

Meander Valley Gazette

Your independent community newspaper

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 06 JUNE 2023

FREE EVERY MONTH

CRACKER OF A NIGHT



► Cracker night offered families around Meander Valley an opportunity to enjoy an evening of entertainment, food and fireworks under clear skies and pleasant weather.



► **RECOGNISING OUR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS** - PAGE 3



► **WESTBURY'S BIGGEST MORNING TEA** - PAGE 4



► **TAKING BUSINESS ONLINE** - PAGE 8



DETAILS

The Meander Valley Gazette is an independent newspaper, printing and delivering 9,500 copies to all homes and select businesses in Meander Valley every month. The Gazette is also online so users can browse the complete archives and read the latest articles and newspapers.

Our mission is to be a trusted record of community news, views, and issues affecting the lives of the people in Meander Valley and to build and enrich social connections within our community.

Towns and suburbs in the Valley include Blackstone Heights, Bracknell, Carrick, Chudleigh, Deloraine, Elizabeth Town, Exton, Golden Valley, Hadspen, Hagley, Jackeys Marsh, Meander, Mole Creek, Parkham, Prospect Vale, Reedy Marsh and Westbury.

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MAST introduces Electronic Visual Distress Signal

EVDS DEVICES are an alternative to hand-held flares which all boats should carry within their safety gear requirements.

An EVDS is both handheld and non-toxic to the user, it emits a white light that meets certain intensity requirements; automatically signals S-O-S

for at least 3-5 times per minute for six hours and can float on or above the surface of the water.

EVDS, unlike flares, can be tested before you go out on the water.

If boaters purchase an EVDS, they will also have to equip their vessels with both a VHF radio and GPS-

registered EPIRB device.

These two items will allow daytime rescue capabilities as the light from an EVDS is not evident during daylight.

EPIRB's and VHF radios are already a requirement in coastal waters.

EVDS devices are an option to replace the four,

handheld flares currently required in sheltered waters and offshore.

An EVDS will not be compulsory once new legislation is in place.

MAST has worked with Councils across Tasmania to establish dedicated disposal points for out-of-date flares.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNSAFE EMU BAY ROAD INTERSECTIONS

Dear Editor,
Having just experienced another near miss at the corner of Emu Bay Road and Parsonage Street I felt compelled to act.

Talking to the police seems incredibly hard to do now, but, will be my next move.

The problem stems from

drivers who do not obey the 'Give Way' rules in any shape or form at crossroads.

Turning from Parsonage Street left into Emu Bay Road toward the bottom of town has become 'Russian Roulette' with cars coming up from Woolworths side and turning right across Emu Bay Rd, and, not giving right of way to cars turning directly left.

It is becoming a daily

occurrence, not just an infrequent one.

This brochure clearly shows the situation: <https://www.rsac.tas.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Top-Five-Misunderstood-Road-Rules.pdf>.

Maybe those recalcitrant drivers can be educated enough to follow the rules!

Gayle Plunkett, Deloraine

Editor's note: At the February 2023 Meander Valley Council meeting, John Jordan, General Manager advised that Council had received several requests from the community to assess safety concerns at intersections along Emu Bay Road.

A project to undertake an engineering assessment of the higher priority intersections will be considered as part of the 2023-24 budget.

DELORAINÉ POLICE STATION

Dear Editor,
I believe the Meander Valley community is being hurt by the changed policing arrangements at the Deloraine Police Station, particularly the closure of its customers service office.

The customer service office, which was open to the public Monday to Friday during business hours, was shut last year and now there is no Tasmania Police customer service office in the Meander Valley municipality.

This office was used to report motor vehicle accidents (that cannot be reported online), to hand in firearms or found property and to report incidents

and crimes face-to-face in a safe and confidential environment.

Members of the community who need to use these services must now travel 50km to Devonport, Longford or Launceston if a police officer is not available to assist them at Deloraine station.

The customer service office was closed when the Central North Division Headquarters was transferred from Deloraine police station to the new Longford station on Cressy Road.

Tasmania Police claim that nothing has changed, that the same number of officers are rostered to work at Deloraine station.

While true, Tasmania Police omits to say that

officers are infrequently at the station these days.

There is a noticeable drop in police officers and cars at the station and around the town and their absence has been noticed by the wrong people.

A man who allegedly threatened a local woman taunted her by saying, 'There's no police here.'

If true, it seems that offenders have been emboldened by the changed policing arrangements.

Recently, there have been car break-ins on Emu Bay Road, the town's fountain sculpture has been vandalised, and, a man taking goods left outside Vinnies' shop, exposed himself to a resident who challenged him for stealing from a charity.

Of great concern, two reports of children being approached by strangers at dusk in Deloraine appeared on a local social media group within the space of a week.

With technology, police don't need to be tied to a bricks and mortar station to perform their duties effectively but the deterrent effect of a visible police presence is still valuable and the customer service office provided both a good service and positive police signal to the community.

Sometimes good policing is just about having the lights on and somebody home.

Anne Gilles, Deloraine

MEANDER VALLEY GAZETTE SCHEDULE 2023

EDITION	ADVERTISING BOOKING DUE	AD ARTWORK DELIVERY	EDITORIAL DEADLINE	PUBLICATION DATE
July	June 19	June 23	June 23	July 6
August	July 17	July 21	July 21	August 3
September	August 28	September 1	September 1	September 7
October	September 18	September 22	September 22	October 5
November	October 16	October 20	October 20	November 2
December	November 28	December 1	December 1	December 7

Editorial enquiries: editor@meandervalleygazette.com Advertising enquiries: advertising@meandervalleygazette.com

Website: www.meandervalleygazette.org Find us on Facebook and Twitter

Recognising our great volunteers



► The Deloraine House Community Garden crew.

FROM THE sporting clubs to Emergency Services crews, Service Clubs, schools and other organisations, volunteers are the backbone of the Meander Valley community.

There were many local events as part of National Volunteer Week recognising our volunteers and their essential contributions to our lives and community.

The finalists and winners of the 2023 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards have

been announced.

Three finalists and two award winners hailed from Meander Valley!

