



WESTBURY IRISH FESTIVAL

What's under the Hat?

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WONDERLAND FOR KIDS

Something for the old and young

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CARRICK CLUB PACING

Record Breaking Day for pacing

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Meander Valley Gazette

FREE! Every Month

April 2015

Meander Valley Gazette *Your independent community paper*



Photo Mike Moores

It was a great day to be sure, for birthday girl, Gayna Whitcombe, of Legana and her sister, Dawn Proctor, of Hobart, who joined the Colonial Strollers at the Westbury Irish Festival. In excess of 1500 people attended, despite the less than welcoming weather. The attractions included everything from sheep shearing to Irish dancing, food, music, Irish wolfhounds, parades of steam engines and the Tractors of Yesteryear Social Club (TOYS). And not a snake was to be seen as St Patrick graced the Village Green.

ECOLOGICAL, AFFORDABLE CO-HOUSING

DELORAIN E.A.CH: (Ecological, Affordable, Co-Housing) is a new group in the early stages of a proposal to build accommodation units including long-term rental options with a difference in Deloraine. They are inviting others to join in this exciting new venture.

Not a new concept to Tasmania, Cascade

Co-housing in Hobart will celebrate 21 years on 15th April. It was Australia's first co-housing community, and many more have followed.

A co-housing community is composed of private homes supplemented with shared facilities.

Each community is planned, owned and managed by the

residents, who also share activities, which may include cooking, dining, child care, gardening, and governance of the community.

Co-housing facilitates interaction among neighbours for social, practical, economic and environmental benefits.

There is much discussion still to be had to decide the best legal

structure and design, requiring ongoing input from potential residents, investors and any one else interested.

The scheme aims to provide long-term tenure in independent dwellings.

The properties would be designed to provide easy level access for all ages and abilities and sited to provide maxi-

mum visual and sound privacy with personal, private outdoor space. There will also be a Common House that provides shared facilities including communal kitchen, dining and meeting space.

E.A.C.H. intends for homes to be built from Hempcrete and designed using the most energy efficient

options available.

If this idea is of interest to you, E.A.C.H. is holding an information evening at the Western Tiers Community Club, (33A Parsonage St, Deloraine) at 6pm Thursday, 30th April. Everyone is welcome.

For further information, please contact Lisa Yeates on 6313 3204 or 0427 283 403.

In My Opinion...

By Joanne Eisemann

IT'S ALWAYS fun to be in Deloraine when the Craft Fair and, more recently, Stringfest is on. The town comes alive with music, street performances and art.

Lots of new people come to join in the festivities; local businesses and real estate get a boost. Some even decide to relocate here, bringing with them new energy and considerable investment.

The question is how can we, as a community, keep this energy going through the rest of the year so that all visitors coming to Deloraine get a feel for just how creative the populous is?

Deloraine is blessed with wonderful assets: a beautiful river and park, noteworthy historical buildings, many artisans with associated shop fronts as well as an increasing number of fine food outlets.

So, how to make Deloraine the Richmond of the north?

It seems to me, on my visits to Richmond, that a large proportion of people visiting Hobart view the town as a must see.

Why can't Deloraine be the place that everyone visiting Launceston wants to visit when they have a free day from their business?

Mike, our photographer, tells a story about Blackpool in England. Sick of the winter decline in trade, they started a mid winter festival called 'Illuminations' (lots of light displays). Now the town has a winter tourist season equally as busy as the summer one.

I notice that Arts Deloraine is having a Fire Festival in late June this year and Elemental Artspace is trying to get Deloraine 'fired up' by promoting all the things going on in July. Why not let the Gazette be a forum for all those brilliant ideas that I know lots of people have? Let's see if we can find ways to keep Deloraine 'alive' all year round.

In Response...

I WAS impressed by the article by Joanne Eisemann "In My Opinion" in the March edition of Meander Valley Gazette.

She is absolutely right in saying that Woolworths only stock what they sell the most of and what suits them, and that really annoys me also. Stock is very limited and a Coles supermarket in the area would put them into line very nicely!

I also find that most of their items are overpriced in comparison with the Devonport & Launceston Woolworths, because (sic) their is no competition in the area, they find they can charge whatever they want to and they do.

I asked for lettuce & cabbage leaves for my pet rabbits & was told it is against their policy & was refused them. Obviously they would rather throw them out than give them to their customers to make use of in a positive way.

Quite frankly I have decided to only go into Woolworths in Deloraine when I only need 2 or 3 items.

From now on I plan on shopping at Coles in Devonport, as they have plenty of variety, better prices and are quite happy to give me lettuce & cabbage leaves for my rabbits rather than throw them out.

I was in Coles a few days ago in Devonport, a whole cabbage was \$2.50.

Today I went to Deloraine Woolworths to have a look at the price it was \$2.99 for half a cabbage. Unbelievable!

Teresa, Meander Valley

IN MY opinion Woolworths are being 'select' to the point of excluding everything else.

Disatisfied, Deloraine

Good on you Joanne, this is something that is often discussed by me and my friends

Enid, Westbury

Youth Survey

THE DELORAINE Youth Community Survey is a chance for young people in the community to have their voices heard by people who care about them. Facilitated by the Deloraine Baptist Church and youth service providers in the community, the survey aims to capture a snapshot of what life is like for young people in the Deloraine area: their hopes, hurts, needs and interests. Youth Consultancy Officer, Emily Parsons, is passionate about making the Deloraine area a community where young people can flourish, a place of safety and security and a place that they are proud to call their home. The survey is open to high school students.

Participants can enter the draw to win their choice of: cinema tickets (with snacks & drinks), \$40 iTunes gift card, or a \$40 Deloraine on the Move voucher.

It is live online from the 17th April to the 8th May. The survey link is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DelYouth2015>

Help us work with young people to make our community a better place for everyone.

For more information please contact Emily at: emily.parsons42@gmail.com

Article submitted by Meander Valley Council

Meander Valley Gazette



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Adam and Consa Boscoe, new owners of the Hagley General Store

Big plans for Hagley Store

ENERGY AND enthusiasm is in plentiful supply for new owners of the Hagley General Store, Adam and Consa Boscoe.

They took over 12 weeks ago and, in that time, have signed a new contract with Australia Post. Formerly earmarked for closure, the Hagley Post Office will now go electronic and offer new services such as banking.

Moving to Tasmania from Brisbane, both Consa and Adam have previous careers in management for Woolworths.

The shift to Tasmania for

the Boscoes was prompted by a desire to provide a better life for their 3 year old son, Dakota.

"Working for Woolworths, we were not seeing much of him; 15-16 hour days plus on call 24/7 left little time for family life," shared Adam.

The couple find life in Hagley quite different; "it's a slowdown", says Consa.

They have big plans for the store, the first of which they were implementing on the day Meander Valley Gazette visited; sandwich and drink specials for \$5 were already attracting some new customers.

They will bring a new food aisle into the store, as well as a place to sit and eat. "We know we can never compete with Woolies or Coles", says Consa, "but we aim to have a little of everything so people can get what they need here."

Adam and Consa are also keen to support local producers and have begun selling some locally grown vegetables as well as produce from Tasmanian Natural Garlic & Tomatoes, Selbourne, and Hazelbrae hazelnut products.

When asked what they most enjoy about their new store Adam and Consa reply in chorus, "the people; we feel so supported here."

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Mark Shelton MP

Liberal Member for Lyons

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Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you.

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Smiles were in abundance at the Westbury Irish Festival, especially when Mik Gray revealed a purple mohawk from under his top hat; pictured with his dad Alan Gray both of Launceston. Bridget Toohey, aged 4, travelled from Launceston to enjoy fun times with Seamus, aged 2, of Hobart (Irish Wolfhound golk)



Deloraine Stringfest attracted a multitude of talented musicians - the exotic and traditional were well represented; Taka, a Japanese Handpan player, flew in from Hong Kong to join in the music making, and Buskers Georgia Burgess 15yrs and Sakura Woods 13yrs both of Golden Valley played cellos outside the PO. Photos by Mike Moores

A plucking good weekend

IT MIGHT not have been the Austrian Alps, but the town of Deloraine was 'alive with the sound of music' at the recent 'Stringfest' festival.

