



MARCHING TO THE BEAT OF A DIFFERENT DRUM

Tucker trail opening

> **NEWS PAGE 3**



20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Virtual reality in Deloraine

> **NEWS PAGE 6**



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> **SPORT PAGE 20**

Meander Valley Gazette

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January 2018

Meander Valley Gazette *Your independent community paper*



Sing a song of Christmas

Photo by: Mike Moores

The sausages were sizzling, the night was balmy and the familiar sound of carols drifted through the air as the Combined Christian Churches of Deloraine held their annual Carols by the River Service. It was almost standing room only as the space around the rotunda was packed with locals and international spectators who were treated to a traditional feast of yuletide music and song. Pictured above, enjoying the evening, were Imogen Milne, Addy Myers & Eva Milne, all of Deloraine.

Five million dollar fait accompli?

By Sharon Webb

Meander Valley Council will hold a public meeting about the proposed \$5m Westbury Function Centre on 15th February.

The meeting venue will be the Westbury Town Hall in Lyall St, Westbury and will start at 7.00pm.

"The meeting is open

to anyone from within the municipality; I encourage signatories of the petition and regular and potential users of the recreation ground to attend and share their thoughts in a constructive manner," says Mayor Craig Perkins.

Mayor Perkins said that at the meeting

council would explain:

- The decision-making process;
- How council intends to fund construction and ongoing costs;
- What the proposed buildings will contain;
- Potential management arrangements;
- The process from

now until potential construction.

The public meeting was called by a petition signed by almost 500 people, technically not enough to fulfill the Local Government Act requirement of 1000 signatures or five per cent of residents. But the December council

meeting agreed to the meeting saying it was important to listen to the community and to "clear up misconceptions" about the project.

The Westbury Recreation Ground project has grown from a \$12,000 changeroom upgrade in 2012 to a \$5m fully-fledged function

centre in 2017, funded from council reserves and with projected operating costs of \$145,000 a year.

Council is divided into factions for and against the proposal, which got up in the October meeting with a five – three vote.

Councillors Deb White, Tanya King and Mayor Craig Perkins are against it, citing cost as the major factor.

Continued on Page 2...



Prospect High Grade 9 student Jason Gamble joined his mum in donating his hair to Cancer Council Tasmania. Both had their hair cut at Alfie's Hair & Beauty in Hadspen. Photo by: Matula Handley

Mother and son hair we go

By Cody Handley

A LOCAL mother and son have been letting their hair go for charity.

Caron and Jason Gamble of Traveller's Retreat are donating locks of hair to Cancer Council Tasmania to make wigs for cancer patients.

The wigs are to be made by Sydney-based company, Ascot Wigmakers, who make wigs for theatre and film, as

well as for medical purposes.

The haircuts took place at Alfies Hair & Beauty, based in Hadspen.

This is not the first time Caron has grown her hair for charity. She did so in 2015, however the 35cm length proved to be too heavy for her. This time Jason and Caron decided on 20cm of growth.

Jason, a Prospect High School student, has been

growing his hair all year to get to 20cm. When asked how he thought his classmates would react to his new, much shorter hair style he replied "No idea yet".

Jason had a beach day at George Town for the end of the school year on 21st December and Caron said he will have to put on plenty of the old slip, slop, slap now that all his hair is gone.

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\$3,000 Rotary Scholarship

THE ROTARY Club of Deloraine invites those students commencing Tertiary education, from the Deloraine and Westbury district, to submit applications for a Tertiary Scholarship being offered by the Club to the value of \$3,000.

Applications close Friday 19th January

Written applications outlining academic record, intended study programme, and other relevant information are to be forwarded to PP Peter Griffin, by Friday 19th January, 2018. (Please note change of date).

Interviews of short-listed applicants will be held late January, early February 2018.

Please post applications to: Rotary Club of Deloraine, Att: Peter Griffin P.O. Box 85 Deloraine Tas 7304.

For more information or details please contact PP Peter Griffin on 0419 348 448.

\$5 million fait accompli?

...Continued from Page 1

Councillors Rodney Synfield, Ian Mackenzie, Bob Richardson, John Temple and Andrew Connor support the project. They want the facility to cater for all Westbury sports teams and groups, rather than simply upgrading football and cricket changerooms.

Westbury ratepayer Sean Manners said that while residents agree recreation ground changerooms need upgrading, the current proposal is too big.

"Practicality has gone out the window in pursuit of some dream," he said.

"I'm unsure of the motives of the supporting councillors

but some of them mention similar facilities in Smithton, St Helens and Scottsdale – all of which are some 60-75km from the nearest sporting facilities.

"Westbury is only 17km from facilities in Deloraine and 30km from Prospect. We don't need anything this big.

"Council's general manager Martin Gill told me that the \$5m cost of the facility is about 25 per cent of council cash reserves – or 75 per cent if you take into account funds already allocated.

"This facility could end up as a white elephant – and the running cost of \$145,000 a year is an awful lot to get back (from the community)."

Deloraine recreation precinct update

MEANDER VALLEY Council will consider a report on the feasibility of a Deloraine recreation precinct early in 2018.

Mayor Craig Perkins said that a report by Deloraine Recreation Precinct Working Group and Inspiring Place consultants is close to completion.

The study was prompted by a joint sports body lobby-

ing Meander Valley Council to establish an enlarged sports precinct housing basketball, netball, football, squash and little athletics at the Deloraine Community Complex on Alveston Drive.

The feasibility study is funded by Meander Valley Council (\$50,000), Bendigo Bank (\$50,000) and the State Government Community Infrastructure Fund (\$30,000).

Pumped Hydro for Meander Valley?

The shift in Australia's energy market towards more renewables, may create a significant opportunity for Meander Valley to play a role in delivering clean, affordable energy for our state and the nation, and generating development and employment opportunities.

Under the Battery of the Nation initiative, Hydro Tasmania is looking at development options that can provide energy security for Tasmania and give Tasmanians access to the lowest possible power prices, and deliver more clean energy nationally.

Pumped hydro energy storage (PHES) is one of the keys to unlocking the state's future potential.

Hydro Tasmania's initial assessment has shown significant potential for PHES development in the state's north west and in particular, the Mersey Forth and Meander Valley areas.

When fully realised, PHES projects could double Tasmania's current hydropower capacity and potentially generate up to \$5 billion in investment and up to 3000 jobs.

Energy storage systems

like pumped hydro help balance energy from variable sources, such as wind and solar. They will become much more important in the future as Australia seeks to replace coal-fired power and get more energy from renewable sources.

Pumped hydro energy storage can store clean energy on a large scale to use during periods of low energy production. It can also reliably provide energy on demand for sustained periods.

Hydro Tasmania is continuing to evaluate the potential PHES sites, and is in the process of identifying a shortlist to undergo further detailed assessment.

Hydro are committed to engaging with the community, and invite you to share your views so that they can better understand any concerns, and opportunities as they move through the assessment process.

Visit www.hydro.com.au/energy/battery-nation for more information about the Battery of the Nation initiative and how studies are progressing.

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Authorised by Brian Mitchell MP 538 Main Road Perth



Dreaming trail

The dream became a reality when the Kooparoona Niara cultural trail located on the Meander River Bank in Deloraine was officially opened. Hundreds of people gathered to celebrate with a traditional Aboriginal dance and ceremonial walk along the trail. The long-term aim is to have a large number of bush tucker plants along the trail with information plaques showing how the local tribes preserved their culture and traditions. Photo by: Mike Moores

Indecision makes for happy campers

By Sharon Webb

FREE CAMPING will continue in the Meander Valley as the council awaits a determination by the state economic regulator on whether it is detrimental to local business.

At the council's December meeting, councillors voted to ask the State Government to review the existing application of national competition principles to free camping on council land in regional towns.

The move is a rethink of November council meeting's

decision to ban free camping in council reserves in line with competition legislation stating the councils cannot compete with the services of commercial businesses.

In response to the November decision, many Westbury businesses displayed signs supporting free camping.

