

MINUTES ROSS DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

At the Ross Reading Rooms, 46 Church Street, Ross, on 3 February 2026,

Commencing at 11.15 AM.

- 1 **PRESENT:** Debra Cadogan-Cowper, Sally Langridge, Helen Davies, Michael Smith, Marcus Rodrigues, Rodney Haigh and Nigel Davies,
- 2 **IN ATTENDANCE:** Vivien Tan – NMC Secretary
- 3 **GUESTS:** Councillor Paul Terrett
- 4 **APOLOGIES:** Councillor Alison Andrews and Councillor Richard Archer
- 5 **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY**

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather today and acknowledge Elders – past, present and emerging.

6 **DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY INTEREST BY A MEMBER OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL**

In accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Part 5, S48A – S56, a member of a Special Committee must not participate in any discussion or vote on any matter in respect to which the member:

- a) has an interest; or
- b) is aware or ought to be aware that a close associate has an interest.

A member has an interest in a matter if the matter was decided in a particular manner, receive or have an expectation of receiving or likely to receive a pecuniary benefit or pecuniary detriment. **It should be noted that any person declaring an interest is required to notify the General Manager, in writing, of the details of any interest declared within 7 days of the declaration.** NIL

7 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Moved: M Smith Seconded: R Haigh Carried

That the minutes of the meeting of the Ross Local District Committee held on **2 December 2025** be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings subject to 9.1 Action item contact should read Red Arrow and Ross Bridge referred to in 9.13 not Ross Red Bridge

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

	Description	Action
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	<p>. Taken several Sky Quality Meter readings at 54 Church Street to confirm the suitability of the location for night sky viewing – 21.06 mpsa is the best reading to date. The readings were recorded on the Globe at Night website.</p> <p>. Promoted the concept through an interview with the Launceston Examiner</p> <p>. Been awarded a Paddy Pallin Foundation ‘Dark Sky Place-Making Grant’ of \$600 and complimentary registration to attend the Valuing Darkness Symposium in Melbourne, March 2025</p> <p>6. Promoted Scott Bennett’s 22-page, full-colour booklet that lists the five best night sky viewing locations in Ross and provides advice on night sky and aurora photography.</p> <p>7. Preliminary Application approved and the \$407(\$250 USD) fee for the full application has been paid, thanks to a generous donation from the Ross Sports Club.</p> <p>8. Report from Dark Sky Convention, Melb. March 2025</p> <p>9. Council correspondence from TasNetworks – Light pole on Church Street will be capped to block out light on Southern and Western side.</p> <p>10. Council correspondence to TasNetworks- approval for Chair to have streetlight information.</p> <p>11. Ross bid for Dark Sky community in the Examiner (May) and in Tasmania Country.</p> <p>12. Lighting Inventory for Ross</p> <p>13. Create a draft Lighting Plan</p> <p>14. Create 2 night-time events per year.</p> <p>15. Call for more members to join the newly established Ross Astronomical Association.</p> <p>16. Many business and community letters of support including the Ross Hotel are being mindful of Dark Sky accreditation in their renovations.</p> <p>17. Investigation needed to see if Heritage Council of Tasmania has information regarding Lighting Design for Heritage precincts and may endorse a Lighting guide for heritage precincts, heritage overlays and buffer zones.</p> <p>All 51 Street Lights will need to be compliant – meeting with Tas Networks and Tasmanian Heritage Council to see if the lights on the heritage precinct can be registered and if there can be a local provisions schedule for lighting within a heritage precinct.</p>	<p>18/10/24</p> <p>Saturday Dec 21 2024</p> <p>RELAX p57</p> <p>05/25 Council correspondence to TasNetworks for approval to release streetlight information.</p> <p>05/25 Council correspondence from TasNetworks for blocking light spill on the Church Street Pole.</p> <p>N Davies to present to council at the Workshop on the 2nd March 2026, Council Chambers</p>
	<p>2.10. Dark Sky Planning Guidelines for Tasmania Council – Central Highlands Council LGAT GENERAL MEETING AGENDA THURS 20 2025</p> <p>That the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby State government on behalf of all 29 Councils, to create Dark Sky</p>	

