

Meander Valley Gazette

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February 2014

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper



MEANDER VALLEY AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

All the winners.

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POLLIE PEDAL - NINTH ANNUAL 3 DAY ROAD CYCLING EVENT

All the details.

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TENNIS STAR PLAYS FOR WHITMORE IN AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Details.

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MEANDER VALLEY SALUTES ITS ACHIEVERS

By Danny Ross

THE MEANDER Valley Council's annual Australia Day celebration took place on Sunday the 26th of January in the Mount Pleasant Room at the Country Club Tasmania.

The event included citizenship presentations as well as Volunteer and Australia Day awards.

The presentations began after a welcome from the MVC Mayor, Craig Perkins, and a stirring rendition of the national anthem sung by Amber Clark.

Over the past 17 years, more than 570 community volunteers have been recognised via the awards program and there were 18 more to receive awards this year.

The purpose of this program is to acknowledge the invaluable voluntary service given to the community by individuals.

The awards are divided into three categories: those who have achieved 1000 hours of volunteer work, those who have achieved 3000 hours and a special category for those who are



considered to have performed exceptional voluntary service.

There were also six new citizens receiving Australian citizenship certificates, with countries of birth including the United States, the UK, Philippines, New Zealand and Egypt.

The Citizen of the Year

award is presented to an outstanding individual over 27 years of age who is considered to have made a significant contribution to the Meander Valley community, someone who demonstrates the important virtues of selflessness, endeavour and community spirit.

This year there were joint winners in this category, Margaret Donovan of Westbury and Michael Heazlewood of Selbourne. The Junior Citizen of the Year went to Fraser Deeth from Weetah.

The Sports Award was won by Ruth Saltmarsh from Meander and the

Community Event of the Year was awarded to the Westbury Agricultural Society's 150th Annual Show.

After the presentations were completed, all those present were invited to a Great Aussie BBQ and Community Expo on the rooftop where live entertainment, food and drinks were on offer to all.

Stalls representing community organisations including the Bendigo Bank, University of the 3rd Age, Meander Valley OnLine Inc and others were on hand to provide information about their activities.

Details of the winners in each category are on Page 3.



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VOTE 1

Remembering the Great War

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY of the War Commemorative Medallion was unveiled at the Harry Murray VC statue in Evandale on Monday, 20th January 2014.

The medallion features Harry Murray VC, Australia's most highly decorated soldier and Alec Campbell, Australia's last ANZAC. "It is a fantastic initiative of the RSL and I am delighted to promote it, said Mr Guy Barnett, Liberal candidate for Lyons and military history buff.

"Harry Murray VC was born and bred in Evandale, went to school in Launceston and then departed for Gallipoli in 1915. He is one of the finest military

heroes in our country and I hope the community gets behind this initiative", said Mr Barnett.

"The medallion can be ordered through the local sub-branch of the RSL and is an initiative of the RSL that goes nation-wide. The funds go to supporting the welfare of our veterans and their families.

"More than 60,000 Australians were lost in world war one and a further 156,000 wounded, gassed or taken prisoner, Mr Barnett said.

Mr Barnett produced the book 'Our Heroes, Tasmania's Victoria Cross recipients' with the support of the Tasmanian RSL.

"Of the 99 Australians awarded a VC, 13 are



Guy Barnett with Geoff Leitch & Stephen Baldock

Tasmanians. We certainly punch above our weight," he concluded.

The medallion was unveiled at Evandale by Guy Barnett, Geoff Leitch, President of Northern Midlands RSL, Stephen Baldock of the Murray Memorial committee and Anne Batalibasi, great niece of Harry Murray VC.



RSL medallion

Deloraine on the Move

ON BEHALF OF the executive committee of Deloraine on the Move it is my great pleasure to write this news update in our new community paper, the Meander Valley Gazette.

Deloraine on the Move is the business association of Deloraine and its districts, with a current membership of 185 businesses and supporters. Our membership substantially grew last year as a result of the Fightback Campaign.

Two months into the Fightback Campaign, we can report to have sold 300 of the Deloraine & District Gift Vouchers. The purchasers of the vouchers all took advantage of the 10% discount on offer. If you are looking for a meaningful gift that is versatile, convenient and also helps the local economy, plus it saves you money, then think about buying our vouchers. They are welcome in 150 businesses in the 7304 district and are available at the Deloraine Pharmacy, Deloraine Newsagency, Bozzey's Café at Mole Creek, and Silk & Roses of Chudleigh.

As another element of the Fightback Campaign, Deloraine on the Move distributed the Deloraine & District Product and Services Guide to all household and businesses in the 7304 district two months ago. We have received a lot of positive feedback about the booklet, and some complaints from people who unfortunately have missed out.

We believe the next edition will be bigger and better, this was only our first attempt!

The New Year started with two seminars on social media. As a result of the seminars we are planning to create an exclusive Facebook Group. The aim is to provide for a safe, convenient and multi directional communication vehicle for interaction to women who are in business, be it retail, service, tourism or rural. There is a workshop on Thursday, 6 February 2014 on this subject. (Meander Valley Enterprise centre – 6PM)

In March, we will start the first of our 'Members' Stories' at the social gathering planned for Women in Business. The idea behind this is to introduce the members to each other in an informative and friendly format. (Thursday, 13 March 2014 @ Meander Valley Enterprise Centre – 6PM)

There are longer term plans for activities in 2014 that we are going to detail and advertise in future issues of this publication.

We welcome any of your comments or suggestions that assist us to enhance the local businesses and economy. Please email deloraineonthemove@gmail.com or telephone me (Zsuzsanna Handelsmann) on 0427 362 058.

Meander Valley Gazette

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EST.
2013

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Some material may be abbreviated due to space availability.

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MEANDER VALLEY AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS AND AWARDS

MEANDER VALLEY Council Australia Day Awards 2014

Citizen of the Year Awards

Margaret Donovan – Joint Citizen of the Year (Westbury)
 Michael Heazlewood – Joint Citizen of the Year (Selbourne)
 Fraser Deeth Young Citizen of the Year (Weetah)
 Ruth Saltmarsh Sports Citizen of the Year (Meander)

Community Event Award

Westbury Agricultural Society

Volunteers – Exceptional

Roy Axelsen
 Evonne Blackley (Westbury)
 Joan Field (Kimberley)
 Beryl Murray (Westbury)

Volunteers – 3000 hours

Anne Barber (Westbury)
 Charles Bramich (Hagley)
 Margaret Cameron (West-

bury)
 Dorothy Leonard (Deloraine)
 Dianne Murray (Westbury)
 Peter Roles (Deloraine)
 Sheila Simpson (Deloraine)
 Jack Starr-Thomas (Biralee)
 Anne Witherden (Westbury)

Volunteers – 1000 hours

Patsy Bird (Deloraine)
 Sally-Anne Peck (Westbury)
 Lucille Stubbs (Oaks)
 Mark Stubbs (Oaks)
 Patricia Van Dijk (Westbury)

Citizenship Certificate Recipients

Jennifer Aguilar
 Adrian Golder
 Glenita Hadley
 Bernie Knipping
 Ahmed Saad El Din
 Christine Tiver

Photos by Karen Lehman



Joint Citizens of the Year, Michael Heazlewood and Margaret Donovan with the Mayor, Craig Perkins



Young Citizen of the Year, Fraser Deeth with Mayor Craig Perkins

Got Something To Say?

Don't keep it to yourself. Write an article and share your events and stories.

It helps to inform the community of what's going on in the Meander Valley.

editor@meandervalleygazette.com

A TRIBUTE TO BOB LOONE

The following tribute to Bob Loone was delivered by Cr Bob Richardson at the Meander Valley Council's Australia Day celebrations.



This is the first Council function since then; it provides an opportunity to acknowledge Bob Loone's significant contribution to the residents of the Meander Valley.

Bob's contribution to the Meander Valley community has been well documented; his involvement in Rotary, the Uniting Church and many community groups was highly appreciated.

Several associations, clubs and societies, particularly in the western end of the Valley, benefitted from Bob's time, wisdom and personal resources.

His beloved Chudleigh may never be the same!

However, today it is my privilege to lead an appreciation of Bob's Council's work – on behalf of you and me – the residents.

Bob Loone served 17 years as a Councillor and, from 2005, was Deputy Mayor.