Talent poured into the town from as far away as Ireland and Japan and from all over the mainland.

2000 plus visitors enjoyed the buskers as well as the programmed concerts and other live performances.

Music as diverse as chamber, through to rhythm and blues was played, plus some rarely seen instruments, such as the

'handpan' and 'Tramsash Lap Steel UXB' were present.

Event organiser Nick Weare said "how wonderful it was to see so many people enjoying the relaxed atmosphere", and he noted that some visitors had made plans to attend next year's festival.

Barry, Eddie, Ken, Russell, Peter et al, had the pleasure of playing impromptu by the river; driven by the wish to raise funds for the people in Vanuatu affected by cyclone Pam. They raised \$120 and thank all who donated.

Take the trauma out of technology

JOIN ABC Open Producer Leandro Palacio for a series of 3 free sessions at Deloraine Online to learn how to make a short video.

The course is for beginners, and the videos can be made with your smartphone, tablet or camera.

The sessions are scheduled for Tuesday 21st April, Tuesday 28th April and Thursday 30th April; all 10am - 12:30pm

You will learn how to write a simple script, shoot and edit the video using free apps and publish the story on the ABC

Open website.

To book your place call 6362 3537.

Also on offer is a range of short courses that will be running at Deloraine Online during May.

May 6th - The Finer Points of Facebook: how to upload photos in a status, how to create a photo album and a closed group page - beneficial for sharing family photos and information not seen by everybody else's friends.

May 13th - Anatomy of a Camera: How to take

advantage of the manual functions of your camera. Take your camera out of automatic and learn to play!

May 20th: A Look Into Microsoft Office - a brief tour of what Office can do, including using a template and how to download a freeware version of Office.

All May workshops are 2 hours duration 10am-12pm on Wednesdays; \$10, \$7 conc, \$5 registered users. Call 6362 3537 to book your place or email deloraine.oac@education.tas.gov.au

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Photo by Mike Moores

Rachel Gregory of Western Creek, holding her 'Rising Sun' badge which she will wear at Gallipoli

GRAMMAR GIRL TO GALLIPOLI

By Joanne Eisemann

MEANDER VALLEY will have at least one representative at the Gallipoli Centenary Ceremony.

Grade 12 student, Rachel Gregory, from Western Creek entered a federally funded essay competition last year and is one of seven Tasmanian students chosen to attend.

Originally from Scotland, Rachel developed her interest in ANZAC through school. She says, "Launceston Grammar has a really good archive system; I was able to read

diary entries of the soldiers that went to our school and letters they'd sent. You get such a connection with them and learn a lot from them about our country and our state".

She was particularly impressed by Private Price Jacob Morgan, who attended Launceston Grammar; he was the first Tasmanian soldier to be enrolled in the military college at Duntroon.

Her interest in ANZAC is long standing. Rachel was runner-up in the 'Simpson's Prize' when she entered it in grade 9, narrowly missing out

on going to Gallipoli that year.

Flying to Istanbul in mid-April, students will spend time exploring sights like the Blue Mosque, ruins of Troy, Grand Bazaar, Silk and Spice Markets before travelling to sights of ANZAC significance where history comes to life.

Rachel says the highlight of the trip will be the 25th of April, "On Anzac Day we are having the big ceremony at Gallipoli, then walking up to Lone Pine and having another ceremony. Prince Charles, Prince Harry and Tony Abbott are going to be there".



Tanya Cooper
Principal

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MEANDER VALLEY - GET INVOLVED

THE DELORAINE District Angling Club has welcomed in the New Year with an overhaul of the club, plus benefited from new members with fresh ideas!

They would now like to invite anyone with an interest in fishing to attend a meeting, with a view to joining the club and keeping it alive for future generations.

Some fishing trips are planned, along with BBQ and fishing days and junior fishing events.

The Deloraine District Angling Club meets every third Monday evening of the month at the British Hotel, Deloraine at 7.30pm.

Join them to talk about fishing, listen to locals and learn about new products.

Affiliation with the North Western Fisheries Association (N.W.F.A) the club gives a voice from Deloraine.

For more information, check them out on Facebook – Deloraine District Angling Club.

POLICE REPORT WITH INSP. SCOTT FLUDE

POLICE ARE reminding home and property owners to remain vigilant.

Whilst crime rates in the area remain low, we are still having break-ins occurring at private residences and some businesses.

Generally, not much property has been taken in each instance and generally, the main costs are associated with the damage being caused to gain entry to these places. It is important to remember to lock up your property at all times when you are away as well as remembering to activate

your security systems, if you have one.

Cash, jewellery, power tools and firearms are still the most sought after property to steal.

If anyone requires advice on general security matters and wishes to speak with Police about these concerns, please feel free to call the Deloraine Station and I will have someone come to see you in relation to this or any other concerns you may have.

All information provided to us will be treated in total confidence.

Deloraine Information Evening - Wednesday 29 April 2015



If you are interested in **learning** about Launceston Church Grammar's Academic programme, their extra-curricular activities, the Boarding House and the extensive range of scholarships offered, the Headmaster, Mr Stephen Norris and the Registrar, Mrs Lisa Pretorius will be at **The Deloraine Deli 81 Emu Bay Road Deloraine on Wednesday 29 April 5.30pm – 7.30pm.**

RSVP to Mrs Lisa Pretorius, Registrar, on **6336 6052** or go to www.lcgs.tas.edu.au/events



Selki Tombs from Elf on the Shelf communes with some of her hand dyed handmade dry needle felted gnomes, classes to make these are now available

Where faeries flutter and gnomes are at home

By Sara Fawcett

WHEN YOU walk into Elf on the Shelf, it's like walking into a fairy grotto.

Single mother, Selki Tombs has put many long hours during the past six months establishing her unique Deloraine business. Filled with mythical creatures from fairytale forests, the shop is a must see for anyone who loves gnomes, fairies and elves.

Selki has turned her love of arts and crafts into her income.

Elf on the Shelf strives to provide hand-made products made by Selki herself, as well as local, national and international artists.

"As I am a hand-maker myself, I felt I would like to showcase what I make and offer it for sale in my own shop". Selki said.

But Selki doesn't only sell her own stuff.

"We also have fifty to sixty artists' work on offer". she said, "A lot is local but also national and international".

With all that work of different artists provided, there is quite a range of products.

These include Marionettes (Squeaky Tribe from Byron Bay), Fairy Plant Terrariums; also a range of necklaces and locklets, glass jars and hand-made eco-friendly toys.

There are plasma cut metal-work sunflowers, 3D sculptures and silhouettes as well as a large range of wool clothing.

"We have a small garden area out the back that stocks unusual plants such as herbs, natives and some cottage plants," Selki said.

There is a small book collection which specialises in rare and unique finds, particularly vintage illustrated books involving unicorns, fairies, dragons, gnomes and such.

Given such a combination of products and other things, customers who have gone into Elf on the Shelf have loved it.

One customer loved her experience there.

"What a fabulous shop full of beautiful and whimsical things created, for the most part from natural materials. Well worth a visit". Julie said.

Plus, if you're one of those many people in the Meander Valley who love arts and crafts, Elf on the Shelf has a studio in which they have begun to host a variety of classes.

Classes include dying, basket making, crochet courses, felting, rugs from recycled fabrics, bag weaving and much more.

Some of these classes are taken by Selki herself, while others are taught by local artists.

Brochures are available in the shop and anyone is welcome to visit for a chat.

Stop in for a browse at Elf on the Shelf, 6 West Barrack Street and check out their facebook page.

Tributes for valued colleague

IN FEBRUARY this year, we said goodbye to Mr Michael 'Mike' Pel and his wife Tracie, who both tragically died in a motorcycle accident.

Mike was a highly regarded and valuable Meander Valley Council employee. He was a hardworking, dedicated Works supervisor, based at Westbury for 16 years.

As Works supervisor, Mike was more than just a 'boss' - he was a mate to all those who worked with him. His Works team could count on his friendship as well as 110 per cent leadership.

Mike took great pride in maintaining Meander Valley's recreational facilities and streetscapes under his charge to a meticulous standard.

