

Honoring sacrifices in Deloraine



▶ Deloraine stopped at 11am on 11 November, in commemoration of the 106th Armistice Day. A strong crowd on the seats and under the trees encircled the cenotaph to reflect on readings and prayers led by Pastor Greg Beck, and speeches by Deloraine High School students. David Lee led the hymns. The service concluded with bugler Ben Harker's rendition of the Last Post and Reveille.



▶ TASMANIAN CRAFT FAIR
BACK IN FORCE - PAGE 5



▶ EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
AT GIANT STEPS - PAGE 9



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, Hadsphen, Hagley, Jackeys Marsh, Meander, Mole Creek, Parkham, Prospect Vale, Reedy Marsh and Westbury.

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The opinions expressed, whether by paid advertisement or editorial content, do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper.

Submissions may be edited for space or clarity.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Editing the Gazette for the last 18 months has been a joy and privilege. This great community asset works to inform, celebrate and connect

people across the Valley.

That has certainly been my experience whilst visiting and talking with people in the towns, and our local clubs and sporting groups.

I would like to thank the many committed people from various organisations and groups across the Meander Valley, and regular advertisers and contributors, who have

supported the paper and whose valuable community building work has been recorded in these pages.

Craig Zimitat, PhD
Editor

GENERAL NEWS

Quamby Bluff Cake takes second prize

MEMBERS OF the Hands off Quamby Bluff group entered a cake that is a replica of Quamby Bluff - an iconic landmark in the Meander Valley region in the local Deloraine show.

The group aims to protect the forested slopes of Quamby Bluff from further logging by Sustainable Timber Tasmania.

The cake makers, Lucinda, Tyler and Stuart, all members of the Hands Off Quamby Bluff

group, shared the following statement at the outset of the Deloraine Show.

"We hope to spread the word of Sustainable Timber Tasmania's plans to log the forests of Quamby Bluff through the well loved art of cake making," said Lucinda.

"The forests of Quamby are not only of global significance. They are a source of water for local residents, a home for

endangered wildlife, and an inspiration for communities across Tasmania," said Stuart.

Quamby Bluff is a large dolerite monolith standing before kooparoonia niara (Great Western Tiers) and the Central Plateau world Heritage.

The Hands Off Quamby Bluff community group is raising awareness of the destructive logging of the Quamby Bluff forests.



In 2022 Sustainable Timber Tasmania clearfelled and burned over 20 hectares of forests on the slopes of Quamby Bluff, future plans to log up to an additional 110ha of forests.

Joy to the world on the riverbank

FOR NEARLY four decades, the Combined Churches of Deloraine have organised Deloraine's annual Christmas carols event on the banks of the Meander River in Deloraine.

The event used to be called "Carols by Candlelight" but now it is "Carols on the Riverbank" and it's happening again this year.

Near the rotunda not far from the road bridge across the

Meander River, on Saturday, 16th December, it will all be happening.

Just over a week before Christmas Day, there will be plenty of music and dance, perhaps a little drama and certainly lots of community singing of many of those Christmas carols which have been part of the festive season for so long.

The performers will include

soloists, groups and the specially-constituted Carols Choir, all supported by the talented band.

Michael Thompson will be the master of ceremonies.

Another great attraction returns once again this year - singers and dancers from Samoa and Timor.

The islanders have become familiar figures in the valley each year as they come here to work

and the community welcomes them and their music with enthusiasm.

So, bring along your chair or rug and your picnic.

The event begins at 6.30 as the free sausage sizzle gets under way and then the program of entertainment and involvement starts at 7 pm.

The event will finish at about 8.30 and it's free, thanks to the Combined Churches as they share with the local community their joy in the wonder and glory of Christmas.

Know your Community Bushfire Protection Plan

DO YOU know what to do when a bushfire threatens your area? This bushfire season, it's important to have a plan and know your options.

Tasmania Fire Service works closely with communities, local government, service providers and other government agencies to create *Community Bushfire Protection Plans* and implement bushfire risk management strategies.

Community

Bushfire

Protection Plans are tailored to individual communities at risk of being impacted by bushfire, to help people in these areas to prepare their own Bushfire Plan.

Tasmania Fire Service Acting Director Community Fire Safety, Chris Collins, said it was important for people to be prepared for when a bushfire threatens their community, regardless of whether they choose to stay and defend their homes, or leave early.

"Understanding the risks

of bushfire and taking steps to mitigate these risks is important for everyone, but especially those living in bushfire prone areas," he said.

"We want to make sure people are informed, prepared and ready for when a bushfire threatens."

There are currently 139 *Community Bushfire Protection Plans* in place across Tasmania, with five new plans recently developed for the areas of Smithton, Ridgley, Irishtown

and Edith Creek, Geilston Bay - Mornington and Primrose Sands. Additionally, nine existing plans have been updated in the areas of Rosebery, Lady Barron, Derwent Bridge, Nubeena, Margate, Sandfly, Middleton, Molesworth and Cradle Valley.

To see your local area's *Community Bushfire Protection Plan* and learn more about preparing for bushfire, visit the TFS website at www.bushfire.tas.gov.au



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Dunorlan mother named Tasmanian of the Year

STEPHANIE TRETHERWEY, who started Australia's first online rural mothers group program, has been named Australian of the Year for Tasmania.

In 2019, Stephanie Tretthewey relocated from Melbourne to Dunorlan taking on new roles of motherhood and farmer's wife.

Her transition from metropolitan, national profile journalist to busy, farm life in rural Tasmania was a bigger

challenge than expected.

Her national charity Motherland, which advocates and supports the emotional wellbeing of rural mothers, was borne of her struggles and a desire to connect rural mothers.

Since then she has expanded the concept, creating Motherland Village in 2021.

This six-week online program connects rural mothers a personalised support group to build

resilience, break isolation and improve well being.

Stephanie and her husband Sam also run The Local Meat Co, in Sheffield which provides processing and manufacturing services to local farmers, butchers and food industry across the state.

Stephanie and the other Tasmanian recipients will join those from the other states and territories for the national awards to be announced on 25 January 2024.



Community Bank Deloraine & Districts Show



AFTER A wet start, the Community Bank Deloraine & Districts Show turned out to be a cracker of an afternoon on the last weekend of November.

There was hot and cold food galore – biscuits, popcorn, fresh strawberries and raspberries; and a full range of activities from the animal nursery, crazy bikes and circus entertainment, to the train and Mascot race.

The crowd was ably entertained by our local musicians throughout the day, including the Junior Development Band, Deltim Killers, Ross Clippingdale, the Stingrays and Skakale Mummas.

And of course there was the serious judging of exhibits

showcasing the best of all aspects of our agricultural assets and skilled workers.

The success of the day was not without the efforts of sponsors, exhibitors, vendors, volunteers and the community who came along.