Debbie Smith, finalist in the Best Practice in Volunteer Management Award, recruits and supports volunteers across the range of activities and programs that Deloraine and Meander House provide.

Trevor Flower, finalist in the Lifetime Achievement Volunteer Award, has been an active member and club

president of the Deloraine Ex Services Club for an impressive 30+ years.

Dave Sherriff, finalist in the Emergency Services Volunteer Award, has dedicated more than half his life in service as volunteer firefighter for the Deloraine Fire Brigade.

Colleague and Volunteer Ambulance Officer (VAO) Brylyn Craven received the 2023 Emergency Services Volunteer Award.

This award recognises



► Brylyn Craven 2023 Emergency Services Volunteer of the Year.

emergency services volunteers, who dedicate huge amounts of their personal time to training and many are on-call, day and night. Brylyn has been volunteering for nearly three years and works nights mainly out of Deloraine and other stations when needed.

The 2023 Volunteer Group Award was presented to the Deloraine House Community Garden volunteers.

The Volunteer Group or Program Award celebrates

collectives of people making a difference in their community.

They work tirelessly to provide produce for Deloraine Community House and its food programs, including community dinners, a pantry, and budget freezer meals.

With increasing pressures on families, the value of the Deloraine Community Garden has come to the forefront, inspiring others to grow their own produce and sustainably change their approach to food.

Inspiring youthful passions

REBECCA ROWE, the Creative Director of the highly anticipated WinterFire 23 Event, is kindling an artistic revolution in Westbury and Deloraine.

Rebecca has organised lantern and drama workshops in collaboration with local schools and Deloraine Dramatic Society.

These workshops aim

to foster artistic expression among young people in our community.

Students have enthusiastically crafted beautiful lanterns, adorned with vibrant colours and designs, to light the bonfire parade.

Simultaneously, drama workshops led by Rebecca and her team use creative exercises and storytelling to

build their confidence for their performance at WinterFire, and beyond.

WinterFire, a celebration of performance arts of music, fire spinning, drama, and installation art, is set to captivate the community once again on 10 June at the Deloraine Showgrounds.

► Amelia Weeden proudly shows her parade lantern.



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Westbury's biggest morning tea



► Olivia Reader of Little Marney's Gifts (right) hosted a very successful Biggest Morning Tea.

TEA WAS served around Meander Valley last month in support of The Cancer Council.

Olivia Reader of Little Marney's Gifts for Town and Country in Westbury said that she hosted a morning tea "to recognise the ones close to my heart who are currently fighting the fight, and those that have lost their battle."

When first registering to host the event, she modestly hoped to raffle a shop voucher and raise a few hundred dollars.

Over the next week, she was overwhelmed by the

generosity of her suppliers and supporters who came forward and kindly donated an additional nine prizes to go towards the raffle which boosted the total prize pool to over \$1300.

With the support of her wonderful customers and local community, Olivia raised a total of \$2486 for the Cancer Council.

Little Marney's Biggest Morning Tea was in the Top 300 fundraisers of the 21,000 morning teas around the country.

Congratulations!

Meander Valley Council wrap up – May 2023

MEANDER VALLEY Council held a Special Meeting on 2 May 2023, to discuss and approve the preferred tender for the management and operation of Deloraine and Cluan Refuse Disposal Sites and Mole Creek Transfer Station.

Further information will be released once tenderers have been advised of the outcome.

The Ordinary Council Meeting was held on Tuesday 9 May.

In Question time, Council advised that trial plantings had been undertaken in preparation for regeneration of the flood affected areas of the river.

Councillor Synfield raised residents' concerns about the recent Traffic Impact Assessment for a possible Northern Correctional Facility at the Ashley site.

The General Manager indicated that Councillors could support a motion

requesting Council to investigate these concerns and provide advocacy if the suggested shortcomings of the assessment are confirmed.

Matters discussed at the Council Workshop (02/05/23) included a draft of 2023-24 Capital Works Projects, planning for the upcoming budget, draft Tasmanian planning policies and cycling infrastructure.

The council approved an 8.1% increase in Dog Registration Fees and Environmental Health Fees and Charges for 2023-2024.

Dog Registration fee changes represent the increased cost (Council Cost Index) of delivering services, related processes and infrastructure: including 24/7 call outs, impounding fees, weekend maintenance fee, microchipping and annual dangerous dog registration).

This year council has introduced new lifetime

registration fees and tags, and has maintained discounts for Pensioners and early payment of many registration fees.

Council received the minutes of the Council Audit Panel meeting held on 28 March 2023.

The panel noted that a 2022 recommendation to tighten up contractor management has been successfully implemented resulting in improved compliance.

Several policies referred to in the report as under review were now amended and approved.

After previous consideration at the Council Workshop on 2 May, Council approved revisions to Policy 66 related to Security held for Incomplete Works in Subdivisions.

The three significant changes - halving of the timeframe to complete works from 12 months down to 6

months, a new application fee and an increase in the security deposit to cover 150% of cost of outstanding works – were aimed at keeping developers focused on completing outstanding work.

The Council acting as Planning Authority considered and approved two development applications.

First, 24 Meander Valley Rd Carrick – multiple dwellings (one existing, two proposed), feed services (food van), General retail and hire.

The developer had actively engaged with Heritage Tasmania in relation to preservation and restoration of heritage structures included in the application.

Council noted their capacity to address any emerging issues in relation to representations about parking, traffic flow and road safety.

Second, at 10-12 Neptune Drive and 2 Panorama

Rd, Blackstone Heights – subdivision of 5 lots into 8 lots, and construction of lot access and service infrastructure.

Ongoing community concerns about satisfactory bushfire evacuation in the Blackstone Heights area were noted in the meeting.

It was also noted that further development of the site would trigger new planning approvals.

The agenda for the Closed Meeting included resourcing of community events for the coming year, and a personnel matter. The 2023-24 Capital Works Program was approved.

This report represents salient elements of the proceedings and documents tabled at meeting.

Full details may be found in the Agenda and Draft Minutes published on the Council Website. The accuracy of minutes is subject to ratification at the June 2023 meeting.