He was well known and respected by all those who frequented Prospect Vale Park as well as those connected with the recreational grounds in his care.

Mike was a valued member of the football family,

umpiring both Victory League and Northern Premier League matches.

He was a passionate member of the Meander Valley Townscapes and Reserves and Parks committee, advising on the development, maintenance and improvement of streetscapes and open spaces.

Mike played an integral part in helping Westbury become Tasmania's 2015 Tidy Town.

Michael died doing one of the things he loved in life, riding his motorbike with his much-loved wife, Tracie.

We knew him as a colleague, a mentor and a mate... He will be remembered for his good will and kindness, his community spirit and his mateship.

Deepest sympathies and condolences are with sons Josh and Benjamin, family and friends.

Article submitted by Meander Valley Council.

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Meander Valley Volunteer Week in May

IN MAY, Australians will celebrate the contribution of its over 6 million volunteers during National Volunteer week, 11-17th May.

Volunteers contribute a whopping \$200 billion to the Australian economy annually.

National Volunteer week is a great opportunity to say thanks to the many volunteers who make our community stronger.

The Meander Valley Volunteer expo is on again this year.

It's a chance for organisations to promote themselves to prospective volunteers and volunteers to get together. If you are thinking about volunteering but not sure where to start, get along to the Western Tiers Community Club in Deloraine on Tuesday, 12th May from 11am and have a chat with volunteers

from the many organisations seeking your help. There will be free lunch, speakers and also a viewing of the video finalists of

For more info about Volunteer Week, contact Vicki Pryer on 6362 5280 or vicki.pryer@greatwesterntiers.net.au. Community Groups who would like to have a stall at the expo should contact Joanne Eisemann on 6362 3537 or email deloraine.oac@education.tas.gov.au.

the 'What's fun about being a Volunteer' competition.

Meander Valley Council recognises the extraordinary contribution of individual volunteers through its annual Voluntary Service Recognition program. Nominations for these are open now.

The awards are presented at the Australia Day function held each

year on 26th January.

Volunteers recognised as

contributing 1,000+ and 3,000+ hours of service are presented with a framed certificate.

Council also seeks volunteers whom are considered to have performed acts over and above normal volunteer work. Such volunteers will be recognised with a specially engraved plaque.

For more information please visit www.meander.tas.gov.au/VoluntaryServicesRecognition or contact Merrilyn Young on 6393 5317.

Article submitted by Meander Valley Council

GREG HALL MLC Independent Member for Western Tiers



Your Independent member of the Legislative Council, working for the residents of the MEANDER VALLEY

PO Box 361, DELORAINE, Tas 7304
Office Phone: 6362 8020
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Volunteering is a way of life for the extraordinary Nell Carr

THERE ARE probably not too many people in Meander Valley that have been volunteering as long as Mrs Nell Carr.

Nell started in the 60's, (she can't quite remember the year) as secretary of the then Deloraine Film Society. "I was nominated at an annual general meeting, no one would take it on", says Nell.

When the manager of the Hobart Savings Bank asked her to take over his role of Secretary of the Deloraine Primary School Parents and Friends Association, she took that on, too.

Over the years, Nell's volunteer positions have been many and varied; she was there for the first delivery of Meals on Wheels in Deloraine and was the Secretary of the Labour Party.

Nell also volunteered as the Adult Education Coordinator for Deloraine. She organised all manner of short courses for locals to attend, including gardening courses with Peter Cundall, who once told Nell that he credited his start to gardening fame from those courses. Being a humble woman, this is a badge that Nell is not too keen to wear.

Many of Nell's volunteering pursuits have some relationship to gardening, a passion of hers.

Writing gardening articles for the Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Garden History Association, Western Tiers newspaper and now, the Meander Valley Gazette, she is also a member of the Native Understory Network, tends the garden bed outside the Commonwealth Bank and is an active member of the Deloraine House Community Garden.

Nell says her husband used to complain that he was known as "Mrs Carr's husband".

Encouraged by her husband, Nell continued her education quite late in life. She says, "I majored in History and Politics when I did my degree; I finished when I was 60".

When her husband died suddenly in 1987, Nell took over his volunteer work of recording rainfall statistics of Dunorlan for the Bureau of Meteorology.

Recycling in Deloraine began with Nell's assistance.

"Deloraine Community House was set up in 1989. The newly formed Deloraine Environment Centre rented an office in the house, and one suggestion was that the big galvanized iron foundry next door could be used as a recycling centre. I got enthusiastic about that and, after getting council permission,

contacting various recycling firms in Launceston, and sending out householder mail to residents in the locality, we set it up in October 1989".

Another position that Nell holds dear is her role as secretary of the Upper Rubicon Landcare Group, which was set up to restore the banks of the Rubicon rivulet. One of the major tributaries rises on her farm. They raised funds to plant shelter belts,

install troughs and build fences so that cattle could not access the Rubicon for water; this helps in stopping erosion, stream degradation and pollution.

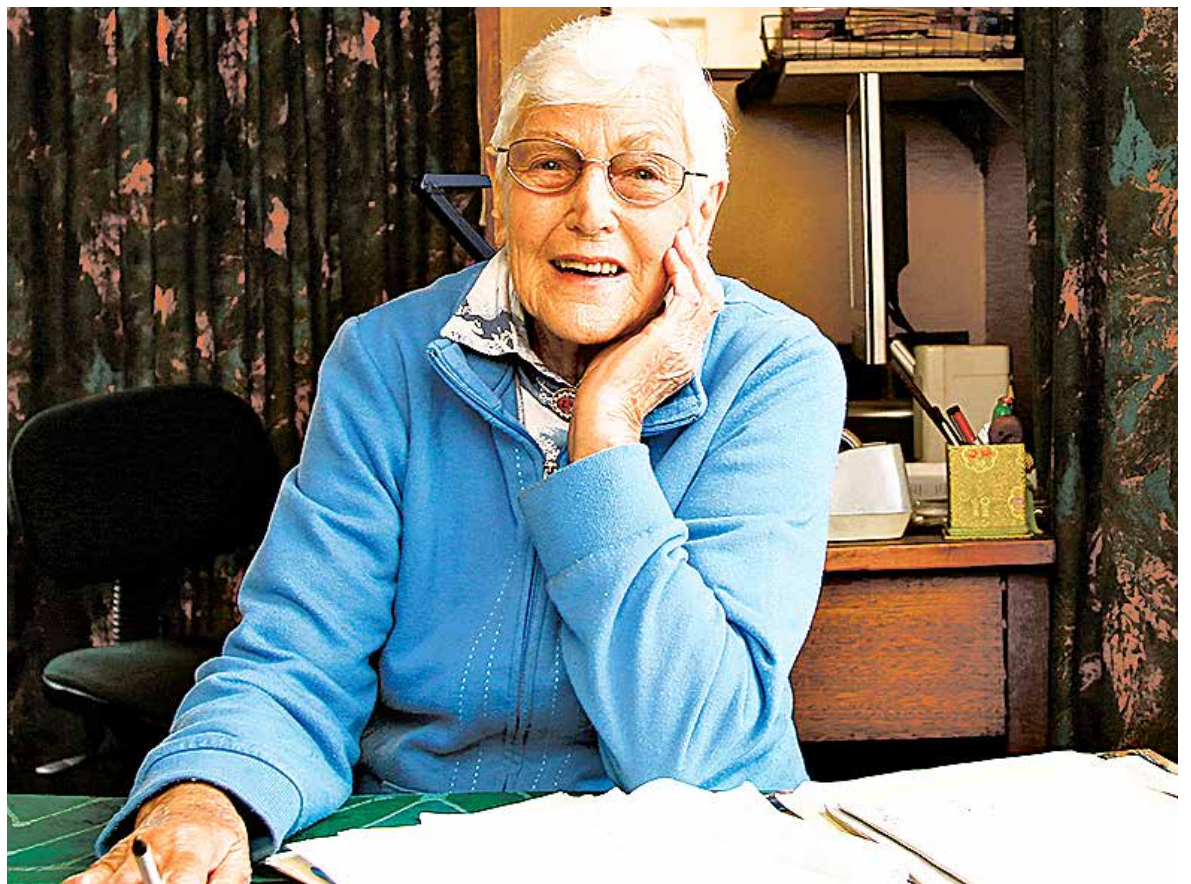
Currently Nell volunteers for the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre.