Heavy Horses

- Grand Champion Led Heavy Horse: Weetreda Chardonnay (I & J Hodgetts, Ridgley).
- Clydesdale Male: 1st Brookhampton Statesman (N & P Lowther, Meander).
- Clydesdale Female: Weetreda Chardonnay (I & J Hodgetts, Ridgley).
- Registered Shire: Toora Bennison (E Post & I Hayes, Riana).

- Champion Working Horse: Jackson (I Bingham, Sheffield).
- H.W. Davies Perpetual Trophy: Stildale Nugget (I Bingham, Sheffield).

Home Industries

The Alma Pugh Memorial Trophy, the major prize in Home Industries, was won by June Colman, Anita Bowman was runner-up and Shayley Scott was the winner of most points 16yrs and under.

The Marjorie Atkins Memorial Trophy, for the most points in the Floral Section, was won by Ros Groom.

Mohair Fleece Championships

- Champion Fleece: Granary Lea Angoras (M Orledge & C Sylvester, Deloraine)

- Class 12 Skirted Fleece of Young Goat Type Fibre (from a Buck).

- Reserve Champion Fleece: Neethorpe Angora & Texel Stud (B Smith, Forcett) - Class 11 Skirted Fleece of Young Goat Type Fibre (from a Doe or Wether).

Sheep Championships

The sheep championships saw a record number of entries across nine breeds.

- Interbreed bare shorn ram lamb: White Suffolk exhibited by the Day Family.
- Reserve interbreed bare shorn ram lamb: White Suffolk exhibited by the Day Family.
- Interbreed group: White

Suffolk exhibited by Maurice and Imogen Baldock.

- Reserve interbreed group: Poll Dorset exhibited by the Wade Family.
- Interbreed ewe: White Suffolk exhibited by the Day Family.
- Reserve interbreed ewe: Poll Dorset exhibited by the Wade Family.
- Interbreed ram: Poll Dorset exhibited by Julian Iles.
- Reserve interbreed ram: White Suffolk exhibited by Maurice and Imogen Baldock.
- Deloraine & Districts Supreme Exhibit: White Suffolk ewe exhibited by the Day family's Sunnybanks Stud.



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W: toosey.org.au

Westbury celebrates bicentenary

VISITORS TRAVELLED from interstate and across Tasmania to help the Westbury community celebrate their Bicentenary in November.

The weekend of celebrations began with a performance to remember the Young Irishlanders.

This was a concert of music, images and spoken word that told the story of seven political prisoners that were transported to Van Diemen's Land during the Great Irish Famine.

The story is an important one in Westbury's history as

community members played a significant role in the Young Irishlander story and their escape to freedom.

However, one of the objectives of the Bicentenary committee is to tell the stories of the less well known individuals.

The history tours during the weekend provided the perfect opportunity for this with the volunteer guides taking groups around the Village Historical Precinct; Village Green and Town Common; and the Anglican Cemetery.

In wandering the cemetery,

it is sad to see the lonely grave of Reverend Gasking, even though the story we are told is that he chose to be buried in this location as it was on his daily path from the Rectory to his beloved Church.

The exhibition in the Town Hall was another popular part of the weekend celebrations, with the photos and memorabilia providing a great reason for many to reminisce.

As one member of the community commented, "I knew a lot of people in the photos and newspaper clippings and I could have

spent hours in there."

Councillor Anne Marie Loader provided a great summary of the weekend at the unveiling of a plaque for Dr Tresize on the seat outside the Post Office during a small but moving ceremony on Sunday.

She said, "The weekend was all about remembering the past and celebrating our history and heritage."

And while the history was definitely the focus, the festival was also an opportunity to make new memories, whether that was having photos taken at the photo booth, crafting a

convict bonnet in memory of a convict ancestor or just making the most of the beautiful weather to watch the maypole dancing, wander the market stalls or relax while listening to some great local musicians.

But even though the festival is over, the Bicentenary committee continues to work towards celebrating our local heritage.

There is still research to be done, a book to write and updated signage to install.

We will also continue our popular history tours and trivia nights. Stay tuned!

Deloraine & Districts Community Bank grants announced

THE COMMUNITY Bank - Deloraine & Districts, in partnership with Bendigo's Community Enterprise Foundation has returned more than \$133,000 to community groups through its grants scheme.

Grants were announced by Community Bank Branch Manager, Katie Blandford at a ceremony held at the Westbury Sports Centre on 13 November.

Many projects that received funding had a climate

related theme.

Educational facilities: Sunsafes Kids program, Toddle Inn Childcare Centre \$12,628; Shade sail protection on play equipment, Hagley Farm School Association \$20,000; Green garden space, Our Lady of Mercy School, \$14,425; Let's Give Them Something to Talk About Project, Giant Steps Tasmania, \$20,000.

Community groups: Weatherproof shelters for Kentish Art Commerce and



Tourism Inc. (Mural Fest), \$5,000; Providing safe, secure and comfortable spaces, Parish of Quamby, \$6,210; Solar panels for Westbury Bowling Club, \$18,233 and Rotary Function

Centre, \$15,000; Restoration of 120-year-old-stained glass at Parkham Community Centre, Parkham Community Inc., \$3,000; Water drinking fountain Rotary Club of Westbury/

Westbury Town Common Parkrun, \$7,000; Safer staging, Deloraine Dramatic Society, \$7,103.50; and Harness racing history room, and Carrick Park Pacing Club Inc., \$5,295.

Chocolate master gains international recognition

IGOR VAN Gerwen, of Anvers Tasmania, has just been awarded the best chocolate cookbook for "Chocolatier" at the 29th Gourmand International Cookbook Awards in Saudi Arabia.

Igor's collaboration with

well-known Tasmanian Photographer Philip Kuruvita has put "Chocolatier" on the world stage of cookbooks.

Igor and his partner, Carolyn were present in Riyadh to accept the award.





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Tasmanian Craft Fair back in force

THE 43RD Tasmanian Craft Fair, the largest working craft event in the Southern Hemisphere, returned with a vengeance.

Crowds and exhibitor numbers returned to pre-COVID levels! The free Pavilion and free mate Monday were a hit with the local community.

The Rotary Club of Deloraine and all the team at the Tasmanian Craft Fair recognise the contributions of the many volunteers, as well as artisans, exhibitors, special guests, the locals of Deloraine,

sponsors and all of the patrons who attended this year.

This year the major beneficiary of the Craft Fair is Deloraine and Meander House.

Those attending the Craft Fair had plenty of opportunities to talk with artists, watch interactive displays and join masterclasses and workshops, or wander around Emu Bay Rd, perusing the Windows on Art Deloraine (WOAD) exhibits by local artists and the Little Laneway Festival throughout the weekend.

