



YAY, IT'S EGGMANIA

Kids launch new park in Prospect Vale

> NEWS P3



HADSPEN HISTORIAN

Help needed to gather historical facts

> NEWS P5



A MAN OF MANY TALENTS

Steven French shares his story

> FEATURE P7

Meander Valley Gazette

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May 2017

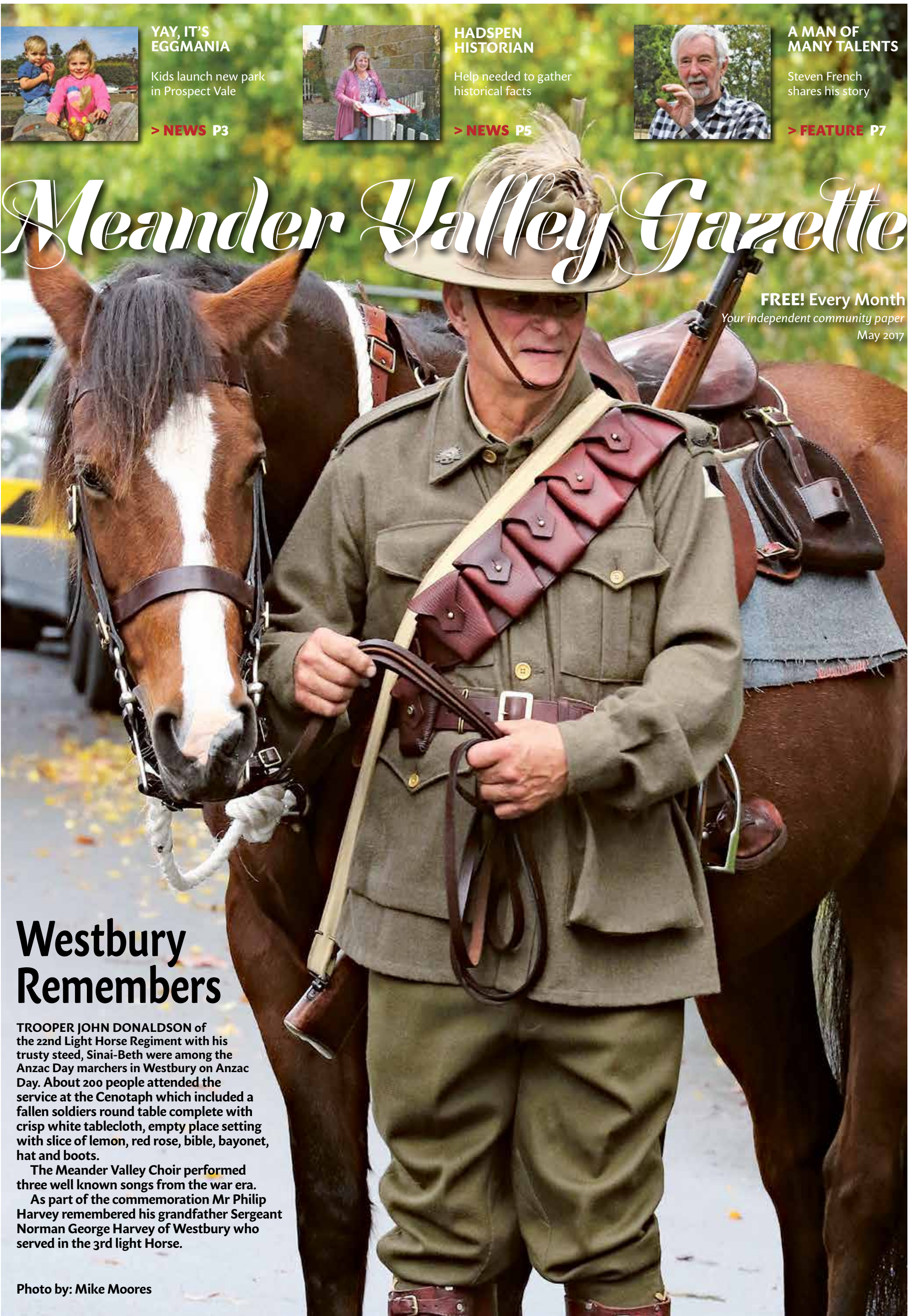
Westbury Remembers

TROOPER JOHN DONALDSON of the 22nd Light Horse Regiment with his trusty steed, Sinai-Beth were among the Anzac Day marchers in Westbury on Anzac Day. About 200 people attended the service at the Cenotaph which included a fallen soldiers round table complete with crisp white tablecloth, empty place setting with slice of lemon, red rose, bible, bayonet, hat and boots.

The Meander Valley Choir performed three well known songs from the war era.

As part of the commemoration Mr Philip Harvey remembered his grandfather Sergeant Norman George Harvey of Westbury who served in the 3rd light Horse.

Photo by: Mike Moores



In My Opinion...

By Joanne Eisemann

WINSTON CHURCHILL apparently once said, "we make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

Australia's annual Volunteer Week is from the 8th to the 14th of May and this year's theme is 'Give happy, live happy'.

If volunteering is a measure of happiness, Tasmanians must be a pretty happy bunch. According to a 2014 study done by Volunteering Tasmania, 4 out of every 5 people who live here volunteer either formally or informally. This translates to around 7.1 million hours given in Tasmania each year. They also found that volunteering is proven to have a positive effect on mental and physical health as well as being a potential pathway to employment.

In my work with volunteers I regularly see evidence of this. People brighten up with the experience of interacting or assisting others and the amount of times I have provided references for people I wouldn't care to count.

Meander Valley Gazette would not exist without the input of many volunteer hours each month. You may be aware of some from the bylines on their articles, but there are many others who work behind the scenes to help make the paper a success.

Although I don't think any of them particularly crave public acknowledgement I nevertheless would like to take this opportunity to thank those volunteers who give so much to the paper.

Distributing the paper each month is a huge task. Many thousands are folded before being delivered by contractors and Australia Post, while others are taken to shops and businesses by Carole Tracey, Victor Smith, Elizabeth Douglass, Brad Quinn, Sandra Atkins, Tony Elkin, and Maureen and Graham Hart. Then there is artwork - many hours are donated by Elizabeth Douglass, Chere Kenyon and Todd Wilson. Sub editing is carried out by Wai Lin Coultas, Antonia Howarth and Lorraine Clarke. Lots of writers have contributed over the years but currently, regular writers for MVG include David Claridge, Lorraine Clarke, Wendy Laing, Elizabeth Douglass, Nell Carr, Hayley Manning, Wai Lin Coultas, Alistair Carr and Antonia Howarth. The fabulous photos you see in the Gazette are mostly taken by Mike Moores who clocks 60+ hours with shooting and photo editing each month.

A big hearty thank you to all those people. The more the merrier, if you would like to be involved please contact me on 6286 8212 or email general@meandervalleygazette.com

Letters In...

LOTS OF public comment over the removal of the Mountain Man from the banks of the Meander

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Photo by: Mike Moores



"City Street Scape" by Ryan Kettle joined Brixhibition.

Ryan Kettle's lego reflection

DELORAINE PRIMARY gathered its lego enthusiasts together and encouraged them to create an entry for Launceston's Brixhibition

held in late April.

Ryan Kettle, of Chudleigh was selected by students as winner, representing Deloraine Primary at Brixhibition.

River in Deloraine. I say good riddance, and while they're at it, remove all the rusty bits of steel Meander Valley Council has the cheek to call sculpture, and that aluminium thing that looks like a thong. None of it has ever fitted in with the surroundings. It looks more like junk you'd find washed up on the banks of the Yarra River in Melbourne. The latest addition, another rusty piece of steel fits in (into the back of a dump truck). If MVC are hell-bent on rusty metal, replace them with an old plough disc or breaking-down saw. Something (anything) that represents the local community and its forefathers a little more aptly.

A.R. Trounson - Needles

I OBJECT wholeheartedly to Council's plan to relocate or, worse still, demolish the Mountain Man sculpture on the riverbank at Deloraine. If people don't like the look of it then don't look at it. It's slowly being hidden by the adjacent willow and with time will be further obscured.

Any spare funds that Council might have would be better spent on some overdue tile maintenance.

Difference of opinion, diversity of taste and the resultant public discussion is one of the true purposes of public art and sculpture.

Nigel Bedford, Deloraine

IT IS with disbelief that I read Mountain Man is to be removed, at a cost of \$10,000. Firstly, public works of art will always attract a range of opinions and like or dislike of a particular piece is entirely subjective.