		<p>Planning Guidelines, over the whole of Tasmania including the Islands. Background Comment The Policy will incorporate current best practices, including the integration of smart lighting technologies, shielding, strengthened environmental protections and requirements with an aim to reduce artificial light at night, support ecological sustainability, and enhance the Tasmania's appeal as a destination for dark sky and aurora australis tourism. The Policy would ensure Local Government continues to lead in responsible lighting management, community education, and long-term protection of Tasmania's natural night sky. There are very practical reasons for treasuring and being able to see the night sky, in Tasmania, and this should not be taken for granted.</p>	
9.4	Significant Trees	Significant Trees Project. The Elm and Ash avenues have been submitted.	Awaiting final report
9.5	Flood Mapping for Ross	<p>Motion: Ross Flood Mapping Moved N Davies Seconded H Davies Carried That Council suspends adoption of any new flood map until the community is consulted and has an opportunity to provide input</p> <hr/> <p>Background: Two meetings were held in Ross regarding the new flood maps and effects on properties. These were well attended by 20 residents. Concerns were expressed over:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People affected were not informed - the District Committee was not informed (8 April 2024) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only one week given for public comment - No feedback to the public comments (10 submitted) - The governance issues listed and practical issues regarding flooding were of concern - Concerns as to how businesses will be affected and insurance issues - What will the next steps be to and what can the community do <p>Questions were also raised as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is this modelling data correct – does it take into account the bridge relief and culverts? - Is there better data available? - What can be done to mitigate flooding: make sure the river is well managed, planting to be done appropriately, make larger culverts, clear gorse and vegetation adjacent to the Midlands Highway Bridge that impedes peak flows, investigate drainage from the impoundment created by the Midlands Highway Bypass embankment, to ensure it 	<p>Motion in Council agenda for 18 August 2025</p> <p>That Council advises the committee that any adoption of flood mapping via amendment to the Planning Scheme maps (Flood Prone Areas Hazard Code Overlay) will follow the standard statutory process specified in the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, which includes a 28-day period of public consultation.</p> <p>100 year flood group for Ross is on Facebook.</p> <p>4-12-25 - Officer has advised that SES would be happy to</p>

		<p>is still suitable for peak flows forecast by climate change and more</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation by community representatives at a meeting between SES and NMC to discuss the issue 	attend an information evening. Date to be determined.
		<p>MINUTE NO. 25/282 from September 15 2025 Council meeting</p> <p>DECISION</p> <p>That adoption of any new flood mapping includes community consultation where required by the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 and that communities, including via Local District Committees, are made aware of the release of local flood studies.</p> <p>2.3. Enhancing flood risk management through policy alignment and local data recognition Council – Northern Midlands Council Decision Sought LGAT GENERAL MEETING AGENDA THURS 20 2025</p> <p>That the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) advocate to the Tasmanian Government for the following actions to strengthen flood risk management and planning integrity across the state: 1. The State Planning Office is resourced and directed to urgently coordinate a statewide LPS amendment process to update Flood-prone Areas Hazard Overlays with updated Tasmanian Strategic Flood Maps including any detailed studies where requested by a Council, and provide clear guidance on the role of the State Emergency Service (SES) and the information produced by the SES in the planning process. 2. The State Planning Office or Tasmanian Planning Commission be resourced and directed to undertake a review of Hookway v Northern Midlands Council [2025] TASCAT 106 and Au v Glenorchy City Council (No 2) [2024] TASCAT 50 to recommend urgent changes for high-risk flood zones with significant hazard levels that ensure long-term safety of people and property and maintain the autonomy of Councils as planning authorities. 3. The Tasmanian Government review the use of flood risk mapping by insurance companies and engage with insurers to ensure they actively participate in the Land Use Planning and Building Control Policy for Flood Risk Management Project, with the objective of developing policy solutions and recommendations that would address rising costs and declining availability of flood insurance.</p> <p>Council offered the services of grant application writer Lorraine Green to the Ross Flood Group, to assist in applying for grants for vegetation removal and culvert enlargement. This offer was passed on to the Flood Group.</p>	<p>Awaiting SES confirmation of dates</p>