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Vera Walker celebrates 105th birthday

MEANDER VALLEY local Vera Walker of Westbury has seen many transitions over the last century - five monarchs on the throne; more than 20 Australian Prime Ministers; horse and cart to cars and jet travel; Edison gramophones with wax cylinders to LPs, iPods, CDs and cloud music.

Lexie Young OAM hosted a birthday celebration, where Vera was surrounded by her friends and extended family which includes some 5 nieces, 11 nephews, 28 great nieces and nephews.

Always an inveterate story teller she entertained everyone with stories of her life, work and travels.

Vera was born in 1918 at Weegen. She grew up at "Spring Rises," the family home at Exton where she lived

with her parents Percy and Margaret and six siblings.

She finished her schooling at Exton and completed her nursing certificate at the LGH in 1943.

She then went to the Queen Victoria Hospital for 5 years where she completed her Midwifery and then to Melbourne to complete her Child Health training.

She has travelled Australia with her nursing career from Sydney, Perth, Darwin, Cairns and beyond to Nauru and Ocean Island.

She loved travelling on her own, hopping on a plane and tripping off somewhere.

On returning to Tasmania to work as a Nursing Sister at Child Health Clinics she spent most of her time working and living in the north of the state.



► Super-centenarian Vera Walker (front left) celebrating with family and friends.

She is a keen gardener, and found time to have a hit at tennis and golf.

She is a foundation

member of the Probus Club of Westbury, often conducted tours of the White House at Westbury for the National

Trust; and was a long-time member of the Tasmanian Ex-Trainee Nurses Association.

Meander Valley visitor economy improving



► Mark Flanigan, President of the Great Western Tiers Tourism Association and Sarah Clark, CEO Tourism Tasmania. Photo: Craig Zimitat.

MID-MONTH, LOCAL business owners had the opportunity to attend a quarterly networking event hosted by Meander Valley Vineyard for the Great Western

Tiers Tourism Association (GWTTA).

Guest speakers included Bronya Dance, Meander Valley Vineyard, Tracey Mallet, CEO Visit Northern Tasmania and

Sarah Clark, CEO Tourism Tasmania.

Bronya Dance, celebrating nearly two years at the Meander Valley Vineyard, spoke of her family's journey

in developing their vision for the vineyard, grasping new opportunities for the business, tips and pitfalls in the rebranding experience, and their plans for expanding the Cellar Door over the next few months.

Guests sampled the cracker 2022 Sparkling Rose and the unique 2022 Baco Noir releases.

Ben Dudman, on behalf of Brian Mitchell MP Federal Member for Lyons, confirmed that \$125,000 of Federal funding had been awarded jointly to Meander Valley and Kentish Councils to develop plans and enhance infrastructure that will see the region affirm its reputation as the Short Walks Capital of Tasmania.

Tracey Mallet and Sarah Clark provided an overview of tourism in northern Tasmania.

Tracey said that "although we are seeing fewer tourists,

they are staying longer and spending more."

Tourism has mainly been driven by domestic visitors and they are expecting a more consistent flow of tourists across the seasons.

New CEO of Tourism Tasmania, Sarah Clark spoke of the success of the OFF Season campaign and the relaunching of international tourism campaigns, mainly in China and the USA.

Sarah also introduced the new Discover Tasmania mobile app.

Visitors can use the app to search for different experiences that are located nearby, and develop an itinerary for a few days or their whole visit.

Business owners were encouraged to update their details on the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) which feeds the app.



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Meander Valley: Tasmania's short walks capital

Mark Flanigan
President, Great Western
Tiers Tourism Association

NESTLED IN the working heart of Tasmania, the Meander Valley is building a well-earned reputation as the Short Walks Capital of Tasmania.

With its diverse working landscapes, pristine wilderness, and charming towns, the Valley offers an abundance of accessible and captivating short walks that cater to all levels of fitness and interests.

In 2017 the Great Western Tiers Tourism Association began working on our long term strategy to grow the visitor economy in the Valley.

For many years the Meander Valley and its villages had become a bit of a thoroughfare – somewhere to drive through on the way to Cradle Mountain from Launceston.

Our objective was to make the Meander Valley and the Great Western Tiers/koparoona niara a destination in its own right.

At the time most tourists didn't even stop in Westbury, Deloraine or Mole Creek let alone stay a night or two.

Our goal was, and still is, to increase the length of stay of

our visitors, to strengthen the quality of their experience and to increase the amount they spend.

But the question was 'how to achieve this'.

The visitor economy is a very competitive place and just about everywhere in Tasmania is blessed with a great landscape.

A series of community workshops held in the Empire Hotel struggled with this question.

Options explored included mountain bike riding, adventure tourism, paddock to plate experiences, Aboriginal cultural experiences and farm stays.

In the end 'short walks' emerged as the clear winner.

This was in part a reflection of the great experiences already on offer – a case of building on your strengths.

'Short walks' – that is walks of less than a day – also tie together other experiences and are suitable for a range of visitors, young and old.

For example, if you are travelling to the Mole Creek Caves to experience the Fern Glad walk what could be more enticing than to stop at Trowunna Wildlife Sanctuary for a short walk around their

grounds getting up close and personal with the Tassie Devils and Spotted Quolls in the conservation breeding program.

Or take in a short walk to Alum Cliffs/tulampanga to find out a little of the important Aboriginal story of this area.

The Meander Valley is blessed with a breathtaking array of natural beauty.

From lush forests to rolling hills, cascading waterfalls to tranquil rivers, the region's short walks provide an intimate encounter with Tasmania's cultural and environmental landscapes; whether a leisurely stroll along the Deloraine Sculpture Trail or a more challenging hike up Quamby Bluff.

What sets the Meander Valley apart is the variety and accessibility of its short walks.

The Short Walks Capital idea is not only about natural wonders but also the warm community and amenities that enhance the visitor experience.

Charming towns like Deloraine and Westbury offer cosy cafes, local galleries, and historical sites to explore; creating a perfect blend of nature and culture.

