

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY, CHERISHING LANDSCAPES, AND INSPIRING ACTION IN THE NORTHERN MIDLANDS

CHOOSE THE SCENIC ROUTE PHOTO COMPETITION: FINAL CALL FOR ENTRIES!

As the sun sets on another stunning Tasmanian spring, the Northern Midlands Council invites photographers of all ages and skill levels to submit their final entries for the Choose the Scenic Route Photo Competition—closing September 30, 2025.

This competition is more than a showcase of visual talent; it's a celebration of the landscapes, culture, and wildlife that make the Northern Midlands a place of quiet magic and timeless beauty. From the misty bends of Leighlands Road to the aurora-lit skies over Nile, entries so far have captured the heart of our region with breathtaking clarity.

MEET THE JUDGES

Rod Oliver

We're thrilled to welcome Rod Oliver. President of the Northern Tasmanian Camera Club, Rod Oliver brings decades of photographic experience and community involvement. A resident of Launceston since 1979, Rod has worked extensively across the Northern Midlands and has served in multiple roles within the camera club, including secretary, vice president, and now president (2023–2026). He's twice won the club's Ikin Trophy for heritage building photography and has judged numerous competitions. Rod's interests include photojournalism, architecture (especially Art Deco), and the Tamar Wetlands. He's also active in Rotary and Probus clubs, contributing photography and editorial work.

Scott Wilmot Bennett

A celebrated visual artist and photographer, Scott Wilmot Bennett joins our panel with decades of experience in fine art. Scott graduated from the Queensland College of Art in 1994 and has been a finalist in prestigious competitions including the Glover Prize, Tattersalls Landscape Art Prize, and the Gold Coast Art Prize. He was also awarded the Derwent Valley Arts Choice and named a finalist in the Bridge Art Prize 2025. Explore Scott's stunning work at <http://www.ScottWilmotBennett.com>, where his passion for landscapes and storytelling shines through.

Tracey Mallett

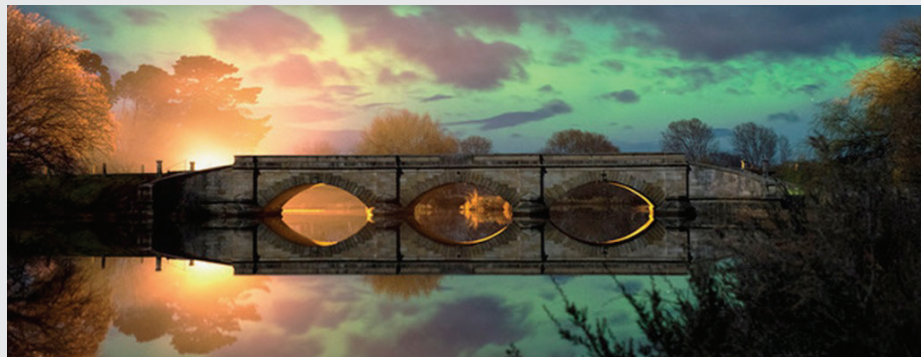
CEO of Visit Northern Tasmania since early 2023, Tracey Mallett brings a wealth of experience in local government and regional tourism. With a background in surveying, IT, and corporate governance, Tracey leads efforts to grow Tasmania's visitor economy. Her team supports industry development, contributes to Tourism Tasmania's destination marketing, and connects businesses with development programs. Since relocating to Tasmania in 2017, Tracey has developed a deep passion for the island's natural beauty and collaborative tourism community.



Work Shed at Woolmers, Longford - Rod Oliver



Bridge, Longford - Rod Oliver



Aurora over Ross Bridge, Ross Scott Bennett

HOW TO ENTER

Deadline: September 30, 2025

Categories: Open (all ages) & Under 18

Theme: Scenic beauty, culture, and wildlife of the Northern Midlands

Submit via: choosethescenicroute.com.au

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2026: NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

The Northern Midlands Council invites residents to nominate outstanding individuals and events for the 2026 Australia Day Awards. These awards recognise the contributions of those who make our community a better place to live, work and thrive.

AWARD CATEGORIES:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year
- Volunteer Recognition

NOMINATION CRITERIA:

Citizen of the Year

- Must be a resident of the Northern Midlands.
- Aged 25 years or older as of 26 January 2026.
- Has made a significant contribution to the community.
- Is or has the potential to be a role model.
- Consideration will be given to personal, academic, sporting or professional achievements, voluntary work, and length of service.

Community Event of the Year

- Held within the Northern Midlands in the past calendar year.
- Attracted a broad cross-section of the community.
- Generated positive publicity for the region.
- Consideration will be given to attendance numbers, media coverage, previous recognition, and whether it is a recurring or one-off event.

Awards Ceremony The awards will be presented on Australia Day, 26 January 2026, at the Campbell Town event from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. How to Nominate Nomination forms are available on the Northern Midlands Council website: <https://www.northernmidlands.tas.gov.au>

Paper copies are available upon request. Completed forms must be submitted by Wednesday 12 November 2025 to:

- PO Box 156, Longford TAS 7301
- Email: council@nmc.tas.gov.au

Help us honour those who make a real difference in our community.

SPRING INTO ACTION: GARDENERS URGED TO TACKLE WEEDS BEFORE THEY TAKE OVER

As the days grow longer and warmer, gardens across the Northern Midlands are bursting into life—but so are the weeds. Experts are warning that now is the critical time for residents to act before invasive plants spread and cause lasting damage to gardens, farms, and natural habitats.

Why Weeds Matter

Weeds compete with crops and native plants for water, nutrients, and sunlight, and some species can even harm livestock. According to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, weeds are a significant threat to the state's environment and agriculture, prompting the launch of Stage 3 of the Weeds Action Fund—a \$1.4 million investment to tackle priority weeds across Tasmania.

Common Culprits This Season

Capeweed, with its bright yellow daisy-like flowers, is one of the most visible invaders in spring. It thrives in bare soil and can quickly dominate pastures and gardens if left unchecked. The best prevention? Maintain healthy vegetation cover and act early to remove seedlings before they set seed. Other problem plants include gorse, blackberry, and Spanish heath—declared weeds that landowners are legally required to control under the Weed Management Act 1999.

Tips for Gardeners

- Start Early: Remove weeds before they flower and spread seeds.
- Dig Deep: For weeds with taproots, like dandelions, make sure to remove the entire root.
- Dispose Safely: Don't compost invasive weeds; bag them and take them to green waste facilities.
- One Year's Weed = Seven Years' Seed – Remove weeds before they flower and set seed.
- Know the Law: Declared weeds must be controlled by property owners under the Weed Management Act 1999.
- Choose Wisely: Avoid invasive plants; opt for Tasmanian natives.
- Don't Spread Them Around: Clean boots, tools, and vehicles after working in weedy areas.
- Use mulch or cardboard to suppress weeds and choose native plants to reduce future problems.

Get Involved

Residents can access free resources and identification guides through Landcare Tasmania and join the Tasmanian Weeds Facebook group to share photos and get advice from local experts.

CONTACT US

(03) 6397 7303

council@nmc.tas.gov.au

ADDRESS

13 Smith Street, Longford TAS 7301

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OPENING HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:45am - 4:30pm