Winner of the major

prizes were announced at the commencement of the Fair.

The \$10,000 Premiers Arts Prize sponsored by the Tasmanian Government was awarded to Paul Barton Wood Artist.

The Best Working Exhibit, sponsored by Extractas Bioscience, was Bingo Bango.

The Providore's Award, sponsored by Brown Family Wines was presented to Killara Distillery.

Would you believe planning is already underway for 2025!?



Tune in to the festive season

The voices of MVFM

AS LISTENERS have come to expect, the valley's own radio station, MVFM 96.9, will be broadcasting a number of special programs over the coming Christmas and New Year weeks.

For instance, "Nick's Weird, Wonderful and Wacky

Records" show will feature lots of Christmas music throughout December and a special New Year's Eve program as well (Sundays 10 am and Tuesdays 7 pm).

And then there's the "Classical Time" Christmas program (19th and 24th December) and New Years

Eve program (26th and 31st December).

On Christmas Day itself, the station will be broadcasting plenty of seasonal music of all music genres.

MVFM's news coverage is now expanding; from now on, listeners may catch the Tasmanian Bulletin from Air

News Australia three times each weekday at 8 am, 9 am and 12 noon.

Also mentioned frequently on air is information about local events, including those coming up during the next month or two such as Carols by the River and Handel's "Messiah."

Another interesting, inclusive development at the station is short, 10- minute information slots in languages other than English – Vietnamese, Arabic,

Spanish and Turkish.

And, on Tuesdays at 8 pm, Steve Norwood presents "The First Australian Music Show", a program showcasing the work of indigenous musicians and singers.

So, in this spirit of inclusion, the station wishes all its listeners and supporters Gaadha, Joyeux Noel, Shengdan kuaile, Kala Christougenna, Frohe Weihnachten, Nadolig Llawen and, of course, Happy Christmas!

ADVERTORIAL

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digestive and nervous disorders, anemia, tuberculosis, chronic bronchitis, asthma and eczema.

It seems that Fulvic Acid often acts as an adjuvant, assisting the effects of existing treatments.

Increased energy is often experienced as is stress reduction.

Few side effects, such as diarrhea and cramps have been experienced and these are generally mild and short term.

No specific drug interactions have been reported in the literature.

But as usual, check first with your health professional.

Check out the scientific articles:

- www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3304339/
- www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2650748/

Dosage: 15mls (3 teaspoons) is

a good starting place. Step the dose up as needed and reduce as able (aka "dose by titration").

How may we serve you today? Phone 6362 3551.



SENATOR
WENDY ASKEW

LIBERAL SENATOR FOR TASMANIA

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance.

📍 46 Cameron Street, Launceston TAS 7250

☎ 63318501 ✉ senator.askew@aph.gov.au

📘 SenatorAskew 📷 @senatoraskew



Authorised by Senator W.Askew, Liberal Party of Australia, 46 Cameron St, Launceston TAS 7250.

Wholesome House: for all your Christmas cooking and entertainment needs!



Who are we?

For some 34 years Wholesome House at Deloraine has been the Meander Valley's go-to for wholefoods. These are foods - fresh or dried - that have undergone as little processing as possible thus retaining their natural qualities.

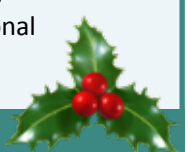
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Generous donations to Wildwood

**Chel Bardell,
Promotions Officer
Wildwood Landcare Group**

THE WILDWOOD has, in the last few months, benefitted greatly from several very generous donations made by local Deloraine community and surrounding district businesses and organisations.

Thanks to the generosity of Manager, David Cox, and Despatch & Logistics Manager, Ben Simpson of local business Orion Tanks, the Wildwood

Committee was delighted to receive the donation of a 550 ltr water tank (pictured), which will be initially used to help keep newly-planted native seedlings watered over the coming summer months.

The Rotary Club of Deloraine offered a substantial donation of \$6000, which was gratefully received in October, and will help with the ongoing purchase of plants, equipment, and yearly administration costs.

Wildwood owners, the

Meander Valley Council have been particularly supportive, giving the Wildwood Committee an establishment grant of \$250, and also funding the training of three Wildwood volunteers in correct small tree-felling techniques to remove invasive species.

They also continue to provide ongoing support and advice on all Wildwood projects.

Several months ago, the Wildwood Committee was gifted 150 native seedling trees, bushes and grasses by Natural Resource Management (NRM) North.

All of these seedlings were planted out in the last two months by Wildwood volunteers, who hand-weeded, mulched, watered, staked and tree-guarded all of them.

Unfortunately, there are those in the community not so supportive of the Wildwood volunteers exceptional efforts, and it was disheartening to discover the theft of both plants and hardwood stakes in recent weeks.

The local Police have been alerted, and If anyone has any information about these activities, we ask them to report it to either the Deloraine



► Orion Tank's Despatch & Logistics Manager, Ben Simpson, with the donated water tank. Photo by Richard Colman.

Police, or the Wildwood Committee.

The Wildwood Landcare Group is open for membership for a yearly fee of \$10 a year for individuals, \$20 for families.

Your membership fee will enable the purchase of more native plants and other much-needed items.

We are keen to hear from those who would like to

volunteer for our working bees, and also anyone who might be able to contribute to the administrative work of the Wildwood Committee.

If you are interested in the Wildwood and would like to join us in the huge task of reawakening it to its full potential, please contact wildwood@landcarea.org.

ADVERTISEMENT

Guy Barnett
Liberal Member for Lyons MP

Wishing everyone a
Merry Christmas

76 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine TAS 7304 (03) 67012170
GuyBarnettMP | guy.barnett@dpac.tas.gov.au
Authorised by Guy Barnett, 76 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine TAS 7304.

WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE, HAPPY AND HEALTHY CHRISTMAS

agedcare
DELORAINÉ

From Aged Care Deloraine Inc Board and Executive to Grenoch and Kanangra Residents and their loved ones, staff and families, volunteers and families, Contractors and Suppliers and the entire Meander Valley Community. Wishing everyone a safe, happy and healthy Christmas. We thank everyone for your ongoing support of Aged Care Deloraine; the fantastic support of this beautiful community is greatly appreciated.

AGED CARE DELORAINÉ INC. Phone. 6362 8300 Web. agedcaredeloraine.org.au

Class of 1973 reunites

ON SATURDAY the 18th November 2023, almost 50 years to the day the Deloraine High School class of '73 assembled at the Deloraine Deli to celebrate their 50 year reunion of leaving school and to reminisce about the changes that have happened over those 50 years and talk about the good old times, how many children and grandkids they have and if they are retired or still working.

Barb Harvey, owner of the Deloraine Deli was a 1973 leaver, so the food and music she provided suited us and our old bodies.