The Great Western Tiers Tourism Association is a



► Take in the breathtaking sights from Quamby Bluff.

volunteer group mostly made up of small tourism businesses.

Work can sometimes be slower than we would like but the idea of Meander Valley and the Great Western Tiers/koparoona niara as 'The Short Walks Capital of Tasmania' is coming to fruition.

We, along with our partners the Meander Valley Council, have received \$500,000 from the State government and a further \$125,000 from the Federal government to help implement the 'Short Walks Capital' strategy.

We have also previously received a small grant from the State government to help produce the tourist

information map which highlights our current top 15 walks.

The Meander Valley's status as the Short Walks Capital of Tasmania is growing and well-deserved.

Next time you have guests encourage them to get out and about and discover the magic of the Short Walks Capital of Tasmania.

If you want to find out more about the walks themselves go to www.greatwesterntiers.net.au/walk.

If you would like to find out more about the GWTTA go to www.greatwesterntiers.org.au.

agedcare
DELORAINÉ



Looking for purposeful local employment?

Aged Care Deloraine is currently seeking Registered Nurses, Extended Care Assistants, Catering Assistants, Cooks and Cleaners for casual and permanent positions. We are a local community based organisation committed to supporting older people. You may have noticed we have been advertising for staff more regularly; that's because we are continuing to increase our staffing resources, so we can continue to improve the quality of care and services.

As a care based organisation, our staff are critically important. We are a large employer in the area and expenditure on staffing accounts for three quarters of our total spend.

To put that into perspective, we will spend over \$10 million next financial year on staffing costs.

***If you are interested in joining our team, please send your resume and a covering letter to:
employment@agedcaredeloraine.org.au***

www.agedcaredeloraine.org.au

Phone: 6362 83000

Deloraine policing update

MEMBERS OF the public who need police services can now arrange to meet officers at Deloraine police station.

Police Minister Felix Ellis made the commitment in response to community concern over the closure of the Deloraine Police Station's customer service office in a letter to Councillor Anne-Marie Loader on Wednesday 10 May, 2023.

The transfer of the customer service office to

Longford police station has left Deloraine police station without set opening hours and Meander Valley residents facing a lengthy drive to Longford if they need the services of the office.

In response to questions from Councillor Loader, Minister Ellis stated that,

"If a member of the community needs in-person contact at the police station, on duty police officers will return to the station, or

arrange a time to meet." Call 131 444 and a police officer will 'attend' your call.

He added that a phone/intercom will soon be installed at the Deloraine Police Station to enable members of the community to speak directly to Tasmania Police in circumstances where they attend the station and on duty members are not onsite.



Lions Youth of the Year

THE LIONS Youth of the Year program has a proud history in encouraging and fostering leadership skills in the next generation of Australian secondary school students in the final years of study.

Tasmanian finalists (pictured) were selected from ten entrants from Lions Clubs across the state.

To get to this point, each had won regional club competitions which were judged upon qualities like contribution to the community and school, public speaking, academic skills, sporting and cultural involvement

Kulani won the state final in Port Sorell and proceeded on to the National Final.

While not being successful at the National finals held on



► **Kulani Somarathna of Scotch College Launceston, Shiloh Quilliam of St Michael's Collegiate Hobart and Charlotte Vernham of Don College Devonport. Photo supplied.**

the Gold Coast, Kulani was a worthy representative of our state, and Tasmanian Lions

congratulate her, and all entrants of the Lions Youth of the Year Competition.

How to protect yourself online



IT IS becoming harder to be online and keep your data, devices and personal information safe.

There are some simple steps you can take to protect your devices, data and identity, and protect yourself online and reduce the risk of being affected by cyber-crime.

This one hour course will provide tips on how to secure your accounts, devices, email, online activity, and data to help you avoid scams, identity theft and stop unwanted calls.

The interactive format will enable you to ask questions and get the support you need to implement some simple changes to be safer online.

What: How to Protect Yourself Online course

When: 11.00am - 2.00pm Wednesday 28 June

Where: Deloraine Online Access Centre, 21 West Parade, Deloraine

Cost: \$5 early bird bookings by 21 June, \$10 after 21 June

For further information and bookings, please call 6362 3537.

Please note that places are strictly limited to 8 people per session.

ADVERTISMENT

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PMAT Public Community Meeting Deloraine

*Loss of local services and decision making?
Removing planning from Councils?
Forced amalgamations?
State Government takeover of planning?*

Tuesday 20 June 2023, 6-7.30 pm
Meander Valley Performing Arts Centre
- Little Theatre
2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine

Event Contact: sophie_underwood@hotmail.com

www.planningmatterstas.org.au
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ADVERTISMENT



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Authorised by Brian Mitchell MP (ALP, Tasmania) 53B Main Road Perth Tasmania 7300



Taking business online

MANY OF the 1700 business of various sizes and across many sectors that operate in the Meander Valley.

Many have had to change their mode of operation through COVID, or need to diversify income streams in the current economic environment.

Business Booster workshops offered by Meander Valley Council in partnership with Digital Solutions Tasmania are helping to meet some of those challenges.

The workshop tackled

“going online”, or more accurately creating a useful digital presence.

About 20 people attended the Digital Marketing workshop exploring the use of websites, basic digital tools and marketing platforms to understand how they work and how they can be applied to meet the needs of their own business.

Participants were guided through the process by experienced digital solutions mentor Kelsey Thomas from the Van Diemen Project.



▶ HR Consultant Sandra Coghlan, Artist Julie MacDonald (centre L&R) review plans with facilitators Tracey Cane of Meander Valley Council (L) and Kelsey Thomas of the Van Diemen Project (R).

Sustainability Stories: everyday people doing their bit

WHO WOULD have thought that running a café could generate so much waste? Buffy and Carolyn Bussey of Mumma Buzz Takeaway & Café were surprised by their never ending battle to keep on top of managing temporary storage and disposal of cardboard cartons, bottles, containers, cooking waste, food scraps and paper that were destined for the industrial waste bin and landfill.

However, with some informal partnerships among

family and customers, they have been able to decrease that burden and the amount of waste headed for landfill.