Where is the community consultation on this decision? I regularly walk on the river trail and live in Deloraine and

the MVG front page is the first I've heard on this. There is nothing offensive or dangerous about MM so leave him where he is!

Second, this piece is possibly the only one on the river trail that actually engages the viewer - children love it.

Finally, \$10,000 can better be spent on more pressing matters, such as funding a youth worker, fixing the pathetically dismal fountain outside LINC, upgrading toilets, development of a Deloraine tourism app, the list could go on.

As a rate payer and resident I strongly object to my money being used in this way, which can only be described as pandering to a trivial matter of individual artistic taste. Keep MM here.

Lisa Bartholomew, Deloraine

THE FEBRUARY issue of this newspaper used the whole front page for the voicing of various opinions of a Deloraine community art piece and it's possible removal. Any arts project is going to polarize views. I personally find its quirkiness endearing and eccentric. When I have asked children what they think about it, they like it, and adults either do or don't or haven't even noticed it.

It will be a costly and potentially troublesome moving project as who is going to want it or not want it near them? Surely there are better ways to use ratepayers money than moving Mountain Man? It is already there and it is not going to "change the world" by staying where it is. Aren't there a lot of other things that we could improve for the Meander Valley community with the funds that will be saved by just accepting that it is what it is?

Mary-Jane Gerson

EST. 2013

Meander Valley Gazette

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For a monthly digital copy of the paper, please email general@meandervalleygazette.com

Photo by: Mike Moores



A fun place to play for Easter and the whole year round.

An exciting new playspace adjacent to Harley Parade, Prospect Vale was launched with a mega Easter egg hunt. Around 300 adults, children and dogs attended the event held on the 21st of April. Eggs were hidden in and around the nature-based play structures and, after a short speech, Mayor Craig Perkins gave the word and the hunt began. A frenzy of children eagerly seeking a delicious prize ensued. Natural elements such as timber, a carved sandstone wall, a water trough, sandpit and plants have been combined with manmade structures including a slide, giant basket swing and a hammock to create an imaginative, adventurous playspace. Constructed by Meander Valley Council, the project took a little longer than expected due to excessive wet weather last year. Pictured: Constance Law, 6, of Hadspen.

A dual investigation into recreation Study online

MEANDER VALLEY Council and the local community have started a project investigating how we share, use and view public space and recreational facilities in Deloraine and surrounding districts.

Co-funded by Bendigo Bank's Deloraine & Districts Community and Meander Valley Council, it follows work by the local sporting clubs to develop a concept for a recrea-

tional precinct to complement the Deloraine Community Complex in ways beneficial to the district, as the Meander Valley community changes in the medium to long term.

With its extensive experience across Australia in strategic planning, policy, consultation, site planning and landscape architecture for sport, recreation and open space; and with its familiar-

ity with the Meander Valley municipality through its previous projects for the Meander Valley Strategic Sport and Recreation Plan as well as for the Prospect Vale Park Management Review, Inspiring Place has been engaged to commence the study before April ends.

"This study... will assess the best way to provide recreational facilities to service our

community, and will help us answer key questions about the role of Deloraine with respect to complementary facilities in Westbury and Hadspen, about what mix of facilities the community needs and uses, and about where they should be located to maximise accessibility and if they should be consolidated, shared or developed further," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

THE UNIVERSITY of Tasmania has developed 'Pathways to Health', a series of exciting fully-online units with fee concessions to increase community awareness and skills in areas such as healthy living and social engagement.

Courses include Self-Care for Mental Health & Wellbeing, Technology for Healthy Living, and Visual Arts & Health.

To find out more, visit www.utas.edu.au/health/study.

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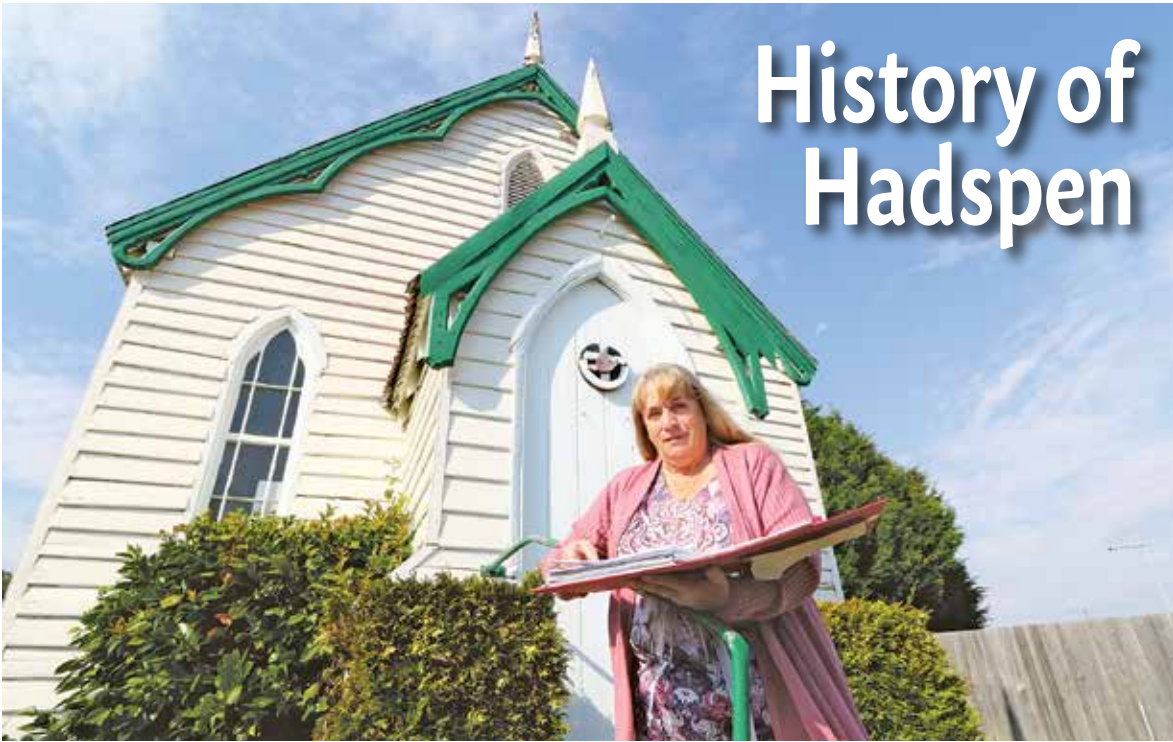
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History of Hadspen



Bev Sweetnam is calling for help with Hadspen historical information . Photo by: Mike Moores

By David Claridge

DO YOU know who the first licensee of the Red Feather Inn in Hadspen was when it originally was the Hotel?

The Hadspen Neighbourhood Watch Committee are working on a history of Hadspen book and are seeking help filling in some gaps.

"There was a history of Hadspen book produced over 50 years ago for the 100th anniversary but it was done very quickly and has many gaps with things that aren't correct, so we were asked to do a new one," explained

Bev Sweetnam, Secretary of the Hadspen Neighbourhood Watch Committee.

"There are a lot of gaps in what has been sourced about the history of Hadspen.

"One of the areas we have been focussing on is the original school - when it was built and working out the class sizes - but we haven't got a picture of the school to use.

"I've also been researching about the original inhabitants. I wanted the Aboriginal point of view to go in the book as well."

Here are some of the things the committee are looking for:

A picture of Hadspen School students in 1921 is missing names: they would like to complete the photo.

The Hadspen Hotel (now the Red Feather Inn), built in the 1880's: when did the name change to the Red Feather Inn and who was the first licensee?

The Soldiers memorial hall: who built it, what were the uses of the hall and when was it sold?

If there is anything else you remember about Hadspen history that you think might help complete the book, the Hadspen Neighbour-

hood Watch Committee are eager to hear from you. They can be contacted by emailing bev-sweetnam@bigpond.com or by calling Bev on 0408 936 448.

MEANDER VALLEY - GET INVOLVED

LOW IMPACT housing in Deloraine for the future - are you interested?

A group of local people have located a premium site in Deloraine to build strata-titled dwellings with central communal facilities.

These will be built using the most up-to-date, ecologically sustainable technologies with

a very high energy rating.

This will be to ensure minimum ongoing future costs for the householders.