9.6	Excessive Street Signs - Heritage precinct.	There are many signs in the main street leading to visual pollution, especially in a historic area. Concerns this may not be compliant with Council policy or Heritage regulations. Signage has been compliant. However, flags and other signs are now being put up with their own property. Works Request to investigate ID-1442684 – Footpath trading signs limited to two. This will need constant monitoring to ensure businesses are compliant.	Continue to monitor and raise a complaint to council if there are infringements
9.7	Ross Village Green – amphitheatre	Committee would like to request that the currently underused outdoor amphitheatre have a painted labyrinth or some design that would allow people to enjoy the space when not in use for performances. Committee and council to investigate possible design options. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 03-12-25 Design ideas have been sent to the Works Department to investigate. 11 Circuit Medieval Labyrinth design endorsed 	Youth Officer to look at running this project. (raising interest with students and youth in the local area)
9.8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March Budget meeting March 31, 2026 (instead of April 7) June 2, 2026 August 4, 2026 October 6, 2026 December 1, 2026 	
9.9		Christmas Tree at Village Green Works hope to have a replacement and will need to raise the area for drainage.	
9.10		Ross Bridge 6-7' trees growing at the right hand side of the bridge. (NE corner) and there are weeds growing in the bridge support. Request sent to Department of State Growth DSG Your issue has been logged into our maintenance database and forwarded to the appropriate areas for response. Your reference number is RN30611.	6/2/2026 Follow up email sent to State Growth

10. Budget Items/Requests Table

Budget Items/ Request List 2026/2027			
10.1	Footpaths	The committee proposed the extension of the footpath from Bond Street to Waterloo Street along Badajos Street (a popular route for residents accessing the Ross Community Sports Club and dog walkers.)	Carried over from budget request 2025-2026
10.2	Improving Street Signs in Ross Township	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Street signs with a unique motif for Ross Township in the budget. Improvements to the signs along the main street. Plaques for the 4 corners of Ross information 	Carried over from budget request 2025-2026

10.3	Road signs - entry into Ross.	<p>At the June 23 Council meeting MINUTE NO. 25/178 DECISION That Council:</p> <p>a) approve the Committee request to investigate the aboriginal name of Ross; and</p> <p>b) investigate updating the entry sign to Ross to include the aboriginal name. Carried Unanimously</p> <p>MOTION -June 3 2025 Dual Naming for the stone sign.</p> <p>Moved D Cowper-Cadogan Seconded N Davies Carried</p> <p>To investigate the aboriginal name of Ross and include in the Ross entry signs below the Town name</p> <p>Background:</p> <p>To have the name of Ross in Aboriginal. Makala. The only word recorded for the country at Ross, including Ross Bridge. Recorded by Robinson who passed back and forth through Ross and past the bridge several times in December 1833 and January 1834; accompanied by Karnebutcher/Karnebunger from the tribe of this area among his guides. (From Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre website) Correspondence from Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre 12 June 2025</p> <p>Committee requests this to be put on the stone signage as per Campbell Town's entrance signs.</p>	New budget item 2026-2027
10.4	Tourism sign into Ross	Installation of improved ROSS town signs on the highway to give Ross better visibility similar to Oatland's.	(See images attached to minutes)
10.5	Bus Shelter on High Street	<p>Council to investigate the options of installing a shelter for the school children outside the old Sunday school on the corner of High Street or if any other additional area maybe possible.</p> <p>The initial location mentioned is on private property.</p>	<p>Committee to look at location near the red phone booths</p> <p>Budget item for 2026-2027</p>