CSIRO research shows about 75% of rubbish along the Australian coastline is plastic.

Tasmania, the only island state, now plans to generally phase out single use plastics by 2025.

Other than consumer demand, there has not been a lot of pressure to decrease use of plastic milk containers or polystyrene food and beverage

containers.

Surprisingly, take-away coffee generates a large volume of waste.

First, the milk. The café used to take regular deliveries of around 150 containers of milk per week. Since the adoption of the UdderWay bulk milk system, they no longer cause the manufacture or waste of around 8,000 single use plastic milk containers per year.

And then there is the coffee.

Their daily use of around 8kg of coffee beans generates

about 14kg of wet coffee grinds/day: that's about 5 tonnes of coffee grinds per year that was going to landfill.

For two years now, a few regular customers pick up the wet grinds and some food scraps for composting on their gardens.

Food preparation, cooking and leftovers also create a significant amount of waste to manage. Normally food scraps constitute about 45% of organic waste in landfill, which ultimately decomposes

to produce the greenhouse gas methane.

Fortunately, their hungry chooks take care of much of that material laying eggs and converting it into compost and soil nutrients.

And a local business owner takes their 1000L of waste cooking oil for heating in workshops.

These are relatively small, low cost changes but they contribute to better business and addressing our environmental challenges.

SIMPLE STEPS TO

DEFEND YOUR DATA

Take the simple steps to defend your data from malicious people and technology.

SCREEN FOR SCAMS and be alert to things that don't seem right. If you feel unsure about a message, don't send a reply, open attachments, or click on any links.

SHIELD YOURSELF with secure passwords and updated apps and devices. Immediately close websites your browser identifies as unsafe.

BE READY TO REACT in the event something goes wrong. Block the scammer, contact your bank if money is involved, and report the scam.

Visit defendyourdata.tas.gov.au to learn more about staying safe online.

Tasmanian Government

Platypus watch is on

Joy Kachina

WITH WINTER just around the corner, platypus are on the move! Right now, female platypuses have left the natal burrows and are teaching their young how to forage for food.

When a juvenile platypus first emerges from its natal burrow (usually they are 3 to 4 months old) it is already covered in fur, able to feed on its own and is around 80% of its full grown adult length.

Platypus in Tasmania need to forage for up to 15 hours a

day in order to maintain their body weight.

Foraging at dawn and dusk, they eat small insect larvae, freshwater shrimps, and crayfish on the river floor.

So spotting a platypus is best first thing in the morning and later in the afternoon.

They can often be spotted under the overhanging willow branches along the river in town.

I've noticed that cloudy days and overcast rainy days also seem to be a better time to view them out and about.

Look for a bullseye on the water's surface as well as a trail of bubbles which may indicate a submerged platypus diving for food.

Last week I saw fishing lines and lures hanging from willow branches over the top of a burrow. Fishing lines and hooks can wrap around or snag their feet or tail which could trap them underwater.

Platypus can only hold their breath for a couple of minutes before they drown.

It's important to always pick up any loose fishing line,



▶ **Platypus in Meander River. Photo by Joy Kachina.**

elastic bands or other materials that may cause risks for our local wildlife (including our Turbo chooks).

Remember to pick up Trash, Snip it then Bin it

because platypus need us to keep their waterways safe.

Joy Kachina is a nature and wildlife photographer based in Deloraine.

#platypuswhisperertasmania

Anglo Hellenic celebration in Deloraine

FOLK MUSIC fans were delighted last month with a cross cultural experience of music and song at the Western Tiers Visitor Centre auditorium.

Greek duo Purpurea (Chrysoula Kechagioglou vocalist and Maria Ploumi on Lute) joined Julie Fredersdorff (Violin), Martin Penicka (Cello) and Rachel Meyers (Viola) of

the Van Diemens Band, with Luke Plumb (Mandolin) and Dave McNamara (Accordian).

Many of the songs that were common to both English and Greek cultures were sung in Greek or English, or with alternate verses in both languages.

The auditorium is underutilised for live

performances given its rich silk background and amazing acoustics: the acoustic balance between the vocalist on microphone and instruments on the evening was perfect.

Arts Deloraine sponsored the ensemble to perform here as part of their preparation for recording their next album.



Not just the Eastern Barred!

Sarah Lloyd OAM

RESPONSE TO the article that appeared in last month's edition of the MVG, indicates that there are two species of bandicoots that thrive in Meander Valley, the stripy-backed Eastern Barred Bandicoot and the slightly larger Southern Brown Bandicoot.

Both occupy a range of different habitats including grasslands, open forests and home gardens.

They favour places where there is dense vegetation, but they are not fussy about whether it is native, grassy or weedy because what is most important is that it provides protection for their nests and a safe place where they can hide from predators and shelter from inclement weather.

These endearing marsupials are nocturnal, and venture out of their day time hiding places to search for food, sometimes travelling as much as 2 km from their nests.

When probing soil, lawns and other grassy areas in their search for insects, spiders, roots, bulbs and fungi with their long snouts, they mix leaf litter with surface soil which hastens the decay of organic material and improves soil



structure and condition.

Their actions help to aerate the soil allowing water to percolate deep into the subsoil through the small characteristic conical-shaped depressions they create when they forage.

Eastern Barred bandicoots have a 'boom and bust' lifecycle with one of the shortest gestation periods (12-13 days) of any mammal.

Young bandicoots have the fastest growth rate of any marsupial and can easily disperse, which means they can respond quickly to favourable conditions by reproducing rapidly and colonising disturbed habitats such as areas regenerating after fires and home gardens in towns and country.

When conditions are favourable, females can breed

when they are just four months old and produce litters of up to five young, so they have the capacity to rapidly increase their population.

Conversely, in years with adverse conditions such as drought, populations can become locally extinct.

Unlike other marsupials, bandicoots have a complex placenta more like that of placental mammals, and their fast growth rate can be attributed to their milk that is richer than that of any other marsupial.

By the end of lactation, bandicoots' milk has 55% solids that is richer than any other placental mammal except seals!

