



Cartoon: Amy Shultz

The daredevil of Australia is dying

EDITORIAL

By **BRONWYN BATTLE, KLARA GARDINER and ETHAN CLARKE-JOHNSTON**

THE cute little mascot of Tassie is endangered and they need our help. Up on the Barrington Tops a little haven is giving hope to this small marsupial.

The Tasmanian devils are facing extinction because of a disease known as a facial tumour. This is a disease that the Tasmanian devil can have either by getting touched by one with the disease while eating because their heads are quite close or through biting each other during mating. When a Tasmanian devil has the disease it thinks that its part of its body so it doesn't try to do anything.

When facial tumours start to show it starts off as little bumps on the head then it starts to grow into full-sized tumour. This leads to starvation, dehydration and then death because of this disease the Tasmanian devil's population has been disappearing and numbers are dropping.

This marsupial lives in bushy areas, woodland, eucalyptus forests, coastal scrubland, agricultural areas and National parks.

There have been many years of hunting by European settlers, land clearing and loss of environment which has dramatically reduced the number of Tasmanian devils and this left them with a substantially smaller gene pool leading to inbreeding. This inbreeding has led to the devil facial tumour (DFTD). The devils didn't recognise the tumour cells as being disease and they didn't reject them with an immune response – they just thought it was part of their own body. In Tasmania about 10 per cent of wild devils survive.

The Australian Reptile Park has set up a small zoo on the Barrington Tops known as the Devils Ark and was established in 2010. The devils live in large enclosures which are very similar to their natural environment allowing them to keep their natural instincts. According to devilark.com.au it is estimated that by 2016 there will be 360 devils.

Mr Beard, a National Parks and Wildlife Officer located in the Gloucester Region believes that the Barrington Tops is a critical part of the Tasmanian devil's survival. Extinction is not an option for the Tassie devil.

You can help save these beautiful animals by going to Devil's Ark's website to volunteer your time or make a donation.

Building a brand new bridge for Barrington

By **AMY SHULTZ**

ROAD Services are in the early planning stages for the future replacement of Barrington Bridge on Thunderbolts Way, near Gloucester.

The bridge was constructed in 1918 making it 97 years old.

Barrington Bridge is a one lane bridge and the government is looking towards making it a double bridge to prevent crashes. The Barrington Bridge was partly upgraded in 1999 but now it will be completely rebuilt by the end of 2017.

Clare Tredoux works for the Gloucester Shire Council as an assets engineer and she said "there have been many crashes and collisions on the bridge but by building a different sort of bridge it will hopefully prevent any more crashes".

The Barrington Bridge was originally falling down so wire cables were put on each side hoping to pull the bridge together spending hundreds of thousands of dollars but they soon found out it was a waste of money and it was absolutely pointless.

They are planning to start in 2016

and finish it in 2017 in time for its 100th birthday.

Roads and Maritime workers say "we will work with the community and stakeholders during the planning process to understand and consider issues of concern".

During the bridge's time in

Barrington there has been many crashes and collisions because of all the traffic that passes through and also because of the big bulky rails and wires on each side.

Hopefully by the end of 2017 the bridge will be ready for everyone to enjoy.



Amy Shultz and assets engineer, Clare Tredoux discuss the new bridge.

Picture: Anthony Shultz

Fun at FUDGES with footy, friends, franks

By **AMY SHULTZ**

YOU could smell the sizzling bacon being cooked on the open fire, you could hear the sound of the footy getting booted up in the air and you could feel the cool breeze of the wind blowing against your face. From August 7-9, St Joseph's School, Gloucester held its annual FUDGES weekend.

The purpose of this weekend is to get dads or any other significant male to get together and spend time to bond with each

other. It is a great opportunity to go for a bike ride, swim and play with your friends.

Each night the children and FUDGES sat around the fire and shared around marshmallows with everyone. Jack Wamsley a year 6 student from St Joseph's school said "I enjoyed the weekend because I got to ride my bike with all my friends and it was a great camping experience."

All round the weekend was a great thrill and by Sunday there were smiles all round.



Sam Wilson (standing), Rob Temesvary, Anthony Wilson, Phil and Will Bowden enjoying time around the fire.

Picture: Jack Wamsley

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