A council report presented to the November meeting said local caravan park operators, residents and the State Government had raised concerns about free camping at Bracknell Reserve,

Deloraine Racecourse and Westbury Recreation Ground.

Local caravan park operators are concerned about the economic impact on their businesses.

Residents are concerned about campers' behaviour and impacts on the local environment in unmanaged areas.

The report said: "In late 2016 and early 2017 the free camping social network discovered the Westbury Recreation Ground and it became a very popular spot with up to 14 recreational vehicles and/or cara-

vans staying most nights until March. The length of stay varied but there were a number of instances where campers stayed for up to five days."

But Bracknell and Westbury businesses gained economic benefits from free campers spending money on groceries, petrol and meals, making a difference to their day's takings: "There has been anecdotal evidence that having visited and experienced Westbury in particular, a number of free campers have decided to make Meander Valley

their home. Free camping can attract a tourist cohort who stay a little longer, take time and engage with the locals."

The legislation does allow council land camping as overflow for special events such as Agfest and the Tasmanian Craft Fair for a maximum of four consecutive nights.

Even in these cases where no facilities other than the location are provided, campers must pay a nominal fee.

At the November meeting Councillors Synfield, Richardson, White, Mackenzie and Perkins voted to close down free camping and Councillors Connor, Kelly, King, and

Continued on Page 4...

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Photo by: Mike Moores



Exploring the new community garden are Hayley Rowbottom, Mayor Craig Perkins, Alexis Brann and Rebecca Willis.

Toddlers and vegies grow together

By David Claridge

GOODSTART PROSPECT Vale is reaping the benefits of some hard labour outdoors. Mayor Craig Perkins came

along to inspect the progress of a recently planted fruit and vegetable garden that is helping the children to learn about where their food comes from

while providing them with healthy snacks.

Natasha Jarman from-Goodstart explained how

they received a grant to make it happen.

"The vision behind applying for the grant was that the children, their families and the wider community can be involved in the garden we would create," she said.

Also with Goodstart, Tami-ka White, said that they started growing seeds in the rooms with the children in September and they helped to sow and water the seeds.

"In October we were able to plant the seeds in our little garden and now we're just starting to harvest. So far we have got some small carrots and lettuce," said Ms White.

Happy campers

...Continued from Page 3

Temple voted against.

Cllr Rodney Synfield said four Tasmanian councils had been successfully prosecuted over free camping.

Cllr Bob Richardson said: "It's an issue of law; the economic regulator has issued a strongly worded statement which is based upon competition principles which, in effect, deters free camping," he said.

Councillor Tanya King said Westbury's current situation could be regarded as a good test case: "In my opinion we've got it wrong. The community has spoken and it is now up to us as community representatives to lobby for change to reflect the views of the community."

The economic regulator oversees the integrity and fairness of operations of monopoly service providers in Tasmania and responds to complaints about government businesses unfairly competing with the private sector in Tasmania.

"The children love being able to pull things out of the ground and eat them right away, getting instant gratification and having something to eat. They are really patient because they have been involved in the process and got a nice sense of 'we did this', so it is really good."


Tasmanian Celebrity chef, Ben Milbourne and wife Sally are working with Goodstart centres in Tasmania to help create food literate communities, how to teach families about healthy food choices and they will be working with centre cooks to create healthy menus.



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In My Opinion...

By Joanne Eisemann
Managing Editor

Welcome to *Meander Valley Gazette's* first 20 page edition! You may notice that there have been a few changes.

This Editorial and Letters page has moved to Page 5, and due to many requests we have included a puzzle page which is on Page 16, where you will also find the Events Diary.

Any feedback you would like to give on the puzzle section would be appreciated or if there is anyone out there who is interested in setting a Meander Valley style crossword each month, please do get in contact. We've found some software that would do most of the work, and are now looking for an operator.

The ever-popular gardening column by Nell Carr has moved to Page 14 where we are also hoping to include a recipe each month by wonderful cook and now local resident, Wai Lin Coultas.

We welcome the Deloraine & Westbury Medical Centre as sponsors of the Community Directory. This is a section of the paper where community groups and not-for-profits can advertise their events and services at a low cost.

You may not know that *Meander Valley Gazette* also has a website: www.meandervalleygazette.org. When you visit it you will land on what's called a holding page, and it's where you can download a digital copy of the current month's edition. The holding page will change when the website is completed.

The search function located on the top right of the page is quite powerful, so

if you are wanting to refer back to an article you've seen but don't have a print copy, try typing in a name, subject or headline and chances are the article will be found. Articles have been uploaded since mid-2015. Thank you to Laura Mckew who has been chief uploader, but is moving on to new projects. If you would like experience uploading, please get in touch.

Talking about the website, we received some interesting feedback from last month's story 'Heart of a Community' by Mark Butson about Cheshunt:

*Dear MVGazette,
Would you be able to help get in touch with Paul and Catherine Bowman?*

I am restoring from a derelict condition a 1910 Marshall Light Steam Traction engine, which started its working life on the Cheshunt Estate, after having been imported by Websters of Hobart, who were the Marshall's agent.

I'm located in Lincolnshire, UK, approx 15 miles from the Marshall works at Gainsborough, where the engine was built and wonder if the Bowman family have any photo's of the engine whilst it was with them and also if they would be interested to hear about the restoration of their old engine.

Many thanks, Richard Day
Even more amazing I heard that the Bowmans had pictures of the engine to share with them. The wonders of the web!

May everyone in Meander Valley and beyond have a wonder filled, abundant and, most of all, fun 2018. Happy New Year from all at *Meander Valley Gazette*.

Deloraine, and would give due preservation and respect to the artist's work.

The upper part of the sculpture is well-conceived art, a variation on Matisse's famous 'Dance' (in the Hermitage Museum). Its circular composition involving figures with joined hands is an immediately understood gesture of a happy and bonded community, and appropriate for an entry point to Deloraine.

Vehicles entering from the northern end of town would encounter the stunning view of the valley and then the Mountain Men sculpture, immediately forming an impression of a place which might just offer a unique, possibly nostalgic experience for tourists.

It means that the lower half of the sculpture (which is sadly in disrepair anyway) would not survive the relocation process. Above the four figures of Mountain Men could be an arched metal sign 'Welcome to Deloraine' or something appropriate.

This idea raises a couple of related issues, such as what would be an appropriate sculpture to be sited in the lower roundabout, to be a complementary welcoming sculpture which triggers images of Deloraine as a creative heritage community with rich Aboriginal and agricultural histories.

A newly commissioned sculpture titled 'Mountain Women' might be an obvious choice, but I would invite (through the kindness of the editor) others to contact the *Gazette* with their ideas of what sculpture might be suitable for the southern entry to Deloraine, with its potential to be an iconic memory for tourists.

As to who should fund the relocation and commissioning of the second entry gates/images to Deloraine, I believe our currently Westbury-fixated Council should consider the allocation of such funds as are needed (feasibly between \$10,000 - \$20,000) as a terrific investment in Deloraine's appeal as an intriguing tourist town.

And who knows? It might kick-start a Mountain Men souvenir industry including a new Deloraine speciality - Mountain Men colourful gingerbread biscuits?

*Richard Dunlop
(PhD, PhD), Deloraine*

The above letter was also sent to Council which prompted the following response.

Editor
I REFER to Richard Dunlop's letter regarding the relocation of the Mountain Men (sic) sculpture.

Mr Dunlop asserts that "The upper part of the sculpture is well-conceived art" claiming it is a variation

on Matisse's famous work "Dance" wherein five dancing figures circle, hand in hand.

I beg to differ with Mr Dunlop as to the therefore greatness of the Mountain Man sculpture. In my opinion, it is the very laziness of the artist in executing four identical figures for the top part of the sculpture, presumably cast from the one mould, that sets it apart from truly great works such as Matisse's.

With a little more imagination and artistic integrity, the figures atop the sculpture could have truly represented various sectors of the community in which it stands. As it is, we have 4 rather meaningless shapes up there expressing - nothing much at all. Further to the analogy, the four men do not face each other as in Matisse's circle of hand-holders; rather, they face outwards, negating the idea of a bonded community. They do seem to express elation of some sort, but not necessarily that of a "bonded community".