If you have the energy and passion to become involved or can invest to help establish this forward thinking project, please contact 0412 294 779 or email scmanners@gmail.com.

IN THE GARDEN WITH NELL CARR



THE GENERAL opinion on bumble bees (*Bombus terrestris*) appears to be that their effect in the garden is relatively benign. Apart from the fact that they are very efficient pollinators, particularly in greenhouses, their damage to flowers with narrow tubular blooms like Sages and Fuchsias is quite devastating.

Unable to access the nectar at the base of the tube, they grasp it with their front legs and bore a hole in the base. In addition to ruining the flower, they deprive the native honey eaters of their livelihood. The Tasmanian naturalist, Jim Hunter, notes that bumble bees can still be seen feeding during cloudy weather and at dusk - times when honey bees don't venture out. So they also probably reduce the

honey harvest. They have rapidly multiplied from the few noticed in the early years of this century, and as with the European wasps, there is very little hope of ridding our garden and forest environment of this invasive pest.

In the veggie garden

Tino Carnivale was sowing beetroot and carrots on ABC's gardening programme on 22nd April, but other authorities hold that it is now too late for these, and they should be left until August.

Onions, however, may be sown from now until September. Onions take from four to six months to mature, so weeds are always a problem. Weeding can be done as the seedlings are thinned out every few weeks after germinating.



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A couple enjoying the serene surroundings of Culzean Gardens during their recent open day.

Photo by: Mike Moores

Culzean's colourful vistas

By Mandy Cassidy

VISITORS FROM throughout the state show their true colours by supporting the unique open garden of Culzean in Westbury.

Over 800 people enjoyed the autumn display with comments such as 'this garden is of a better standard than many National Trust gardens in the UK'.

Gratitude was expressed to Dinah FitzGerald and Philip Leith for their dedication to developing and progressing this garden for future generations.

Visitors on the day meandered around the lake and

through the woodland, enjoying all its autumn glory.

The day was fun, friendly and interesting with local craftspeople demonstrating their skills and wares in willow weaving, felting, spinning, garden furniture making, art and local produce.

The plant stall was a major attraction drawing many dedicated gardeners.

Thanks to the support of Westbury Rotary Club and hard work from numerous volunteers, the day was a truly special event.

All money raised was in aid of the Westbury Community Health Centre.

A million reasons to bank Bendigo

By Marguerite McNeill

DELORAINE AND Districts Community Bank Branch has passed a major milestone clocking up \$1million dollars in community contributions in its 11 years of operation - and everyone is smiling.

Community Bank chair Lynn Hayward said that the remarkable achievement was evidence of the support shown by the Meander Valley community that had thrown its support behind the locally-owned and operated branch, transferring banking business across.

She said that Meander

Valley residents, traders, business owners and community groups had all seen the benefits of local banking.

"We are extremely proud of reaching this milestone," she said.

"It reflects not only the ongoing success of our business but most importantly shows how much of a difference we have been able to make in the community."

Mrs Hayward said that Deloraine and Districts Community Bank Branch was a true community venture, which offered a full range of banking products and services

in a business model designed to strengthen the local community.

"Achieving \$1 million being returned to the community is a significant milestone. From grants to scholarships, dividends to sponsorships through the simple act of banking locally we have been able to support our community and numerous community projects.

"With plenty more hard work and the support of the community, I believe the success of Deloraine and Districts Community bank Branch can only grow," Mrs Hayward said.

\$48,000 for innovations in the veggie patch

OUR LADY of Mercy Catholic School in Deloraine is getting their Smart Garden Project funded with \$48,000 as part of a \$4 million nation-wide Digital Literacy School Grants Programme.

The programme is derived from a \$50.6 million government commitment to help Australian teachers and students embrace the digital age.

Being one of 54 schools selected from almost 1800

applications for this funding, Our Lady of Mercy and two partner schools will use the Digital Technologies curriculum to support their school vegetable gardens to produce healthy food using sustainable and

innovative veggie gardening techniques.

"It is great to see local schools engaging with cutting edge technology and ensuring our students are well-equipped for the future," Liberal Senator

for Tasmania Jonathan Duniam said.

"I am looking forward to seeing how this project helps the school build the digital skills of their students and sparks an interest in broader important fields like science, technology, engineering and mathematics."

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Photo by: Mike Moores

Launceston brothers Blade (12) and Heath (9) Stonehouse of enjoying the festival.

Combined churches fun day

DELORAINE 'FESTIVAL by the River' was well attended by families from as far afield as Launceston and across the Meander Valley.

As well as activities for children including stilt-walking, jumping castle, King of the Castle and lots

of other organised games, there were food stalls and live music.

The Festival, organised by the Deloraine Combined Christian Churches, was based on family fun and a celebration of the true meaning of Easter.

A somewhat sombre note was raised when John Phelps, Chairman of the Combined Churches Association, confirmed to the *Meander Valley Gazette* that the local Uniting Church will close its doors, due to a declining congregation.

The closing service will take place on Sunday, 7th May.

Honour's good hair day

Westbury show grounds is one of the recognised dog showing facilities around the state and hosts regular dog shows throughout each year.

On 22nd April the Western Tiers Kennel Club held a Championship Show with 332 dogs entered.

Judges travelled from Western Australia and New South Wales to judge the event and commented on the high standard of dogs on show.

Dogs are not compared to each other but are compared by judges to a breed standard which is a word depiction approved by the relevant kennel club.

Pictured is one entry

from the show, three year old Honour belonging to Tina Sloan of Launceston.

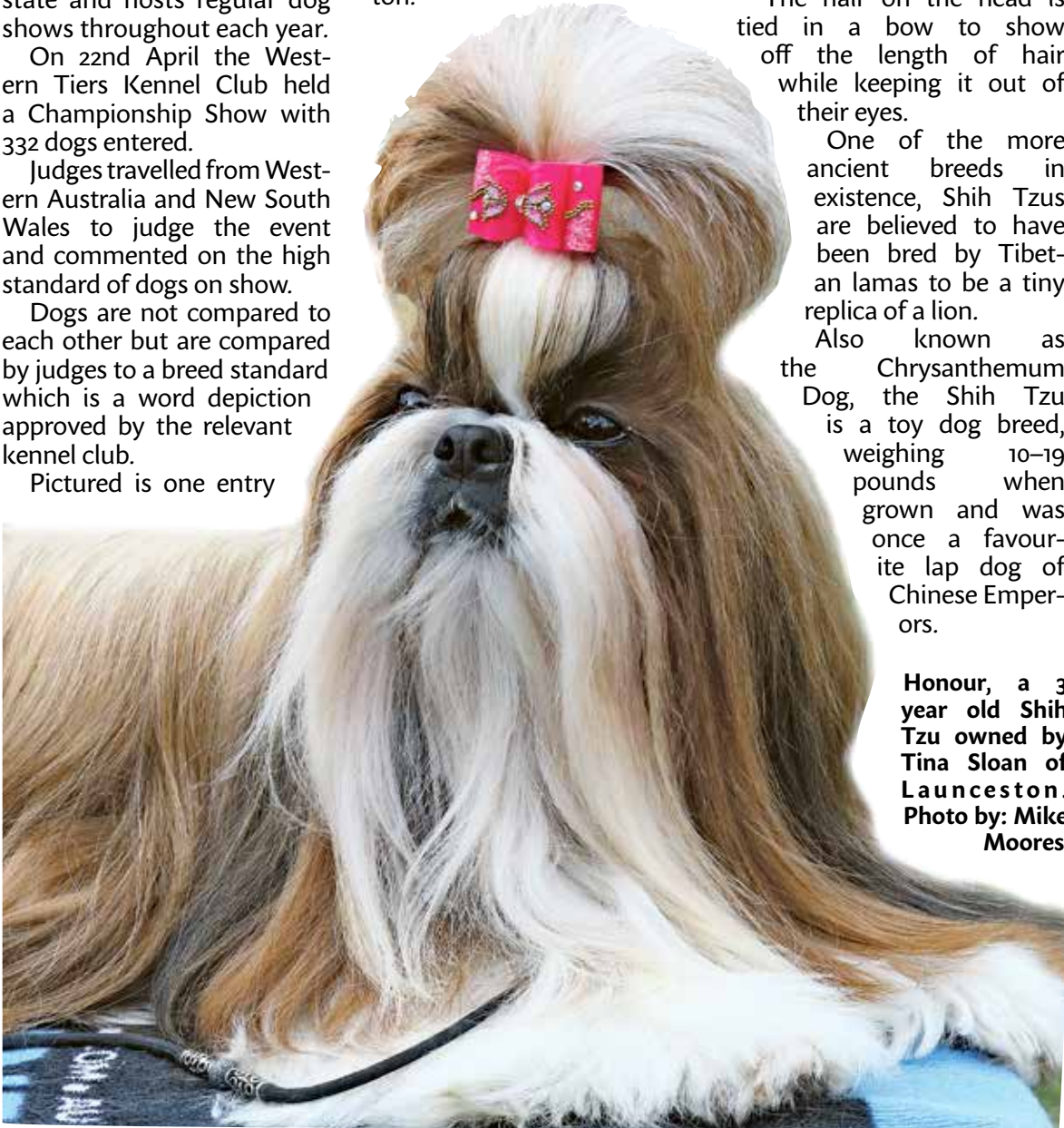
Honour is from the breed known as Shih Tzu.