"I don't do the front desk any more", she shares, "at 89 I'm getting a bit dithery". Instead, Nell greets tourist buses and treats

them to tales of Deloraine's colourful history.

One might think that Nell must have been a lady of leisure to have time to follow all these pursuits; not so, Nell milked cows on the family dairy farm till 2002.

She brushes off her enormous contributions with the comment, "If everyone stopped volunteering, the whole community would fall to bits, I'm afraid".



Nell Carr carries on a 60-year family tradition of recording rainfall statistics of Dunorlan



Photo by Jan Collett

The ever-endearing Common Wombat

By Sarah Lloyd

OVER THE millennia Australia's extensive grasslands have been exploited by diverse groups of large herbivorous animals including wombats and kangaroos.

These animals have very different ways of dealing with a bulky diet of plant material, mostly grass. In wombats, the fermentation occurs in a large colon at the back end of the gut; in kangaroos, the same process takes place in a large fore stomach.

The Common Wombat is found throughout the Meander Valley. It is a solitary mostly nocturnal animal that, is occasionally seen during the day when it ventures from its underground burrow dug into sloping ground.

"Wombats favour tough perennial grasses"

The Common Wombat is the largest grass eating mammal that digs burrows. Their impressive burrows can be

up to 18 meters long.

Other large burrow-diggers are either carnivorous (e.g. badgers) or they feed on concentrated food. For example, armadillos and armadillos live on colonial insects; and porcupines live on roots, tubers and fallen fruit.

Making underground burrows is believed to be a relatively recent adaptation to Australia's drying climate and it may have saved wombats from going the way of other large, hind gut fermenters such as the

Fishing news

By Karl Gammler

APRIL IS officially the last month of this season for Brown Trout in Tasmanian waters, except for a few remaining designated waters left open all year which include Huntsman Lake, Brushy Lagoon and certain parts of Great Lake.

Designated Rainbow Trout waters stay open for another month.

The good news is, Trout seem a little easier to catch as they like to put on a bit more condition prior to spawning.

Most methods work when it comes to bringing them undone, as with Autumn usually come the rains and the good old garden worm is just as good a bait to use for those who like this style of laid-back fishing.

You will, however, need to check your License guide as to which waters you can bait fish.

Most rivers are generally

still safe and the Meander is usually a safe bet to chuck a worm into, especially on a rainy day - even better if you can catch it on the rise.

In the salt, there are still heaps of Flathead about in the Tamar and at Port Sorell. The King George Whiting are still hanging around the Kelso and George Town area of the Tamar.

A Paternoster rig with some pipis or squid strips should be the go with a run out tide in about 3 - 3 1/2 metres of water. These fish are an excellent table fish and are much sought after for their exceptional eating qualities.

The East Coast game fishing side of things heats up at this time of year; there are already reports of several species of tuna caught at Eagle Hawk Neck.

If you are new to the sport of fishing, or want to check on license requirements, Inland Fisheries Tasmania is a good start. Visit www.ifs.tas.gov.au/

extinct diprotodonts.

Wombats favour tough perennial grasses, sedges and rushes that grow in their home range of approximately 20 hectares. Their split upper lip allows them to crop vegetation very close to the ground.

They have extremely sharp teeth that continue to grow throughout their lives.

Wombats have only one young every two years. The young leaves the pouch after six to nine months and follows its mother until weaned at about twenty months old.



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Meritorious Maighan

ANOTHER OF the Meander Valley's young high achievers is off to university, thanks to the Deloraine and Districts Community Bank® Branch Tertiary Scholarship.

2015 scholarship winner, Maighan Brandwood, of Deloraine has enrolled at the University of Adelaide in a Bachelor of Development Studies, a degree not offered in Tasmania.

While studying, she will be exploring global issues including poverty and human rights.

Maighan hopes this degree will allow her to pursue a career with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the United Nations or a non-government organisation.

The Scholarship is valued at \$5,000.

Close of an era for St Alban's Parkham

A FEW WEEKS ago the Anglican Church at Parkham saw a large congregation gather for a final Service, marking the end of 107 years of the building's use as a place of worship.

The congregation included many who traced their connections with St Alban's back to the founding members.

Some came from as far away as the mainland especially for the event. A booklet of 'Reflections and Memories' handed out on the day noted, "For Christians, a church's closure - often the focal landmark of a country community - is an emotion-

al event. Here, people have worshipped, felt grief and joy, celebrated Christian rites of passage and quested for a relationship with God".

In his address, the Reverend Roger Hesketh spoke about the legacy that has been inherited from those whose hard work and foresight could be seen, "not just in these buildings but with a faith that opens up to us a whole new perspective that has a past a present and a future".

The next step for the church building and hall, both listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, will be

for the Parish of Deloraine to find new owners.

The process for this will be guided by Anglican Diocesan legislation and in line with the Heritage Tasmania's instruction note for "Disposing of Religious Properties."

Several people have enquired about the future care of some moveable items.

The Parish has asked for anyone who has an interest in a specific item or knows of a donor with a specific interest to notify the Secretary, Anglican Parish of Deloraine, P.O Box 7 Deloraine or anglicandeloraine@gmail.com by April 14th 2015.

Rotary funds future community leaders

ROTARY YOUTH Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive week-long training program for young community leaders aged 18 to 30.

Those chosen for their leadership potential attend an all-expenses-paid live-in course to learn lifetime leadership skills through practice. It is an invaluable personal and professional development program.

Since its inception, RYLA has assisted hundreds of young Tasmanians to develop leadership skills, with last year's participants including a radiographer, a dairy farmer and a quality assurance officer; plus a refugee from South Sudan.

Past attendees from the Meander Valley include

Mark Griffin, Hannah Atkins and Josh Smith.

Keynote speakers last year included Robyn Moore and Stan Alves, both excellent motivational speakers.

During RYLA the participants undertook a wide range of activities, both mental and physical, designed to show them how to reach their potential, or step beyond their normal limits, including a Survivors Challenge which called for exceptional team work.

This year, RYLA will be held on the 10th to 16th May at Camp Clayton, near Ulverstone.

You can apply to the Rotary Club of Deloraine to sponsor you, if you are aged 18 to 30 years, by contacting

Ann Axelsen on 0411 116 480.

A similar experience for 14 to 17 year olds, called the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN), will be held at Camp Clayton over a weekend in May.

RYPEN sets out to broaden horizons and lift aspirations in a supervised residential weekend seminar.

Its aim is to communicate to young people a series of ideas, problems and social experiences which will assist them in forming their own values and moral standards, and broaden their horizons culturally, socially and academically.

To apply for Rotary sponsorship for this course, please contact Ann Axelsen on 0411 116 480.

Events Diary

Planning an event? Then make sure everyone knows about it. Simply email the details to editor@meandervalleygazette.com - remember to plan in advance so you don't miss out!