So I disagree strongly with Mr Dunlop's point of view. The main point of the discussion, though, is the fragility of any one person's opinion on "Art".

The relocation of the Mountain Man sculpture is dependent on proper community consultation and when this occurs it will no doubt show that the community holds a wide variety of ideas on what, where and how it should be disposed.

Until that time, we can all enjoy the expression of ideas that your column allows.

Deborah White

I JUST wanted to heartily congratulate Joanne Eisemann on her editorial in last month's *Gazette* re her Christmas wish.

Thoughtful, intelligent and meaningful. Joanne correctly identified "relationships" as being our major problem in society. Unfortunately, they are too often tainted and dysfunctional.

Why? Largely because everything we do is motivated by either fear or love, and we are more controlled by fear than anything else. These fears are developed very early in our lives, in our childhood, and leaves us with damaged adults. And, as Joanne says, it's about time we addressed the problem.

Government reaction to problems like domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, etc are never adequate because they don't look for the key causes.

It IS time to dream a new way of being, to fix the hole in the bucket. As John Lennon wrote, "Imagine".

Geoff Mooney, Westbury

EST.
2013

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Letters In...

SO THEY want to stop the caravans
From parking on the Rec,
And deprive the Westbury trades
Of a healthy tourist cheque.

What harm are they doing
Why send them on their way
We should make these people welcome
And encourage them to stay

Most of them are self-contained,
With toilet and a shower,
They don't need Council bathrooms
Or plug into the power

They patronize the chemist
And the local takeaway
They buy fuel at the servo
And they shop at I.G.A.

They eat at local restaurants
And visit Steam World and the Maze
And boost the town's economy

In many different ways.
They call in at the local pub
And they buy the butchers steak
To make them by-pass Westbury
Is a very bad mistake.

Michael Martin, Westbury

A Proposed Solution to the long-running "Mountain Men" sculpture relocation dilemma.

Mountain Men is a wonderful sculpture which should be celebrated as an iconic and memorable image of Deloraine. One solution is that the upper part of the sculpture be relocated to the round about adjacent to the Deloraine Deli, with the four figures circling the lamp post in the centre of the roundabout. The four figures, dancing in solidarity and in celebration of community resilience represent an apt "entry image" to

A very fishy feeling



Deloraine locals, Bronte Howe & Tristan Cooke, both aged 9, get a taste of the future at the Under the Sea virtual reality experience in Deloraine. Photo by: Mike Moores

IT WAS a vaguely uneasy feeling watching a number of schoolchildren and adults disappearing into large black inflatable igloos, housed at the Deloraine Community Complex, and wondering if there were space invaders inside.

What was inside was a virtual reality experience called Under the Sea?

Organised by Meander Valley Council, the experience was funded by the North Coast Science Hub, and supported by Inspiring

Australia who are the Federal Government Department for Science Engagement.

Using the virtual reality goggles, participants could stand on the bottom of the ocean and interact with fish, whales, sea anemo-

nes and play with jelly fish. These creatures swim by the person and create an interactive experience.

Inspiring Australia aims to stimulate discussion about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

and encourage the greater community to consider how far we have come. This is important in locations outside of capital cities, to help provide access to current breakthroughs in science.

Come join the circus

By Heather Summers

LOOKING FOR a fun activity for the kids these school holidays? Circus School is coming to town in Chudleigh this summer.

A three day workshop will be conducted at the Chudleigh Memorial Hall, from 31st

January to the 1st and 2nd of February, 10.00am to 3.00pm.

It is open to children between six and twelve years old, and will involve learning a range of circus skills; from Trapeze, Stilts and Juggling to Acro-balance, Unicycling and Poi.

Most importantly, it will involve a heap of fun, skills and friendship building!

A fee of ten dollars per child will cover all three days, and these funds will provide refreshment and lunch during the workshop training.

On the final workshop day, at 6.00pm, a Community Family Circus Show and BBQ will be held to showcase

the new skills the children attending have learned. It will be a community celebration, and all are welcome.

Bendigo Community Bank and The Meander Valley Council have generously funded this project. It is a community-driven and supported project of the Chudleigh Agricultur-

al, Horticultural Society, the Chudleigh Memorial Hall Committee and the Village of Roses Committee.

To help confirm booking numbers, fees are required upon registration.

Email chudleighcircus@gmail.com for more information or to request a registration form.

App for health

"INJURY AND illness don't always follow a nine-to-five schedule", said Sal Bucksey of Primary Health Tasmania. Quite right, too.

Fortunately, Primary Health Tasmania has launched an advertising campaign to help people find the health services

they need after hours.

The centrepiece of their strategy is their mobile friendly Tas After Hours website (www.tasafterhours.com).

Here, you can find a free app which allows people to save the details and call their GP, call the government funded Healthdirect helpline, find an open

GP, pharmacy or emergency department nearby, or call an ambulance in case of an emergency.

The promotion period will run between mid-December to Easter, to assist holiday-makers in ensuring they have easy access to after-hours medical services during the festive season.

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Photo by: Mike Moores

Principal Mary Wall enjoys some play time with early learners at Our Lady of Mercy Primary School

Early education innovation

By Joanne Eisemann

OUR LADY of Mercy, a Catholic primary school in Deloraine is offering innovative playgroup sessions once per week that aim to gently prepare children for school life.

The Birth to 4 group is part of Our Lady of Mercy's new Early Learning Centre's suite of programs, designed to pick

up possible inhibitors to learning, and enabling a smooth integration for children into school life.

With no obligation to later enrol children at the school, the Birth to 4 program is offered free of charge to all children in the age group.

"We have a beautiful Birth to 4 program running at the moment which has only been

operational since third term" says school principal Mary Wall.

The playgroup runs once per week during school terms and began in response to the number of children starting Kinder who needed support with speech.

"It may be the articulation of words or sounds or it might be the way that they converse or can't converse either with their peers or other adults," explains Mary,

adding "4yr old children coming into Kinder aren't expected to be Einstein's but grammar or speech issues may affect their ability to spell and read later on. A small intervention at that age can make their lives so much easier later on."

"The Birth to 4yrs playgroup offers a range of activities that have an educational focus but parents and children may not necessarily be aware of that," explains Mary.

"It's a gently gently approach. Each child develops at their own rate, kids aren't expected to fit a mould but there are milestones that we need them to get through."

"It's a gentle introduction to school and very play based."

"What's promising from our point of view is that our little playgroup that started off with two daycare mums bringing in a half a dozen children has now grown to 21 children," shares Mary.

The Birth to 4yrs playgroup and a Pre Kinder program for 3yr olds are offered each school week at no charge, as well as fee-based Early Learning day care for 3-5yr olds and the regular Kindergarten program for 4yr olds.

The Birth to 4yrs program will begin in 2018 on Thursday 8th of Feb at 9.30am. The pre kinder program starts on Monday 12th of Feb at 9.00am.

For information please phone 6362 2323.

To boil or not to boil

By Cody Handley

A BRIEF moment over the New Year period may have had Mole Creek residents scratching their heads as to whether to flick the jug on or not.

On 30th December Taswater issued a press release advising residents to boil all tap water before drinking.

However, the water would have barely had time to boil as the warning was revoked a mere two days later on New Year's Day.

According to the press release, one of several samples taken from the town's supply returned traces of E. coli.

Department Manager of Regional Services, Mark McConnon, has told *Meander Valley Gazette* that the warning was largely precautionary.

If a contaminated sample is taken, regulations require two clear samples to be taken on consecutive days. These samples were taken on the 30th and 31st, and results came back on the 31st and 1st respectively. The two follow up samples came up all clear and the alert was briskly withdrawn.

Taswater stressed their priority is to protect public health.