We danced and sang the night away (or at least tried).

The night was also filled with many stories that seemed to get more exaggerated as the night went on, with most people trying to stay as long as they could to reminisce that little bit more.

The room was filled with memorabilia and photos, which brought back many memories.

Prior to our function many past students embarked on a



▶ Alison Boxhall, Marian Walkem (Byrne), Janice Creeley, Lexie Baker (Synfield), Ruth Kilov (Wadley), Mary Faulkner (Heferen), Andrew Lyne, Daryl Hennessy, Lance Richards, Simon Hegarty, Bryce Curwen, Mary Gleeson (Anderson), Geraldine Crisp, Wendy King (Aylett), Paulie Beams (Scott) and Leoni Cole (Creely).

tour of the school, just to see how much things had changed.

Thank you to Berice VanderAa for taking the time out of her day to provide a very informative tour and show us around.

Also a big thank you to the past students who made the effort to travel from as far as Queensland and everyone else for making the night a great

success.

1973 was a very significant year for our state, nationally, and the world.

The voting age was lowered from 21 to 18; the Vietnam War officially ended, The Sydney Opera House and Wrest Point Casino opened and the Deloraine High school class of 1973 left school to follow their dreams.

The boy, the soldier and the mountains

A TRAWL through the internet for information about her father has resulted in Tasmanian writer Patsy Crawford's seventh book.

"This is a story that found me," she said.

"I normally write non-fiction that concentrates on mining history and the environment but I found what I read on-line so compelling I decided to expand it into a work of fiction."

Deloraine-based Crawford said she had wanted to write something set in the Great Western Tiers for some time and the information about abandoned boys contained in the government papers presented the perfect opportunity.

"I took the background notes about my father and created Jimmy Monaghan.

"In order to have a

counterfoil to a small boy the next voice I used as that of Eric Kingston, the superintendent of the Home who has returned from the Great War after being badly wounded at Passchendaele.

"How Jimmy and Eric negotiate their shared path to redemption, and through acts of kindness and compassion from those around them, is at the heart of the story."

Crawford drew on reports from government departments to underscore the narrative but said the writing was pure fiction.

Research was used for Great War details and for social and historical accuracy.

To enhance the backdrop of the novel a poem by a soldier killed on the Western Front heads up each of the four



sections.

"This is unashamedly a story about hope and the goodness of people. I also wanted to ditch the notion of Tasmania as being dark and Gothic. There is kindness to be had here."

Boys Home was printed in Launceston by Foot & Playsted with a cover design by Cathy Chapman.

And if anyone thinks they recognise the dog on the cover, it is indeed Crawford's pointer-beagle, Spud.

The writer recently gave a reading from the book at the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre.

upcoming workshops at art as mania

Paint & Sip	December 30th	10:00 - 2:00
Dreamscaping	January 20th	10:30 - 12:30
Kintsugi Traditional	March 16th	12:45 - 4:15
Kintsugi Traditional	March 17th	12:45 - 2:30
Kintsugi Beginners	March 16th	9:30 - 11:30
Kintsugi Beginners	March 17th	9:30 - 11:30
Learn to Knit	May 9th	10:30 - 12:30

20-22 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine 0488 137 315
 artasmania.com contact@artasmania.com



Bookings essential. For detailed information and registration options, visit our website. Workshop room available for hire. Contact us for availability and rates.

Councillor

Ben Dudman

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Authorised By: John Tucker MP, Independent Member for Lyons

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

VOICE for RURAL & Regional Tasmania

Meander Valley Council Wrap – November 2023

THE COUNCIL Workshop held on 24 October included updates on the Northern Correctional Facility from the Department of Justice and the Deloraine Recreation Precinct Masterplan.

Also discussed were the Council's submission related to the Draft Development Assessment Panel (DAP) Framework, an overview of the process for the development of the Community Strategic Plan during 2024, and proposals related to Bicycle Lanes Westbury Road, Prospect Vale and Public Toilets at Lake Parangana & Lake Rowallan.

Council Meeting 14 November 2023

This was the first meeting attended by new appointees Wezley Frankcombe, Manager Governance & Performance and Thomas Wagenknecht, Senior Strategic Planner.

Questions from members of the public have increased over the last few months.

In relation to the Hagley MV dump point, Council advised that two sites are under consideration and that early plans might come to the November Council workshop.

In response to questions about Local Planning Schemes and protecting precincts with

significant heritage assets that give our townships colonial, Georgian or Victorian character and charm, Council advised of intentions to lead work first in Carrick and Westbury, and other sites in 2024/25.

In relation of sealing of roads in Westbury needed because of increased housing density, Council advised that members of the public could make submissions/requests.

Several questions focused on the Council's actions/responses to climate change; responses suggest that there is more work to be done.

In response to questions about the Community Strategic Plan, the General Manager advised that the development process will commence in early 2024, with the goal of having a new plan in place by December 2024.

Planning matters

Council acting as Planning Authority considered an application (PA\24\0067) by Department of State Growth (through Pitt & Sherry) for road upgrades on land at various locations along Birralee Road.

Affected residents spoke against the application highlighting lack of consultation, boundary uncertainties and very poor

understanding by applicant of how the proposal would critically affect the movement of livestock without an underpass, access to water vital for home, stock and firefighting, and safety of school children catching buses.

The application was refused, my majority, on the grounds that the proposed use did not minimise the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural use in so far that it would confine and restrain agricultural use on the specified site/s and adjoining sites.

Audit Report

Council received the minutes of the September 2023 Audit Panel meeting.

The panel noted a range of recent documents, plans and financial reports.

In relation to the 2023 Financial report, it was noted that initial rehabilitation plans for Cluan are not yet finalised; some costs could be quite significant and there are some unassessed risks with costs.

The panel noted that staffing had impacted upon revision of Social media and Vegetation Management policies, progress with ICT Governance internal audit proposals, Outstanding Corrective Actions Register and the Community Strategic Plan.

The independent members of the Audit Panel held an in-camera session with Councillor members of the Audit Panel to understand Council's recruitment and appointment process for the recently filled General Manager position.

The independent members were satisfied with the explanations, background and context provided.

Financial statements

Council received the certified 2022-23 Financial Statements and associated Delegate of the Auditor-General's independent audit report.

The Tasmanian Audit Office (TAO) found that Council's financial report presented fairly in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and Australian Accounting Standards.

The TAO confirmed operating activities for the 2023 financial year resulted in a net profit of \$3,251,929, with an underlying deficit of \$1,215,223.

Council's financial performance was significantly impacted by approximately \$2.7m of expenditure on flood remediation.

The Auditor considered that Valuation of Property and infrastructure assets was a Key audit matter.

Council's assets were valued at fair value totalling \$247.41 million, based on market values and current replacement cost.