The hair on the head is tied in a bow to show off the length of hair while keeping it out of their eyes.

One of the more ancient breeds in existence, Shih Tzus are believed to have been bred by Tibetan lamas to be a tiny replica of a lion.

Also known as the Chrysanthemum Dog, the Shih Tzu is a toy dog breed, weighing 10-19 pounds when grown and was once a favourite lap dog of Chinese Emperors.

Honour, a 3 year old Shih Tzu owned by Tina Sloan of Launceston.
Photo by: Mike Moores



Damage from a finger of fire

By Hayley Manning

WHEN ATHOL and Doreen Smith of Deloraine packed their caravan for another winter escape around the mainland, the last thing on their mind was safeguarding their house against a lightning strike.

Enjoying a well-earned retirement, the couple quite often went on travels so they had a set routine to prepare their home for a long absence.

But they never dreamed the novelty weather vane they had attached to their shed roof would cause them so much grief.

To play it safe, Athol has installed an earth wire from the shed roof down to a rod, sending any future lightning bolts to ground.

The half metre high weather vane, with a little airplane that flew around in the breeze, was the first point of contact for the lightning strike.

It then continued on its path of destruction looking for a way to earth out.

The holiday couple had an inkling something had happened to the power at home when a friend tried to turn on the hot water before they returned but they assumed it was simply a blown fuse.

They realised something more serious had happened when they arrived home and found they couldn't open the roller door into the shed.

The next morning, with no electricity to the house, the couple breakfasted in their caravan while they waited for an electrician.

There was a hole in the roof, the meter box was black and the hot water service element, air-compressor and bench grinder were fried.

The weather vane and its little airplane were blown to bits.

"I am still finding pieces of it around the garden," Athol said with good humour.

Understandably, Doreen was more concerned about the loss of everything in the freezer, including tubs of their home grown berries which they had been looking forward to eating.

"I had stacked the berries into the freezer - some sideways to make them fit - so we came home to find the entire kitchen

floor covered in melted juice," she said.

Athol and Doreen know the exact time lightning struck because it also hit a nearby Roberts store, setting off alarms and shutting down the landline phones and fax machine.

The weather vane and its little airplane were blown to bits.

To play it safe, Athol has installed an earth wire from the shed roof down to a rod, sending any future lightning bolts to ground.

This is a wise move, according to Doug Franklin of Thompson Lightning Protection, who says:

"If your home has been hit before, you could be at risk".

Mance Electrical suggests unplugging all your sensitive electronic equipment such as a computer, stereo, microwave, television, and washing machine in the event of a lightning storm.

The weather bureau recommends closing all doors and windows and staying indoors, if at all possible.

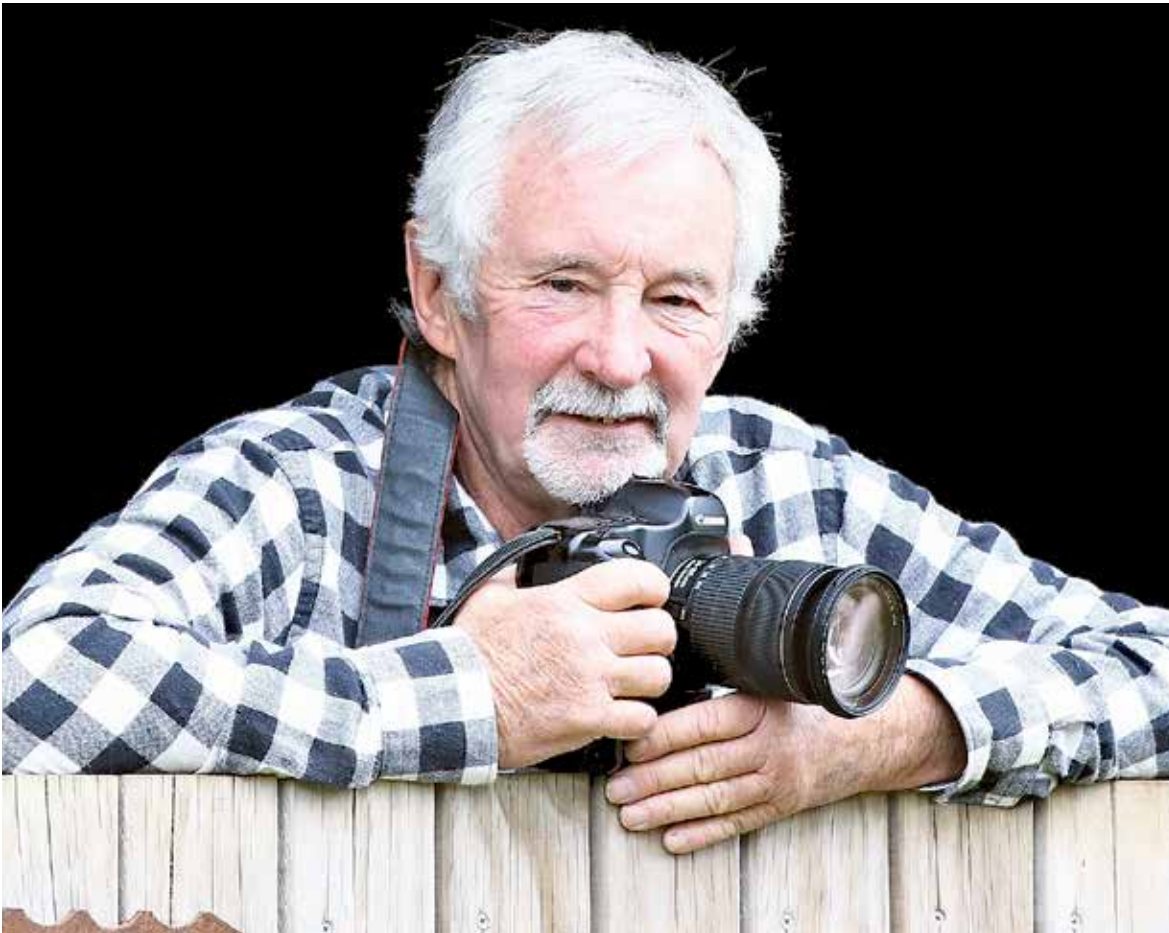
Athol said he would like to warn homeowners to think twice about attaching any objects to their roof and he also urges people to check their home insurance policies.

"Some insurance providers won't process a claim if the property has been unoccupied for longer than sixty days," he said.

And you never know when lightning will strike!



Lightning strike. Attribution licence: Creative Commons 2.0 Generic (CC BY 2.0) Photo by: John Fowler.



Steven French, of Whitmore, is a photographer, author and editor.

Photos by: Mike Moores

The French connection

By Joanne Eisemann

AS AN accomplished photographer, journalist, author and editor, there is not much Steven French doesn't know about publishing in Tasmania.

Steven grew up and still lives in Whitmore, where his family has history dating back to 1865. His 7th generation Tasmanian grandchildren live next door.

Taking up photography in his early teens, neighbours soon began asking him to take pictures of their stud animals.

"At one stage, Whitmore had the highest concentration of stud livestock of anywhere in the world," Steven comments.

The Mercury bought *Tas Country* and didn't have a photographer position for Steven so offered him a job as a journalist. With no formal journalism training Steven taught himself on the job. "I did a few creative writing courses and things like that, but if you don't learn pretty quick when someone has edited your work you are not going to make it. I also used to analyse how other people had written stories."