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ALL WELCOME

Birth - 4yrs Program
Thursday 9.30 - 11am
Begins 8th February
with Mrs Weare

Early Learning
provided by

Ages 3 - 5yr olds
School day or long day
service. 49 weeks
a year

Pre-Kinder
Monday 9 - 12pm
Begins 12th February
with Miss Donohoe

Kinder
Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday
Begins Thursday,
8th February
with Miss Donohoe





Rutherglen fire of 2015 approaches a line of homes (right hand side).

Fireproofing rural homes

Picture and story by David Claridge

SUMMER IS a great time of the year for BBQ's and pools, but with the heat comes the risk of bushfires.

The 50th anniversary of the Black Tuesday bushfires passed in February 2017. The loss of 62 people, 900 injured and thousands left homeless after one terrible day should forever be a reminder of how bad conditions can get in Tasmania.

Ember proofing your property is also important

The St Helens fire in October demonstrated how dry and fire prone the East Coast currently is. Fire crews were working for weeks to stop the fire in its tracks and prevent any spot fires.

Planning ahead is the best thing you can do over the summer to protect your family and property, according to the Tasmania Fire Service.

Community Development Officer, David Cleaver, suggests that people know what the weather is going to be like and act accordingly.

"Keeping your information up to date is the most important thing and knowing if there is bad weather coming up, follow the weather reports and the TFS website," Mr Cleaver said.

"Important things to have in place are building a defensible space around your property, which includes keeping grass cut low and removing flammable items from around your house,

"Ember proofing your property is also important, embers can come before you can even see the fire and catch alight quite easily.

Coordinator for Community Development, Peter Middleton, talks about the importance of people using the Bushfire Survival Plan – download available on the TFS website under 'Bushfire: Prepare Act Survive'.

"It is a tool with prevention type activities people can use. It explains things that can trigger their plan, such as the fire danger rating, our bushfire alert system and what that all means, describing what a bushfire may be like," he said.

"In the back of the book it has some templates, so you can develop your own written plan. It encourages people to know what their risk to bushfire is. From there, they can develop a unique plan for their situation.

"For fire prone areas there are community protection plans in place - Meander Area, Jackey's Marsh and Golden Valley, for example - where safe areas have been identified."

This reporter has been a member of a volunteer brigade for some time. I remember attending a bushfire near Rutherglen in March 2015. We could see the smoke once we left the station, and by the time we arrived the fire had jumped the Bass Highway. We tried to contain it.

On the other side of the road the fire was crowning (burning in the tree tops) heading towards Rutherglen. Firefighters deployed some defensive firefighting tactics and were able to stop it well before it reached the houses. I remember being across the lake, seeing Rutherglen on the right and the fire on the left. The backburn hit the main fire and made a junction zone where the fires increased in intensity and sent embers up into the sky. In the failing light of the day it looked both spectacular and scary at the same time. If the conditions are right fires are difficult to control.

For more information, visit fire.tas.gov.au.

National excellence at Deloraine Primary

By Sharon Webb

DELORAINE NATIONAL teaching award winner Jan Berne nearly didn't become a teacher.

A lack of prospective teaching jobs meant the Deloraine Primary School kinder teacher dropped out of uni after the first year to work in banking for 14 years.

Happily, she went back as a mature age student, opening the way for her contributions at Meander, Deloraine and Our Lady of Mercy Primary Schools – and for her Tasmania win on the ASG* National Excellence in Teaching Awards.

"There were 1450 nominations nationally for the awards, with 60 shortlisted," Jan said.

"I had to write a series of answers to education and teaching questions – and was one of two Tasmanian teachers to get in the 60."

Now that number has been fine-tuned to 30. Over summer, Jan must write a 1000-word essay on an education topic of her choice to compete to be among 12 winners to be announced in March next year and win a trophy and \$5000 for professional development.

"I'm proud to be in the 60. The acknowledgement from the community has been overwhelming," Jan said.

Jan teaches kinder at Deloraine Primary School three days a week and for the past year has worked one day a week as a teacher aide at Giant Steps, Deloraine's school for autistic children.

"Giant Steps has been such a help in managing my kinder classroom," she said.

"I wanted to gain expertise in teaching strategies and learning resources for the children with special needs in my class.

"It has made me reassess my class completely; even

children who don't have special needs benefit from using these strategies."

Jan Berne has strong ties to Deloraine. Having attended primary and high schools there, her goal was to be a teacher at her old primary.

"My youngest son Ryan is in grade six there now – in the same room as I was in," she said.

I had to write a series of answers to education and teaching questions and was one of two Tasmanian teachers to get in the 60.

Jan's husband Jamie runs the family dairy farm, listed in the top 100 in the 2017 Milk Quality Awards.

Daughter Emma, now 25, is completing her masters as a clinical psychologist and son Cody is in year nine at St Patrick's College.

Jan's weeks are full, with family, the farm, teaching and co-ordinating the school basketball team, including fund-raising to cover the team's registration and umpiring costs.

It's all part of her personal philosophy to give children as many opportunities for success as possible.

"For kinder, I believe every day should be fun but educational," Jan said.

"Everyone must have the opportunity for success, including children with special needs."

*ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards gives parents, grandparents, school boards and councils, and committees of management the opportunity to formally thank and recognise outstanding and dedicated teachers. ASG is an organisation that facilitates families paying for their children's education.



National teaching award winner Mrs Jan Berne (centre front) with kinder students Hemi Piubello, Finlay McGuire, Okah Austen and Lacey Bakes (back row), and Jenna Field and Sophie Gilligan (front row). Photo by: Sharon Webb

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Authorised by Rene Hidding MP, 9 Gordon Street, Sorell



Photo by: Jade Hallum

A delightful stroll along the Fern Glade Walk does wonders for one's heart and mind.

Fern glade fairyland



By Tara Ulbrich

THE FOURTEEN kilometre drive from Mole Creek to Marakoopa Caves has stolen many a heart.

More than one person has described it as the place where their Tasmanian love affair first began.

From the small township, through rural abundance, looking to the ranges on either side of the road, it is easy to be swept into the glory.

A destination, oft overlooked by those pursuing the cave experience, is the Fern Glade Walk.

It starts at the Parks and Wildlife Service Ticket Office

for Marakoopa Cave and leads to the departure point for the tours held throughout the day.

However, to discover the aboveground beauty of this place, a guided experience is unnecessary.

Fronds reach to caress your passing and overhead the foliage offers shade, giving an enchanted walker cause to appreciate all dappled things

The signage describes the walk as a twenty-minute return, but an amble completed in less than thirty has done a disservice to the journey.

Sandals and a sun hat are suitable for this path as the narrow, dolomite track wends its way gently upward through dense fern forest.

Fronds reach to caress your passing and overhead

the foliage offers shade, giving an enchanted walker cause to appreciate all dappled things.

Alongside the path flows Marakoopa Creek. These are the combined waters of the Long Stream and Short Stream, which have passed through the caves higher up and will eventually make their way to the Forth River and into the Bass Strait.

Narrow footbridges cross the creek twice. From here look down into the clear torrents, enjoy an auditory bath or ponder platypus.

Take a picnic! to enjoy at either the beginning, where a bbq is provided, or in the lunch shelter at the highest point. Car access is available to both areas.

If you venture on a Sunday, the nearby Marakoopa Café is open for lunch and coffee. Make sure to stroll their garden too. In all, expect your heart to skip a beat.

Vera, Jewel of Deloraine

Picture and story by Hayley Manning

THE PEOPLE'S Choice Award for Dedication to the Country Music Industry was presented to Mrs Vera Wadley, at the Italian Club late in 2017.

Friends and associates refer to the long-term Reedy Marsh resident as: "Our Jewel of Deloraine," for her tireless fundraising and musical achievements over the last 30 years.

Vera and The Charity Singers are supported by other enthusiastic country singers and players from around Tassie and the mainland, during their 'fundraising fun nights', which are held at the Deloraine RSL Club, on the third Saturday of each month.

Vera and co-founders Helen, Peter and Don, began raising funds 'right at the start' in order to purchase all their 'gear', and it slowly built up from there.

