Let me start by wishing you all a happy and safe New Year; I hope you all enjoyed the holiday break.

I would like to congratulate Wynyard-based manufacturing business Southern Prospect who have been awarded the contract to build 100 new Metro buses. I met with Infrastructure Minister Rene Hidding last week and I’m confident the spin-offs from this announcement will be enormous for the community and the region.

Australia Day is just around the corner and we will be having our Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony in Gutteridge Gardens. The day will start with the Wynyard Lions Club cooking up a free breakfast from 8am. The formalities commence at 9am, with Australia Day Ambassador and the 2016 Tasmanian Australian of the Year Jane Hutchison as our guest speaker. We have nine new citizens taking their vows this year and I hope you can join me in making their day something special.

It’s good to see the state government is investigating the options for making it safer around Boat Harbour Primary School. Reducing the speed limit in the school zone to 50km/hr is a way of addressing what’s been a longstanding problem and it’s great to see something is being done in regards to safety.

It was sad to see so much vandalism occur in our area during the Christmas period. There has been significant damage to public toilets and to the wonderful murals outside Woolworths in Wynyard. It’s a shame this has happened to spoil what has otherwise been an enjoyable festive season and I would ask that you let the Police know if you have any information that might help.