Three years later he and his wife Ellen opened Reflections Photographic Studio in Launceston where they employed nine people. It was the states largest wedding/portrait studio that ran for

wrote many of the stories and shot the photographs used in the publication. "I think its every photographer or journalists fancy to have a magazine," says Steven of the acquisition. The magazine employed a graphic designer and a sales person.

Since then Steven has edited and worked for a number of Tasmanian magazines and began writing books. "I finished up editing *Tasmanian Plus*. I was writing and photographing 2/3's of it I suppose. Then I was getting close to retirement so I gave it up. In the meantime I'd written a book called *Hand Made in Tasmania* that was on the state's best seller list for quite some time. It went really well."

Now retired, his life has changed focus with time being spent renovating the house, teaching their Irish donkey, Missy to pull a cart, breeding Ryelands sheep and using bull-ocks to do some of the work around the farm. "I'm a great fan of farming using the old methods," explains Steven.

But he hasn't completely left photography and writing behind - editing, writing and photographing *Sheep Australia* magazine twice per year as well as working on various other books, stories and pictures.

Who is the most famous person he has photographed? "I photographed the Queen, she came to Launceston show, I was covering it for *Tas Country*. She was very cooperative while I was running around in front of her with a camera. Now there would be minders all over you. I didn't even have a press pass at that time."



Steven French photographs his Irish Donkey, Missy.

From there he started taking pictures for *Stock and Land* and the *Weekly Times*. Then someone asked him to photograph their wedding, "It all got a bit out of hand," shares Steven.

Not long after rural newspaper *Tas Country* began. The editor asked Steven to take some photographs. "My captions kept on getting bigger and bigger...I was full time within 6 months," explains Steven.

many years with Steven continuing to be a photojournalist on the side.

The studio closed when Gateway, the then Northern Tasmanian Tourism body offered him a job as marketing manager which he accepted, later being appointed general manager.

The purchase of magazine *Tasmanian Life* started his career as an editor. Steven

Amalgamation?

MEANDER VALLEY Councillor Andrew Connor is concerned that the recently signed Launceston City Deal ignores the needs of significant parts of the Launceston Urban Area because they are under different Local Governments.

The Launceston City Deal is a five-year plan which intends to position Launceston as one of Australia's most liveable and innovative regional cities.

Councillor Connor says that Meander Valley and West Tamar Councils have hardly

been consulted on this Deal. Cr Connor said his calls "to the relevant State and Federal ministers seeking more input on the City Deal process... were not returned."

"An amalgamation of Meander Valley and West Tamar's urban areas into a Greater Launceston Council or Tamar Valley Council would ensure... the needs of all residents are considered in future negotiations... Not just those of the City of Launceston."

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- The proposal comprises of installing
 - 6 panel antennas (each no longer than 2.8 metres in length) and 12 x Remote Radio Units (RRUs) upon the existing tower.
 - 2 x 1200mm in diameter parabolic dishes.
 - Installing ancillary equipment associated with operation of the facility, which may include but not limited to: combiners and/or filters and/or mast head amplifiers and associated cabling.
 - Installing an Equipment Shelter/Outdoor Unit at ground level.
- Optus regards the proposed installation as a Low-impact Facility under the Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 1997 ("The Determination") based on the description above.
- Further information can be obtained from Clinton Northey of Metasite (03) 98045324, clinton.northey@metasite.com.au and at www.rfnsa.com.au referring to the RFNSA reference number above.
- Written submissions should be sent to: Metasite, Level 5, 3 Bowen Crescent, Melbourne, 3004 by 19th May 2017.

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

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 e: mark.shelton@parliament.tas.gov.au



Tasmanian Liberals
 Authorised by Mark Shelton, Parliament House, Hobart, TAS 7000

VALLEY VIEWS



Mayor's Message

Above: Mayor Craig Perkins at the Anzac Day Service held in Deloraine.

Last month I was honoured to make the introductory address at the Anzac Day Service held at Deloraine.

I was prompted to reflect upon the mateship, respect, tolerance and teamwork that would have existed in the trenches. A reliance on these traits would have ensured survival in times of unimaginable hardship.

Over the last century, more than 100,000 Australians have put service before self. We remember those who never returned and we remember those who did, carrying the burden of war with them forever.

This was the price of our freedom. We owe it to these Australians to continue to foster mateship, respect, tolerance and teamwork within our community.

The strong attendance at Anzac Day Services across the municipality demonstrates that we as a community continue to collectively express our gratitude and thanks for those who fought and continue to fight for our freedoms.

Graeme Davis OAM also spoke at the service, reminding us of the meaning of patriotism and of those we lost from our community. Thank you for your contribution to such a moving service.

As the school holidays come to a close, I hope all of you managed to take some time out during the Easter break. I was fortunate to be surrounded by hundreds of excited children and chocolate eggs at the much anticipated Chicken and Egg Scramble that marked the opening of the new nature-based playspace at Prospect Vale Park.

What a wonderful turnout! It was amazing to see so many children interacting with the new space which was expertly designed to encourage self-directed and inquisitive play in what is Council's first all-inclusive playspace.

Once again, Agfest is upon us, so be sure to call into Council's stand and introduce yourself. We will be in the Trades Expo on CWA Grove. With so many visitors from outside the municipality in attendance, it is a great opportunity for us to promote our wonderful region.

It should be a great day out for all the family and I am sure I am not alone in hoping for good weather throughout the event.

Finally, with winter fast approaching and the daylight hours in decline, remember to stay safe on the roads and always drive to the conditions.

Mayor, Craig Perkins

Street light rollout underway

If you've noticed that something is different recently, you would be right!

Street lights throughout the municipality are currently being replaced with LEDs.

In what is the largest energy efficiency project of its kind in the State, six Northern Tasmanian councils have collaborated on the Northern Lights project which will see approximately 9,100 LED street lights installed across six municipal areas.

City of Launceston, Meander Valley, George Town, Break O'Day, Northern Midlands and West Tamar Councils have engaged TasNetworks to manage the project with crews from ETS Electrical Services.

The LED street light conversion will improve energy efficiency by more than 82%. This reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is equivalent to removing 172 cars from the road every year, for the next 20 years.

In Meander Valley, a total of 1104 outdated, 80 watt street lights will be replaced with 14 watt energy efficient LED's.

Each conversion takes less than five minutes per light and the new lights are specifically designed to produce a similar light output to those they have replaced.

For updates on the progress of the rollout visit www.northernlightstas.com.au



Working for Meander Valley

- Westbury Road - Bradford Avenue**
Footpath upgrades completed
- Damper Creek - Montana Road**
Safety improvements to southern approach of bridge
- Mole Creek Transfer Station**
The installation of new galvanised safety rails with gates at each bin has been completed
- Harley Parade, Prospect Vale**
Completion of the new all inclusive playground
- Panorama Road, Blackstone Heights**
Footpath and drainage works completed

Focus on community safety at Chudleigh

The Meander Valley Community Safety Group meets quarterly to progress safety initiatives on wide range of topics. In attendance are representatives from the Police, the Health Service, the Red Cross, Council and the community.

Community members are warmly invited to come along and share thoughts on local safety issues.

The next meeting will be held at the Chudleigh Memorial Hall on Thursday 25 May from 7pm- 8.30pm.

Residents of Chudleigh and Dairy Plains are particularly welcome. For further information contact patrick.gambles@mvc.tas.gov.au or phone 6393 5334

Medical students receive a warm welcome

Meander Valley was delighted to welcome five medical students from the University of Tasmania who arrived in Westbury from Hobart on 3 April.

Mayor Craig Perkins, Community Development Manager, Patrick Gambles and Community Officer Vicki Jordan welcomed the group and took the opportunity to outline Council's commitment to the health and wellbeing of the Meander Valley community.

"It's imperative that medical students gain an insight into the challenges of delivering community health services in rural areas. Understanding the importance of partnerships with local health providers and the strength of community support networks is a valuable addition to formal education for these students," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

The students, currently undertaking their second year of study were in Meander Valley for a week long placement.

Working hard to keep us safe



Whether you are enjoying a tasty snack at Agfest or a paddle on the banks of the local river, spare a thought for Council's Environmental Health Officers.

They perform hundreds of checks and inspections at public facilities, local food

businesses and private residences.

At an event such as Agfest, they will be kept busy performing over 115 food stall inspections across the three days.

Officers will be ensuring that businesses are compliant with the Guidelines of the Mobile Food Businesses and Food Safety Standards.