"We started off jamming at my place with our guitars but it soon became too small,

so we began performing at the RSL," she said.

Vera is still performing with her Charity Singers despite recent health issues and a specialist's prediction that she would not sing again.

A defiant Vera said she got up and sang two songs the first night she was released from hospital!

"It was what I wanted to do. While I can still walk; it's what keeps me going. That's what I love".

Reiki and meditation friend Liz Barrett said "She is just amazing. What she does for everyone while her health is not the best."

A common theme among all the volunteer performers' is that helping others during times of unexpected hardship can be a rewarding and life-enriching experience. The Charity Singers fund-raise for Cystic Fibrosis, Camp Quality and anyone in the community who requires assistance.



Vera Wadley

Continued on Page 17...

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VALLEY VIEWS



Above: Mayor Craig Perkins and Greg Murray at the official opening of the Kooparoona Niara Cultural Trail.

On the 16 December, the Kooparoona Niara Cultural Trail was officially opened.

The event was exceptionally well supported and everyone enjoyed participating in the traditional cultural ceremonies which included a fire-stick procession and a smoking ceremony.

Following the northern bank of the Meander River in Deloraine, the Trail was an initiative of Greg Murray, a local Tasmanian Aboriginal. Work on the project commenced in early 2016 and a number of volunteers and organisations have worked tirelessly towards the Trail's completion. In addition to Council's support, thanks must go to Colony 47, the Aboriginal community, committee volunteers and local volunteers and artists who have all made valuable contributions.

The Kooparoona Niara Cultural Trail provides visitors with a valuable cultural and educational experience. Incorporating native plantings, public art and featuring a traditional Yarning Circle, the Trail is a celebration of Tasmanian Aboriginal culture. The project was a significant undertaking and it has come to life largely through the passion and dedication of artists, Aboriginal elders and volunteers.

Council has been working hard to complete a number of equipment installations in

playgrounds across the municipality. Before everyone heads back to school, be sure to visit the Deloraine Train Park, the Chudleigh Playground, the Molecombe Playground or the Bordin Street playground.

All of these sites have benefitted from equipment replacements and additions which cater for increased age ranges or are more exercise focussed.

On Australia Day, Council recognises the exceptional voluntary contribution of its community members with the presentation of Australia Day Awards. The event will be held at the Country Club in Prospect Vale and all are invited to attend, however, you must contact Council to RSVP by 20 January.

The Westbury RSL and the Chudleigh Hall will also be hosting Australia Day breakfasts so be sure to go along enjoy a feast and support the local community. Also that day don't forget the Harveydale Rodeo and the Lions club of Hadspen South Esk car boot sale at Lions park in Hadspen.

I would like to remind residents to remember to take care on the roads during the remainder of the school holidays. I trust that everyone had a wonderful break over Christmas and I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2018.

Mayor, Craig Perkins

Council advocates for common sense camping

As directed by the State Government, Council is required under the National Competition Policy to ensure that it is not unfairly competing with privately owned businesses.

"There are a number of privately owned caravan parks/camping grounds operating in Meander Valley. By allowing visitors to camp for free on Council land, Council is actually in breach of the National Competition Policy," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

Historically, a number of Council reserves have been used as ad-hoc camping sites, but there has never been a formal arrangement in place. In response to this issue of non-compliance, Council adopted a new

Policy, 'Camping on Council Reserves' at its meeting in November.

"Council was obligated to formalise arrangements around camping in Meander Valley. The first step was to adopt a policy that ensured we complied with the State Government's National Competition Policy. Council does recognise, however, that tourists have come to expect a variety of camping options when they visit the municipality," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

At its December meeting, Council took further steps to work towards a common sense solution that satisfies competition policy guidelines and provides tourists with a number of camping options.

"This week, Council moved to refrain from taking any further action to implement the Camping on Council Reserves Policy until the impact of free camping on Council reserves is determined by the State Government. Council will be guided by the advice received from the State Government, but we are mindful that a solution needs to be found that works for Meander Valley," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

Council also supported a motion to seek a review of the existing National Competition Principles and to submit a motion to the Local Government Association of Tasmania's General Meeting on 2 March, 2018.

Highly commended for all creatures, great and small

The Westbury Town Common Landcare Group has received a Landcare Tasmania Highly Commended Award for their ongoing work to protect, enhance and restore the ecological features of the Westbury Town Common.

For a number of years, the Group has undertaken revegetation projects that have provided refuge for a number of threatened species. "The Town Common is heritage listed, so care is taken to complement the cultural history of the site," NRM Officer Stuart Brownlea said.

The Group is not alone in their endeavour. In addition to a number of Landcare and volunteer groups, stu-

dents from the Westbury Primary School have been active participants in planting and mulching programs over the last five years and have learnt to identify native species.

Local day care centres and the Northern Support School are also eager volunteers on planting days.

"Council staff have readily modified their maintenance routine on the Town Common to suit the needs of threatened species. This has involved retaining some longer grassed areas by the billabongs that in previous years would have been slashed."

"This Award represents the work and commitment of



Above: Mascot 'Barry' the Bandicoot with the Tasmania Landcare Highly Commended Award.

many and is a reflection of the wonderful contribution the community has made to this special place," NRM Officer Stuart Brownlea said.

Vale Geoff Fellows

Recently we farewelled Geoff Fellows. Geoff began work with the Municipality of Westbury in 1957. Upon his retirement as General Manager of Meander Valley Council in 1998 the then Mayor the Hon Greg Hall MLC wrote that Geoff would always be remembered for his 'integrity, diligence and loyalty to the organisation'

Following his retirement, Geoff was elected to Council in 2002 and served as a Councillor until 2011.



Geoff's contribution to public life can be measured by the ongoing stability and success of Meander Valley Council an organisation which he led, guided and cared for.

Our thoughts go to Geoff's family and in particular Jenny, our colleague and friend.



Above: Maureen Holland, Joan Field, Mayor Craig Perkins & Anne Cresswell at the launch of the new book.

It was twenty years ago that a group of women from mainly agricultural backgrounds came together to share stories and offer each other support.

These women went on to form Meander Valley Women in Agriculture - a driving

"Bloom where you are planted"

force of positive change and inspiration for rural women.

"Bloom where you are planted," is the catch-cry of the Group and without a doubt, these women have.

Proactive for practical outcomes, the Group has been responsible for initiatives such as Red Cross training for isolated families and its members are pioneers, cementing the significant role of women in agricultural pursuits.

And the stories don't stop there. This year, Meandering in Our Valley was launched.

This book captures the life stories of some of these women. Courage, strength, innovation, adversity and joy fill its pages.

"Meander Valley is a better place because this group of women have chosen to share their stories. This book is a wonderful achievement," Mayor Craig Perkins said.



Australia Day
— Celebrate with us! —

Join us for Meander Valley Council's Australia Day celebrations.
Commencing at 6pm, Thursday 25 January, 2018
Mount Pleasant Room, Country Club Tasmania, Prospect Vale.

RSVP by 20 January 2018 to Beth Williams,
phone 6393 5312 or email beth.williams@mvc.tas.gov.au




Are you bushfire ready?

The fire season is now upon us. The St Helens fire late last year confirmed the early occurrence we had expected - a result of the warm dry winter many regions experienced, particularly on the east coast.

Despite this, there is still good reason to be aware and prepared wherever you may be.

The best place to begin is by taking time to review and understand the Fire Danger Ratings. Fire Danger Ratings and expected fire behaviour and impacts. They also contain specific advice on what action you should take if a fire occurs near you.

Some communities have been involved in Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods, and/or have developed Community Protection Plans. These are invaluable resources and, where applicable, should be reviewed now.

All this information as well as what you can do to prepare and protect your own home, can be found by visiting www.fire.tas.gov.au and clicking on the 'Community Bushfire Planning' tab.

Keeping our recreational waterways safe

Council will sample the water quality at the four popular recreational swimming locations listed below between December and March.

Testing is to ensure the water is safe for public use.