Date and Time	Event	Details
Every Tuesday and Thursday	Heart Foundation Walking Group	Meet @ Deloraine House just before 10.00am
Thursday 9th - Sunday 12th April	Australian Yard Dog Championships	Ross Recreation Ground
Saturday 11th April	Deloraine Farmers Market	AgriCorp Car Park, Racecourse Drive, Deloraine
Tuesday 14th April	Deloraine Badminton Assn Roster starts	Deloraine Community Complex - Lynette 6362 2533
Thursday 16th - Saturday 18th April	Kelpie Field Trials	'Connorville', Cressy
Saturday 18th April	Westbury Market	3rd Saturday every month 6393 1417
Saturday 18th April 11.00am	Seed Saving with Sandy Tiffin	Community Garden
Saturday 18th April 9am	Westbury Showjumping Freshmans Days	Westbury Showgrounds, Elizabeth 0407 807 6
Sunday 19th April 2.00pm - 4.00pm	Free market at Deloraine House	Too good to throw away? Bring it along, find free stuff
Saturday 25th April 7.30pm	ANZAC Day Dance (Deloraine Big Band)	Little Theatre, Deloraine Tickets Elemental Artspace
Saturday 25th April	Deloraine Farmers Market	AgriCorp Car Park, Racecourse Drive, Deloraine
Sunday 26th April 1.00pm	Fundraising for Camp Quality	Deloraine Day Centre to donate call 1300 662 267
Friday 1st May 7.00pm - 9.00pm	Gypsy Circle Dance	Weegena Hall \$5.00 Family \$2.00 single
Friday 1st May	Old Time Dance, Rosevale Hall	déjà vu Band \$5.00 plate \$7.00 without plate Ph: 6396 6151
Saturday 2nd May 9.00am - 1.00pm	Deloraine Showgrounds Market	Deloraine Showgrounds
Wednesday 6th May 10.00am	The Finer Points of Photos on Facebook	Deloraine Online Access Centre call 6362 3537 to book
Thursday 7th - Saturday 9th May	Agfest	Quercus Park, Carrick 7291 6331 6154 www.agfest.com.au
Saturday 9th May	Deloraine Farmers Market	AgriCorp Car Park, Racecourse Drive, Deloraine
Tuesday 12th May 11.00am - 1.00pm	Volunteer Week Expo	Western Tiers Community Club
Wednesday 13th May	Anatomy of a Camera - manual functions	Deloraine Online Access Centre call 6362 3537 to book
Saturday 16th May	Westbury Market	3rd Saturday every month 6393 1417 11 Lonsdale Prom.
Saturday 16th May	Westbury Showjumping Freshmans Days	9.00am Westbury Showgrounds, Elizabeth 0407 807 876



From left to right: Megan Brinsmead, initiator of 'Produce Swap' which happens every Saturday by the fountain in Deloraine; Catherine Smith, editor, researcher and consultant for 'Local food for local people' publication; and fellow produce swapper Pearl Maya. Photo by Mike Moores

Local Food for thought

ON SATURDAY 21st March the Meander Valley Food Network launched their new book called "Local Food for Local People: A How to Guide for the Meander Valley" at the Markets held on the banks of the Meander River as part of StringFest.

The crowd heard Steve Solomon talk about how important it is for people to be able to grow their own food, rather than be reliant on the big market suppliers who are not always able to provide the healthiest produce possible.

Over 100 community members were able to take away their own copy of the book on the day.

The resource book brings together information relevant to the local climate with lots of tips and techniques.

Photos in the book show locals who contributed or have been involved in activities that have been run over the last few years.

The book is a free resource for the community but donations are also very gratefully received. If you would like to see a copy, drop in to Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine, any time between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

The MV Food Network will continue to offer further workshops and events such as: Seed Saving with Sandy Tiffin on the 18th April; Fruit tree Care also with Sandy on the 13th June; Soil Health with Steve Solomon on the 8th August; Composting; and Worm Farming with Sandy Tiffin on the 12th of September; Organic Gardening with Sandy Tiffin on the 10th October; and Combating Pests and Disease in the Vegetable Garden with David Kenyon on the 21st November. If you're interested in any of these events, you can ring Deloraine House on 6362 2678 to book your place.

Keeping your family safe with common sense food storage methods

THE RECENT case of contaminated frozen berries has highlighted the importance of food safety and food safety practices. Although the berries in question were packed in China, there are things we can do to prevent the spread of food borne diseases, or 'food poisoning' in our own homes.

According to The Department of Health and Human Services, about one in five cases of food borne illnesses are linked to poor food practices in the home.

The information below is an excerpt from 'Food Safety at Home: Tips for keeping food safe for you and your family'.

For the full article, please visit the Department of Health and Human Services' website at www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/food_safety.

There are a number of simple steps you can take to keep food in your home safe to eat.

Clean

Many foodborne illness outbreaks are caused by poor hygiene practices. This includes poor personal hygiene, using dirty utensils and preparing food in unclean spaces.

Proper hand washing is one of the most important ways to prevent foodborne illness.

If you have been unwell with diarrhoea or vomiting, do not prepare food for others for at least two days.

Maintaining a clean kitchen is important for reducing the risk of foodborne illness for yourself and those for who you prepare food.

Separate

Cross-contamination is a common cause of foodborne illness. It involves the spread of microorganisms from one food or piece of equipment to another. For example, from raw chicken to cooked food, or from a dirty chopping

board to salad vegetables.

Certain foods need to be kept separate from each other to prevent cross-contamination. In particular, raw meat should be kept separate to cooked food.

When preparing food, use separate chopping boards, plates and utensils for raw and cooked foods.

When storing food, keep raw food on the lower shelves of the fridge in leak-proof containers or bags to prevent spills onto other food.

Chill

Keeping perishable foods cool (i.e. at 5°C or less) is one of the most important ways to keep food safe.

Microorganisms can grow and multiply quickly between 5 and 60°C. This is known as the temperature danger zone. It is important to limit the time perishable foods spend in the temperature danger zone to prevent the growth of harmful microorganisms.

When deciding whether to use perishable food left in the temperature danger zone, use the following guide:

Time left at 5-60°C	Action
Less than 2 hours	Refrigerate or use immediately
Between 2 and 4 hours	Use immediately
More than 4 hours	Discard
Remember – if in doubt, throw it out!	

Cook

Food should be cooked to above 60°C to kill disease-causing microorganisms. Undercooking meat and poultry, in particular, can be very dangerous.

Check the label

Food labels provide information that can help you eat safe food.

Always check the 'best before' or 'use by' date given on the food label. Foods that should not be consumed after a certain date for health and safety reasons will have a use by date. Do not eat

food after its use by date. For foods marked with a best before date, it is still safe to eat the food after that date but it may have lost quality and some nutritional value.

For further information and advice, call the Public Health Hotline on Freecall 1800 671 738 or email pop.health@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Looking for information on food safety and your business? Visit the Meander Valley Council website at www.meander.tas.gov.au/PublicandEnvironmentalHealth

Article submitted by Meander Valley Council

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Roses from the Heart Exhibition

Roses from the Heart is a memorial remembering 25,566 women sentenced to transportation to Australia as convicts and expressed as a bonnet for each individual. Many bonnets have been lovingly made by descendants to honour their ancestor.

Something special, a rose for an English/Irish rose, uprooted from all that was familiar and dear to them; a heart to show the tribute is made with sincerity and empathy; from descendants, with love; from the public, with empathy.

Bonnet patterns will be made available for this project along with an opportunity to do your own research.

"I hope, we, the community can offer moments of reflection, taking time out from our busy lives to contemplate not only the female convict story but to also scrutinise our own value systems, our levels of judgement, tolerance and acceptance towards others". Dr Christina Henri



Warming up for a winter celebration

DO YOU remember bonfire and cracker night?

Well, it's back in Deloraine! So wrap up warmly and bring all the family for a night of fire, fun and fireworks planned for Saturday 27th June at the Deloraine Showgrounds.

The Arts Deloraine Committee is already busy planning for this event and is calling on other community groups to be involved.

Designs are being creat-

ed for the conversion of 44 gallon drums into fire pots around which various activities will take place: Storytelling; poetry; music; toasting of marshmallows; and catching up with friends; with mugs of hot chocolate.

Michael Kelly will be building a fantastic bonfire and donating wood for the fire pots.

Rotary has helped with set-up costs and Arts Deloraine will be taking care of

the firework display.

A competition will also be held for best 44 gallon drum fire pot. For ideas on this theme, google Killarney Bonfire Arts Deloraine are seeking interest from other community groups to help with food, gate and clean-up.

For more information regarding the competition or helping out with this event please contact Jaqui Stacey 6362 4335 or artsdeloraine@gmail.com

Elemental Artspace promotes July events

CINDY AND LAURA from Elemental Artspace are getting all fired up about all the events that happen during July.

They want to show that there are many things happening in the area and promote them all in one place.

A website is under construction that will be easily accessible for people looking for a list

of events of things to do and/or attend.

If you have anything organised in July, please let them know. These events could cover a range of activities such as: workshops, exhibitions, sporting events, musicals, theatre, children's activities, dinner, events, movies, craft days, special sales, markets, trivia quizzes, gardening, dancing etc.