The auditor commented that the calculation of fair values is judgemental and highly dependent upon a range of assumptions and estimates.

Closed session

In the Closed session, Council discussed options for acquisition of Cluan landfill lease, and approved contracts for the Roxford Road Bridge, Quamby Brook and Blackstone Heights Intersection Improvement.

This report was prepared by the Meander Valley Gazette, and is not an official Meander Valley Council communication.

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 December 2023 meeting.

This is the last Council Wrap report to be provided by the Gazette.

We suggest that you encourage the Council to provide regular and accessible updates to the community, remembering the high proportion of people in the region without internet.



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Woolies supports experiential learning at Giant Steps

A NEW “Mini Woolies” has opened at Giant Steps Tasmania in Deloraine, aimed at supporting the education of students through hands-on learning experiences.

The Mini Woolies has been established to simulate the operations of an actual Woolworths supermarket, with baskets for fresh food, shelving for groceries, ticketing, signage and Woolworths branded uniforms students can wear to create an immersive educational experience.

Using fully operational Fujitsu registers, students can also learn to scan grocery items when they process sales.

Greg Jacobson, Store Manager at Woolworths Deloraine, and his team assisted in preparing students and staff for their new Mini Woolies experience by delivering groceries and teaching them how to use the registers.

“It’s a great initiative for our community,” he said.

“There’s been a huge amount of interest from my team wanting to train the students ahead of the launch event. We hope they can experience the retail

environment in exciting new ways.”

Sheila O’Reilly, Head of Delivery, Service Operations and Infrastructure for Group Enablement at Woolworths Group, said, “The skills students will learn in their new Mini Woolies will equip them with the confidence and knowledge of retail operations in an exciting way, from the perspective of both a customer and a team member.

“It’s a great example of how we bring a little good to everyone every day.

“Having seen first hand the passion and creativity of students and staff at our other Mini Woolies sites in Launceston and Hobart launched earlier this year, we look forward to seeing how the Giant Steps community uses their new Mini Woolies to help students gain independence and develop new skills.”

Clare Burden, Head of Industry Retail at Fujitsu Australia Limited, said, “Fujitsu is excited to collaborate with Woolworths on the Mini Woolies program.

“We are incredibly proud of the impact our technology and support is making on young

lives as well as their parents and educators.”

Giant Steps Tasmania is a small, specialist school catering for students with a diagnosis of Autism, striving to create an environment where their students are supported to thrive and experience individual success.

Kimberly Trebilco, Principal at Giant Steps, said, “We are really grateful to enter into this collaboration with Woolworths and Fujitsu to launch Mini Woolies Giant Steps.

“The launch of Mini Woolies at Giant Steps really is a momentous occasion for our school.

“The benefits of this program to our students will include having authentic opportunities for students to work towards learning goals, having opportunities for students to develop work skills in a simulated environment and providing opportunities for students to experience a simulated shopping experience in a controlled environment.

“We can’t wait to start using Mini Woolies in our school program.”



▶ Logan Szoka working hard at the installation.

Jen BUTLER MP

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jen.butler@parliament.tas.gov.au
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Ph: 03 6324 2070

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Northern Correctional Facility

Project Update December 2023

The Tasmanian Government is committed to build a new, modern, purpose-built Northern Correctional Facility (NCF) which will optimise the operations of the Tasmania Prison Service and support stronger rehabilitative outcomes for people who come into contact with our Corrections system.

The NCF will be designed to deliver improved rehabilitative outcomes through contemporary programs, training and education that reduce recidivism, and promoting reintegration by maintaining better connections to family and other support networks in northern Tasmania.

This new, purpose-built correctional facility will not only be specifically focused on rehabilitation and reintegration outcomes for prisoners, it will also create jobs and support our economy in the North, with recent modelling indicating it will boost the economy in the Meander Valley by \$289 million, while creating 273 full-time equivalent jobs by 2040.

The Department of Justice (DoJ), through its dedicated Project Team is finalising the due diligence investigations required as part of the normal statutory process that will allow consideration of a modern correctional facility to be developed at the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) site.

Draft Social Impact Assessment Report Open for Public Review

Responding to the community's request that a new Social Impact Assessment (SIA) be prepared as part of the due diligence investigations, DoJ engaged social planning consultants, Andrea Young Planning Consultants and BBC Consulting Planners to prepare an independent SIA. Andrea Young is a highly experienced Tasmanian based social planning consultant and social impact assessment specialist, with considerable experience in preparing SIA reports for correctional facilities throughout Australia.

Building on the comprehensive public consultation already undertaken for this project, the specialist consultants have engaged with key stakeholders (e.g. local community services, business and industry), including nearby neighbours of the AYDC site, to further understand the social impacts that this development may have on the region. An important outcome of this work is to deliver a Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) which outlines how identified impacts may be mitigated through the development of the facility's design and operational model.

The Government is committed to ensuring that all stakeholders with an interest in the NCF, particularly the Meander Valley community, have an opportunity for consultation over the course of this project's delivery.

In line with this commitment, both the draft SIA report and SIMP is now available for public comment to allow the local community and near neighbours to have the opportunity to review these draft documents and provide their feedback before they are finalised and to ensure it accurately represents the specific concerns that have been identified.

For a copy of the draft SIA and SIMP, please visit the project website at www.justice.tas.gov.au/ncf.

DoJ invites anyone in the area who has an interest in this important project to review these draft documents and provide their feedback so it can be considered in the consultant's final report presented to the Government. Members of the public can make a submission either by email to northern Correctional Facility@justice.tas.gov.au or by post to the Department of Justice, Strategic Infrastructure Projects, GPO Box 825, Hobart TAS 7001

Please note, all written submissions must be received by **5.00pm on Thursday 29 February 2024** in order to be considered in final SIA report and SIMP that will be provided to the Government to inform their final decision.

Site Infrastructure Services Report

DoJ engaged Johnstone McGee & Gandy Pty Ltd (JMG) to undertake the supply of utilities concept designs and reports for infrastructure services to the AYDC site for the development of the NCF.

The report assesses the feasibility of site infrastructure requirements, in terms of external connections for water, sewer, stormwater, power, and communications, plus road junction requirements (as recommended in the Traffic Impact Assessment carried out by Midson Traffic Pty Ltd), as necessary to service the NCF.

An important outcome of the preliminary assessment undertaken by JMG determined that it would be feasible to deliver the site infrastructure requirements, which support the NCF at the AYDC site, without significant upgrading and associated costs.

The concept designs and reports for infrastructure services as well as other due diligence reports, will be provided as supporting information to the Request for Tender for Architectural Services so they can be utilised by the successful tenderer in understanding the site. The requirements of the report will inform the final design development of the NCF and be included in the Development Application to be lodged with the Meander Valley Council.