For more information, please contact Sarah Lloyd 63961380 or blacksugarloaf@gmail.com

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Artwork by Kath Willmott



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Autumn moths abound

The Exton Gardener

THE EVENING meal is over and you sit by the fire to relax. Next thing, there is a tap, tap on the window and there is a large fluttering moth battering away, attracted by the light.

Autumn is the time of the moth hatching, especially after rain. These large moths typically appear in the autumn months and then vanish for another year.

They are known commonly as Swift moths and their story is quite interesting.

They are *Abantiades* and *Trictena* species.

They can be easily identified by the silver flashes on each upper wing.

Abantiades have a few colour variations but most have the grey/brown patterning on their upper wings. Close examination reveals this patterning is similar to the patterning on Damascus steel.

It is the underwings that show the differing colours. The early hatchings are usually soft grey/pink colouring.

The next group is more of a terracotta tone and there is even an orange/purple variation. *Trictena* moths are larger and more robust.

Their colour is almost black and they have the silver flashes on the upper wing.

Their wiry antennae are very different from that of other moths.

The larvae of these moths live for several years underground, feeding on



► *Abantiades* and *Trictena* moths.

the roots of trees, chiefly eucalyptus.

After good autumn rains, the moth emerges from its chrysalis, leaving the casing behind at the mouth of its tunnel.

The adult moth does not feed once hatched, but flies about seeking a mate.

They mate on the wing and the female drops her eggs as she flies.

It is the male that is attracted by light and batters himself on the windows.

My old cat can't resist them and rushes outside to pat them! In the morning they are gone.

References: *Moths of Australia* I.F.B. Common *A Guide to Australian Moths* Zborowski and Edwards



"She wore her wedding ring every day without fail, but why haven't I seen it for ages?"

Elder Abuse

It's ok to ask the question

Too often we think we need to have all the answers about Elder Abuse before we do anything. It's ok to want to help. It's ok to ask for advice. It's ok to have concerns. Take the first step and speak to someone who can help. **To ask questions or for more information call the Elder Abuse Helpline on 1800 441 169 or visit www.elderabuse.tas.gov.au**



Ordinary Council Meeting Snapshot • 9 May 2023



Petitions Tabled
Council received a petition from residents seeking better protection of the heritage and amenity values of the Westbury Village Green.

Planning Authority
24 Meander Valley Road, Carrick
Council approved an application for multiple dwellings, food services, general retail and hire.
10 & 12 Neptune Drive & 2 Panorama Road, Blackstone Heights
Council approved an application for subdivision, road construction and associated services.

Development & Regulatory Services
Council adopted the recommended dog registration and environmental health fees and charges for 2023-24.

Corporate Services
Council received the minutes of the Audit Panel meeting held on 28 March, 2023.

Infrastructure Services
Council confirmed continuation of Policy No.66 - Security for Incomplete Works in Subdivisions, as amended.

Ordinary Council Meeting agendas, minutes and audio recordings are available at www.meander.tas.gov.au

Warm up with a winter classic

IS THERE anyone that doesn't like Fruit Crumble? This month's recipe is a new twist on an old favourite.

The fruit and crumble is layered on top of delicious, creamy custard.

You can use any stewed or berry fruit in this recipe but make sure the stewed fruit is well drained before using.

I used a mixture of stewed apple and blackberries in the crumble pictured.

The quantity of crumble top is sufficient for two crumbles so you can freeze half the mixture in a plastic bag for later use.

Enjoying an old fashioned pudding at the end of a meal is sure to help stave off any winter malaise.

Fruit and Custard Crumble

Ingredients

Custard

- ¼ of custard powder
- 3 Tb. brown sugar
- 2C full cream milk
- Approximately 500g stewed fruit (drained), fresh berries or a mixture of both

Crumble Top

- 1 and ½ C plain flour



- ½ C brown sugar
- 1 and ¼ ts cinnamon
- 1/2C rolled oats
- 150g butter – cold, chopped
- ¼ - 1/3 C coarsely chopped macadamias, almonds or hazelnuts

Method

- 1 Preheat oven to 180C and lightly grease a 6 cup oven proof baking dish.
- 2 Combine the custard powder and sugar in a medium sized saucepan and gradually stir in the milk.
- 3 Place over medium heat and stir constantly until custard boils and thickens.
- 4 Pour custard into the baking dish and spread out evenly over the base. Carefully spread/sprinkle over the fruit.
- 5 To make crumble, combine the flour, brown sugar and cinnamon in a bowl.
- 6 Rub in the butter using the fingertips or process in a food processor until the mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Add the oats and nuts.
- 7 Sprinkle the crumb mixture over the fruit and bake for about 30 minutes until golden brown.
- 8 Serve with ice-cream or whipped cream.

At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society

Clare Andersen



Our June offering truly showcases the emerging Irish film industry.

With dialogue mostly in Gaelic, 'An Cailin Ciúin' received 11 nominations at the 2022 18th Irish Film & Television Awards, winning in seven categories and achieved first Irish film to be shortlisted for an Oscar for Best International Feature at the 95th Academy Awards. Ireland's film industry is booming thanks to record investments with a funding surge in 2021 of 40% amid growing demand for content

by streaming platforms: Netflix, Amazon, Disney Plus and Apple.

'A sort of magnetic creative energy' it may be, with insiders citing decades of tough work and government support that got the industry to this place.

With overspill from the UK where the industry faces acute skills shortages, Ireland has gone from attracting one big film a year 25 years ago, to recording dozens of international feature films in production, post-production, and with an increase focus on animation. It hosts a multitude of TV series.

Look out for North Sea Connection set in Connemara on the Atlantic coast, for the Swedish platform Viaplay.

Ireland has two government funding bodies to nurture the film industry: Northern Ireland Screen and The Republic of Ireland's Screen Ireland.

Doubling in size over the last decade, Screen Ireland is opening five film academies to keep up with the demand for talent.

It is an industry fuelled by programs that encourage creativity and education,

complemented by skilled and diverse immigration; it allows Ireland to compete with UK studios such as Pinewood.