Meander River:
Egmont Reserve, Birralee Road, Westbury

Liffey River - Bracknell River Reserve:
Off Louisa Street, Bracknell

South Esk River - Lions Park: Off Main Street at Hadspen

Lake Trevallyn - Blackstone Park: Off Kelsey Road, Blackstone

If required, public health warnings will be issued via signage at the site, as well as on Council's website and Facebook page.

If you have any enquiries regarding recreational water quality please contact Council's Environmental Health Officers on 6393 5300.



Do you provide services for our visitors?

The Great Western Tiers Tourism Association is currently recruiting new members. Any business that caters to the visitor economy in the Meander Valley Council area is invited to join.

Membership is extended to pharmacies, service stations, supermarkets, newsagents and post offices as well as accommodation operators, attractions and food outlets. If you provide a service for visitors to the municipality, then you are part of the visitor economy.

Membership for 2017/18 is just \$10 and there are a number of benefits on offer to members.

Members of the Association form a strong voice that can advocate and lobby government bodies for improvements in tourism infrastructure and resources.

Members will receive a newsletter which will provide them with regular updates about initiatives, marketing opportunities and invitations to events where they will have an opportunity to meet with other members of the industry.

To join, or for more information email admin@greatwesterntiers.org.au



Putting up a pool this summer?

If you are lucky enough to have picked up a pool over Christmas, be aware that enjoying a dip does come with a responsibility to ensure everyone is safe.

From the blow up temporary variety to preformed fibreglass, any pool deeper than 300mm requires pool fencing. This includes pools purchased from your local department store.

By law, the minimum requirement is a certificate of likely compliance from your building surveyor to ensure that the fence

complies with the Building Code of Australia and the pool is safe.

Your local swimming pool supplier can advise you on the regulations and many have the relevant contacts to get your documentation in order.

If you choose not to securely fence your pool, even if it's temporary, you run the risk of the unwanted grief associated with an accident.

If you're in doubt as to what you need to do, contact Council on 6393 5300.

January / February | School Holiday Programs

- 16 January** Cooking Cakes & Desserts (12-25yrs) • \$5 (14 places available)
 - 17 January** Cooking Cakes & Desserts (12-25yrs) • \$5 (14 places available)
 - 19 January** Mountain Bike Coaching Clinic - Hadspen (10-14yrs) • \$30 (30 places available) • All gear supplied
 - 23-25 January** 3 Day Bushwalk to Lees Paddocks (13-25yrs) • (10 places available)
 - 30-31 January** Derby Mountain Bike Camp (12-25yrs) • \$120 (15 places available)
 - 2 February** Paddling Huntsman Lake (12-25yrs) • (10 places available)
- To register or for more information on the above events contact Vicki Jordan on 0400 155 690 or email vicki.jordan@mvc.tas.gov.au
- 1 February** 3 on 3 Slamboree & Basketball Skills (Grades 2-7)
 - 2 February** Eleventh Hour Slamboree & Shoot Out Competition (Grade 6-20yrs)
- To register or for more information on the above events contact Ruth on 0417 158 009 or email ruthsaltmarsh2@bigpond.com
- 31 January** 3 Day Circus Workshop - Chudleigh Memorial Hall (6-12yrs) • \$10
- To register or for more information on the above event email chudleighcircus@gmail.com



Date Claimers

- Harveydale Rodeo** Birralee Road, Westbury 26 January
- Westbury RSL Australia Day Breakfast** (7am-10.30am) 26 January
- Chudleigh Hall Australia Day Breakfast** (8am-10.30am) 26 January

General Enquiries
Phone 6393 5300
Mail PO Box 102 Westbury Tasmania 7303
Email mail@mvc.tas.gov.au

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

 [meandervalleycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/meandervalleycouncil)
www.meander.tas.gov.au





Deloraine photographer Jade Hallum. Photo by: Meghann Maguire

Photo gems of beauty by Jade

By Lorraine Clearke

ANYONE WHO has marvelled at a glorious sunset and raced inside to get the camera before it fades, then been disappointed at the nondescript results, can only be enchanted by the quality of Jade Hallam's work. She captures the ephemeral quality and colours of the fleeting light and preserves them in compositions of haunting beauty.

Jade grew up in Reedy Marsh and attended Deloraine High School before going on to Launceston College where her love of photography began. She made pinhole cameras, learned to use SLR film cameras and developed photographs in the darkroom. Jade studied education at university in Launceston, and now lives in Deloraine. She continued taking nature photographs and Forest Festival shots as a hobby.

A couple of years ago, she began developing her hobby into a business as a nature, landscape and family documentary photographer. This enables her to encapsulate memories of her other great

love, bushwalking the Meander Valley region's pristine wild areas, and to share these beautiful images with others who may not have the same opportunity to see them first hand. Her photographs showcase features of our valley that so many never even dream exists.

Jade is available for "A Day in the Life Of" family photography, events, weddings and portraits. She took portraits at last year's Steam Punk Ball.

She prefers to take unposed photographs of families who wish to document significant milestones in their lives. Jade assembles these impromptu images into a hard-cover book that will be a souvenir of treasured memories.

"I really like to capture candid natural moments between people, to show relationships and personality, to tell a story about the reality of everyday life. I do this at home with my own family, creating an album with pictures, and we all find that it's a great memento to look back on," she said.

"I guess the reason why I love to photograph nature is not only because I want to

share these places with other people but also because being out in these wild places, only an hour's walk away in some cases, is so good for my well-being. It helps to recharge my body and clear my head to appreciate the simple beauty of a fern unfurling or the mist rolling in above a cascade on the Meander River. It's a great time to just be away from the rush and busyness that is life with two small children. If I can help others to do the same, I think that's pretty cool."

Recently, Jade's images have embellished the pages of *Meander Valley Gazette*, accompanying Tara Ulbricht's local walking trail articles.

Jade is the featured artist for January at Pixels, the new digital art gallery in the Deloraine Online Access Centre, where her incandescent nature photographs are displayed on large screens around the walls all day long. Pixels is open for viewing at the Online Centre from 10.00am to 4.00pm weekdays, and also on weekends.

Visit www.jadehallam.com

Rock along to retro night

By Sharon Webb

DELORAINES LITTLE Theatre is set to become funky-town central when the Big Band performs *Retro Rock* on 17th February.

Spokesperson Janet Morley said Deloraine Big Band will perform a mix of rock charts from all eras with just a bit of jazz.

"We want everyone to get their retro rock gear on and come along for a dance and a good time," she said.

"The band will include three trumpets, five sax players, two clarinetists and four in the rhythm section.

"It's both a band fundraiser and an Arts Deloraine membership drive.

"We'll be doing all the old favourites from Black Magic Woman to Love Shack and many more!"

Deloraine Big Band is made up of around 20 locals led by band leader Ben Harker, reconfiguring into a concert band for the town's Anzac Day march.

We want everyone to get their retro rock gear on and come along for a dance and a good time

It also supports a strings group, junior band and primary school program feeding new young players into the concert band and the big band.

Money raised from *Retro Rock* will go into band coffers to fund band practice room hire, public liability insurance, new charts and new instruments.

Ms Morley said anyone with basic instrument skills is welcome to join the band. Contact: Ben Harker at Field Rabbit in Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine.

RETRO ROCK INFO

When: Friday 17th February, 7.30 for 8.00pm.

Where: Deloraine Little Theatre

Cost: \$35.00; Arts Deloraine members \$30.00.

Includes: Supper; bar available.



Alfie's self-serve petrol pump

Classical gas

KIMBERLEY MURAL artist, Julian Bale, has created a mural depicting notable Sheffield inventor Alfie Rowe.

Alfie was well known for several of his inventions, including the first self-serve petrol pump, the third ring on a piston, the first public address system for north-west Tasmania, and a trailer-mounted steam powered oven.

The mural features Alfie at work in his garage and incorporates a 3D metal replica of his self-serve pump.

Mr. Bale undertook the project after making a promise to Alfie some years ago to paint a mural of him in the town and said he took great joy in the process. The mural is located on Alfie's old garage.