He held strong values which he based his decision making; these values included fairness, equity and natural justice – the foundations of natural justice.

Bob researched every issue thoroughly, spent much time with the

people who might be affected by Council's decisions and read widely about the background of every issue which came before Council.

Many individuals and organisations benefitted from that work, and sometimes from his personal resources.

When Bob spoke, people listened; even if they disagreed with his view-

points, they respected those views.

Bob Loone will be sorely missed by fellow Councillors, professional Council officers and especially Meander Valley Council residents whom he represented.

Such was the respect in which he was held that he easily topped the poll at Council elections.

The dedication Bob

applied to his Council role was such that I have no doubt there were sacrifices made by his family and friends.

In particular, we appreciate the support of his wife Olive and his close family, represented here today by daughter, Jan.

Thankyou for sharing Bob with us.

Thankyou Bob, thankyou Olive and thankyou Jan.

Lyons

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Tasmanian Labor



Tour de Tassie



By Sheila Ferguson

THE STARTER'S gun will launch Tasmania's ninth annual three-day Pollie Pedal road cycling event on Friday, February 14.

Starting in Grindelwald, the route will follow the Tamar River north then on to the Beaconsfield Mine Museum with a lunch stop at Glengarry. In the afternoon the cyclists will visit Hagley Primary School before spending the night in Deloraine.

Next day the cyclists will visit Trowunna Wildlife Park and 41° South Fish Farm before relaxing at an evening community barbecue in Hadspen to which all are invited.

On day three the riders will ped-



Greg Johnson, CEO of Diabetes Australia will be taking part

al through Cressy and Longford before crossing the finishing line at Evandale in time for lunch.

The closing ceremony will be held at the Josef Chromy Winery near

Relbia.

Pollie Pedal was started on the mainland to raise money for diabetes sufferers. Initially participants were from political circles but the

event now attracts anyone willing to raise money for the cause.

Pollie Pedal was introduced to Tasmania in 2006 by former federal senator, Guy Barnett, himself a diabetes sufferer.

The event has since raised more than \$390,000 for diabetes education and community awareness activities in Tasmania and is sponsored by organisations including Medibank Private and IGA Tasmania.

With over 25,000 people diagnosed with diabetes, and an estimated 22,000 more with undiagnosed diabetes, it is vital that Diabetes Tasmania continues with our health promotion message and with our support.

Deloraine and Districts Community Grants Programme

EACH YEAR the Deloraine & Districts Community Bank® Branch conducts a Community Grants Program whereby, under the Community Bank® model, the branch supports the community by allocating funding from its company profits to eligible groups and organisations.

The 2014 Community Grants Program will be launched at an Information Evening on Thursday 27th February at the Deloraine Community Complex, Alveston Drive, Deloraine, at 6.30 pm. Representatives of community groups and charitable organisations are invited to attend to discover what defines an eligible charitable project, the role played by project partners and how to complete an application.

"Projects may be large or small and carried out in collaboration with other groups or organisations at any level," says Lynn Hayward, Chairperson of

Meander Valley Financial Services Ltd, the locally-owned company which operates the Community Bank®.

Eligible community projects will share in \$60,000 available for 2014. Grants are administered by the Community Enterprise Foundation™ which is the philanthropic arm of the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank. On-line applications will open on Friday 7th March and close on Friday 4th April.

In 2013 the program saw \$93,130 distributed to support projects as diverse as audio visual displays for the Westbury Preservation Society, workshop equipment for Deloraine Men's Shed, weekend camps for young people, improved facilities at several community halls, new technology for the Deloraine Online Access Centre and initiatives by Parents & Friends Associations in local schools.

More information about the Community Enterprise Founda-



Callum Wright, CEO of the Community Enterprise Foundation™, addresses Meander Valley residents at the Community Grants Program Information Evening in 2013.

tion™ and grants can be found at <http://www.bendigobank.com.au/foundation/grant-making/index.asp> and check for updates on the Deloraine and Districts

Community Bank® Branch Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DeloraineDistrictsCommunityBankBranch>

Back in the Day



AT THE heart of every town there sits a building where your grandparents danced and your footy team celebrated.

People kissed in that hall, and danced in that hall, and went off to war, and moved to big cities, but the hall stayed. They came back and the hall was still there.. Because a heart keeps beating, and my heart- my town's

heart – it's a hall.

My Heart is a Hall is a show told in movement, inspired by the stories we remember and the community halls that remember us.

Stompin is committed to generating contemporary dance that explores the concerns and ideas of the people making, performing and watching it as well as the form itself.

They are unwavering in their purpose of working with youth/community and making high quality innovative art.

Stompin has had a positive impact on the lives of more than 5000 young people from a diverse cross section of the community, performing to over 17,000 people locally, nationally and internationally in 29 different

sites for 2 years.

The show will be performed on Sunday, 16th March at Mole Creek Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased at Café Bozzey or from the web site, www.stompin.net. There will also be performances at St. Aibies Hall, Launceston, Sorell and Sandford.

Chudleigh Show Celebrates 125 years

THE CHUDLEIGH Show will be celebrating its 125th anniversary this year.

The Show which is run by the Chudleigh Agricultural & Horticultural Society will be a packed show with fun and games for all ages.

There will be the annual Chudleigh Cup will be run with 'horses' provided. A 'Kids' Corner' will be full of fun and games for children of all ages.

There will be egg and spoon races, sack races and three legged races as well as the pets' parade and the petting zoo.

There will also be a jumping castle and the

children's train ride.

The hotly contested 'Men's Muffin Competition' will again be a feature of the Home Industries section. All muffins must be cooked before midnight Friday and the competition is open to all males.

Entertainment will be provided by the Deloraine Big Band.

To celebrate the fabulous honey producers in the district, the Show will feature a special Honey section.

The tyre stacking competition will again be hotly contested and the handball competition will be open to all budding football stars.

An ongoing feature of the Show is the Dairy Heifer Rearing Competition. The best dairy farmers from the district enter their rising 2 year old heifers and compete to find the best quality and most even herd.

Other events of interest include the Tandanya Trophy for the most successful exhibitor in the sheep section, the very popular woodchopping events and Ron Morgan with his trick horse as well as the equestrian events including show jumping.

The show will be officially opened by Federal MP, Eric Hutchinson.



The show will be held on Saturday 15th February at the Chudleigh Show Grounds from 9am to 4pm.

Entry fees are: adults \$10, children under 13 free, children 13-16 \$2.

Tomatoes - Deliciously Different!

THINKING TOMATOES? Think round, red and all the same? Think again! When Selbourne farmers Annette and Nevil Reed open their farm gate on Sunday 16th March between 10.00am and 3.00pm for Tasmania's first Tomato Festival, visitors will find tomatoes of all kinds – green, orange, black, purple, red,

yellow and white, and in all shapes and sizes!

There will be about 40 varieties of heirloom tomatoes on show and visitors will be able to judge for themselves how superior they taste.

The address is 338 Four Springs Road, Selbourne. Just follow the signs towards Four Springs Lake.

If you pre-book the prices are \$10 for Adults and at the gate it will cost \$12 for adults. Children under 16 are admitted free.

For further enquiries phone 6396 6160 or 0438 009 522 or email anreed@harboursat.com.au. Part of the proceeds will go to assist Rural Help at Hand (www.rhah.com.au).

Westbury Historical Society

THE SOCIETY wishes to announce that it has resumed after the Christmas, New Year break.

Meetings are held in the Westbury Town Hall at 7.30 on the last Monday of the month the first meeting

will be on February 24th. All are welcome.

If Members, you have agenda items, please contact Anne Witherden, myself or The History Rooms one week prior to the next meeting.

Opening hours are Saturdays 11am to 1pm, Tuesdays from 1pm to 3pm; other times by appointment.

Membership is \$10.00 per annum. And there is an initial research fee \$10 plus photocopying and postage.

Other Events

Computer Games for the Young at Heart

Deloraine Online Access Centre
Each Wednesday 2pm to 4pm \$2 per session
Games master Caroline Tandler

Westbury St Patrick's Day Festival

March 15th from 9.30am – 9.00pm
Entry prices \$15 per adult, \$10 concession/pension card holders, Children U/16 free

Irish Joke Night

March 14th at 7.30pm
At Westbury Hotel,
Irish set menu - please make bookings for meals.
Bill Carney as our MC,
Melbourne band Zeptepi,

Best and Worst Irish Joke prizes, and a lucky door prize,
Admittance \$5.00

Irish Ball

March 14th at 7.30
Westbury Town Hall
featuring De Ja Vu.
Admittance: \$15.00 with supper included.