THE QUIET GIRL

JUNE 10

2022 PG-13, Drama Ireland, 95m Director Colm Bairéad
In 1981 rural Ireland, nine-year-old Cait is sent away from her overcrowded, dysfunctional family to live with foster parents for the summer.

Quietly struggling at school and at home, she has learned to hide in plain sight from those around her.

She blossoms in their care, but in this house where there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one painful truth.

"The story is simple; it's the connection between an invisible girl and a woman who finally sees her that forms the backbone of this lovely, handmade film." - Top Critic 3/2023

Rotten Tomatoes Critics 96% /Audience 93%

For information about the WTFS, email them at westerntiersfilmsociety@gmail.com or call 0418 389 868 for a membership application and program

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Dreamscaping	July 14th	10:30 - 12:30
Ukrainian Egg Dyeing	September 22nd	9:30 - 3:30
Botanical Drawing Revisited	September 23rd	9:30 - 2:30
Botanical Drawing - Give it a Go	September 24th	9:30 - 2:30
Lampshade Making	November 4th	11:00 - 3:00

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CROSSWORD

1		2		3		4	5		6		7
8					9						
10							11				
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| <p>Across</p> <p>1 Playing a part (6)</p> <p>4 Implored (6)</p> <p>8 Wanderer (5)</p> <p>9 Native American child (7)</p> <p>10 Without fault (7)</p> <p>11 Exterior (5)</p> <p>12 Fan (9)</p> <p>17 Desert haven (5)</p> <p>19 Get well again (7)</p> <p>21 Language of East Africa (7)</p> <p>22 Brink (5)</p> <p>23 Soundless (6)</p> <p>24 Turn upside down (6)</p> | <p>Down</p> <p>1 Sudden (6)</p> <p>2 Inns (7)</p> <p>3 Boldness (5)</p> <p>5 Daring feat (7)</p> <p>6 Phantom (5)</p> <p>7 Dismal (6)</p> <p>9 Fragrant mixture of dried leaves and petals (9)</p> <p>13 Ardent emotion (7)</p> <p>14 Daydream (7)</p> <p>15 Brags (6)</p> <p>16 The East (6)</p> <p>18 Play for time (5)</p> <p>20 Assembly of witches (5)</p> |
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SUDOKU

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HOW TO PLAY Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9, each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9 and each set of 3 x 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9. Best of luck!


Crossword June 2023 solution



Sudoku June 2023 solution

7	8	2	1	9	5	6	4	3
1	5	3	4	6	8	7	9	2
6	4	9	2	3	7	5	1	8
2	6	8	9	1	4	3	7	5
9	7	4	8	5	3	1	2	6
4	3	1	5	6	7	2	9	8
9	4	3	1	7	8	6	2	5
5	2	7	3	4	9	8	6	1
8	9	6	5	2	1	4	3	7

EVENTS DIARY
Thanks to the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre for event information



Tuesdays, 2 - 2.30pm	Story Time at Westbury Library	During school term. Westbury Library, 33 William Street, Westbury. 6701 2189.
Tuesdays, 10am - 12 noon	Hadspen Playgroup	School term. 47 Main Road, Hadspen. Contact Abby Johns 0417 264 378, hadspenplaygroup@gmail.com.
Tuesdays, 10 - 11.30am	Happy Hands Art Time, 1-5 Year Olds	School term. Deloraine Seventh-Adventist Church Hall, 4445 Meander Valley Rd.
Tuesdays	Hidden Talents Craft Group	10am-12 noon. Deloraine Gospel Chapel, 46 Parsonage St, Deloraine. All welcome.
Tues and Thursdays, 9-12	Westbury Men's Shed	Corner of King St. and Franklin St. Westbury.
First Wed/month, 4pm - 6pm	Asperger's Peer Group Deloraine	Deloraine House 112 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine 6362 2678
Wednesdays, 7-9pm	Trivia Night	Bolters, Prospect
Wednesdays, 1-4pm	Indoor Carpet Bowls	Western Tiers Community Club
Thursdays, 10-11.30am	Chat Westbury Play Gym, 0-5 Year Olds	School term. Westbury Sports Centre, Franklin St. \$3.50 per child (under 12 months free). 1st visit free.
Thursdays, 7.30-9.30pm	Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting	Westbury Uniting Church Hall. cnr William and Dexter Sts. Contact phone 0409 931 727.
Fridays, 1-3pm	Cards (Crib, Canasta etc)	Western Tiers Community Club
Fridays, 3-4pm	Tai Chi	Western Tiers Community Club
Fridays, from 8	Live Music	British Hotel, Deloraine
Fridays, 7 to 9	Live Music	Wandering Trout, Mole Creek
Saturdays, 6.30 to 8.30	Winter Festival	Love Lucy Boots
Saturdays, 9 to 11	Parkrun	Town Common, Westbury
Saturdays, 9 - 11	Parkrun	Town Common, Westbury
Weekends, 1 to 3	Live in the Vines	3 Willows Vineyard, Montana
Thursday 1, 10-12	Golden Oldies men's group	Western Tiers Community Club
Friday 2, 11-12	Singing - with Roy	Western Tiers Community Club
Friday 2, 7-9	Celtic Players	Empire Hotel, Deloraine
Friday 2, 7.30-8.30	The Motherload	Little Theatre, Deloraine
Saturday 3, 9-1	Deloraine Market	Deloraine Showground
Saturday 3, 6.30-8.30	Tasmanian Map with Bert Spinks & Pete Hay	Trowunna, Mole Creek
Sunday 4, 2-5	Raw Jam	Empire Hotel, Deloraine
Sunday 4, 3-4.30	Overload Art Exhibition Opening	VDL Creamery, Elizabeth Town
Wednesday 7, 7-9	Trivia Night at the British	British Hotel, Deloraine
Saturday 10, 4-11	WinterFire	Deloraine Showground
Saturday 10, 7.30pm	Western Tiers Film Society - <i>The Quiet Girl</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine (2022 PG-13, Drama Ireland, 95m Director Colm Bairread)
Monday 12, 1-4	Bingo	Western Tiers Community Club
Friday 16, 11-12	Singing - with Roy	Western Tiers Community Club
Friday 16, 6.30-8.30	Trivia Night	Westbury RSL
Saturday 17, 9-1	Mole Creek Car Boot Sale & Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall
Saturday 17, 8-1	Westbury Market	St Andrews Church, Westbury
Thursday 22, 4-9	Fire Spin Jam	Deloraine Riverbank
Friday 23, 5.30-8.30	Bloke's Night & Boot Camp	Richardson's Harley-Davidson
Monday 26, 1-4	Bingo	Western Tiers Community Club

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Fraktur: the art of Mennonites

ART Forum with Dr Richard Dunlop

ART AND culture cannot be fixed to a place.