These Guidelines are applicable statewide and set minimum standards for the storage, preparation, cooking and serving of food.

It is a very diverse role, of which food safety is just one aspect.

Routine inspections are undertaken throughout the year across the entire municipality and cover areas such as wastewater, plumbing, air pollution and disease control.

"As their title suggests, our Environmental Health Officers perform checks and undertake duties across many sectors. Their role is vital when it comes to protecting public health". Mayor Craig Perkins said.



Each year, National Reconciliation Week celebrates achievements in our Nation's journey towards reconciliation and invites all Australians to be a part of the next big steps.

In 2017, we reflect on two significant milestones: 50 years since the 1967 referendum, and 25 years since the Mabo High Court decision. Local councils have a leadership role in the reconciliation space,

working continually for social cohesion and equity in our communities.

Tasmania is currently the only Australian State without a state reconciliation body and planning is now underway for the establishment of a Reconciliation Council of Tasmania (RCT). A key part of this preparatory work is the identification of all Tasmanians with an interest in reconciliation of all Tasmanians, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

Councils State-wide have been asked to promote and host an 'Expression of Interest Register' during Reconciliation Week.

Meander Valley Council has agreed to assist in this way.

The Expression of Interest Register will be available for ratepayers and residents to sign at Council Offices, Westbury, from Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June during business hours.

Signing the Register will not commit anyone to anything other than an interest to receive information about the RCT and its upcoming launch.

Further details can be obtained from Reconciliation Australia board member, Bill Lawson at wlawson@gmail.com



Double lines and cycle safety

The Meander Valley is a great area for riding a bike, whether as a day rider or travelling through on a tour.

Bike riding keeps people fit and brings economic benefit to our towns.

Malcolm Cowan from the Tamar Bicycle Users Group (TBUG) says that drivers in the Meander Valley are generally respectful of the rights of bike riders to be on the road and usually give them the space they need when overtaking.

TBUG encourages riders to wear bright clothing and

turn on lights during the day on country roads to improve visibility and give drivers better warning of bike riders ahead.

"Sometimes drivers tend to squeeze riders unnecessarily to avoid crossing double lines. I would like to remind drivers that they are allowed by law, to cross double lines when safe to do so in order to overtake cyclists." Malcolm said.

TBUG welcomes all new riders. Visit www.tbug.org.au and sign up for a newsletter and ride information or like them on Facebook where they post ride notices.



Making the most of opportunities

Council will be running an information session to assist people in applying for Council Community Grants.

Interested applicants are warmly invited to attend a Grants Information Session on Wednesday 24 May at Council Chambers, 26 Lyall Street, Westbury from 7pm-8.15pm.

This will be an opportunity to discuss your project ideas and learn about what makes a good application.

First-time applicants are particularly encouraged to attend. Please register by calling 6393 5300.



Call for people with knowledge to share

Meander Valley U3A is a learning organisation for retired and semi-retired people.

We are always looking for new activities and new members. If you have a passion or interest you'd like to share, please consider coordinating a group. You don't need to be an expert - just be prepared to organise and share the load with others who are interested.

We can help provide you with resources. Presently, we would love someone to coordinate a Brain Games

group. We have a wonderful leader's resource called the Brain Games Project. This is a topical subject with many different aspects and there is a lot of helpful information and resources available.

We already have one very successful lunch group, so how about considering starting another one?

At U3A we share the outcomes of many very diverse activities such as cooking, bushwalking and gardening.

Activities require coordination, research and common sense approaches to learning. If you are interested, you can check us out on www.mvu3a.org or phone Richard Mack on 0411 244 103 to talk about the possibilities and opportunities!



Meander Valley Council extends its warmest thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who help to make Meander Valley such a vibrant and connected community.

If you wish to recognise a particular individual then please nominate them for an Australia Day or Volunteer Award. Nomination forms are available at www.meander.tas.gov.au



General Enquiries
 Phone 6393 5300
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 Email mail@mvc.tas.gov.au

Customer Service Office
 Monday - Friday 8.30am - 5pm
 26 Lyall Street Westbury Tasmania 7303

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www.meander.tas.gov.au

Meander Valley Council
 BOUNDING TOGETHER



Unleash your artistic talent by signing up for the fire drum competition at this year's Winterfire. Photo by: Mike Moores

Fire drum comp for Winterfire '17

By Jacqui Stacey

15TH JULY 2017's night of WinterFire fire, fun, food, and entertainment has an exciting new event lined up: a fire drum competition!

Arts Deloraine and the WinterFire committee are calling for submissions of unique artistic creations that will also help keep people warm on the night.

Use a half drum, one drum or several drums to make a functional creation. Perhaps a

fire eating dragon, a TV set, a model fire engine, or whatever ignites the imagination.

Google 'Killarney bonfire night' for a wealth of ideas.

Entries attract a fee of \$10.00 and close on 7th July. The winner walks away with the total fee pool.

Pick up an entry form from the fire drum display at the Bendigo Bank. Or you can email artsdeloraine@gmail.com or call Estelle on 0412 659 070.

No imitations, originals only

By Antonia Howarth

THE 18TH Originals Only Night presented singers, instrumentalists, writers and actors from as far afield as Hobart and the East Coast to Sheffield, Launceston and Deloraine.

Delightfully introduced by Catzen Smith and presented by the Deloraine Dramatic

Society, the small but growing audience listened to a variety of presentations with an interesting light supper to break the presentations.

Kim Imber provided some interesting string and songs, Rusty Nails gave us blues, there was some quirky poetry, and Jesse McCormack sought crowd funding for his new CD.

The highlight for the evening, however, was Black Amps with a foursome on strings eliciting gypsy themes which was definitely in the folk genre and energetic and well-coordinated.

This is a biannual event. Anyone wishing to participate in the future could contact Suz Haywood on 0409 695 200.

Organ donation to Parkham

By Wendy Laing

IN THE FEBRUARY edition of *Meander Valley Gazette*, Ms Jan Blakeney offered to donate her Technics electronic organ to a worthy cause.

Mr Ron Aylett contacted her and told her how the Parkham Community Hall Committee was planning the rejuvenation of the hall and church at Parkham.

Mrs Blakeney donated the organ to the group and it was collected and transported to Parkham early in March.

Parkham is 25 kilometres from Deloraine and the turnoff is near the Elizabeth Town Service Station. It is known for its proud and colourful historical association

with Matthew Brady, the 'gentleman bushranger'.

Parkham hamlet declined as farms became bigger. After losing the school, post office and store, cricket ground and racecourse, the people of Parkham decided that was enough.

The community purchased St Alban's Church and hall and are working hard to make the hall once again the social heart of the community.

They are planning monthly activities and fundraisers into the future and the organ has been a welcome contribution to the town.

On Saturday, 13th May, 2017, the Parkham hall will be holding an evening of country rock, rock n' roll and old

time music. Local entertainer Wayne Lunson will host.

Facilities are also for hire and more information can be obtained by visiting 'Parkham Community Inc.' on Facebook, or email parkham.community@gmail.com.



MEANDER VALLEY Arts Society (MVAS) is marking its first decade of operation with a 10-year retrospective exhibition of members' work, to be held at the Deloraine Creative Studios from 6th to 31st May.

MVAS cordially invites the public to the exhibition opening, to be held at the Studios at 2.00pm on Saturday 6th May.

A different approach to art

BIRRALEE resident Susannah Curtis is offering after school art classes at the Old School House behind the Holy Trinity Church in Westbury.

"I wanted to carry on with my Art practice and focus on teaching Art and decided that after school classes was the best fit for me. Westbury was a good option to base the classes as it is close to where I live and where my children attend school," shares Susannah

This past term the students have mostly been of primary

age but in second term a class for high school students will also be on offer.

A trained art teacher, Susannah is keen to offer students more mediums and experiences than the regular school curriculum is able to provide.

"Kids this age are into realism. They think if they cannot reproduce something exactly as it looks then they are no good. I want to teach them more about the creative process. They work on abstract pieces so they can see that

a piece can be layered and try out new mediums. They have also been working on self portraits."

Interest has stemmed from as far away as Lilydale and suits both home schooled and department of education students.

Classes are held on Monday's and Wednesday's after school and bookings are essential.

Contact Susannah for more information on 0402 685 122 or email curtissusannah@gmail.com.