Westbury Market

Saturday 15th February
8.00am until 1.00pm
In the grounds of the Anglican Church, Westbury
Opposite the Village Green.

Meander Valley Performing Arts

Registration Day – Friday,
February 7th at 4pm
at the Westbury Uniting Church Hall

Tiny Tots Class 0 – 5years,
Dancing and Acting
Classes 6 – 15 years.
Phone 0409 344 763 for further information

Got An Event Happening?
Let people know about it in the March Issue.

A(maze)ing



and older kids as well as an animal farmyard so visitors will have an opportunity to meet some local farm characters.

There will also be a barbie and lounge area – for some refreshment and R&R prior, or post, tackling the maze.

The Crop Maze will be open to the public from the end of February for approximately three to four weekends, when it will then be cut and baled for silage.

To keep up to date with all the latest Crop Maze developments, please find us on Facebook at 'Rupertswood Farm' or visit us at www.rupertswoodfarm.com.

AT THE END of February, 'Rupertswood Farm' at Hagley will be hosting Australia's first sorghum Crop Maze.

The maze design has been cut, using the latest GPS technology, into a five hectare crop.

There will be a number of other attractions including maze riddles for toddlers

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Diggers step up for Breast Cancer

THE DIGGERS Cricket Club will be one of a thousand cricket teams around the country turning pink this summer as the McGrath Foundation spreads pink right across the country with Pink Stumps Day on 22 February 2014.

Pink Stumps Day has been helping the McGrath Foundation raise over \$2.3 million since it began in 2011 and now involves 2,500 clubs, schools, communities and businesses.

But this year it's going to be even bigger and pinker than before with the Foundation aiming to raise a staggering \$1 million through local communities across Australia.

Each year, Pink Stumps Day demonstrates the power of local communities coming together and, thanks to this support, from local clubs like the Diggers Cricket Club, the McGrath Foundation is proud to have hit its maiden ton this summer with 100 McGrath Breast Care Nurses working nationally.

McGrath Breast Care Nurses provide an invaluable service for families experiencing breast



Diggers Cricket Club

cancer and the Foundation is working to ensure every family experiencing breast cancer in Australia has access to a breast care nurse, no matter where they live or their financial situation.

The Diggers Cricket club president Andrew Moloney was excited by the prospect of being able to engage the local community through this event.

"We managed to raise nearly \$2800 dollars for men's health by participating in Movember and we are very excited to raise funds for the McGrath foundation and their work with breast cancer. It will be an exciting day of cricket and we hope the local community can come

down and support a great cause".

The Diggers Cricket Club is inviting friends, family and the local community to join them at Hagley Recreation and Cricket Ground on Pink Stumps Day, Saturday, 22 February from 11am to 5pm with lots of fun ways for people to get involved, such as a gold coin donation, Barbeque and a raffle.

The bar will also be open and will see the Diggers take on Longford in what will be a very exciting "A" Grade match.

Don't forget condition of entry is to wear pink on the day and have some cash on hand to donate.

Hidden Talents

THE HIDDEN TALENTS Craft Group will be re-summing classes on Tuesday February 11th at the Uniting Church Hall, West Barrack St. Deloraine, between 10am-12noon.

Classes are offered in a variety of crafts over 6 week blocks.

Crafts, including embroidery, card making, knitting, applique, scrabble, etc., as well as crafty-corner, where you bring

your own work [or just sit & chat], are offered, along with morning-tea, at a cost of \$3 [plus cost of materials if provided by tutors] for the morning.

We welcome newcomers, and details of the classes we will be offering in the first block will be available on registration day, February 4th at 10am.

For enquiries ring Lexie on 63622615 or Fay on 63622440.

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Mark Shelton MP

State Liberal Member for Lyons

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Authorised by Mark Shelton, Parliament House, Hobart TAS 7000

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An Evening with Ambre Hammond



ON SATURDAY 15th February, world renowned concert pianist, Ambre Hammond, will be giving a performance, hosted by the Rotary Club of Deloraine, to raise money to support the 'Gift of Sight' eye camps in Nepal.

This project aims to restore the sight to rural

Nepalese who would otherwise spend the rest of their lives living with blindness.

Ambre Hammond is a classical pianist born in Cairns who gave her first concert at the age of 5.

She achieved a world record when she was awarded her Australian Musical

Examinations Board Associate and Licentiate Diplomas both in the same year at just 12 years of age.

At the age of 16, in Argentina, Hammond won first prize in her first international music competition. She has performed both solo and with orchestras in Australia, Europe (England, Italy, Poland, Spain, Switzerland), North America and South America.

Her current project is Girl Piano Truck and involves presenting concerts in remote locations throughout the world in India, Thailand and East Timor as well as orphanages in Belarus.

The concert will be held in an intimate setting at the home of Geoff and Pat Woods and guests will enjoy a sumptuous three course meal.

Tickets are \$50 a head and can still be obtained by contacting Isabelle Vescovo on 0409 234 051.. \$20 of your contribution on the night goes directly to the 'Gift of Sight'.



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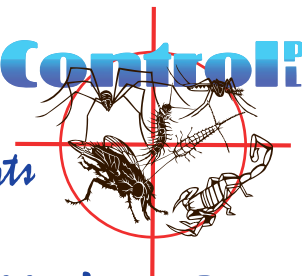
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A very dairy lifestyle

By Sheila Ferguson

This is the first in a series of profiles of representatives of the different types of farming in the Meander Valley.

IF YOU want to work from home and enjoy the great outdoors you could do worse than take up farming.

However, you need to be realistic about what this means, according to Nigel Brock, a dairy farmer, who runs an 868-hectare property in Montana.

The great outdoors, while it can sometimes be cold, wet and windy, can also be warm and sunny, he says.

Nigel returned from uni to work on his father's farm in 1990 and, with his wife, Rachal, took over the running of it in 2006.

"Dairy farming is a specialist job," he says. "It can be very stressful and you have to be a morning person with milking very early in the day and you can't afford to be too precious. But there are rewards, both financially and emotionally."

The year has its own rhythm. Calving takes place in August/September and the calves are weaned in December.

Mating begins in November, during the peak grass-growing period.

Both artificial techniques and bulls are used over nine weeks to impregnate the 800 cows. The cows are then allocated a dry-off date somewhere around June, when they are rested for a minimum of 42 days before they calve in August.

Nigel plans to mate his cows twice this year to achieve better milk yields through winter when milk prices are higher. This has been made possible by the construction of a concrete feed pad.

Grass growth is minimal at this time of the year, so putting them on the feed pad means they are well fed when it is time for them to be milked.

Nigel believes that grass is the key driver of a dairy operation. "It is essential that farmers continually and accurately

monitor their grass-growing ability," he says.

Nigel's operation is based on the three-leaf grass-growing principle which provides the optimum number of leaves for the best dairy production.

Milking takes place twice a day – at 4.30am and 2.30pm. Each session takes about three and a half hours.

Nigel uses a highly automated rotary milking plant, with the milkers only having to attach the cups and clean the machinery.

Between milkings there are general jobs such as fence and trough repair and pasture allocation.

Nigel prefers to hire milkers and farmhands separately to avoid long days for each employee.

He sees the future of farming as positive given our climate and land capabilities. Tasmania currently has about 330 dairy farmers and it is estimated that the state needs 35,000 more cows in the next five years.

This increase will need to come from



Nigel and some of his cows enjoying the great outdoors
Photo by Rachal Brock

existing farms and also corporate investment.

Nigel believes there should be more emphasis on human resource management as the industry heads towards larger enterprises.

He says farmers need to learn to manage their staff effectively and attract the right people into the industry.

Would he advise anyone to become a dairy farmer?

"Yes, certainly."

Farmers are no longer the slow-talking, straw-in-the-mouth breed of popular imagination. Modern farming is highly technical and a farmer needs a mixture of many skills.

They have to be vet, scientist, weather forecaster, biologist and midwife, among other professions, as well as run a business and nimble enough to dodge the cowpats.

