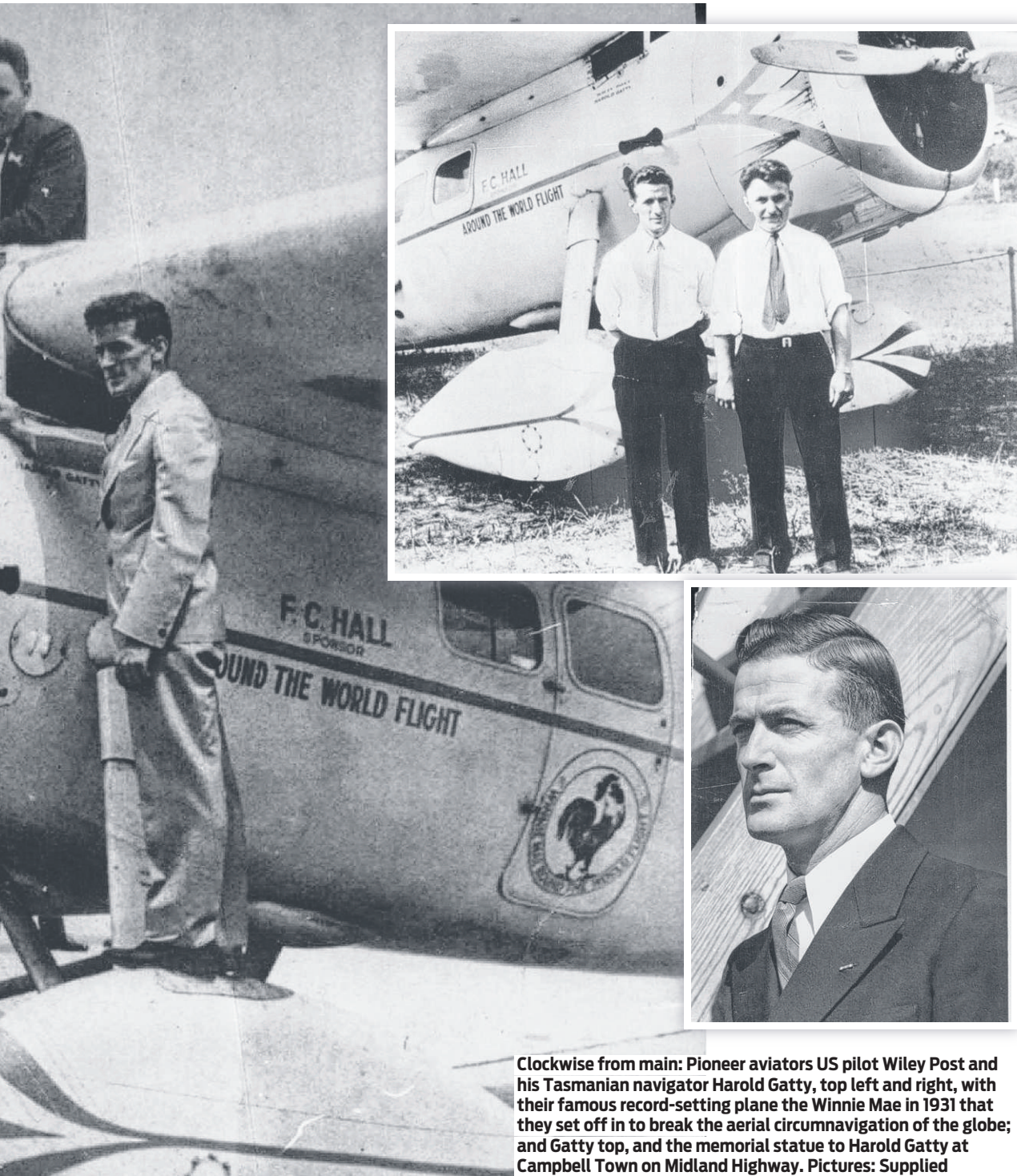


## Talking Point

The hot topics that have Tasmanians talking  
Have your say, email [talkingpoints@themercury.com.au](mailto:talkingpoints@themercury.com.au)



Clockwise from main: Pioneer aviators US pilot Wiley Post and his Tasmanian navigator Harold Gatty, top left and right, with their famous record-setting plane the Winnie Mae in 1931 that they set off in to break the aerial circumnavigation of the globe; and Gatty top, and the memorial statue to Harold Gatty at Campbell Town on Midland Highway. Pictures: Supplied

which supported the British interests.

At this time Canberra preferred the imperial London to Sydney route which made Gatty an outcast from the Australian government's viewpoint. This resulted in Gatty being critically regarded for some time in official circles in Australia including among aviation operators.

Gatty moved to Fiji in 1947 setting up Fiji Airlines in 1951. He died near

Nausori Airport in August 1957.

The restoration and improvement of the Harold Gatty memorial by the Northern Midlands Council, at the top end of Campbell Town, is a welcome development.

However, additional signage would also help draw visitors to the site to explain the important role of this world famous Tasmanian aviation pioneer.

Gatty has also recently been nominated by the Tasmanian Aviation Historical Society for the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame.

**John Livermore is the chair of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (Tasmania) and was the former dean faculty of Economics and Commerce at the University of Tasmania.**

## hot spots into the 21st century

restaurant, has received planning approval. However, our NBN internet service cannot meet their needs.