Please email info to Laura: laurawindow@live.com.au before 3rd May and include the date, time, event, place, contact person, phone number/email, your website address/facebook, cost involved/free event.

This is a free service to the Business Community, Community and Service Groups. Feel free to tell others about it.



Isabel and Alfred stop the traffic during the move to 13 - 15 Emu Bay Road

Photo Mike Moores

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Emu Jelly, trad jazz treat

APOLOGIES TO all those who missed out on our "Down by the Riverside" event last month. The Western Tiers Community Club came to the rescue and the Band played on at what looks like being our regular

venue. Thanks Barry. The 3rd May sees the club host the curiously named "Emu Jelly", one of the finest Trad Jazz bands in the State. You may have heard them at the Craft Fair. Come along! members \$10 others \$15

Aspiring authors unite

DELORAINÉ Writers Group meets at the Neighbourhood House in Deloraine on the 2nd Monday of each month from 7pm to 9pm. The next meeting will be on the 13th April and will be discussing 'Show or Tell'. Any-

body interested in all forms of writing is welcome to come along and, perhaps, bring a piece of their writing to share with others. Website for further information is: www.delorainewritersgroup.weebly.com

Fresh ideas for creating art

THOSE WHO enjoy painting and drawing or just experimenting with different art mediums, are invited to attend a morning with members of the Meander Valley Art Society.

The group consists of amateur artists who meet once a week, to share time with painting friends and work with a variety of mediums.

During the year, the society hosts tutorials run by professional local artists to keep their ideas fresh. Topics are chosen by group members, and range from experimenting with different

mediums and techniques to revising past lessons.

The group meets at the Uniting Church Hall in West Barrack Street, Deloraine on Friday mornings from 9.30am to 12.30pm and, for a few weeks in summer, they move outside to paint in members' gardens.

Membership is \$20.00 per year. Weekly meetings are \$5.00 and include morning tea.

If you would like to join this group or just check it out, please call in any Friday. For more info, please ring Sally Dawkins on 6362 4994.

Thanks so much to all the fabulous people who helped us with our move: cleaning, painting, shifting, packing

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is

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Valleyviews

Mayor's Message

I hope everyone had a safe, happy and relaxing time over the Easter break. The year seems to be flying by. It is almost time to take stock and commemorate Anzac Day 2015. This year highlights the centenary of the Gallipoli landings. Anzac Day will be recognised with a number of ceremonies across the region with large crowds expected at both the dawn and morning services. It is a chance to remember, not only the service and sacrifice by Australian service men and women during the first World War, but in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. We remember those who have fought to protect this beautiful country we live in. Services throughout the region include a 6:00am dawn service followed by an 11:00am service at both Deloraine and Westbury and a 9:45am service at the Hagley Cenotaph.

Last month State Cabinet met in Deloraine. Councillors met with the Cabinet and discussed a number of items. The opportunity to meet with State government ministers was welcomed and fruitful, and we thank the Premier for that opportunity.

Meander Valley has been abuzz with great events and activities over the last few months—the *Westbury Irish Festival*, *Deloraine Stringfest Tasmania*, the *Rupertswood Farm Crop Maze*, the *Tomato and Garlic Festival*, and the *Western Tiers Cycle Challenge* are some that spring to mind. It's great to see so many vibrant and diverse activities organised by our local community and I congratulate all those involved.

Congratulations to the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre! The team is a finalist in the 'Visitor and Information Services' category at the Australian Tourism Awards, 2015. By the time you read this, the winners will have been announced at a presentation on 10 April in Adelaide. We'll be crossing our fingers for a win for the team.

Mayor Craig Perkins



Council Updates

Wood Smoke

As the days get cooler, it is important to remember that wood smoke, from wood heaters and backyard burning, can affect some peoples' health.

Wood smoke contains fine particles, which when inhaled can affect both the lungs and the heart. Children and older people may be more susceptible to the harmful effects of smoke.

Smoke from a poorly operated wood heater can be reduced by as much as 80 percent by following these few simple steps:

- Check your heater complies with the relevant Australian Standards
- Use well-seasoned, dry fire wood
- Always burn with a bright flame
- Burn the fire on high for 20 minutes after adding wood
- Keep the air vents open enough to keep a flame
- Don't shut your fire right down when you go to bed
- Never let the fire smoulder

For further information on wood smoke and backyard burning, contact Council's Environmental Health Officers on 6393 5300 or visit www.meander.tas.gov.au/woodsmoke



Townscape, Reserves and Parks Special Committee (TRAP) Expressions of Interest

Council's TRAP committee currently meets on the third Thursday of every second month at Council Offices, Lyall Street, Westbury at 5:30pm.

It consists of 3 Councillors, 3 Council officers and a number of community representatives.

The role of the TRAP is to:

- Advise Council on the strategic development of townscapes, reserves and parks;
- Monitor the maintenance and facilitate the improvement of townscapes, reserves and parks; and
- Consult with the community regarding the development of townscapes, reserves and parks.

Due to a recent resignation, Council is seeking a representative from the community to be part of this special committee. Committee members are appointed by invitation from the Mayor.

Please mail expressions of interest to 'The Mayor' at PO Box 102, Westbury, 7303 no later than Friday 1 May 15. Enquiries: please contact David Pyke on 6393 5316.

Friendly Reminder ...

Fourth and final rates installment

The 4th and final rates installment was due on Tuesday 31 March 2015. If you haven't done so already, make a payment as soon as possible as interest @ 9.35% p.a. accrues daily on any overdue amounts until paid.

There are many ways to make a payment, you can phone 1300 276 468 with Biller Code: 474601 or you can log onto www.meander.tas.gov.au.

Payments can also be made via direct debit, Bpay (see back of Rate Notice for details), at any Australia Post outlet or at Service Tasmania. Don't forget to take your Rates Notice with you!

If you are having difficulties with a payment, please call Council's Rates Officer on 6393 5335 to discuss alternative arrangements or to get a direct debit application.

Community News

Property Planning for small farms Westbury and surrounds

Sunday 26 April, 9:00am-4:30pm
Westbury Community Health Centre
89 Meander Road, Westbury

NRM North are holding a property planning workshop for those in the Westbury area. At this full day workshop you will receive maps of your property's layout and natural values to assist with planning, and hear from experts in land management covering a range of topics including soil and pasture management, weeds and looking after environmental values. There will be one-on-one support, as well as the chance to discuss, ask questions and learn from others in the district. Numbers are limited and registrations are required as soon as possible. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. For further details and registration forms contact Kate Thorn at kthorn@nrmnorth.org.au or on 6333 7777 or Stuart Brownlea on 6393 5321.



Heritage month

The Deloraine Folk Museum will host Tasmanian artist Christina Henri's *Roses from the Heart* project during Heritage Month this May. *Roses from the Heart* commemorates convict women through an installation of servants' bonnets. 25,266 women were transported to Australia. Christina invites you to make a bonnet

tribute—so far about 24,000 bonnets have been made. The pattern and information about how to get a female convict name and ship, which are embroidered onto the bonnet, will be available at the Museum. Museum entry for all of May will be free.



Diary Dates

Agfest

7, 8, 9 May 2015

www.agfest.com.au

Volunteer Expo

12 May 2015

email: deloraine.oac@education.tas.gov.au

Markets

Deloraine Market, Showgrounds

First Saturday of every month

Liffey Valley Market, The Old School

Second Saturday of every month

Deloraine Farmers Market, MG Trading carpark

Second and Fourth Saturday of the month

Westbury Market, St Andrews Church

Third Saturday of every month



Meander Valley Council

WORKING TOGETHER

Council Offices

8:30am-5:00pm

PO Box 102

26 Lyall Street, Westbury

General Enquiries

Phone

6393 5300

Fax

6393 1474

Email

mail@mvc.tas.gov.au

Web

www.meander.tas.gov.au

Connect with us



Valley Views can be read at any time by visiting the website. Click on Community, Culture and Recreation and then Community News.

Salmon and Ginseng bio-farming a winning combination in Montana

By Joanne Eisemann

FROM THE ROAD you probably wouldn't guess how productive the 35-acre, mostly bush block 41°South is, or just how many people visit the property each year.