Soil and Climate Data could crop options

THE MEANDER Valley is one of the first areas in Australia to benefit from comprehensive mapping that can help in planning for new crops and enterprises.

Over the past few years, the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), in partnership with the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) and with the cooperation of local landholders, have undertaken detailed soil and climate assessments in the Meander Valley and can now produce maps of particular land or climate attributes to help farmers predict the success of new crops, before they invest.

"With the expansion of irrigation in Tasmania, the range of options available to farmers for new crops has grown considerably" said Peter Voller, DPIPWE's Sustainable Landscapes Branch Manager; "but as with any investment, the more information you can access to inform your choice of a crop or enterprise, the better are the chances of success."

"In researching the scope of the work undertaken, it was important to define what the main

limiting factors could be for a new crop to an area.

These are primarily things like soil drainage, frost risk, chill hours and aspect" he said.

TIA consulted widely with industry experts to refine the requirements of 20 crops potentially suitable for Tasmanian farms, these crops were used to produce 'enterprise suitability mapping' for the Meander Valley and other parts of the state.

These maps are available on DPIPWE's LIST-map website. (<http://maps.thelist.tas.gov.au/listmap>).

The maps use a wide range of source information including data collected from local weather stations, historical soil records, elevation mapping, and radio magnetic imaging.

The integration of all these sources of information is the key to the effectiveness and accuracy of the mapping and the strength of the project.

The outcomes of the project in the Meander Valley has been used to inform mapping practices in other states and internationally, and the outputs of the project

contribute to global land and climate resource information.

The success of this project in the Meander Valley has resulted in approval by the state government to expand the mapping to cover all of Tasmania by mid 2015.

These new information products will assist present and future landholders to make good choices for crops that suit their local area.

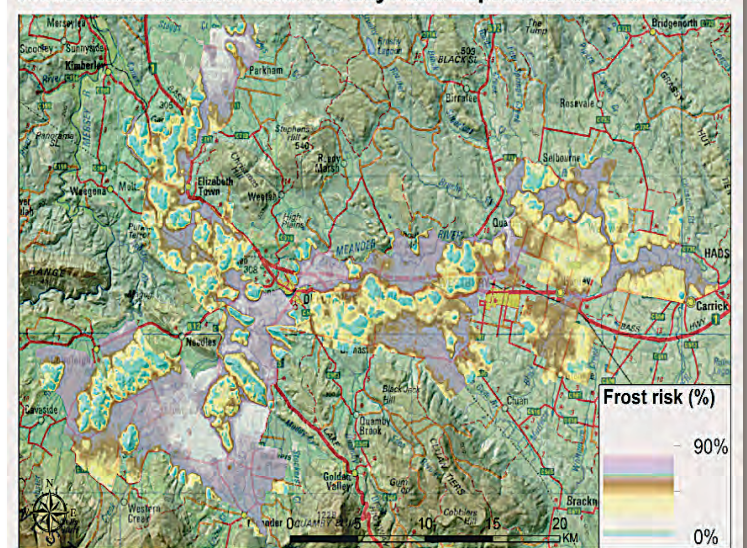
For further information go to www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/LBUN-8M54FC?open;

If you need help accessing or using the mapping tool, feel free to visit the Deloraine Online Access Centre on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays and ask for Joanne Eismann.



Operating the soil rig.

Frost risk at or below -20C: For days mid-September to mid-October



DARREN CLARK Candidate for Lyons



I am passionate about communities and the people who live in them.

Tasmania needs long term vision to build and improve regional communities. Jobs for our children and the ability to develop Lyons with sustainable industries is my vision.

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Phone: 0408 128 003 | Web: www.darrenclark4lyons.com.au
Email: DarrenClark4Lyons@gmail.com

Authorised by Craig Farrell 107 Hamilton Rd New Norfolk, TAS, 7140.

Succession Planning

By **Sam Horsman**
Business Principal,
PJS Financial



A RECENT report found that only 30% of family businesses last into the second generation.

The report found that a major reason for this was the lack of succession planning. That is, the current operators of the family business made no effective plan to allow a smooth and successful transition of the business and its management to the next generation.

There are no rules regarding what should be included in a successful succession plan and it is certainly isn't a one size fits all formula.

Every business and family are different, so the succession plan for each business and the

process in developing one will be different.

There are, however, a few basic considerations that can be used as a guide:

Start Early

It is never too early to start planning to transfer ownership and management of your business.

Early planning allows for a smoother transition to the next generation and, in many circumstances, significant tax savings can be achieved by being able to structure the business and transfer assets at the right time and in the right manner.

Be Objective

It can be hard, but often what is best for the business may not be best for your family. You have to determine what will best help your business survive and grow and then be bold enough to admit that your spouse or children may not be up to the task of managing it.

It may be necessary to separate the management and ownership functions.

Seek Help

A trusted and experienced advisor can help you see the trees from

the woods and aid you in focussing on key areas so you can achieve the outcome you want.

Good professional advisors can also help you to reduce your tax obligations and any legal complications that may arise.

Consider the Staff

The greatest asset of many small businesses is their employees and the intellectual property that they have developed.

Don't jeopardise the entire future of the business by overlooking the contributions of these people and risk losing them.

Communication

It is essential to communicate clearly and regularly to family members what the plan is and why you have made those decisions. This won't guarantee that everyone will be happy and there won't be any legal ramifications after you are gone, but at least everyone will know what you wanted.

Succession planning is, without a doubt, one of the most significant issues that is now facing many businesses. If you would

like to discuss the above or any other financial matter please contact our office.

Disclaimer: This article is general in nature and should not be considered financial advice.



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Backing Up Your Files

by Alistair Carr

WITH MORE and more information being stored digitally on electronic devices it is important to protect your data from accidental loss.

This can be as easy as copying your important files to a flash drive, external hard drive, CD or DVD.

However, if this backup is left sitting in the computer or even in the same building it is not really backed up.

Data can be lost for multiple reasons including hard drive failure, file deletion, malicious software that encrypts your files until you pay a fee (generally called ransomware), theft, or fire.

So what is a good strategy to protect you from this loss? Simply copying the files to another storage media is a start, but you should make multiple copies to different media and check the files have copied properly. Then store these disk or drives in a safe

location well away from your house or business.

It is also important to rotate your backups so you replace the media with a fresh backup on a regular basis and to check the old backups have not corrupted. Storage media has a finite life span even when not in use, so the backup drive could fail on its own.

Another solution, depending on the amount of data and your internet connection's upload speed and data quota, is to use an online or "cloud" backup solution.

Although primarily designed for syncing data across multiple devices, facilities such as Google Drive, Microsoft Skydrive, Dropbox and similar can be used for this, if set up properly.

A more robust system is offered by various companies such as Carbonite, Crashplan, Sugarsync and a whole host of others. Their offerings and prices vary and you will need to

do your research on what will suit your personal situation. The advantage of these systems is the company you use can save multiple copies of your data at different times (often called versioning) and will be doing their own backups of that data.

When working out a backup strategy don't forget to include your phone's contact list and anything else stored on the phone.

If you do not backup and data is corrupted or lost it can sometimes be recovered by specialist companies but costs start at around \$500 and can go higher than \$3,000 depending on the difficulty of recovery. Even then recovery is not guaranteed.

So please backup your data on a regular basis and check the backups are actually usable. It is no fun finding you have lost, forever, all your family photos or business accounts for the last 5 years.

Only For the Over Fifties

ARE YOU interested in meeting new people, learning new things, and sharing your skills and knowledge? This year, Meander Valley University of the Third Age (U3A) is offering the following activities:

Tai Chi + Circle Dancing + Contemporary Philosophy + Croquet on the Village Green + "Dare I Say It?" - Writing a Memoir + Australian Political Systems + Ballroom & Latin American Dancing + Permaculture + My Heart is in Two Places - The Story of Refugees + Parlez-vous Francais? + Monteverdi to Madonna + Yoga + Creative Writing + Classic Photography + Allan's Multi-Craft Workshop + Sustainable Conscious Living + Bush Walking + Fast & Furious - Food Fabulous Food + Improve Your Computer Skills + Find Your Family - a Beginner's Guide to Family History + Philosophy Club

Most activities run for 8 weeks, during the school term. For \$40 for a full year, or \$20 for half a year, you can enjoy as many courses as you wish. Classes start from mid-February. It's not too late to join in the fun.