During late spring to autumn, we have between 15,000 and 30,000 people per day visiting our region. Winter festivals in Hobart swell our visitor numbers during late June and July, to rival peak season activity. In the 2022-23 financial year our Gross Regional Product was \$125m, up by 47 per cent from 2012-13. This was well above the average state growth of 26 per cent for the same period.

Why is our region being treated so poorly when it comes to funding internet and mobile services? Businesses such as our passenger transport services find themselves unable to process EFTPOS payments.

This has caused some small businesses significant losses in sales. Payments they had thought had gone through, but simply failed, are also a major headache for the owners of these mobile businesses.

Our NBN service depends upon fixed-wireless towers and this has exposed a gap between the service speed (especially uploads) and quality and the needs of residents and businesses.

For example, the owners of Lufra Hotel, in Eaglehawk Neck, are planning a multi-million dollar refurbishment. However, the existing internet coverage is insufficient to operate their business software, let alone cater for services such as online conference facilities and connectivity

to the 42 accommodation units they are planning to upgrade.

The Tasman municipality is changing. It is already a major tourism region in our nation, but is being held back by short sightedness and a failure to acknowledge its prominence and the role it plays within our state's economy. We have new subdivisions, already serviced with pits and pipes to accommodate NBN fibre-optic cable, waiting to be connected. It is time for federal and state governments to support us and formulate a digital policy that brings rural and tourism hot spots, such as the Tasman, into the 21st century.

**Rod Macdonald is the Mayor of the Tasman Council**

## Strength behind the silent, quiet type

The best ideas aren't always the loudest, writes **Gary Martin**

For too long, introverts have been boxed in, brushed aside and branded as the quiet ones in the corner. Their calm is mistaken for coldness, their pause for passivity and their preference for solitude as something that needs fixing.

In a world that equates volume with value, the bold and the brash have been favoured and charisma treated as currency while those who operate at a lower decibel are quietly taxed.

But the tide is turning – the quiet are making themselves heard.

Introverts recharge in solitude, preferring depth over small talk and valuing meaningful connections.

Unlike extroverts who thrive in crowds, introverts find excessive socialising draining and need time alone to refuel.

They are reflective, observant and deliberate – qualities often overshadowed by louder personalities.

While extroverts are energised by interaction, introverts focus on substance over volume and choose their words and relationships with care.

Yet in environments that reward visibility over thoughtfulness, their strengths are often overlooked.

Nowhere is this bias more apparent than in the workplace.

Leadership is too often awarded to those who are the most outspoken rather than the most competent.

The myth that good leaders must be extroverted has left introverts underappreciated and under-utilised.

Their ability to listen, think critically and lead with quiet confidence is sidelined in favour of those who speak first and loudest.

The meeting room remains a battlefield where introverts must fight for airtime.

While extroverts volley ideas back and forth, introverts search for a space to interject only to often watch their carefully considered thoughts become afterthoughts.

The pressure to "speak up" ignores the reality that speaking less does not mean thinking less.

When introverts do enter the conversation, their words are measured and meaningful and often cut through the noise with clarity.

Yet too often, by the time they get a word in, the moment has passed or their insight has been steamrolled by louder voices.

Social settings bring similar struggles.

Declining an invitation is treated as defiance rather than self-preservation.

The assumption that happiness is found in the hum of a crowd rather than the hush of solitude forces introverts into the defensive to explain why quiet is a choice and not an affliction.

The expectation to mingle and

network can feel like an endurance sport, with small talk draining energy like a slow leak in a tyre.

A night out that recharges an extrovert can deplete an introvert, making the pressure to constantly "put themselves out there" exhausting rather than invigorating.

The world still romanticises the idea of being the life of the party while misunderstanding those who prefer to observe from the sidelines.

The idea that introverts are anti-social, unfriendly or even rude persists despite evidence to the contrary. They are not avoiding people – they are avoiding overstimulation.

They do not dislike company though prefer it in smaller, more meaningful doses. They do not lack confidence but do not feel the need to broadcast it.

Despite assumptions, introverts are neither socially inept nor allergic to connection. They simply favour depth over breadth, choosing a few close relationships over fleeting encounters.

But they are no longer allowing themselves to be sidelined – by redefining engagement rather than competing in volume.

Introverts are pushing back against the belief that leadership must be loud, success requires endless interaction and a lack of outward enthusiasm signals a lack of passion.

They are advocating for workplaces that value thoughtful input over knee-jerk reactions, classrooms which recognise quiet participation as engagement and social spaces where silence is not dismissed as awkwardness.

The assumption that success belongs to the biggest personalities is fading, and the quiet revolution is gaining momentum.

The myth that confidence must be loud is being dismantled and replaced by an understanding that leadership comes in many forms.

Introverts are stepping forward – not by becoming something they are not but by demanding their strengths are no longer seen as shortcomings.

They are done with being echoes in a world that amplifies the loudest voices.

They are proving that a well-timed, thoughtful statement often carries more weight than a flood of unfiltered opinions.

They are demonstrating that patience and perception are just as valuable as energy and enthusiasm.

They are reclaiming their space – not by making more noise but by showing that silence can be just as powerful.

The world has long mistaken silence for absence. Yet the quietest voices often have the most to say.

And this time, they are making sure they are being heard.

**Professor Gary Martin is a workplace and social trends specialist**