Situated 3km along Montana Road from the Mole Creek Road, the farm produces Salmon and Ginseng.

German born owners, Ziggy and Angelika Pyka, began experimenting with growing Ginseng on their property in Westbury in 1995. Ginseng is a medicinal herb, reputed to be an immune system booster if you take it regularly.

Ginseng is a popular herb in Asia and the Pykas wanted to see if it could be grown in Tasmania. Not a crop for the fainthearted, it takes 6-8 years to reach maturity, and it took them 10 years to perfect the technique.

They bought the block at Montana in 1998 because they liked its waterfall.

"The land itself was terrible; a willow infested swamp", says son, Ben. "The river had turned into an arterial vein system", he added.

Ziggy had experience with freshwater fish farms, so the family decided that Salmon farming would complement

their Ginseng operation.

In 2003/4 they applied for a National Landcare and Resource Innovations grant, which they matched dollar for dollar by selling their property at Westbury to raise funds.

In 12 months they had built a unit, walks, shop/cafe, fish tanks and a wetland with boardwalks to create a growing family business.

These days they cultivate one acre of ginseng and grow fresh water Atlantic Salmon using water from Western Creek.

The wetland was made as a way of cleaning up the block while at the same time creating a biological filter for fish waste. Water comes in from above the waterfall and flows through a 400m pipe into the fish farm.

Water soiled with fish waste flows into the wetland, the wetland plants and reeds use

Atlantic Salmon, brought in as fingerlings are grown in concrete tanks where they are fed a standard fish pellet used by other salmon farms.

Growing times are comparable to salt water grown salmon and the flavor is also similar. Fish ready for harvesting are put in a purging tank containing clean water to counteract any 'muddiness' that can sometimes occur in fresh water fish.

Fresh water farms are fortunate in that fresh water diseases are easily counteracted by the addition of salt.

The farm is open to the public almost every day of the year. Over 20,000 people visited in 2014; the number

grows each year.

"We have people from every country in the world come here and visit us", says Ben.

The farm has become popular with Asian visitors largely through social media; Ben estimates they make up 50% of guests.

Self-guided farm tours give visitors an opportunity to look over the farm, visit the waterfall and wetland as well as feed the fish.

Much of the farm's power is generated sustainably through hydro and solar power.

Ben shares, "We also try and put emphasis on bio-farming and homesteading; we grow veggies, keep chickens and ducks for eggs; we have our own orchard and aquaponic area".

There is a small licensed café on site, where a light lunch can be enjoyed and farm produce purchased.

Salmon products on offer are all hot smoked and include either boneless or whole baby salmon, and rilette.

Ginseng products include spices, leatherwood honey, green and black tea, skin cream, and nougat.

In line with the sustainable nature of the property Ben advises, "We use, value add and sell everything we grow on site".



Ben Pyka proudly displays a jar of twelve year old ginseng

the nutrients from the fish waste to grow, then water is returned to the river as clean as when it left.

Stock diseases workshops scheduled in TAS : AgriCorp now MG Trading

By Joanne Eisemann

THERE WILL be a wide range of significant livestock pests and diseases in the spotlight at a series of workshops in Tasmania; from drench resistant worms to footrot, Bovine Johne's Disease (BJD) and pestivirus.

The Sheep and Cattle Health and Biosecurity Workshops are being held throughout the state in March and April.

Local vets will present technical detail on a range of pests and diseases including their recognition, spread, impact and management.

Tasmanian Regional Officer, Dr Jess Coad, will lead a group discussion on effective biosecurity practices.

"This is all about managing serious pests and diseases that can have a significant impact on farm productivity, and therefore profitability.

"Importantly, attendees will also learn how good farm biosecurity management practices can be used to stop these pests and diseases becoming a problem in the first place – after all, prevention is better than cure", Dr Coad explains.

The wide range of biosecurity tools available from

Livestock Biosecurity Network (LBN) that assist livestock producers in prevention, management and eradication of pests and diseases will be outlined in-depth by Dr Coad.

"There will be important lessons for all attendees – for example, we'll discuss simple on-farm quarantine practices when introducing new livestock and the importance of knowing what signs of pests and diseases to be keeping an eye out for", Dr Coad says.

"Prevention is better than the cure"

The workshops are being delivered by LBN in collaboration with the 'Making More from Sheep' and 'More Beef from Pastures' programs.

They will run for three hours from 1pm at the following locations:

Tuesday 21st April –

Smithton

Wednesday 22nd April –

Campbell Town

Thursday 28th April –

Sassafras

For more information on these workshops and LBN contact LBN Regional Officer, Dr Jess Coad on 0488 400 209 or email jcoad@lbn.org.au.

The importance of LBN organising these events aligns with the organisation's role to improve the knowledge and understanding of animal health, welfare and biosecurity among key stakeholders.

While livestock producers are a key target for LBN information, the organisation also participates in a national network of government and industry partners helping protect livestock industries from emergency animal disease.

To help protect their livelihood and income, producers are encouraged to complete the Farm Biosecurity Checklist at www.lbn.org.au.

LOCAL AGRICULTURAL services business, AgriCorp Pacific Pty Ltd, has been acquired by Murray Goulburn Co-operative Co. Limited (Devondale Murray Goulburn).

Now known as MG Trading, the move will expand services available to dairy farmers, agricultural industries and communities throughout the state.

Devondale Murray Goulburn is working with AgriCorp to ensure a smooth transition, including welcoming all team members currently employed at Deloraine to MG Trading.

AgriCorp Managing Director, Colin Cook, said the

arrangement would benefit local farmers.

"AgriCorp's mandate was always to grow farm productivity through professional advisory services and a tailored product offering", Colin said.

He adds, "We leave this legacy in safe hands through our agreement with Devondale Murray Goulburn whose MG Trading presence and farmer services are highly regarded by farmers on the mainland."

Planning is underway to further expand the service offering in the two stores to include fertiliser, agronomy, nutrition, feed, fuel, milk machine maintenance, insurance and finance services.

Hazelbrae Hazelnuts hails new harvester

HAZELBRAE HAZELNUTS at Hagley will use a \$75,000 Federal Government innovation and investment grant to expand, says owner Christie McLeod.

The funding will cover the purchase of needed equipment for the processing of hazelnuts, the refurbishment of an existing farm shed and conversion of an unused farm cottage into a tasting

and tourism centre.

During a recent visit to the state, Federal Lyons MP Eric Hutchinson said that it was wonderful to see government funding put to such good use to build an expanding agribusiness in Lyons.

The addition of a new harvester, truck and other infrastructure funded by the grant will enable Christie and her partner,

Michael Delphin, to take care of the growing demand for the harvest needs of other hazelnut growers in the state.

Christie said there were plans for construction of a small shop/café in the homestead gardens to sell a range of their hazelnut products including chocolate coated hazelnuts, hazelnut ice-cream, oil and various creams.