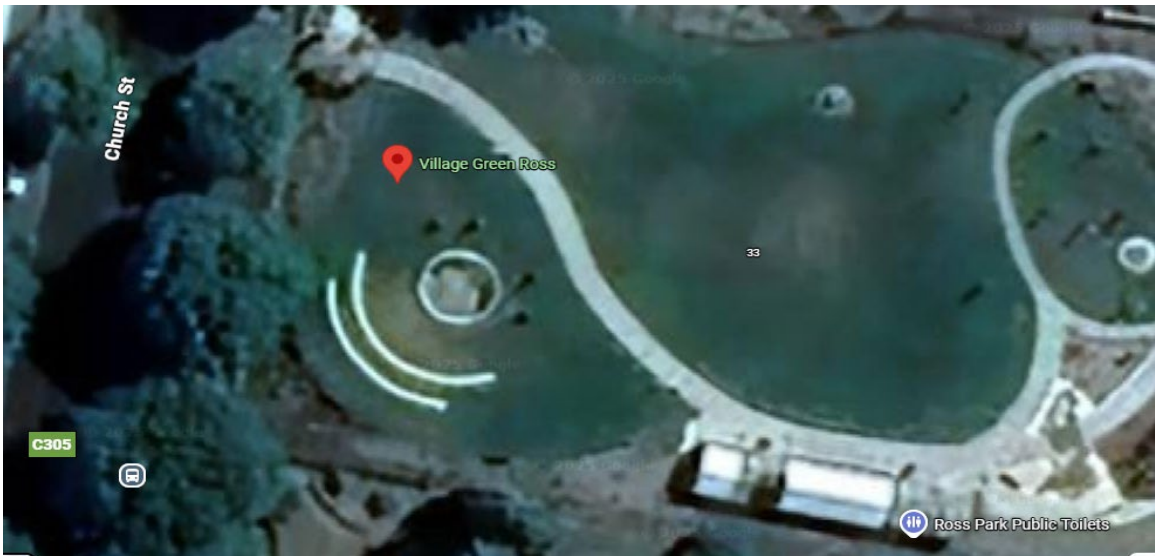
11 NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Doggy Play Equipment - Request for contact of provider and quote

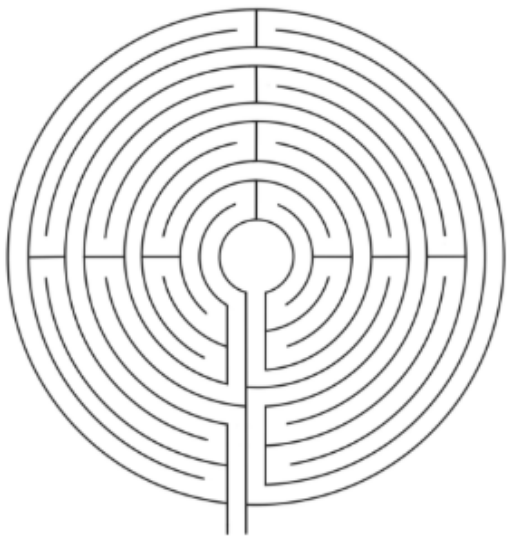
[Previous quotes and contact information emailed to Committee chair and M Rodrigues](#)

NEXT MEETING/CLOSURE

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 12:20pm. The next meeting of the Evandale District Committee is scheduled for 31 March 2026, at 11:15 am at the Ross Reading Rooms.