For further information, including a copy of our Class Programme, please email meandervalleyu3a@gmail.com, or phone Harley on 0427 894293 or Ros on 6362 4990.



Jacqueline Reynolds, Florida Rickard, Ingrid O'Sullivan and Lois Catchlove of Meander Valley U3A enjoying croquet in the beautiful grounds of Entally House.

Photo by Barry Reynolds

The Garden in February

by Nell Carr

THE MOST aromatic of our local native understorey species would have to be the Melaleucas. The delightful fragrance of both Swamp Paperbark (*Mericalia*) and Scented Paperbark (*M squarrosa*), can be detected from a distance.

Swamp Paperbark is now extremely rare in the farming districts of Northern Tasmania.

The fringes of these tall dark foliageed trees were once a common sight along farm creeks but watering points for stock soon saw the demise of all

streamside native vegetation, to be replaced by the dreaded Crack Willow (*Salix fragilis*).

The Landcare movement in the 1990s remedied this to an extent by funding the removal of the Willows, fencing of streams, and planting of suitable streamside natives, and, at the same time, assisting in the supply of off-stream infrastructure for watering

farm animals.

The Melaleucas are not suitable for suburban gardens. The Swamp Paperbark because it grows too tall, and suckers and seeds prolifically, and the Scented Paperbark because it likes to have its roots permanently wet.

Callistemons are smaller, non-invasive shrubs. Both *C pallidus* and *C viridiflorus*

New South Wales and Victoria.

All of the bottlebrushes are popular with honey eaters. Most native understorey species are easily grown from seed. Collecting and growing the seeds of these will be discussed next month.

In the vegetable garden.

It is now too late to sow seeds of autumn and winter cropping vegetables, but the plants of winter brassicas can be planted now so long as great care is taken to ensure their protection from drying

out while young.

It is difficult to sow the seeds of beetroot sparsely enough, but if the rows are well watered, and surplus seedlings are carefully lifted and re-planted in very moist soil, and covered with shade cloth, they should survive if watered twice daily.

The same procedure applies to all vegetable seedlings that are planted out at this time of year.



The beautiful and endemic callistemon viridiflorus

florus (pictured), though listed as drought tender, seem to do well in home gardens with very little water once they are established.

The former tends to grow rather straggly, so should be kept trimmed back to shrub size. *C viridiflorus* is endemic to Tasmania, but the very popular red flowered species, Lemon Scened Bottlebrush (*C.citrinus*) is native to

Recipe - Polenta and Almond Cake



by Rosa Kasteel

- 4 medium size eggs
- 1/2 tsp almond extract
- 125g instant polenta
- 100g almond or hazelnut meal
- 1 flat tsp baking powder

METHOD

Put all ingredients (except saffron water) into a large bowl, then whisk until thoroughly blended and light & fluffy. Strain the saffron water over the mixture and mix through.

Pour into tin & level surface.

Bake for 45 minutes - put foil over if top is becoming too dark - test with a skewer. Leave cake to cool in tin for 30 minutes then turn out and peel off the paper. Leave it on a wire rack to cool. Sift icing sugar over cake before serving.

This recipe may be a bit oily for some people. If you use 125g of maize meal instead of polenta this should make it less oily.

WHENEVER a group of friends meet for morning or afternoon tea, there seem to be a few people who require a diet that is dairy or gluten free, so I adapted the following recipe, which is very easy to make.

Heat oven to 170C and Grease a 20cm round / square x 5cm deep cake tin and line with baking paper

INGREDIENTS

- 175 mls olive oil (or oil of your choice)
- 1 pinch saffron threads soaked in 1 tbs warm water
- 200 g caster sugar

Make a Feature of Your Own Business.

Place an advertisement here and be seen across the region.

Food Lovers Savour Local Products

by Marg Leedham

THE HIGH quality and variety of food items produced in the Meander Valley has been featuring in dining events for food lovers since June, 2013.

Meander Valley Dining Experience has been offering gourmet food events each month showcasing local produce in a themed lunch or dinner prepared by guest chefs.

Local products featured include wine, garlic, olive oil, fudge, fruit wines, hot smoked salmon, truffles and dairy products.

An opportunity has been provided for local entertainers to sing or play for appreciative audiences.

Themes so far have covered British, French, Swiss, seasonal Spring

food, with an outdoor spit roast and a Christmas morning tea.

Plans for next year



Dessert at Meander Valley Dining Experience French lunch

include Greek, Italian, Thai, Mauritian Creole cuisines and a game inspired meal.

Laura Window and Marg Leedham started this venture to enhance local eating and food promotion

opportunities, without the aim of making a profit, so surplus money raised is being returned to the community by supporting local initiatives such as Deloraine on the Move, Chudleigh Rose Committee and Stringfest.

Suitable venues, keen chefs, food producers and entertainers are constantly being sought to provide the events for the growing customer support base looking for different food experiences.

Anyone wishing to be involved in the Meander Valley Dining Experience in any way could contact Laura on 0437 075 266 or you can email meandervalleydiningexperience@gmail.com

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"It is in exchanging the gifts of the earth that you shall find abundance and be satisfied. Yet unless the exchange be in love and kindly justice, it will but lead some to greed and others to hunger." Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet

The Dog Zone

by Jan Collett

A COMMON question at dog training clubs is "My dog digs in the garden. My plants are being dug up. What do I do?!"

Digging is second nature to most dogs and they dig for a variety of reasons: they are puppies; they are following the scent of an animal; they want to bury a bone; their particular breed was bred to dig (e.g. Terriers); and, number one on the list, they are bored!

If you come home from work to find a new hole in your precious petunias, do not scold or punish your dog. He will not know why you are displeased with him and will only

associate this negativity with your arrival home and may become stressed.

Dogs need physical exercise and mental stimulation.

Make sure you exercise your dog regularly which should include a daily walk or two. Play games with him and teach him tricks. Make several short training sessions a day and reward and/or praise him when he 'gets it right'.



If your dog is outside all day while you are at work, make sure his enclosure is secure and that he has plenty of shade and water accessible throughout the day, as well as shelter from

inclement weather. Also, keep a couple of safe chew toys accessible to him; some types can be filled with tasty food treats.

Instead of punishing him for digging in the wrong place, create a spot where he is allowed to dig by ei-

ther using some boards or rocks to define a 'digging bed' or get a clamshell pool and fill one side with sand. Encourage him to dig in the allowed area by burying a favourite chew toy.

If you catch him digging in the wrong spots, do NOT yell and NEVER hit your dog. Instead, get his attention and divert him to the right digging area. Praise wildly when he digs in the correct spot.

If you use these methods consistently over a few weeks yet find no improvement, you might want to consult a vet or canine behaviour specialist.

This column provides general information and suggestions only and should not be relied on solely in lieu of professional or veterinary advice or consultation.

S(sub)lime Moulds

by Sarah Lloyd

HAVE YOU ever wondered about those large yellow blobs that appear on stumps, logs or plants when the weather warms and the snakes get active?

Those yellow blobs are not snake poo! They are one of a group of remarkable organisms known as acellular slime moulds or myxomycetes.

The scientific name of those large yellow blobs is *Fuligo septica*. But its much more memorable common names — 'scrambled egg' or 'dog's vomit' slime — evocatively describe its consistency.

Acellular slime moulds are among the most intriguing organisms because they have very different modes of operation during their life cycle: in the first stages they move about to feed in a manner reminiscent of

animals; in the final stage they form spore-bearing structures that resemble miniature fungi.

Their life cycle is complex and there are many variations. Essentially it begins when their spores release amoebae-like organisms called myxamoebae (pronounced mix-a-me-by) that creep (yes, really!) around the tiny spaces in the soil, or dead or living plant material where they feed on bacteria.

Eventually two compatible myxamoebae fuse and develop into the second feeding stage called a plasmodium (plural plasmodia). Plasmodia are really one cell with numerous nuclei encased in a membrane. A small plasmodium may have several hundred nuclei; a large one may have billions.

Plasmodia can be yellow, red, white or hot pink. They feed inside



Dog's vomit slime mould (*fuligo septica*)

logs or soil on bacteria, fungal hyphae, fungal spores, algae and probably each other. They are occasionally seen, especially when they come to the surface to form their spore-bearing structures.