L to R: Noah Curtis, 12, Suzannah Curtis, Teacher, and Alfie Curtis, 9, of Birralee.

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Labor

By Lorraine Clarke

DELORAINÉ'S Rotary Pavilion, which once resounded to the thwack of indoor cricket balls, was abuzz on 20th April with the latest displays of Spatial Technology applied to farming gadgetry at the Precision Agriculture Expo.

Crowds of farmers intent on moving their operations into the space age by trading time-consuming graft for phoning it in, flocked to the many stalls showcasing technologies being developed to assist rural enterprises.

Poppy growers attended sessions addressing their industry outlook.

The Bureau of Meteorology's MetEye program successfully predicted rain within the following days.

Gleaming ranks of tractors and implements attracted admiring farmers and small boys. Live machinery demonstrations in the paddock showcased their capabilities.

Livestock monitoring devices and virtual fences promise to optimise detection and management of issues as herd sizes increase.

GPS-guided drones can be used to identify early problems in growing crops, mapping large fields and creating 3-D models of forests and land degradation areas.

Robots were featured as a means of reducing the costs of manual labour, machinery and fuel required to weed and fertilise row crops.

An exciting display of this technology was presented by RMCG Agricultural Consulting, a firm based in Tasmania and Victoria. The 250 kg robot



Justin Clarke from University of Sydney puts RIPPA the weed eater through its paces.

Photo by: Mike Moores

'RIPPA' (Robot for Intelligent Perception and Precision Application) was let loose in a field of recently-planted lettuce and brassica seedlings.

It spent a little time familiarising itself with the appearance and spacing of the crop varieties. In fact, it learns to identify the crop varieties at successive stages of growth.

RIPPA then autonomously followed the rows, propelled by solar powered batteries, recognising all extraneous objects and weeds. A mechanical weeding arm

scratched out or buried any weeds found. Foreign bodies were located and sucked up. A soil probe tested moisture, temperature and electrical conductivity levels. Data from these tests could then be fed back real-time.

Australian horticulture suffers from very high labour costs. Spatial technology can improve production efficiency via automation of many of these tasks.

Carl Larsen, Senior Consultant with RMCG explained, "RIPPA is essentially an iPad

on wheels. We can plug any function into it. It was developed 18 months ago as a University of Sydney project, and is in mid-development stage now. We are getting the prototype onto farms from Queensland to Tasmania for 5 years of testing. Economic analysis will be done to assess the costs and benefits to farmers. Early pest detection is the next stage of the project."

RIPPA can tow a 300 kg trailer, enabling the on-board system to apply precision

amounts of fertiliser or herbicide. Considerable savings in chemicals are made with these strategic applications compared to applying them on field scale by a conventional tractor.

The light weight of the robot means less soil compaction. RIPPA is the ultimate uncomplaining self-starter, working on full solar operation 24/7.

RIPPA will be in action again at Agfest. Carl Larsen can be reached at 0419 622 393.



L to R: Student doctors, Wei Han Ong (kneeling), Patrick Chung, Sitra Yusuf, Eve Taylor and Zanetta Jodlowska give Mayor Perkins a check-up. Photo by: Mike Moores

Mayor's health in good hands

By Elizabeth Douglass

FOR A week in April, the Meander Valley hosted five second-year medical students from UTAS.

Meander Valley Council and Westbury Community Health Centre, as well as many other health and welfare organisations throughout the valley, introduced the students to the realities of rural medical practice.

The five students may come from different backgrounds but they all chose to study at UTAS in Tasmania because of the University's emphasis on rural medical practice and access to rural communities.

From Somerset on the north coast, Eve Taylor has grown up with first-hand experience of medical practices outside large cities.

Zanetta Jodlowska also has personal knowledge of the medical facilities available in rural Tasmania, as her mother's family hail from Bruny Island.

Sitra Yusuf, is from Melbourne and has chosen UTAS precisely because she wishes to focus on rural and refugee health. She expects that her studies and practical experience here in Tasmania will further her goals.

Patrick Chung is Hobart born and raised, and also sees a likely future in rural medical practice, either in Tasmania or elsewhere.

Wei Han Ong is from Singapore but readily acknowledges that his home is not the easiest place in which to experience rural medical practice, so he has chosen Tasmania precisely because of the emphasis on rural health.

All five students are aware of the numerous career opportunities in rural medical practice outside large cities. They are also well aware of the philanthropic rewards to be gained from working in remote or under-resourced areas.

A week in the Valley was well spent, for their future and ours.

Cleanliness is next to dogliness

By Wendy Laing

TYA GAYLOR, the owner of K-Nine Mobile Dog Grooming has always loved working with dogs.

She helped her aunt groom dogs for a few years and has had 28 years' training, showing and breeding Labradors.

The decision to become a mobile professional dog groomer was made because Tya felt it would give her more time to spend with her young family.

Tya bought a completely fitted out van from the mainland and said that although she has only been in busi-

ness for two months, she has been gaining new clients every week.

From large Burmese Mountain dogs to small terriers, they all enjoy their grooming sessions. "I can even groom goats if anyone would like that," she said.

Rescue dogs, Tya said, can be very timid, but with gentle treatment they enjoy their grooming.

Apart from the hydro bath, the animals are dried using both towels and a portable dryer.

The dog's ears are cleaned

out and Tya also does clips and cuts nails. All the dogs receive a conditioning spray when the grooming is finished.

K-Nine Mobile Dog Grooming has a Facebook page where Tya displays before and after photos of dogs she has groomed.

Tya is prepared to travel as far as Penguin to the west and Deloraine to the east, depending on bookings.

To make a booking, phone 0400 577 130 or she can be contacted by email at scottandtya@activ8.net.au.



Tya Gaylor giving Bonnie the finishing touches after her bath.

Photo by: Mike Moores

New path to natural wonder

By Antonia Howarth

THE DEVELOPMENT of a new viewing platform at Devil's Gullet is well underway.

Its repositioning, and the construction of a lengthened walkway from the carpark to the platform, has been in the planning phase for many months.

National Parks and Wildlife have released a Reserve Activity Assessment for public input and consideration. It includes a drawing of the proposed platform and a map showing its repositioning and new access.

Residents will recall the bushfires of January 2016 which burned out large areas of land surrounding

Lake Mackenzie and the haze and smoke pall which hung over the valley for weeks.

Large swathes of bush were diminished in the area but it wasn't until June of 2016 that floods destroyed the track and sections of the carpark making all access impossible, hence it was closed to the public.

The current plans are the result of lengthy negotiations for a new platform to be established 50m to the east of the old one, adding the advantage of enhanced views to the east through to Lake Mackenzie, to the west with its stunning rock formations, as well as amazing views to the south and to the long valley below.

The new structure requires

50-60m of extra walking track to the platform and some improvements to sections of the carpark.

Residents and visitors will be looking forward to the re-opening of this stunning site, as it is as one of the region's local landmark attractions.

While there is no re-opening date set as yet, it is exciting to learn that this project has been actioned for completion.



Devil's Gullet - old viewing platform. Photo by: Dan Fellow

Find help Tas After hours?

AN ONLINE database is now available called findhelptas.com.au and it lists services in a variety of categories such as addiction support, crisis and emergency support, resources for children, young people and older Tasmanians, relationship support, health and housing services. It's designed for everyone to easily access the information. Go to www.findhelptas.com.au for more information.

WHO DO I call after hours? Primary Health Tasmania has just launched a new education and awareness campaign to guide Tasmanians to the best options for after-hours medical care.

If you need care at night, over the weekend or on a public holiday you can call Tas After Hours on 1800 022 222 and speak to a registered nurse. The telephone service is free.

Hon Rene Hidding MP
Liberal Member for Lyons

Always Available

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rene.hidding@dpac.tas.gov.au [rene.hiddingmp](https://www.facebook.com/renehiddingmp)

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artsdeloraine@gmail.com
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Doll, Bear, Miniature & Craft Fair



Country Club Tasmania
Saturday 27th May 2017
9.00am to 4.00pm

Admission: \$5.00.
Kids under 16 go free.