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Now in Deloraine at 3/58 Emu Bay Road 6331 5838
Also in Launceston at G1, 26 Elizabeth Street 6331 5838

By Lorraine Clarke

NOT MANY Tasmanian farming families are still running a sustainable family business spanning 4 generations, but the Archers have achieved this.

Quamby Plains at Hagley was established in 1894. Today, it is run by Richard Archer with his son Charles and daughter Victoria. One of Victoria's roles involves running the Corriedale Stud.

The Quamby Plains Corriedale stud was established by Compton Archer in 1917 (Victoria's Great Grandfather). This was a fairly young breed at that time, having been created simultaneously in Australia and New Zealand from 1868.

Fine wool Saxon Merino sheep were crossed with the long wool Lincoln sheep to produce a hardy, fertile medium-bodied dual purpose animal with excellent growth rate for meat, as well as a heavy cut of excellent quality wool.

Today, the descendants of those first Quamby Plains sheep are keenly sought for their superior genetics locally and by buyers from mainland states, New Zealand and the USA.

On 20th November 2017, Quamby Plains hosted its 100th annual Corriedale Stud Ram Sale. This was a very exciting milestone event to reach 100 years with a stud operation. Richard Archer was rather laid-back about it though. "Not really," he said. "We do it



Quamby Plains Corriedale Stud 100th auction. Victoria Archer in green stands with a buyer, auctioneer Warren Johnston on the right auctions stud rams with the assistance of spotter Jock Gibson in the centre. Photo by: Mike Moores

every year." Are these fine animals pampered for their big day? "No, we just run 'em in." Their quality obviously shines through without artifice.

The farm runs 3,000 commercial ewes and 450 stud ewes. About 40 stud rams are selected for the annual sale from the flock which is recorded under LAMBPLAN protocols.

The rams are run under commercial conditions in a large group and are grass fed. Growth figures of the

rams, wool micron and wool weights are itemised in the catalogue, allowing buyers to select the sire most suitable for their requirements.

This year's ram's micron range was 21.5 to 28.5, with most rams achieving gold or silver Performance Corriedale medal status. This was evident in the prices achieved, as the sale average was pushed to a record top of \$3,600 and averaged \$1,732. This year, three-quarters of the rams

went to Tasmanian buyers.

Warren Johnston was the auctioneer, and Jock Gibson the spotter at the sale run by Roberts Ltd.

The Archer family also established a Poll Hereford stud in 1973, with emphasis on commercial qualities to suit today's market. 200 stud cows and heifers are run alongside 150 commercial cows.

Artificial insemination is utilised to introduce the best genetics into the herd.

Stringent selection criteria ensures that the quality of the stock continues to improve.

The rolling plains produce not only superior stud stock, but a range of agricultural crops as well, including poppies. The future of Quamby Plains as a primary producer of quality livestock and crops seems assured, as they combine the latest management techniques with generations of practical experience and the rich Hagley soil.

Emu eyes off showgoers

DESPITE LESS than ideal weather there was a good turnout for the annual Deloraine Show.

An abundance of free or low cost family fun was on offer with animal exhibits, an animal nursery, pet parade, puppet shows, wind tunnel, ball pit, drawing, stamp hunt and even a free showbag.

The fun didn't stop there, with the apex train giving children rides all day, and Deloraine House offering face painting, and other children's

activities as well as a baby feed and change area.

For the first time miniature goats were on display from Willow Creek Mini Goat Stud, travelling all the way from Ellendale for the occasion.

If craft or cookery was more your thing, an extensive display of photography, flower arrangements, needlework, woolwork, preserves and cakes, contested for prizes donated by many generous Meander Valley businesses and individuals.

Photo by: Mike Moores



Montana Slater 15 of Bridgewater enjoys a conversation with an emu in the animal nursery at the Deloraine Show.

Track your cat

EVER WONDERED where your cat goes?

Join in the Cat Tracker Australia project to find out.

In an effort to understand more about cat behaviour, fourteen hundred cats around Australia will be chosen to be part of the project, and supplied with a GPS tracking device.

To volunteer your cat or just fill out a survey (you can do this even if you don't own a cat) head to www.research.net/r/Cat-Tracker-Australia.



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Wai Lin adds basil to her version of caprese.

Photo by: Mike Moores

Citrusy caprese

By Wai Lin Coultas

WHILE AN Italian dressing, pesto or even aged balsamic vinegar lifts the traditional Italian caprese to the gastronomic heights the world has taken great delight in, the savoury accents promised by substituting mozzarella as a staple with that laced within marinated goat cheese frees us to add more summer flavours, scents and colours to this light and refreshing starter with sprinklings of lemon and orange zest!

Ingredients:

- 8 cocktail truss tomatoes, each horizontally sliced into 3 discs
- 3 cubes of Meredith Dairy marinated goat cheese, each sliced into 3
- 4 sprigs of fresh basil
- 1 lemon, zested
- ½ large orange, zested
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Pink Himalayan rock salt
- Cracked black pepper

Instructions:

To plate an individual serve, lay out 2 rows of truss tomatoes in the centre of the plate; 3 overlapping slices per row,

with 2 slices of goat cheese laid between the rows.

- Lash over with olive oil; seasoning with salt* and pepper.
 - Toss together the lemon and orange zest; sprinkling ¼ of the zest mix over the tomatoes and cheese, and around the plate.
 - Place the tip of a sprig of basil centred between the 2 slices of cheese, with an extra 2 to 4 basil leaves peeping out from the edge of rows
- Plates 4 individual serves

* **Note:** Only season with salt when you are ready to serve the starter to prevent water from being drawn out of the sliced tomatoes.

MEANDER VALLEY - GET INVOLVED

Showtime for petals & prickles

PLANT LOVERS can enjoy a weekend of exhibitions in Meander Valley during February.

Westbury Garden Club is having a flower show Saturday 10th February at Westbury Town Hall, Lyall Street, Westbury from 1:30pm to 4:00pm. Entry will cost \$2.00. There will be stalls

a raffle and a cracking afternoon tea available

On Sunday, head along to the cacti and succulent show being held at the Deloraine Bowls Club on 11th Feb from 11.00am to 3.00pm.

Entry by gold coin donation. All proceeds to Lyme disease research. Light refreshments available.

Chalkboard chatter in Westbury

PEARN'S STEAM World now has a Community News blackboard for use by all members of the community.

This will enable the general public to become aware of

any forthcoming events.

Any group may write in chalk their latest news or perhaps they may just have an uplifting message to brighten one's day.

Revvng up for street car show

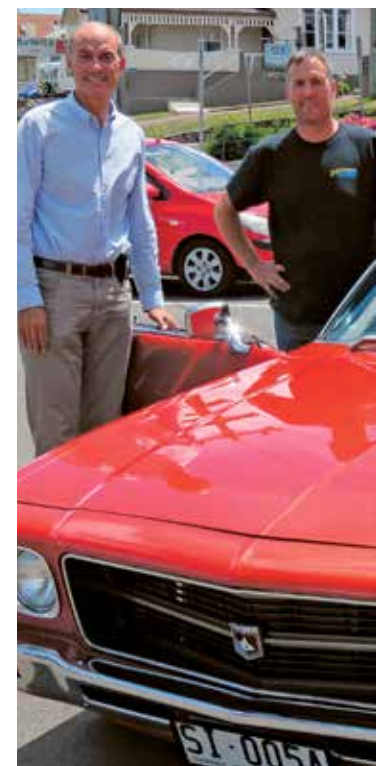
THE DELORAINE Street Car Show will be held again on Sunday 18th February.

The Car Show first started in 2016, and had over 500 cars displayed in 2017. It is expected to have 600 in 2018.

This year the show has been supported by the state government to the tune of \$2,000.

Last year, the show attracted over 10,000 patrons who support local businesses in Deloraine.

Liberal Member for Lyons, Guy Barnett, said he was pleased to work with the Car Show's committee and he "looks forward to attending the Car Show in 2018 and encourages others to attend too."



