

A friendly reminder that all rates for the 2025/2026 financial year and prior are now overdue.

To make managing your payments easier, you can set up a regular direct debit. Forms are available on our website or can be requested from Council and sent directly to you. Payments can also be made via BPAY or in person at your local Council office.

Please ensure payments are made by the due date to avoid any late fees. If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please contact our Rates Department on **03 6256 4782** to discuss available support options.

To receive your rates notices by email, please register

before **30 June 2026** at gsbc.enotices.com.au, using the reference number found on your most recent rates notice.

Pension Remission

If you are eligible for a pension remission for the 2026/27 financial year, please contact the Rates Department on **03 6256 4782**. Alternatively, application forms will be available on Council's website from the end of June.

New applicants, or those experiencing a change in ownership, will need to apply after **1 July 2026**.

If you received a remission last year and your circumstances have not changed, it will be applied automatically.

eNotices >>> GO TO [GSBC.ENOTICES.COM.AU](https://gsbc.enotices.com.au)

SEE FRONT OF NOTICE FOR YOUR ENOTICE REFERENCE NUMBER



Schedule a payment

Schedule a date between today and the due date to pay your notice. Use a Visa, Mastercard, or EFT from your bank account and go to: gsbc.enotices.com.au

Postal address change



You can request a change of address online at gsbc.tas.gov.au, by emailing admin@freycinet.tas.gov.au or by mailing Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, PO Box 6 Triabunna.



Rates notice reprints

Charges may apply for re-issuing of notices for previous financial years, please keep your notices for your records.

To view and download your rates notice from 2019/20 onwards free of charge, sign up for eNotices at: gsbc.enotices.com.au



Caring for your Collection

The east Coast Heritage Museum recently hosted a materials handling workshop for Museums in the district.

Supported by an Arts Tasmania grant secured by the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, the East Coast Heritage Museum ran a workshop to teach staff and volunteers the latest techniques in handling so that they can better recognise and rectify damage on artifacts in our care.

Run by Melissa Smith, Curator at Arts Tasmania, the workshop was attended by representatives from the Spring Bay Maritime Museum, Triabunna, Break O'Day Council, St Helens History Room, and the Woodsdale Museum. Staff and Volunteers from the East Coast History Museum also attended.

Highlights of the day included assisting the Yvonne from the Woodsdale Museum examine and protect a Wedding dress from the 1900's. With the group assisting in inspecting the dress for damage and storing it correctly.

At the workshop, the group was challenged with complex items composed of a variety of materials. One of these

items was a rare woven Chinese travelling tea pot in a woven reed and padded basket decorated with bronze accessories. The tea pot was an everyday item and well used. The tea was poured from the basket as the basket has an opening at the front from so the spout of the teapot just protrudes. This made it possible to pour the tea without taking the tea pot out of the basket, keeping the tea hot as it was carried and served.

The Glamorgan Spring Bay Council has secured a further grant from Arts Tasmania to undertake a significance assessment on the collection at the East Coast Heritage Museum. This project will see over five thousand items review and will help the Museum prioritise conservation and storage for its collection and better target acquisitions into the future.

We are also looking for additional volunteers so for more information on these and other projects at the Museum, please call us on (03) 6256 5066.



Spring Bay Community Food Hub

Need affordable, quality food?
The Spring Bay Community Food Hub at 17 Vicary Street, Triabunna is here to help!

They offer:

- Groceries & frozen foods
- Personal care & cleaning products

Basic Food Hampers: \$20 each (includes a bag of fresh vegetables & a loaf of bread)



Opening Hours:

Thursday – 9:30am to 3pm
Saturday – 9:30am to 12pm

Everyone is welcome! If you have a garden, donations of fresh fruit and vegetables are gratefully accepted.

Works and Infrastructure Update

There has been plenty of activity across the municipality recently, with a range of infrastructure upgrades, maintenance works, and community projects either underway or recently completed.

Replacement works are currently underway on the Sandspit Creek Overflow Bridge on Wielangta Road, with construction progressing well as shown in the 'before' and 'during construction' photos below. Further along



Wielangta Road, the 17 Acre Creek Bridge now has a 5-ton load limit in place, with the bridge replacement currently out to tender.

Routine road maintenance has recently been completed on Old Coach Road at Cranbrook, helping to keep local roads in good condition for residents and visitors. Road repair works on Dolphin Sands Road have also been completed, including reinstatement works followed by asphaltting.

Stormwater upgrade works are continuing on Ryans Road, Spring Beach through to Rheban Road. These works include installation of V-grates and pits, new manholes, pipe installation, and open drain construction to improve drainage through the area.

In Bicheno, Council has awarded the tender for the construction of the new playground at Lions Park, marking an exciting step forward for local families. In Swansea, the tender for the replacement of the Duck Park pedestrian

bridge has also been awarded, with works to follow, and a new asphalt footpath to the Bark Mill Tavern has recently been completed, improving pedestrian access and safety (see photo right).