Fuligo septica is one of the largest but least attractive slime moulds. Most are extremely small (rarely exceeding 2 mm high) and very beautiful with iridescent colours of blue, purple, green and gold. Unlike *Fuligo septica* that migrates to the top of

stumps so its spores can be dispersed by the wind or rain, tiny slime moulds usually occur on the underside of logs in dark wet, overgrown places.

Being small and difficult to find most people know nothing about slime moulds and there are only about 45 species officially recorded in Tasmania.

This is despite the fact that forest habitats are some of the richest sites in the world for slime moulds and in 1859 three type specimens (i.e. the specimens used to describe a new species) were collected here. An ongoing study in a forest at Birrallee has already found over 100 species, adding considerably to the knowledge of slime moulds in Tasmania.

Next time you see one of those yellow blobs whose crusty surface pales as it ages, remember, it's not demon's dropping, moon shit, scrambled egg, dog's vomit or even snake poo.

It's one of the most remarkable, obscure and least studied organisms on the planet.

To see beautiful images and more information about slime moulds check: <http://www.disjunctnaturalists.com/slime-mould-log/images-1.htm>



2mm lamproderma slime mould

A Little Laugh

Alexander Fleming broke the mould when he discovered Penicillin

Religion: The Plymouth Brethren

by Liz Walker

RESIDENTS OF the Deloraine district would have noted the construction of a new church hall by the Plymouth Brethren, and may be interested to learn about who they are.

The Plymouth Brethren are a mainstream Christian church which holds and practises Christian beliefs and values. Brethren universally maintain beliefs and a lifestyle that is based on the Holy Scriptures.

The Church's beginnings can be traced back to

the late 1820's when John Nelson Darby broke with the established church to hold the Lord's Supper in Dublin, Ireland.

As time went on, Mr Darby travelled around the world and many congregations known as the Plymouth Brethren were established globally.

There have been Brethren in the Deloraine district for about 120 years. Until the 1960s most lived in the Western Creek district or nearby, but nowadays they live in Deloraine itself. The Lord's Supper, or

Holy Communion, is central to Brethren life. Other regular meetings include Prayer Meetings, Bible Readings and Gospel Preachings. The gospel is preached in their halls each Sunday, and members of the wider public are welcome to attend.

The preservation and protection of the family unit is fundamental to the Brethren. Children are loved and cared for; respect for the aged, neighbours and the general community, animals and the environment is upheld as a key

principle of life. The sanctity of marriage is deeply honoured.

Education is of high importance to the Brethren and in recent years schools have been established and operated by members. These schools are located throughout the world and the emphasis on religion is minimal.

All Plymouth Brethren Schools aim for a high standard, employing professionally qualified non teachers.

The Brethren engage in many activities as part of their commitment to

the community. Recently a \$5000 gift from the Deloraine Brethren community to the Meander Valley SES enabled them to purchase a 'combination tool' to assist in rescuing car crash victims.

Brethren have a Rapid Response Team (RRT) on call 24/7 to assist emergency workers and local communities during times of need. See more at www.rapidreliefteam.org.

More information can be found at their website: www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org.

Valleyviews

Mayor's Message

Australia Day Activities

My congratulations are extended to all the recipients of the Australia Day and Volunteer Recognition Awards for 2014.

The Citizen of the Year Award was awarded jointly to Mrs Margaret Donovan of Westbury for her outstanding contribution to the local Westbury community through her involvement with the Catholic Church organisation, Friends of the Town Hall, Westbury Agricultural Show Society, Westbury Neighbourhood Watch to name but a few. Mr Michael Heazlewood was the other recipient for his exemplary work for the Selbourne community and to the Tasmania Fire Service and State Emergency Service.

Fraser Deeth of Weetah was the recipient of this year's Young Citizen of the Year Award for his dedicated volunteer work with Studio Be.

The Community Event of the Year Award went to the 150th Westbury Show and the Sports Award went to Mrs Ruth Saltmarsh of Meander in recognition of her outstanding involvement with both Senior and Junior Basketball in Deloraine.

Again I would like to recognise the efforts of all the volunteers who received certificates for 1000 and 3000 hours and plaques for exceptional service to their communities. It was also fitting to welcome five new Australian Citizens.

I would also like to acknowledge the excellent entertainment provided by Amber Clark of Hagley; MC for the afternoon, Cr Ian Howard; and a special thank you to Country Club Tasmania and their staff for providing an excellent venue and support.

Other successful Australia Day events held around the Municipality included the Rotary Club of Westbury's 'Community Breakfast' held at the Westbury RSL Club, the annual Harveydale Rodeo and Family Day, and the Community Breakfast held at the Chudleigh Hall.

Craig Perkins
Mayor



Council Updates



Matthew Millwood: New Director of Works.

Apply for a Council Community Grant Now!

Did you know that applications to Meander Valley Council's Community Grants Program are invited all year round? Grants up to \$3,000 are available to community organisations for projects that address community needs. This might be a special event, through sport and recreation or community development. You can pick up a form and get more information from Council Offices, Westbury or visit Council's website. Applications for the next round of grants need to be in by 31 March 2014.

New Director of Works

Council is pleased to announce that Mr Matthew Millwood has accepted the position of Director of Works with Meander Valley Council and will commence on Monday, 10 February 2014. Mr Millwood began his career in local government in 1993 at Northern Midlands Council as an Engineering Assistant and became Works Supervisor in 1996. He moved to Launceston City Council in 2008 as Manager Infrastructure Operations. The position of Director of Works became vacant in December 2013 when Mr Dennis Hampton retired after 42 years of service.

Lights shine at Prospect Vale Park

The completion of the upgrade to lighting at Prospect Vale Park was announced by Mayor Craig Perkins on Tuesday, 4 February.

Prospect Vale Park now has an additional three lit training grounds and increased lighting to existing training and match standard grounds. The upgrades have improved usage and provided a higher standard of facilities. Design works on the next stage of the plan have commenced.

The lighting upgrades were identified in the Prospect Vale Park Development Plan, which was developed through extensive community and stakeholder consultation and adopted in 2012. The full plan can be viewed on Council's website.



Prospect Vale Park

Community News



Small Farm Living Program

Funding and support is available for smallholders in the Meander Valley, for rural properties up to approximately 50 hectares. Subject to guidelines, funding is available to help with environmental projects such as fencing to keep stock out of bush or waterways, and for revegetation and establishing native shelterbelts. Contact Stuart Brownlea from Council on 6393 5321 or Kate Thorn at NRM North on 6333 7777 for more information about eligibility or to arrange a site visit. Visit the website www.nrmnorth.org.au/smallfarmliving for information on a wide-range of topics relevant to smallholders.

StreetWise Learn to Skate - FREE EVENT

Get on down to the Hadspen Skatepark on Sunday 23 February from 1:00pm until 3:00pm to 'Learn to Skate'. All ages are welcome and boards and helmets will be provided. Registrations will be taken on the day. Alternatively, you can download the rego form from Skateboarding Australia's website at www.sba.org.au (click Hubs) and bring it with you. U18s will need a parent/guardian signature. See you there!



Happy StreetWise skaters

Meander Valley Community Safety Group

The Meander Valley Community Safety Group meets quarterly to progress safety initiatives on a wide range of topics. The group includes representatives from Police, Health Services, Road Safety, Red Cross, Council and Community. The next meeting will be at 7.00pm on Thursday, 27 February 2014 at Meander Hall, Main Road, Meander. Come along and share your views about local safety issues. For more information contact Patrick Gambles on 6393 5300.

Diary Dates

Chudleigh Show	15 February
Tasmanian Truck Show	16 February
Meandering Art Exhibition	Closes 16 February
Council Community Concert	22 March

Council Offices

PO Box 102
26 Lyall Street, Westbury
8:30am-5:00pm

General enquiries

Phone 6393 5300
Fax 6393 1474
Email mail@mvc.tas.gov.au
Web www.meander.tas.gov.au

A Celebratory Breakfast

WHAT A GREAT time was had at the Australia Day Breakfast in the "Centre of the Universe" - Chudleigh!