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Meander Valley Online (Inc) actively supports the Meander Valley community by providing:

- 2 online Centres for internet & training in Deloraine and Mole Creek
- the publishing of *Meander Valley Gazette*
- the sponsoring of this paper's Community Directory
- Technical IT Support valley-wide for home & small business



Established January 1998

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- Modern facilities

Phone: 6363 2030
48 Pioneer Drive,
Mole Creek TAS 7304

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
Thursday 4th - 6th May 8.00am - 5.00pm	Agfest	Quercus Rural Youth Park 415 Oaks Road, Carrick
Saturday 6th May 9.00am - 1.00pm	Deloraine Showground Market	Deloraine Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Road, Deloraine More info Ph: 03 6369 5321 or 0409 695 321
Saturday 6th May 2.00pm	MV Arts Society Exhibition opening	Deloraine Creative Studios, Emu Bay Road Members 10-year retrospective from 6th to 30th May
Monday 8th May 12.00pm - 2.00pm	Deloraine Writers Group meeting	Deloraine House, 112 Emy Bay Road, Deloraine Bring lunch, drink and something to read to the group
Friday 12th May 12.00pm - 2.00pm	Community Lunch (Free)	Rotary Pavillion, Alverston Drive, Deloraine. 2 course buffet, cake Limited places To book Ph: 6362 2678
Saturday 13th May 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society - "Far from Men"	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd. Deloraine westerntiersfilmsociety@gmail.com 0418 389 868
Saturday 13th May	Country Rock, Rock'n'Roll & Old Time Dance	Parkham Hall Host: Wayne Lunson
Saturday 13th May 10.30am - 11.30am	AusKick	Westbury Football Oval
Saturday 13th May 9.00am - 1.00pm	Liffey Market	Old Liffey School, 1443 Liffey Road, Liffey more info Ph: 6397 3670 quentonhiggs@gmail.com
Monday 15th May 7.30pm	Westbury Garden Club AGM	Westbury Fire Station meeting room, William Street, Westbury All welcome
Monday 15th May 10.00am - 2.00pm	Thai Cooking Class	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Road \$15.00 includes 2 course lunch Bookings essential Ph: 6362 2678
Tuesday 16th May 2.00pm - 3.00pm	Getting Smart with Smartphones	Deloraine Online Centre Booking recommended, drop ins welcome call Anne-Marie: 0417 120 671
Saturday 20th May 9.00am	Freshman's Show Jumping Day	Westbury Showground www.westburyshow.com.au Elizabeth Richards Ph: 0407 807876
Saturday 20th May 9.00am - 1.00pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drive and Caveside Road More info Ph: Ross Quick 0413 681 252
Saturday 20th May 8.00am - 1.00pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Hall, 11 Lonsdale Promenade Westbury Ph: 0417 931 619
Wednesday 24th May 10.30am for 11.00am	National Simultaneous Storytime	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd Ph 6362 2678 to register to receive free book. Parents/carers must attend
Saturday 27th May 9.00am - 4.00pm	Doll, Bear, Miniature & Craft Fair	Country Club Tasmania, Prospect Vale \$5.00 Adults, kids U16 free
Saturday 3rd June 10.30am - 11.30am	AusKick	Westbury Football Oval
Tuesday 6th June 11.00am	Soup & Sandwich Luncheon Fundraiser	Bracknell Baptist Church Hall \$5.00 Aid Leukemia Foundation. Raffle, door prizes Enq: Robyn on 6397 3174.
Saturday 10th June 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society - "Sing Street"	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd. Deloraine westerntiersfilmsociety@gmail.com Ph: 0418 389 868
Tuesday 20th June 2.00pm - 3.00pm	Getting Smart with Smartphones	Deloraine Online Centre Booking recommended, drop ins welcome call Anne-Marie: 0417 120 671
Every Tuesday 10.00am - 12.00pm	Hadspen Playgroup (during School Terms)	Uniting Church Community Centre, cnr Claire & Main Sts Hadspen Call Anna on 0423 939 304 for info
Every Wednesday 7.30pm - 9.00pm	Meander Valley Choir practise	Westbury Uniting Church Contact Helen Walker 0418 538 422 or Susan Haas 0409 932 790 for more info
Every Wed fortnight 7.30pm - 9.00pm	Prospect Youth Group 12-16 yrs - \$3.00	Community Centre, Primary School, Stanley St, Prospect Ph: Vicki Jordan 0400 155 690
Every Wednesday	Community Garden - Westbury	For information Phone Fiona Thowe on 6701 2154
Every 3rd Wednesday of month 6.30pm	Game On - Social games night	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine \$5.00 includes supper Ph: 6362 2678 to book
1st Thursday of each month	Tiers Tryers - Deloraine (Carers Tasmania)	A support group for anyone caring for another person Ph: 6368 1188 Gerald Richards or Julie 1800 242 636
Every Friday 3.00pm - 4.00pm	Relaxation Tai Chi with Jenny \$1.00	Western Tiers Community Centre, Parsonage Street Deloraine Ph: Barry 6362 2243

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Southern Raiders

THE SOUTHERN Raiders Soccer Club are very positive going into the new season after their ten teams performed well in the recent seeding rounds.

Reporter David Claridge spoke to Southern Raiders President, Al Cutler, about the build up to the season for the Prospect based soccer club.

David: Could you please tell me how the Southern Raiders season is going so far?

Al: We are only in seeding rounds at the moment where it is confirmed that teams are playing in the correct divisions. All our teams have performed very well, with some great skills, teamwork and sportsmanship shown.

David: How many teams are there altogether?

Al: We have 10 teams competing in the Northern Tasmania Junior Soccer Association (NTJSA) competition.

David: How have the teams prepared for this season?

Al: We start training as soon as we get access to our training grounds, as the grounds are shared with other users

of Prospect Vale Park. Some coaches even locate other venues to get the kids started a bit earlier.

David: Are all of your players from the local area?

Al: Most players are from the local area, but we do have some players who come to play at our club from other areas around the greater northern region for different reasons, eg coaches, friends playing at our club.

David: Is there anything else you would like to add?

Al: We are a smaller club, which brings the benefits often seen in smaller communities, including inclusiveness, support for each other, lots of volunteers and a focus on all the children enjoying themselves in a safe and friendly environment. We have a large, helpful, friendly and player focussed committee. We are inclusive and aim to give all children access to soccer and playing a team sport in a supportive environment.

Editor: The Northern Tasmania Junior Soccer League got underway just prior to this story being published.

Taking on the last taboo

ALMOST EVERYONE has been impacted by the 'ripple effect' of somebody else's ultimate choice, to end their own life when it seems to be a better option than the pain, the strain, the depression or whatever it is that overwhelms them.

This is a profound issue throughout rural Australia, one which is being addressed by Rural Alive and Well Tasmania Inc.

Online submissions are being sought to enable a better understanding of the problems causing these tragedies on our farms and in our towns.

Turning turn back the tide of suicide in rural communities requires knowing what people are thinking.

But it begins with people signing up for the survey.

Log on to www.rippleeffect.com.au to tell your story, hear other's stories, and to participate in a brief anonymous survey.

So far 9,000 people have had their say, of which only 50 have been Tasmanians.

Our voice needs to be heard. The survey results

will enable planners, researchers and government to fully realise the extent of the problem, and start developing ways to address it.

A web campaign is currently being designed. All ideas for increasing the profile of R.A.W. Inc. are welcomed, particularly if they are low-cost and resource cost-effective.

Bumper stickers have been printed to raise awareness of the problem.

The stickers can be obtained from Elizabeth Little. Please email ceo@rawtas.com.au or phone 03 6254 1092.

RAWTas is always available to help. Call 1300 4357 6283.



SPORT

Getting a kick out of footy

By Antonia Howarth

AUSKICK IS a program for boys and girls aged 5-12 years' in the Westbury and Hagley area and surrounding towns.

It takes initiative, drive and enthusiasm to create any new program but this is what David Brown brings to his concept for making a sports activity which involves the whole family.

The Auskick program is an introduction into football, but also physical activity in general. Children of all skill levels are encouraged to come along.

Auskick provides children with an activity that can run in conjunction with other sports in the Meander Valley.

Sessions are scheduled for each Saturday when a home game is being played by the Meander Valley Suns football club. This will ensure that families can be involved for the whole day.

It is envisaged that this will lead to the formation of a Juniors within the club where members and parents will all participate.

New members are welcome. Membership cost is \$80.00 per child. Rosters have been prepared and further information may be obtained by contacting David Brown online at launceston482@repc0.com.au or from the website. Everyone is welcome irrespective of skill level.



L to R: Cohen Brown, 11, and sister Lilly Brown, 8, of Westbury with Angus Clark, 7, of Hadspen. Photo by: Mike Moores

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