Community facilities are also being upgraded, with a new BBQ and shelter now completed at Spring Beach Reserve (see photo right). In Coles Bay, a new BBQ has been installed at Harold Street Reserve, with a shelter to be installed soon. Slashing works have also been completed around Rita Doris Reserve and the Brooker Street unmade road reserve, along with roadside vegetation management across multiple locations to reduce fire risk and maintain visibility.

It continues to be a busy period of works across the municipality, with further upgrades and projects planned over the coming months.

Bin Springs

Council encourages residents to keep bin lids closed and help keep our streets tidy. Bin springs are available to help stop rubbish from blowing out, reduce spills, and protect



bins from wind, birds, and animals. They are \$20 each and can be purchased by contacting Council via email at admin@freycinet.tas.gov.au, by phone on (03) 6256 4777, or in person at the Council office during business hours. Please note that bin springs cannot be shipped and must be collected in person. If your bin, lid, or wheels are damaged, Council can provide replacements at no cost. Residents can submit a bin request online via the Council website or by calling Council to arrange a replacement.



Connect to Council via Facebook



Follow Glamorgan Spring Bay Council on Facebook. We post local information, jobs vacant, bin collection weeks and much more.

Scan the QR Code and follow us on Facebook >



Natural Resource Management

PASSIONATE ABOUT THE EAST COAST ENVIRONMENT?

JOIN THE EAST COAST CATCHMENTS COMMITTEE

The ECCC, established by the Landscape Recovery Foundation in partnership with Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, plays a key role in protecting our natural resources and implementing the NRM & Climate Resilience Strategy.



- ✔ Meet quarterly
- ✔ Share your skills and ideas
- ✔ Help guide local action on biodiversity, land management, climate resilience & more

We welcome people from all walks of life – from agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, tourism, business and conservation, to cultural heritage, communications, finance, and community voices.

Expressions of Interest are now open!

<https://landscaperecovery.com.au/east-coast-catchments-committee>




African boxthorn biocontrol trial: hosts wanted

African boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*) is a Weed of National Significance that occurs along parts of Tasmania’s East Coast. Introduced to Australia as a hedge and windbreak plant, it now forms dense, thorny thickets that can displace native vegetation, restrict access for stock and people, and harbour pest animals such as rabbits.

Its bright berries are readily eaten and spread by birds, making African boxthorn difficult to contain once established. In some coastal areas, however, boxthorn may also provide protection for nesting penguins, highlighting the need for careful, site-specific management.

CSIRO, in partnership with Landcare Tasmania, is undertaking a biocontrol trial using the rust fungus *Puccinia rapipes*. This biocontrol will not kill African boxthorn outright, but it can reduce plant vigour and may help limit spread by reducing fruit and seed production.

Biocontrol is not a silver bullet, but it promises to become another useful tool alongside existing control methods such as cut-stump treatment, mechanical removal, follow-up spraying and monitoring.

Landholders, Landcare groups and community organisations with African boxthorn are invited to register interest in hosting a trial site.

To find out more or get involved, visit the Landcare Tasmania website. - https://www.landcaretas.org.au/the_african_boxthorn_biocontrol_drought_resilience_project



Weed Alert: African lovegrass

African lovegrass (*Eragrostis curvula*) is an invasive, long-lived grass that threatens pastures, roadsides and native grasslands. It is a declared weed in Tasmania, so its importation, sale and distribution are prohibited.

The grass grows in dense tussocks from 30 cm to 120 cm high, with narrow dark green to blue-green leaves and loose grey-green flower heads. It can flower for much of the year, with seed heads most common from early summer to early winter. Seeds are produced in summer and spread easily in mud on boots, vehicles, machinery, animal hooves, and contaminated soil or gravel.

African lovegrass is not widespread in Tasmania, but has been found in the Orford–Triabunna area, across two properties near the Tasman Highway. Careful hygiene, early detection of new plants and ongoing follow-up control are essential to prevent further spread.

Council recently met Island Regen at the Orford Waste Transfer Station to identify the grass first hand and discuss its management.

Community members can help by learning to recognise African lovegrass. Report suspected sightings to Biosecurity Tasmania on 03 6165 3777 or contact Council for advice. Clean footwear, vehicles and machinery between sites. <https://nre.tas.gov.au/invasive-species/weeds/weeds-index/declared-weeds-index/african-lovegrass>



Keeping pets, people and wildlife safe



Pets play an important role in many of our lives. Cats and dogs provide companionship, comfort, exercise, emotional support and joy. They help many people stay happy, healthy and connected and both are considered to be sentient beings.

Responsible pet ownership ensures our much-loved animals are safe while also protecting livestock, local wildlife and people.