For a copy of the Infrastructure Service Assessment report, please visit the project's website at www.justice.tas.gov.au/ncf

IT support from Stronger Communities

MEANDER VALLEY Connect Inc. had the opportunity to thank Mr Brian Mitchell MP, Labor's Member for Lyons, for the work he does in advocating for and supporting regional communities at the official launch of new technology installed in the Deloraine Online Access Centre.

The community-managed Access Centre was fortunate to receive \$10,450 grant funding from the Australian Government Stronger Communities Programme to replace three ageing computers in the public computer room, enabling an enhanced service to an increasing number of customers who use the Access Centre to access the internet, email, job searches, education, online information and services, and other online activities necessary to participate in everyday life.



► **Brian Mitchell, Wendy Newton, Deloraine Online Access Centre Manager; Sandra Atkins, Access Centre volunteer; and Alistair Carr, IT consultant. Photo by Ben Dudman.**

Tasmania continues to be the most digitally excluded state in Australia and over 23% of households cannot access the internet at home in Meander Valley, which makes the Deloraine Online Access Centre a critical service for the region, particularly as cost-of-living pressures make owning

devices and paying for data out of reach for many people.

The Online Centre is open Monday to Friday 10.00am to 4.00pm and offers a range of free advice, training and technology services to improve digital access and literacy for our community.

Christmas crowd-pleasers

By Wendy Hays

MOST FAMILIES have their own traditions leading up to Christmas.

Much baking is often done and many of the recipes used have been passed down through the generations.

This Shortbread recipe is one of my dear Mum's which I make every year in the weeks preceding Christmas.

The dough can be rolled into logs and cut then sliced into rounds.

It can also be rolled and cut using a fancy cutter or pressed into a traditional disc then cut into wedges.

The secret to good Shortbread is to beat the butter and sugar using an electric mixer until almost white in colour.

If you over handle or knead the dough too much you will get a tough result.

Your Shortbread can be

decorated with glace cherries, nuts or by dipping it in melted chocolate as I have done.

Wishing all readers happy baking and a safe, joyous festive season.

Shortbread

Ingredients

- ½ C castor sugar
- 250 g butter – softened in the microwave
- 2 and ½ C plain flour

Method

- 1 Line 3 oven trays with baking paper and preheat oven to 150C.
- 2 Beat softened butter and sugar preferably using a mix master until creamy white.
- 3 Using a knife, mix in the flour. If the mixture is very soft you may need an extra Tb. or 2 of flour or refrigerate tmasit until it can be easily handled.
- 4 Roll into logs and slice into



- 5 Place in trays prepared trays and bake for about 45 – 60 minutes. Shortbread should only be lightly coloured on the bottom. It should only just be starting to colour around the edges.

TANIA RATTRAY MLC

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR MCINTYRE



I would like to wish all Meander Valley residents a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. I look forward to assisting and supporting those in the McIntyre Electorate in 2024.

Our office will be closed over the Christmas/New Year break from Thursday 21st December 2023 re-opening on Tuesday 30th January 2024.

Please contact me for any enquiries or assistance - 0427 523 412 or by email tania.rattray@parliament.tas.gov.au

PUBLIC NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT TASMANIA LAND TITLES OFFICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LODGE WITH THE RECORDER OF TITLES AN APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 138W OF THE LAND TITLES ACT 1980 FOR A VESTING ORDER

NOTICE is hereby given of my intention to lodge with the Recorder of Titles an Application under section 138W

for an order pursuant to section 138X of the Land Titles Act 1980 vesting title to the land below mentioned in **RICHARD NOEL DUNLOP** and **KYLIE ANN ELKINGTON** Pursuant to section 138Z of the Land Titles Act 1980 a caveat may be lodged by a person claiming an estate or interest in the land subject to this application before the order under section 138X is made.

AN APPLICATION for title by possession is to be lodged with the Recorder of Titles not later than 60 days after the date of the last notice given as required under section 138W(8) of the Land Titles Act 1980.

LAND AFFECTED: Address: 22 West Barrack Street DELORAIN TAS 7304 Title Reference: 109429/1

Part of Land Description: That part of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 109429 Folio 1 shown highlighted in green on the Identification Survey which can be viewed at SOLICITORS FOR THE APPLICANT: JULIE BYRNE LEGAL DELORAIN 63 EMU BAY RD TAS 7304

Area of Land: Approximately 129.83 m2 or thereabouts (predominantly a permanent right of way since c.1850's)

Registered Proprietor Name/s: **Damien William Lavelle** and **Kirsten Mcleod Hansen**

Please note: If you are familiar with the Bluestone Grainstore (14 Parsonage St, Deloraine), could you please contact Richard on 0431042005 E: richardnoeldunlop@gmail.com You will be asked to fill out a short questionnaire (10 questions) or maybe 15 questions, if you are a Deloraine "old-timer" and know a lot.



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CROSSWORD

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- Across**
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 - 10 Furious (5)
 - 11 Scatter (5)
 - 12 Assembled (6)
 - 14 Puzzle (6)
 - 16 Merchant (6)
 - 19 Motor fuel (6)
 - 21 Dark brown fur (5)
 - 24 Saltpetre (5)
 - 25 Heroic (7)
 - 26 Uncommunicative (8)
 - 27 Nourish (4)
- Down**
- 1 Emphasised (8)
 - 2 Become narrower (5)
 - 4 Misgivings (6)
 - 5 Operatic songs (5)
 - 6 Cul-de-sac (4,3)
 - 7 Regretted (4)
 - 8 Indian tent (6)
 - 13 Stopped (8)
 - 15 Ridiculous (7)
 - 17 Impetuously (6)
 - 18 Intelligent (6)
 - 20 Rain mixed with snow (5)
 - 22 Burn fiercely (5)
 - 23 Tangle (4)

SUDOKU

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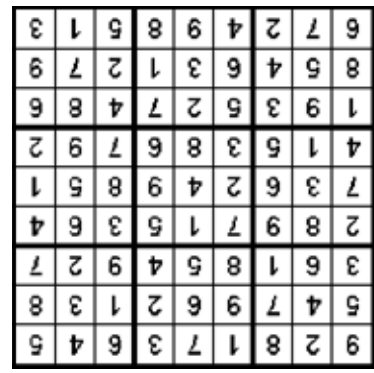
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HOW TO PLAY Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9, each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9 and each set of 3 x 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9. Best of luck!