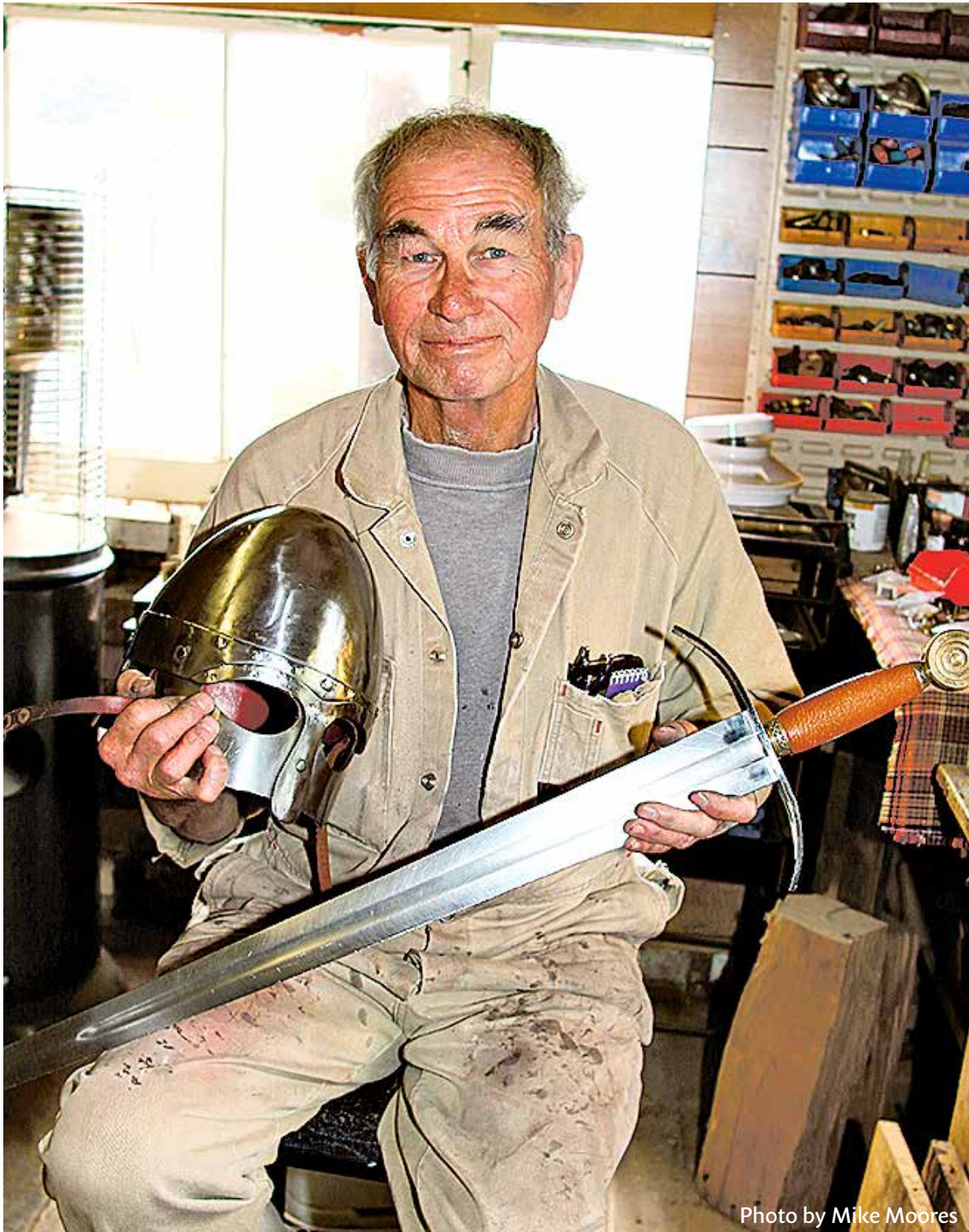


Photo by Mike Moores

Ken Bradford of Bismarck Metalwork with late Norman helmet and World War 2 sword he crafted

History gives Ken's business cutting edge

By Joanne Eisemann

KEN BRADFORD of Bismarck Metalwork has been making knives, swords and armour professionally since 1988, full time since he moved Deloraine in 2004.

The business draws its name from its origin; at the time he lived in Collinsvale, near Hobart which, before the 1st World War, was known as Bismarck.

His involvement with making knives began as a young man; Ken explains, "I'd always been interested in history since I was a little boy; no one could ever tell me how a sword was made, so I investigated and it started from there, I taught myself".

All the knives on display in his shop are made by Ken. An Italian blacksmith he met via the internet makes some of his sword blades.

Ken says, "I used to make all the blades myself, but I'm getting arthritis and making some blades is too heavy for me. He makes excellent blades; I use his blades in the rapier fighting that I do".

The steel Ken uses is purchased from America, as the

steel he uses is unavailable in Australia.

He makes, shapes and polishes blades before sending them to Sydney for heat treatment. In Sydney the blades go into a vacuum furnace and come back a smoky colour, ready for final polishing and handle fitting.

Ken makes a range of knives, from fruit knives and throwing knives to the more unusual such as a replica of

"No one could ever tell me how a sword was made, so I investigated, it started from there"

a 300 year old fishing knife. His metalwork also includes the unique - such as chain mail and armour for a Teddy Bear - and the very difficult, such as gauntlets. Ken says he won't be rushing to make another pair of those!

"I haven't followed any particular style of knife making. I went off on my own path, what I thought was the way to go, what I was interested in. A lot of it is inventiveness, creativity; you have to

use your brains".

Ken enjoys using some of the swords and armour he makes. He belongs to a Launceston rapier club that meets weekly and a re-enactment group from Burnie, Knights Templar.

"Fighting with a rapier is a lot faster than heavy metal fighting; they are two different periods of re-enactment", Ken notes.

"Sword fighting in these groups is safe", assures Ken, "Rapiers have tips on the ends and with larger weapons, there are limitations on where you can hit, when you strike - you pull your blow at the last minute; it's not just a case of swinging and bashing and hacking - there is a lot of skill involved".

Some of Ken's business comes from Tasmania, but most comes from the mainland and overseas. He has a website, www.bismarck-metalcraft.com, that receives 50-100,000 hits per month. The shop is located beside his house at 6 Grigg Street, Deloraine. Check the Bismarck Metalcraft Facebook page for opening times.

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A vision to revive Deloraine

By Todd Wilson

THE PAST few years have proved challenging for the township of Deloraine.

Despite some wonderful annual events that fill the footpaths with thousands of visitors, the many shuttered shops spoke of an economic malaise not easily shaken nor hidden from view.

A revival, however, seems to be underway.

Several buildings on the main street of Emu Bay Road have recently been purchased and re-furnished by the Durham family, with many of the once-empty premises being quickly leased out to retail businesses.

"It was a commercial opportunity too good to miss," said Dennis Durham Senior, "which is why we purchased the Empire Arcade and the former Harris building in Deloraine."

Although the family lives on the mainland, they often come to Tasmania to stay on their property in Mole Creek.

"We have had a strong connection with the state for a long time.

One of our Australian operations supplies cast iron manhole covers, galvanised crates and frames, and pre-cast concrete pits to Tasmania. Our many visits have helped us to appreciate what is on offer here," Dennis explained with fervour.

"Our heart is in Tasmania and we want to engage with the locals and do things that help rejuvenate the community, for the community."

True to their word, the Durham Family have given over the recently re-painted Harris building to headquarter Stringfest 2015.

"When Nick Weare approached us," said Dennis, "we thought it was a fantastic idea and were only too happy to help. The building is in a great location and the perfect place for what has become known as 'Stringfest Central' - the operations hub of the event for this year.

Deloraine and the region have so much to offer. We love the river, the rainfall, the community. We always look forward to coming here", he concluded.

Electorate office opens in Deloraine

LIBERAL LYONS MHA Guy Barnett has opened an office in Deloraine.

The office is open daily

9.30am to 4pm, except Tuesdays. Appointments can also be made with Mark Shelton or Rene Hidding.

New clothing store in the valley

BEC'Z TOWN & COUNTRY Clothing is a fresh new store to Deloraine carrying labels for the ladies from sizes 8 - 22 (sourcing sizes up to 26) and a children's range.

Men don't miss out either. Wrangler and R.M. Williams are in stock.

Bec'z is looking forward to meeting people and serving their needs.

Enquiry into business growth

THE LEGISLATIVE Council has commenced an inquiry in relation to the challenges surrounding the growth of business enterprises within Tasmania.

Committee Chair, Hon Greg Hall MLC, said the

inquiry will be examining the potential for economic growth for Tasmania as a region. Submissions are welcome by 1st May.

Contact Greg Hall's office on 6362 6500 for more information.

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SPORT

Flying high at Carrick Park



Photo by Mike Moores

Sky Tower blitzes the field to take out race four and a track record at Carrick Park Pacing Club's final meeting for the season.

Driven by Paul Hill he went 1.59.1 for 2150 metres in the Vandenberg Transport Pace. The feature event, the Powell Agri-Business

Westbury Cup was won by Poker Storm, trained and driven by Adrian Duggan from Brighton. Those attending enjoyed

good weather and a full 10-race program, which featured some good pacing action. The Carrick Park commit-

tee is pleased to have run another successful season, with the highlight being the Carrick Cup meeting, which was held late January.

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