Desexing and microchipping pets

Desexing cats and dogs is an important first step. Desexing helps prevent unwanted litters and can also reduce roaming behaviour, particularly in dogs. In accordance with Tasmania's *Cat Management Act 2009*, cats are to be desexed and microchipped over four (4) months of age. In accordance with Tasmania's *Dog Control Act 2000*, dogs are to be microchipped over six (6) months of age.

Keeping pets contained

Keeping cats safe at home is another important part of responsible ownership. While cats are much-loved companions, roaming cats can hunt birds, lizards and other wildlife, spread disease, annoy neighbours and risk being injured by cars or other animals. Cats can live happy, healthy lives indoors or in secure outdoor enclosures when they have food, water, shelter, play, enrichment and places to climb and rest.

Dog owners also have a responsibility to make sure their dogs do not roam. Dogs should be safely contained at home with secure fencing, adequate bedding and shelter, access to fresh water and food.

In public places, such as on a road or road-related area in a built-up area, or any other public place declared under Council's Dog Management Policy 2020-2026, dogs must be on a lead all times. Special notice should also be taken where signage indicates dogs are to be on a lead near beaches, reserves and sensitive wildlife areas. Extra care must be taken during shorebird breeding season to avoid disturbing nests.

Roaming Cats

Council is not adequately resourced to assist with on-ground Cat issues, trapping or transporting within our Municipality.

It is prohibited to seek or undertake the humane destruction of any cat unless you are Primary Producer and in accordance with *S.17A of the Cat Management Act 2009*.

Further information about Dogs and Cats is available on Council's website under *Animal Control* or by calling Council's Compliance team on (03) 6256 4777.

Whale at Denison Beach, Bicheno

Safety warning and public health advice issued as whale carcass decomposes on Denison Beach

A sperm whale weighing around 40 tonnes washed ashore on the southern end of Denison Beach, Bicheno in early March 2026.

It is likely that the whale died at sea and floated for some time before landing on Denison Beach.

With the whale carcass decomposing naturally on the beach, both state and Council provided safety warnings and public health advice, addressing the risks to the community.

The public were advised:

- not to touch or interfere with the carcass,
 - avoid swimming or entering the water near the carcass due to the potential for increased shark activity,
 - avoid entering water where visible oil, fatty residues, or strong odours were present, and
 - if contact with carcass material was suspected, wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water.
- This was because oils and fats, other organic matter, and gases from the decomposing whale may irritate skin, eyes, and the respiratory tract and/or cause gastrointestinal illness.

While the Devil of a Swim 2026 event planned for 26 April at Diamond Island was impacted, being cancelled at this location, the event was relocated to Picnic Island, Coles Bay.



Signs installed at the foreshore at Denison and Redbill Beach



Decomposing whale carcass on Denison Beach

YOUR COUNCIL



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Acting Chief Executive Officer

Alternatively, if you are wishing to communicate with all Councillors please email: council@freycinet.tas.gov.au

Winter woodheater maintenance

Did you know you can reduce smoke from your wood heater by up to 90% with a few simple changes?

This winter, EPA Tasmania's "Burn Brighter This Winter" program is encouraging households to keep warm while helping improve air quality for everyone.

Simple tips include:

- Only burn dry, seasoned wood
- Always burn with a flame – don't let your fire smoulder
- After adding wood, burn on high for 20 minutes before turning it down
- Keep your flue clean and well maintained

Learn more about how to burn brighter, warmer and cleaner this winter here: <https://epa.tas.gov.au/.../burn-brighter-this-winter-program>

Waste Transfer Stations – Winter Operating Hours

(Orford, Swansea, Coles Bay, and Bicheno) will apply from Monday 13 April 2026 to November 2026:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Sunday: 10.00am – 2.00pm

Closed: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Normal operating hours apply on all public holidays except Good Friday and Christmas Day.

Stay informed on issues you care about

Did you know? that Council regularly uses email databases to directly communicate with our communities on a variety of issues.

We have databases for:

- Various Townships
- The Business Community
- Community Groups
- A Newsletter Database

We use these to share information about Council activities relevant to you and is one of the easiest ways for you to know what is happening in our area. If you would like to join one of our databases please email: community@freycinet.tas.gov.au and advise which database you would like to join.



Contacting Council

📍 9 Melbourne Street (PO Box 6), Triabunna, TAS 7190

☎ (03) 6256 4777

📠 (03) 6256 4774

@ admin@freycinet.tas.gov.au

🌐 www.gsbc.tas.gov.au

📺 You Tube Glamorgan Spring Bay Council

Please note: As a Local Government Authority, Councils are required under the Archives Act and the Local Government Act to keep accurate records of Council business. Any records created, received or sent in an official capacity as a Councillor are part of Council's public record and hence a State record. Any email or other correspondence to Councillors may be viewed, copied and retained by Council.