People travel with their cultural capital, and it is exchanged in symbols, often only understood properly to the fully initiated.

You can see remnants of French Impressionism in quite a lot of paintings produced in the Valley, you'll see residues of abstract expressionism in pubs, and derivations of various major art movements and examples of outsider or vernacular art, which may or not obey the conventions of some folk tradition.

It is the latter which are often visually superior in country towns, precisely because they lack formal knowledge, and even deliberately reject it.

Observing the example and community role model,

Menno Simons (1496-1561), 'Mennonites' are strong proponents of peace, and expect the best from people.

Disposed philosophically towards a stance of non-resistance in the presence of aggression, they will not participate in warfare.

Their dress in Deloraine and elsewhere in the Valley reflects restrained simplicity, a preference for the look and feel of the hand-made over the machine-made, and a strong visual signifier of group identity as a minority cohort.

Mennonites were once a persecuted group of people, fleeing to places like Pennsylvania and Canada and fortunately for the rest of us non-Mennonites, also to parts of Meander Valley and nearby-enough Scottsdale to pursue their religious, family and agricultural goals.

The art of the Mennonites is known as Fraktur

(pronounced "Froc-tour"), a form of folk art which commemorates life events such as birth, marriage and death.

Its artistic, historical roots appear to lie in the illuminated manuscripts of religious books of Northern Europe.

When culture travels, it tends to mutate, and may eventually become so diluted from its original sources that it falls head-first into that sometimes-denigrating category of "folk art."

But folk art can be extremely sophisticated, and reflect great knowledge of the perennial concerns of "fine" artists.

According to Noris Ioannou who studied folk and vernacular art in Australia for a lifetime "creativity emerges from deeper impulses that assert themselves in the quest for identity and meaning, not to mention aesthetic

satisfaction."

In other words, folk practitioners are often driven to make something very skilfully, but within a convention of meaning, a tradition.

So much so the creators of the work may see no need to put their particular name to a work produced, and happy to remain anonymous – the very antithesis of how a commercial art world operates, with value placed on the purported originality of the individual.

Fraktur is characterized by colourful, usually symmetrical designs that appear on certificates associated with key passages in life, and feature scripture or morally uplifting messages surrounded by stylized flora, fauna and angels.

Fraktur has great and growing contemporary appeal because of its apparent sincerity and hand-

made and understated quality of its artistic expression, like a good piece of Amish furniture.

There is also a sense that Fraktur captures the essences of human suffering, no average feat, which as Nick Cave observed "flows through life like water."

As Fraktur embraces important family and life records, they are carried forward to new homes.

Occasionally, I have seen examples of Fraktur at markets in the Valley.

An exhibition of Mennonite Fraktur may be of broad cultural interest, if assembled at QVMAG.

This month's Artforum challenge: Explore Fraktur in the Valley, or Google images of Mennonite Fraktur online.

Some beauties! More info on the author www.richarddunlop.com.au

Patsy Crawford scribbling away

THE OTHER night I had a dream that it was last century and people were making jokes about Tasmanians having two heads.

Back then people who weren't Tasmanians chortled themselves silly over such comments.

But then I realised that no, I wasn't dreaming, it was actually 2023 and I was watching The Front Bar on television.

Having set the studio alight with bon mots and witticisms about us little island folk and the rotten stadium the AFL seems determined to foist on us,

the boys ploughed on to the two-headed football jumper.

As the studio audience fell about laughing I waited for a bevy of bouncily-bosomed women in bikinis to come shrieking into the bar followed at the double by a leering Benny Hill.

To all intents and purposes Tasmania has become the last bastion of the politically incorrect joke.

Everything else is off limits.

We cannot make jokes involving black people, brown people, Asians, Africans, gay men, lesbians, mothers, fat people, skinny people, the Irish, the Pope (although he's still slightly up for it), Indians, hillbillies, evangelists and cross-dressers and may fatwas rain down upon our heads should we even think about having a crack at Muslim

clerics.

So that leaves Tasmanians.

We're fair game for comedians and the AFL hierarchy.

And that's a worry, because if we suddenly become a threatened comedic species as well, where will everyone go for a good laugh? Underground, that's where.

Anyone who can remember the movie Fight Club will know what I mean.

In the film Brad Pitt and Ed Norton beat the hell out of one another in bare knuckle private fights.

Boxing and expressions of full-on masculinity were no longer acceptable in society so onlookers paid their money and sidled in to watch the blood being shed in cellars and dingy rooms.

If the present po-faced

trend continues we may have to apply the same to politically incorrect joke tellers.

We'll be sneaking into pub back rooms to watch Ricky Gervaise routines on flickery television and savour potty-mouthed highlights from Deadwood.

We'll pass around grubby copies of The Twelfth Man.

Men will stick cucumbers down their trousers and pretend they're Sir Les Patterson.

Women will pile on too much make-up and harangue the crowd with fruity Joan Rivers monologues.

Entire eps of Father Ted will be staged, especially the one where people think he's Adolf Hitler.

It's all a bit pathetic.

You really have to dig deep these days to come

up with a joke that doesn't offend some sector of society.

People will quiver with the anticipation of calling you out, pouncing on the most facile of silly comments and casting accusatory looks in your direction.

Years ago I wrote a nonsense column in a newspaper in which I had a go at women who badgered mothers into breast-feeding.

I referred to it as Chesty Bonding.

A posse of loudly irate women marched into the editor's office demanding my head.

Talk about red meat to an editor. Couldn't have gone down better. Those were the days.



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