Over 200 folk, young and old, celebrated our National Day with a feast fit for the Queen. There was a glass of bubbly on arrival followed by juice, fruit, cheeses, cereals, bacon, eggs, sausage, mushrooms, cheesy, bacon potato bites and home-made breads.

Each year Chudleigh puts a signature dish on the menu and this year it was Kedgerree, a traditional British Raj breakfast dish of smoked fish and lightly spiced rice.



Terry Pickett

Top all that off with lamingtons, Danish pastries, muffins, tea & coffee..... well, we were flat out like a lizard drinking!

The magnificent weather,

the festive ambience with bunting and balloons and the delicious aroma's of a good old Aussie BBQ. . . a great time was had by all.

Edith Hoskins - A Profile



SEVEN AND a half years ago, Edith Hoskins was widowed after the passing of Brian, her husband of 50 years.

They had lived in Deloraine for 15 years operating the taxi service using two cabs driven mostly by her husband but, on occasion, by Edith when Brian was out of town.

Through his work, almost everyone in Deloraine knew Brian and Mrs Brian as she was known. These were happy and productive years for them both.

At the time, Edith was operating a bookkeeping service for local businesses in and about Deloraine and, for six of those years, she was also State Finance Officer for Meals on Wheels in Tasmania. She had previously worked as an accountant.

In 2010 Edith lost most of her sight when the blood supply to the optic nerves of both eyes was interrupted at the same time. She has 10% vision

in the top half of the left eye and has vision in a tiny spot in the right eye. A cataract operation allows her to read when she can place reading material close to her eyes.

Despite this disability, Edith lives life to the full, dedicating much of her time to the service of others.

She still continues to do needlework and assisted in the making of 50 cloth bags for the Samaritans' Purse Shoe Boxes to aid children overseas.

Another organisation to profit from her energetic approach has been the Royal Guide Dogs Association of which she is now a Support Committee Member. Edith says that she has met wonderful sight impaired people who are just "getting on with life".

She is now planning a support/social group in Deloraine for the 90 or so sight impaired people living locally.

Edith wants all those who feel they could benefit from community support to contact her on her home phone number which is 6362 3506.

It should be noted that Edith was an enthusiastic supporter of the idea of establishing a local paper.

She sees it as a vital way

in which communities can come together and provide information about projects and events which will unite people in acts of goodwill.

Big Year for Day Care Educators

IT HAD been a big year for Tasmania's Family Day Care Educator of the Year, Kristy Wallis, so she planned to see 2013 off with a bang.

Kristy was named regional winner for the Launceston and North Region and went on to take out the state title for Tasmania which was announced at the Visions of Excellence in Family Day Care Gala Dinner in Melbourne in October.

Kristy hosted a special family day care Christmas Party in December from her Westbury home where she runs her quality childhood education and care service through Northern Children's Network.

This event brought together two other Westbury family day care educators - Tiana Kirkhope of Launceston Family Day Care and Sarah Vidler of Northern Children's Network.

All three family day care


educators were nominated for the 2013 Excellence in Family Day Care Awards.

The trio's end of year celebration was just one of the many community activities the family day care educators have organised for their children throughout the year.

During 2013, they took part in Westbury Week festivities, Westbury Wonders of Science Day, dance lessons with Meander Valley Performing Arts, play gym with Westbury C.H.A.T and lots of other fun learning, excursions and play dates.

"The three of us work well together in our community to provide a rich learning environment to help the children reach positive outcomes," Kristy said.

For further information on family day care contact Kristy Wallis on 0428 932 470, Tiana Kirkhope on 0407318 232 or Sarah Vidler on 0414 637 078.



Re-elect

David Llewellyn

in Lyons




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Voting 1 David Llewellyn

at the 2014 State Election.

"I do not and will not support Green Party involvement in Executive Government."



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Available now to assist. Please contact me.

Authorised by Michael Polley, 907 Pateena Road, Longford.

Mixed Response to Western Tiers Film Society Screening

by Deb White

THE WTFS kicked off its 2014 season with what was always going to be a controversial film. Billed with warnings about "bloody gore and strong violence", "100 Bloody Acres" lived up to its name and the warnings.

However, with its tongue-in-cheek approach, it had most of the audience chuckling from the outset. The laughs continued, even though the blood and gore did too, due to the film-maker's uncanny ability to juxtapose the absurd with the confronting.

Some audience members found the gory bits too horrible to justify, (and left), others peeked from behind their fingers to get through them, while still others thought the whole thing was a hoot from start to finish.

The audience had plenty of opportunity to discuss their reactions after the movie, when committee members were able to reassure them that the next screening (Trishna) will be a much more gentle affair, featuring as it does a love story between the daughter of a rickshaw owner and the son of a property developer.

The variety of films programmed for the first 6 months seems to have hit the mark regarding community interest – the Society is now close to reaching its limit of 120 members. Several members expressed their gratitude for the establishment of a film society in Deloraine, so the committee expects the already solid support to grow as word spreads.

To get a copy of the program to June 2014, email the committee at westerntiersfilm-society@gmail.com. Membership application forms are also available at the same address.

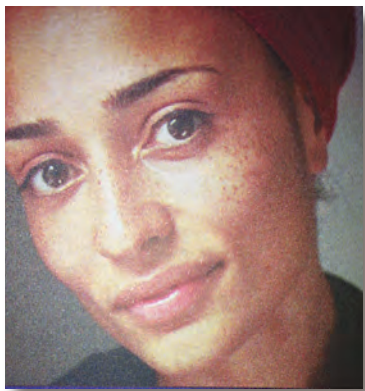


Annette Viney and Tim Biggs enjoy a glass of wine and a debrief after the screening.

Book Review

The Embassy of Cambodia
by Zadie Smith
Publisher Hamish Hamilton rrp \$14.99

Reviewed by Edna Carew*



Zadie Smith

IN THE EMBASSY of Cambodia, Zadie Smith is back in Willesden, the north-west London suburb of her childhood and setting of her debut 2000 novel, the award-winning *White Teeth*.

Once again, half-Jamaican Smith deals with themes familiar to migrant London's rich cultural and racial melting pot – tensions between the old and the new, of racism and class, wealth and poverty, the powerful and the exploited, tolerance and prejudice.

Smith's talent for spare writing enables her to

create mood and characters that pack much into the 69-page book. The Embassy of Cambodia, first published last year in *The New Yorker*, is available as a handsome hardback, as an ebook and an audio book read by Smith.

Despite its title, the book centres on Fatou, a west African maid in an affluent Asian household living in the same long street as the Embassy. Fatou receives no wages and has not sighted her passport since arrival. She wonders if she is a slave to this easily dislikable family, but decides she is not. She

might be the underdog, but she is not cowed. She is free to come and go; she enjoys a weekly swim thanks to her resourcefulness – she helps herself to her boss's guest passes for a nearby health club.

She meets her Nigerian, church-going, educated friend Andrew every Sunday for coffee and cake in a Tunisian cafe and a discussion of weighty issues – politics, racism, genocide – that would not trouble her so-called employers.

Fatou's resilience in the face of successive hardships, her determination

to forge her own path, are admirable but what will become of her? Short stories often end inconclusively, leaving the reader caught between wanting more or being satisfied with guesswork.

Down-to-earth Willesden folk tend to assume the worst. Let's be more positive for proud, defiant Fatou.

*Author Edna Carew's best-sellers include a biography, *Paul Keating, Prime Minister, and Westpac, the bank that broke the bank*. She has been reviewing books since the late 1970s.

Letters

AS THE INITIATOR of the Meander Valley Oil Vulnerability Assessment study, I would like to respond to the concerns expressed by Heather of Cheshunt (*The Gazette*, January 2014.)

As Heather observes, it should be obvious to all that the supply of fossil fuels has a huge impact on every aspect of our lives. (However, the report focusses on the effect of rising costs, rather than the scenario of supplies being "cut off" as Heather suggests.)

Unfortunately, it seems to be a function of human nature to put off preparing for such eventualities, rather than invest time and money preparing for them, so it is often difficult to justify spending money in this way, when individuals would rather have that money to invest in their own businesses.

However, effective government requires long-term planning as well as

responding to immediate concerns of the community. It was for this reason that I advocated for the commissioning of a report into the impact of rising fuel costs on our businesses, industries, agriculture, and Council operations, so that we could sharpen our understanding of how our economy and society will look in ten and twenty years' time, when fuel costs two or three times what it does today.