Eleven-Circuit Medieval Labyrinth -



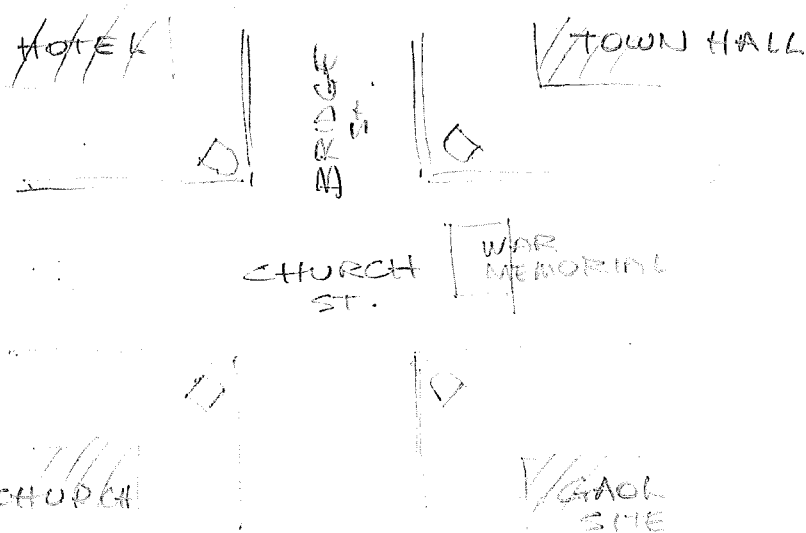
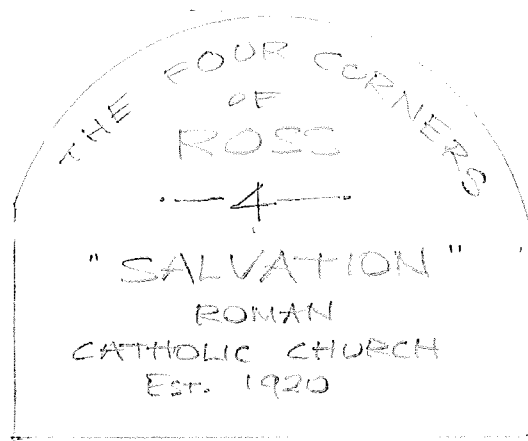
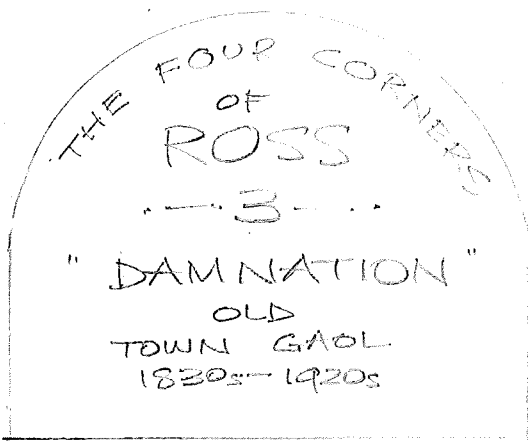
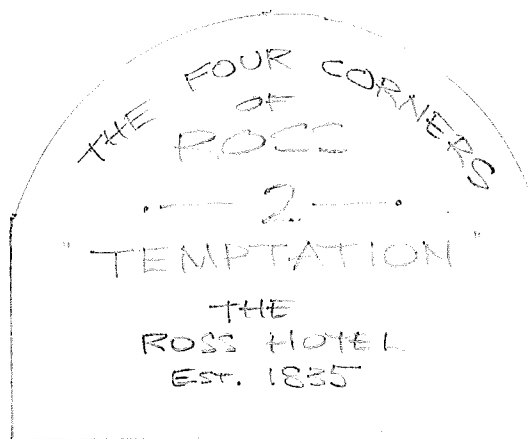
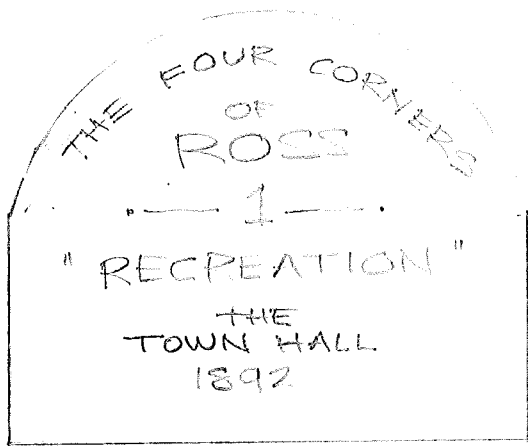
Eleven-Circuit Medieval Labyrinth -

The Four Corners of Ross

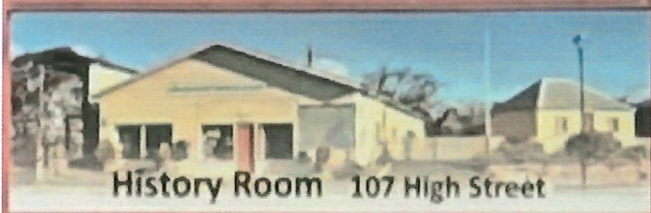
Sketch of 4 Plaques.

Set into paths at intersection
corners.

APPROX SIZE: A3.



What's on in Oatlands



History Room 107 High Street

Sustainability Twilight Fair

Friday 28 Nov 3.00 – 5.00



Oatlands Community Market

1st Sunday of the month
9am - 1pm



Oatlands Aquatic Centre

Join us 7 days a week



Welcome to Oatlands

Georgian Sandstone Village
Historic Flour Mill
Antiques, Cafes, Accommodation
Lake Dulverton – Birdlife & Fishing