Crossword December 2023 solution



Sudoku December 2023 solution



EVENTS DIARY

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Tuesdays	Hidden Talents Craft Group 10am-12 noon. Deloraine Gospel Chapel, 46 Parsonage St, Deloraine.	December 2 & 3, 10am	Gardenfest Entally Estate, Hadspen
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-12	Westbury Men's Shed Corner of King St. and Franklin St. Westbury.	December 2 & 3, 10am to 5pm	Neil Hoffmann Open Studio Reedy Marsh Pottery
Wednesdays, 7-9pm	Trivia Night Bolters, Prospect	Sunday 3, 10am	Dragon Boat Regatta Deloraine Riverbank
Wednesdays, 1-4pm	Indoor Carpet Bowls Western Tiers Community Club	Sunday 3, 1pm	Sunday at the Garrison Westbury RSL
Thursdays, 7.30-9.30pm	Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting Westbury Uniting Church Hall	Sunday 3, 1pm	Adam Page Farewell Show Australian Italian Club
Fridays, 1-3pm	Cards (Crib, Canasta etc) Western Tiers Community Club	Sunday 3, 2pm	Raw Jam The Empire, Deloraine
Fridays, 3-4pm	Tai Chi Western Tiers Community Club	Saturday 9, 8am	Car Boot Sale Hadspen Riverbank
Fridays, from 8	Live Music British Hotel, Deloraine	Saturday 9, 9am	Liffey Valley Market Old Liffey School
Fridays, 7 to 9	Boogie Nights Wandering Trout, Mole Creek	Saturday 9, 4pm	TSO Live & On Screen Little Theatre, Deloraine
Saturdays, 6.30 to 8.30	Winter Festival Love Lucy Boots	Saturday 9, 4.30pm	Feed the Animal Wandering Trout, Mole Creek
Saturdays, 9 to 11	Parkrun Town Common, Westbury	Saturday 9, 7.30pm	Queen Forever Country Club, Prospect
Sundays, 1 to 5	Sunday at The Garrison Westbury RSL	Saturday 9, 7.30pm	Western Tiers Film Society - <i>The Good Boss</i> Little Theatre, Deloraine
Weekends, 1 to 3	Live in the Vines 3 Willows Vineyard, Montana	Saturday 16, 9am	Mole Creek Market Memorial Hall
ART AS MANIA WORKSHOP DETAILS ON PAGE 7.		Saturday 16, 9am	Westbury Market St Andrew's Church
Friday 1, 7pm	Celtic Nights The Empire, Deloraine	Saturday 16, 6.30pm	Carols on the Riverbank Deloraine Riverbank
Saturday 2 & 16, 9am	Deloraine Market Deloraine Showgrounds	Sunday 17, 2pm	The Don Chorale Deloraine Baptist Church
December 2 & 3, 9.30am	Tractor Pull Red Hills Memorial Park	Sunday 17, 5.30pm	Carols by Candlelight Launceston Silverdome
		Monday 18, 4pm	Fire Spin Jam Deloraine Riverbank
		Sunday 31, 6.30pm	Adam Page Westbury RSL

At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society

Clare Andersen

What makes for a Good Boss and a successful business? In our end-of-year offering director De Aranoa messages: to be a truly 'Good Boss' one has to think about what benefits only a single person, no matter how large the corporation - the title being ironic, rather than literal. Indeed, the film's plot shows there may not be a lot of daylight between a good boss and a true villain.

Spain is known for having some of the strictest worker protections in the world, with regulations from

the European Union, the Spanish Constitution and the Workers' Statute being included.

Collective bargaining agreements also pose additional rules and restrictions.

Spanish workers have some of the most generous vacation entitlements in the world; should employers fail to offer statutory benefits, fines, penalties and legal consequences will be the likely result.

Each industry or professional category has its own laws around working hours, vacation time, and compensation.

Collective bargaining is extremely common, and agreements can be made at the workplace, company, industry, regional, or national levels.

Just to keep things interesting, in Spain it's legal for an employment contract to be verbal or written.

Knowing what kind of a minefield underlies the plot of this darkly humorous film is almost enough for the viewer to feel sympathy for the protagonist, 'The Good Boss'.

Question: who wants to be a small employer?



THE GOOD BOSS

DECEMBER 9, 7.30PM

2021 M, Comedy/Drama Spain, 120m Director: Fernando Leon De Aranoa.

Básculas Blanco, a Spanish company producing industrial scales in a provincial Spanish town, awaits the imminent visit from a committee which holds its fate in their hands as to whether they merit a local Business Excellence award.

Everything has to be perfect when the time comes.

Working against the clock, the company's proprietor, Blanco, pulls out all the stops and underhanded tactics to address and resolve issues with his employees, be it marital problems, disgruntled former employees, or his own ex-marital affairs,

crossing every imaginable line in the process to wrestle back control.

"Led by Javier Bardem's charismatic performance and the writer-director's sharp humour, *The Good Boss* is a workplace satire worthy of promotion. Found it entertaining: possibly pleasing both capitalist and socialist-leaning individuals alike." - Audience, 9/2022

Rotten Tomatoes Critics 92%/Audience 86%

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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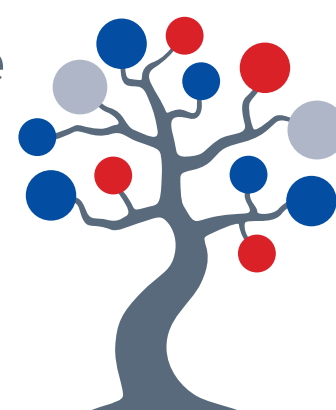
Deloraine & Westbury Medical would like to wish everyone a happy, safe and prosperous Christmas and New Year.

Thank you for being part of our journey.

We have some exciting news for late January with four new doctors's starting, more information to come soon.

Ask at D&WMC for more information. For appointments, phone 03 6362 2266. 22 Tower Hill Street, Deloraine and 80 Meander Valley Road, Westbury.

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Rivers Run

Mark Flanigan,
Great Western Tiers
Tourism Association

RIVERS ARE often regarded as the lifeblood of rural communities.

And let's face it what would the Meander Valley be without the Meander River?

The Meander River looms large in our communities but nowhere more so than in Hadspen and Deloraine.

Here in Deloraine there has been a bit of local controversy over the river and its foreshore over the last few years.

Back in November 2019 (before any of us had heard of Covid) Council was roundly criticised for removing several large willow trees from the southern bank of the River in the middle of town.

The main concern expressed by a number of locals was that the removal killed several platypus and damaged their habitat in the main weir pool.

The local teenagers were not too happy with the loss of their swing tree either!

Then again last year Council was criticised for the damage caused to vegetation

when it was undertaking the clean-up post the 2022 floods.

Without getting into the merits of either event, I think it is important to acknowledge the work Council are doing to restore habitat along the River foreshore.

Back in early 2020 Council staff met with concerned residents and representatives from the Australian Platypus Conservancy.

This led to Council commissioning Herbert Staubmann from "Habitat Plants" in Liffey to provide a range of riparian plants.

The aim is to revegetate and stabilise the River bank.