Once begun, it has been an eye-opener to many, as we considered the far-reaching effects on every aspect of our lives, including possibilities such as future social isolation of the less affluent, or deterioration of health care provision, as well as the more obvious effects on transport and agriculture. (Think of spiralling costs of maintaining our roads, currently assessed at \$5 million per year.)

The awareness raised

will inform decisions made by Council, as we plan for the future, and make decisions about current developments, so that we are best-placed to provide the services and infrastructure our community expects, while still managing to balance the books and ensure the safety and well-being of the community as a whole.

Cr Deborah White
Meander Valley Council

THANK YOU to Sarah Lloyd for her article in *Meander Valley Gazette* about the Superb fairy wren.

As a long time gardener I have spent many hours watching the comings and goings of the blue wren and their families in my garden.

To learn more about their private lives has increased my enjoyment.

Joan

CONGRATULATIONS to the 1st issue of the MV Gazette, which fills a communication vacuum in the region. Access to local news through various channels, including the press, is fundamental to build thriving communities.

Looking forward to future issues of the MVG.

Zsuzsanna

CONGRATULATIONS on the first Meander Valley Gazette. The return of our local newspaper after many years.

And how fitting to see Bob Loone and Lindsay Young, who both gave a lifetime of service, care and devotion to this valley, mentioned. They led by example and I'm proud to have called them friends.

Our Church and community generally is so much the poorer due to their recent deaths.

Judith-Anne

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Westbury Wickets Recognition

By Danny Ross

THE GIANT Westbury Wickets that stand 6m high on the edge of the Westbury Recreation Ground have been included in a national publication called 'Big Aussie Icons', by Five Mile Press.

This book originally appeared in 2009 and a new, expanded edition will come out in April or May 2014.

This profile for Westbury has prompted Council to seek Guinness Book of Record recognition for the mighty stumps, which should be

confirmed early next year.

The Westbury Wickets are a regulation 22 metres apart and mark the place where Test cricketer Jack Badcock practised as a child.

Jack Badcock was something of a child prodigy, making his debut for Tasmania in 1929 when still under sixteen, and scored Tasmania's first test century with 118 against England at the MCG in 1937.

He died at his birthplace, Exton, Tasmania, on December 13, 1982, aged 68.



Peter Atkins from Deloraine competing at the 2010 World Equestrian Games in Kentucky USA

A DELORAIN DELIGHT

DELORAIN GOLF Club is an attractive 9-hole course on the outskirts of Deloraine with views to Quamby Bluff and a comfortable, well-appointed clubhouse.

Run by volunteers it has inexpensive membership fees and green fees (only \$15!) and is popular with both locals and visitors.

Different types of membership are available, including dual membership for members of other clubs. Full membership at Deloraine gives you reciprocal rights at many other clubs

Competition days

Visitors are welcome to join all competitions except for the major ones. Saturday: Men's competition. Most Saturday competitions are Medley events, where women are welcome to play. Starting time is 10.30 onwards, unless otherwise advertised.

Tuesday: Vet's (55+) competition day (young members welcome to join in except for major competitions.) Starting time 10.00 for 10.30 hit off.

Wednesday: Ladies day. Starting time 9.30, for 10am hit off.

Thursdays: Over the Summer months during daylight savings, a "Chicken Run" is held over 9 holes only. Visitors need to play with a member. A barbecue is available from 5pm.

For information on joining or playing in any of the events listed above, please ring on 6362 2132 or email the club at delorainegolfclub@outlook.com. Check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/delorainegolfclub.

WHAT IS AN ODE?

AN ODE (One Day Event) is an equestrian competition to test the overall ability & training of a horse or pony.

It's a three phase competition, consisting of a Dressage Test, a Cross Country jumping test in a set time and a show jumping round. The tests must be completed by the same horse/rider combination, and elimination in one phase means elimination from the whole competition.

Marks scored in the Dressage phase are converted to penalty points & any penalties gained in the Cross Country & Show Jumping phases are added to that score. The Horse/rider combination with the lowest score is the winner.

For example, stopping at a Cross Country Jump = 20 penalties, too fast or too slow = 1 penalty every 4 seconds & knocking down a Show Jump = 4 penalties. Most events hold up to 7 grades, progressing from Learners (now known as Eva50cm) up to 2*(Eva 1.15m).

Each jump on the Cross Country is judged separately. The 20 score cards are collated by the scoring team on computers and each show jump score is also added to each horses' total score to find the placegetters.

Each event requires a team of about 40 volunteers. Anyone interested in coming along & learning how to help, will have an interesting day out with a lovely group of friendly people who all like watching horses perform, from the learner stages up to nearly Olympic level.(4* is 1.20m high with a high degree of difficulty).

The position of Equestrian correspondent/reporter is open for anyone who is interested in putting together an informative article each month. I'm sure there is someone out there who would love to have a go. Please contact Sandra Atkins, sandatkins41@gmail.com for more information. (The Meander Valley Gazette, being a free newspaper, this position is voluntary).

Calendar of Equestrian Events in the Meander Valley district

February 15th: Chudleigh Show. Saddle Classes & Show Jumping.

February 16th: LDPC & NTEC ODE at "Fairlands", Rocherlea. P C Grades 1 - 4 & EA 1* to Learners.

February 22nd: Exeter Show. Saddle Classes & Show Jumping.

March. 8th: Pony Club Association of Tasmania State Trials Championships 3 Days. This year in the Southern Zone.

March 29th: NTEC ODE at Quercus Park course, Agfest site at Carrick. Grades Eva95 (Prelim.) down to Eva 50 (Learners). Contact Phone Sue Walton 0428 695 307

April 6th: PCAT Dressage Championships. Run by NW Zone Pony Clubs.

April 19th: NTEC - State Eventing Championships, including Schools & Pony Club Classes. Venue TBA

SPORT

ANA IVANOVIC PLAYS FOR WHITEMORE

By Danny Ross



Whitemore kids Sophie, Alex, Xavier, Bella, Jock, Jacob and Josh cheering for Ana Ivanovic (below)

SERBIAN TENNIS star Ana Ivanovic was carrying the weight of support from, not just the Whitmore Tennis Club, but all the residents of Whitmore on her shoulders last week when she made the quarter-finals of the Australian Open tennis tournament.

Her making it to the quarters meant that Whitmore had a one in eight chance of winning a lavish party at their club, attended, possibly, by Ana herself or some of her team, along with a cheque for \$10,000.

All this was made possible when Libby Lord, the Secretary of the Whitmore Tennis Club, contacted Sally Jackson at Tennis Australia.

Sally, who has been instrumental in trying to introduce programs like "Cardio Tennis" and "Hotshots" into schools across Australia, provided literature about clubs and schools participating in a variety of tennis programs.

The information Libby received from Tennis Australia also contained details of another initiative called AO Blitz, an online competition, which gives individuals, schools and clubs an opportunity to win prizes.

"We thought it would be a bit of fun so registered our club and then began to work our way through a list of challenges"

Registered participants earn points for taking challenges, which are then awarded to their nominated town. The towns earning the most points are then represented on court by one of the world's top tennis players at the Australian Open.

Kylie Johns, a member of the Whitmore Tennis Club, who was also involved with the setting

up and organising of the club's participation in the AO Blitz, explains the way the competition works.

"We thought it would be a bit of fun so registered our club and then began to work our way through a list of challenges."

"Some of these challenges included impersonating favourite players, playing tunnel ball with tennis racquets, playing tennis with a sponge instead of a ball and displaying favourite shots. We took photos and videos of ourselves and uploaded them all to the website. We had a lot of fun. Eventually we amassed more than 360,000 points which placed us in the top 256 entrants."

There were 128 players in each main draw of the men's and women's singles championships of the Australian Open this year which meant the top 256 towns had their names linked with a player and had the chance to earn major prizes. Whitmore, which

was partnered with Westbury and Bracknell, was one of these towns and was assigned Ana Ivanovic as their representative.



As Kylie says "Unfortunately Ana was beaten by Eugenie Bouchard but wow, how exciting it was for those few days to have that opportunity! We will go bigger next year for AO Blitz."

Whitemore Tennis Club has already registered for next year's event. Information about participating in the event is available at www.aoblitz.com.au.