

WHISKERS AND WHEELS. EARLY READING TO ENCOURAGE LITERACY. MENTORING AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

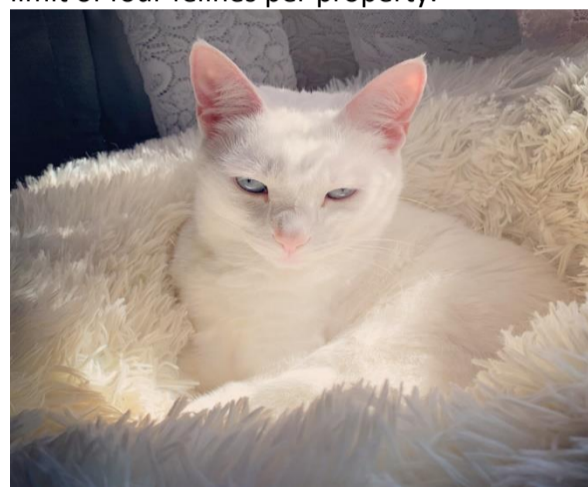


Keeping Tabs on Tassie's Cats: It's a Paw-sitive mission!

It is all about striking the right balance in the realm of responsible pet ownership and Wildlife

Conservation. Cat management plays a pivotal role governed by the Cat Management Act 2009. Councils are tasked with promoting harmony within our communities and safeguarding our natural environment.

Under this legislation micro chipping and desexing of all cats is compulsory along with the maximum limit of four felines per property.



Artanis enjoying his snug bed by the window.

Whilst the regulations do not mandate containment there are significant risks to letting your Kitty roam free. They could be in danger of car accidents by darting across roads, dog attacks and being wounded by fighting with other neighbourhood cats. Roaming cats can also be a nuisance when they wander into other homes and spray, defecate, have cat fights and make the neighbour's dogs bark. This can cause neighbourhood disputes.

"The fact is, the more time a pet cat spends safe at home, the less risk of injury or death from road accidents, fighting, and disease. A pet cat kept safe at home can live up to four times longer than a cat left to roam."

- Australian Veterinary Association 2016

If you want some help in cat containment ideas and love a good DIY project then www.tassiecat.com.au has a lot of simple, easy to build and effective DIY solutions.

By keeping your fur babies close you're lending a helping hand in safeguarding our wildlife wonders and the unique environment that Tasmania has. Cats that roam can catch and become carriers of a disease called toxoplasmosis which not only affects our native birds and wildlife, but it can also spell trouble for humans and livestock. In fact, a recent study found that 84% of feral stray cats in Tassie were infected. Let us prevent any cat-tastrophes happening and continue to protect our precious furballs.



Keeping our Roads Clear: A Reminder Regarding Truck Parking.

I'd like to take a moment to address a matter that affects us all, the parking of heavy and long vehicles in our towns. While the council understands the challenges that come with finding suitable parking for these trucks, it's also crucial to be mindful of state road regulations and community wellbeing. Long and heavy vehicles parked on our town streets should adhere to the maximum 1-hour limit with overnight parking strictly prohibited. Whenever possible we encourage truck owners and drivers to use the off-street parking within their own properties or seek parking designated by the employer.

It is important to recognise that parking trucks on our town roads can potentially be illegal. This practise can damage our road infrastructure and poses safety risks for other motorists and pedestrians. It is difficult to see around large trucks parked on the side of the road. Heavy vehicles parked on footpaths can also lead to significant damages as these footpaths are not designed to withstand the weight of vehicles.

We know that finding a solution is not always straightforward but by working together we hope we can address this issue responsibly and ensure our roads remain safe and accessible for everyone in our community.

Raise.ORG Youth Mentoring Program comes to Cressy District High School.

Are you passionate about making a positive difference in our community? Do you believe in creating a supportive environment where young people can thrive? Join the Raise program and become a volunteer mentor working with young people in years 7-9. There is supporting research that shows that youngsters who are mentored have lower levels of depression, higher sense of wellbeing and more likely to find employment and their future path.

Thanks to funding support from the Tasmanian Community Fund, Raise.org is bringing their best practice youth mentoring program to Cressy this year. We are urgently seeking members of the local community to volunteer as mentors in our programs running at Cressy District High School.

The program will be running from the week commencing 27th May 2024.

If you are interested in volunteering you will need to sign up at www.raise.org.au. The meetings will be at Cressy District High School – Tuesdays 11.30am to 1.30pm.



Read Aloud to your Child Every Day Campaign.

The Tasmanian Branch Childrens Book Council of Australia has partnered with Toast for Kids Charity Inc. and other partners to create and publish a 100% Tasmanian children's book, (with a companion braille/low vision version).

This book will be available free to new parents at our early learning centres in Perth, Avoca, Campbell Town and Cressy by end of this month. The picture book is to encourage parents of newborn babies to read aloud to their child every day from day one of their lives, introducing sound, language, expression, colours and letters and investing in their future literacy. From my experience in early childhood education, I support the efforts of this campaign. Reading aloud and to our children is so important. Our school libraries in the Northern Midlands will receive a copy of this book from the Council.



Do you want to learn more about Northern Midlands SES (State Emergency Service) Volunteer Unit?

Join us for an introduction to their role in road/crash rescue and other emergencies. When: **Saturday 18th May 2024**: sessions start at **10am, 11am, noon, 1pm, 2pm** Where: **Valentines Park, High Street, Campbell Town**

I hope to encourage you to join our community programs.

Mary Knowles OAM,
Mayor

Northern Midlands Council