These things take time but those of you who regularly walk around the weir pool will have noticed that planting has begun in earnest.

After a small trial planting undertaken a few months back Council staff have been busy planting approximately 600 seedlings in key locations on the bank and sediment flats.

The plan, as I understand it, is to follow up with another 900 plants next year.

The River reserve in Deloraine is already an attraction in its own right and it will only be better once these native plants have established themselves.

So I want to thank Council and the staff for undertaking this restoration work.

By the way, if you see a 'crazy women' wandering the banks of the river at sunset with a spray bottle don't panic.

It's not someone poisoning the seedlings it is in fact Anne Gilles, a local Landcare volunteer, watering the plants over summer.

Talking of volunteers there is another controversy associated with the River foreshore in Deloraine.

You may have noticed the big ad in last month's paper calling for expressions of interest in running the caravan park. This has caused a bit of a hubbub.

The caravan park is currently operated by the Deloraine Apex service club. The land is Crown Land vested in Council.

Evidently Apex has operated the park since the '70s. In fact I am told that Apex originally developed the caravan park.

The caravan park is defiantly an asset to Deloraine. It is a bit of a hidden gem.

I am regularly down by the river doing the platypus tours and the caravan park is very well patronised.

I don't think that I have ever

met someone who is staying at the park who doesn't think it is fabulous.

Some things like the train are a pain but we all have to put up with that noisy burden.

The impression that I get is that some of the arrangements under which Apex has been running the caravan park could well be described as 'loose' and that in seeking expressions of interest in operating the site Council is seeking to 'normalise' things.

This in itself is probably not a bad idea.

Having said that, Council will need to be mindful of the risk of unintended consequences.

Deloraine Apex is a not for profit volunteer organisation.

The revenue generated by the caravan park is the main source of their income other than grants.

As a service club the funds raised by Apex not only support the upkeep of the caravan park but they also support the good works that Apex undertake.

Apex members and the funds they provide support a range of schools, sporting clubs and events.

It isn't too much of a stretch to say that they also play a role in supporting the mental

health of their members – men in the 18 to 40 age group.

Like the river, volunteers are the lifeblood of our community.

There are plenty of volunteer groups working to support our community.

I personally don't think we can ever have too many – volunteering is under pressure everywhere.

I'm also reasonably sure that volunteer groups are never perfect.

If Council wishes to have the caravan park continue to run as a not for profit enterprise then it is likely that if the next contract doesn't go to Apex it will go to another community group.

I am not opposed to that per se.

But Council needs to be careful that it doesn't fatally wound Apex and its good works in the process.

I wish to make it clear that I am not a member of Apex.

But I am not without some conflict because members of Apex do frequent the Empire.

Also these views are mine and not those of the Great Western Tiers Tourism Association.

The Remembrance Day poppies

The Exton Gardener

REMEMBRANCE DAY has come and gone, and with it, its symbol, the red Flanders poppy.

We older people remember it as Armistice Day when we trooped out of class, to line up and hear the Last Post played over the speakers to start our minute's silence.

Some of us even sported the crepe paper poppy with its black centre.

I don't think any of us had seen the real thing nor understood its association with the Great War.

"In Flanders' fields the poppies blow | Between the crosses, row on row..." John McCrae's poem evokes the significance of this humble

weed which sprang up *en masse* in the war ravaged countryside the following spring, coming to symbolise the blood spilt in the carnage of battle.

I first saw field poppies, *Papaver rhoeas*, growing as a small annual weed in wheat and later poppy crops.

It's not a particularly useful garden plant unless you want a "wildflower meadow".

The poppies I remember as a child were the Iceland poppies, *Papaver nudicale*, my mother used to grow.

They flower in late winter and early spring.

She would pick their long thin hairy stems and burn the ends with a match to prolong their life in a vase.

They were such a delicate but cheery symbol of that time of year. I've personally never had success with Iceland poppies, nor Shirley poppies, hybridised variants of the field poppies.

They like bare ground to germinate and I have too many weeds!

One that does regularly appear though, is the annual "peony" poppy, tall and lush, with its glaucous foliage and flamboyant flowers, so beloved by Japanese and Chinese artists.

It's actually a double form of the opium poppy, *Papaver somniferum*.

There is some debate over the legality of growing this plant in Tasmania.

The possibility of cross pollination with poppy crops is regarded as unacceptable.

But they are magnificent.

All these poppies are annual plants.

In my garden conditions I prefer to grow the perennial poppy, *Papaver orientale* and its hybrids.

The original forms were scarlet or salmon, but there are some glorious hybridised varieties in a range of colours, the deep red, "Beauty of Livermore", the soft pink "Princess Victoria Louise", the white "Choirboy", the orange fringed "Curly Locks" and the flamboyant watermelon pink "Raspberry Queen".

"Patty's Plum" is a delicious mauve but needs a sheltered spot as it is very susceptible to wind and sun damage.

My favourites are "Julianne", large and delicately



tinged with the palest peach, and the awfully named "Bloody Mary" which is a colour I can only describe as a sad red!

Perhaps it is fitting to end with this poppy, almost a link back to that humble Flanders poppy that symbolised the blood spilt on the fields of the Great War

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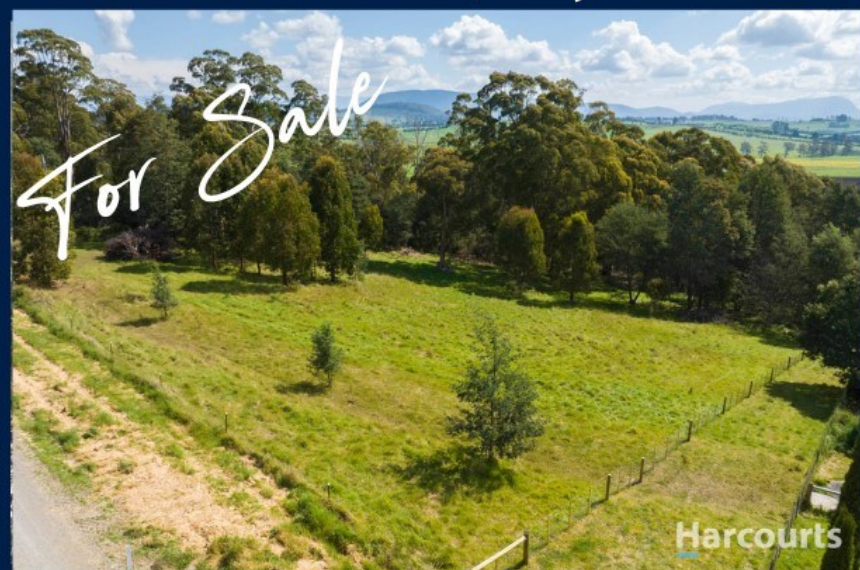
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