Minister Barnett with Car Show organiser Grant Evans.



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THE COALITION GOVERNMENT

Armistice Centenary Grants Program

Organisations in our community are invited to express an interest in grants to support local, community based projects and activities that commemorate the end of the First World War.

For information on this program please contact my office.

SENATOR JONATHAN DUNIAM
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

5 - 7 Best Street, Devonport TAS 7310 03 6424 5960
senator.duniam@aph.gov.au SenatorDuniam

Authorised by Senator Jonathon Duniam, 5 - 7 Best Street, Devonport TAS 7310.



HYDRANGEAS ARE some of the most striking of the flowers of December/January, but the heat this summer has not been kind.

Those which are exposed to hot morning sun have reacted by taking on a dejected appearance, as if cringing from the heat.

With the promise of hotter climate to come, it is possible these hardy, drought tender plants will become a thing of the past. A mulch of crumbly cow manure, covered by a layer of straw will extend the watering schedule to once weekly.

The one in the picture was grown from a cutting taken 40 years ago from pink flowering specimen in a neighbouring garden. It has gradually transitioned through mauve to its present blue because the

soil conditions differed from those of its former home.

Rural residents with unprotected small fruit trees and shrubs are the unexpected beneficiaries from the plague of army worms which has devastated pastures and cereal crops. Farmers will be hard pressed to preserve sufficient feed for their animals through winter. Apparently they have

grown to plague proportions because of the unusually hot November. The birds prefer these insect pests to small stone fruit. "Army" is a suitable description, as they invade in their millions. But they are small striped caterpillars rather than worms.

Vegetables

Sow Brassica seeds in containers of seed raising mix. Plant out in soil enriched with compost or manure. Sow seeds of beetroot, silver beet, spring onions, carrots and parsnips in Jan/Feb.



Some of the striking colours of Hydrangeas.



Lindy Dornauf (centre) at the presentation dinner in Hobart

A berry big achievement

CHRISTMAS HILLS Raspberry Farm Café was presented as a finalist in the prestigious Fonterra Australia Agriculture Award at the 2017 Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards.

Held at the the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart, cafe proprietor Lindy Dornauf attended.

The Fonterra Australia Agriculture Award aims to applaud unsung heroes and

high achievers who work tirelessly to provide food and drink for our communities.

Nominees for this category can be involved in any stage of agriculture and focuses on acknowledging those who play a part in shaping our agricultural community.

Christmas Hills Raspberry Farm Café, a well known stop in Elizabeth Town, was established in 1984 when the Dornauf family, already

involved in the dairy business, planted twelve acres of raspberry canes on a north-facing hill on their property.

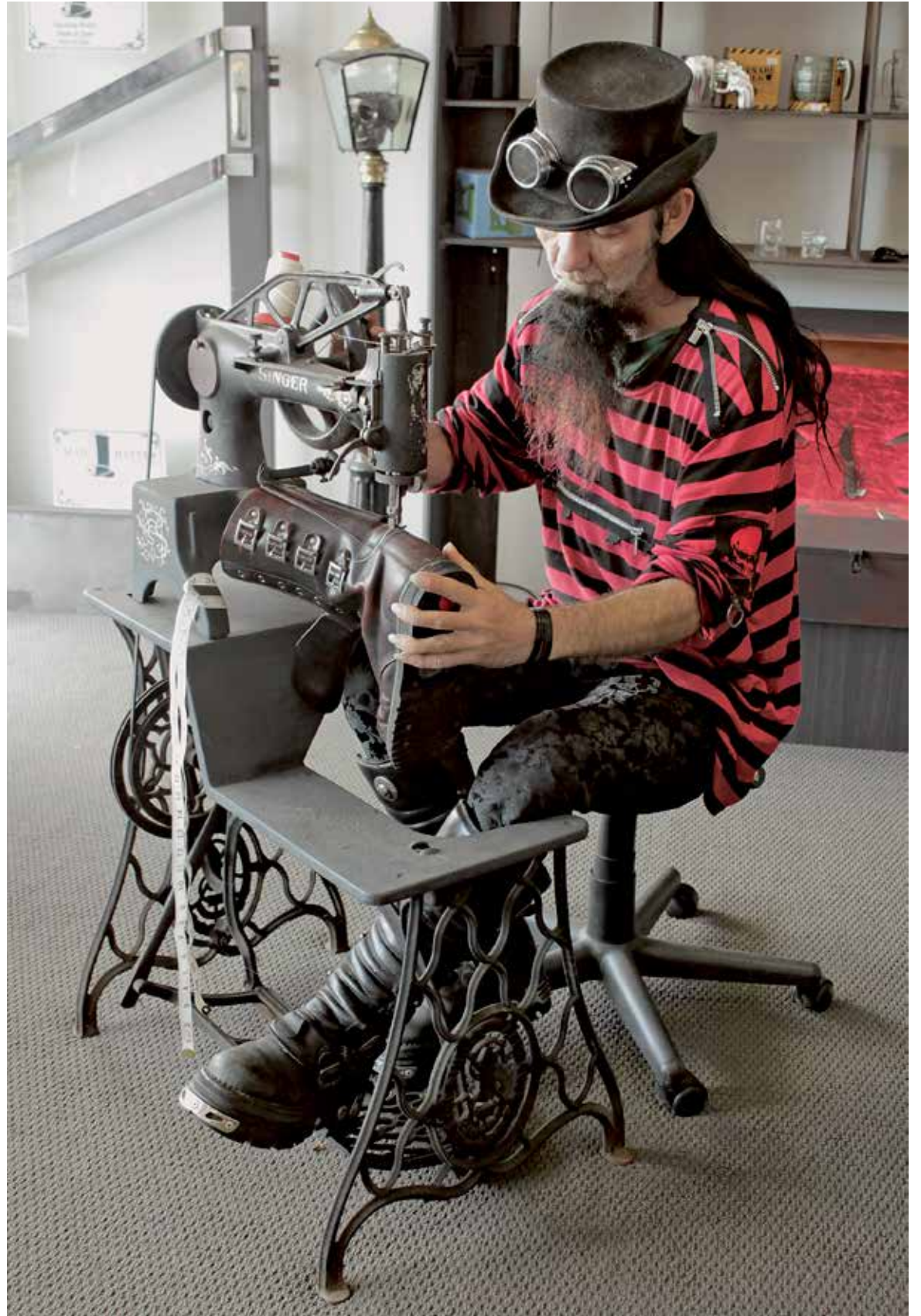
In 1995 the café was built and is now a dining hotspot for locals and tourists alike.

In December 2012 a new shop was opened, creating more space for customers to enjoy all the culinary delights the Raspberry Farm Cafe has on offer.

Up to 40 full-time and

casual staff are employed during the peak season, dropping back to around 20 during winter.

The café is part of the producer led tourist initiative, Cradle to Coast Tasting Trail.



Brett Henson has many talents and can turn his hand to practically anything.

Mad Hatter loves leather

Picture and story by Hayley Manning

IN DELORAINE'S newest shop you can get a key cut, a battery replaced, your shoes repaired, or a leather item repaired, but best of all...you no longer need to drive 100 km's or more to get a few well chosen words engraved on a pewter tankard or a last minute piece of jewellery.

Mad Hatter Hand Made is situated amid other quirky shops and studios on Emu Bay Road, and further positions Deloraine as a significant hub of creativity in Northern Tasmania. Shop proprietor, Mr Brett Henson, said the

variety of skills required for all the different aspects of the business, together with customer requests for unusual leather items, are what keeps him interested in the trade he entered 25 years ago in Hobart.

I can basically fix or make anything, there's not much I can't do

Brett has continued to hone his skills by working in leather repair, and multi-service shops around Tassie, but he recently decided the time was right to start his own business.

He said he particularly enjoys repairing leather farm equipment, including nose-feed bags, harnesses, bridles and saddles.

"I can basically fix or make anything, there's not much I can't do. I'm the go-to-guy for high-end leather work and the jobs no-one else can or wants to do and I don't charge exorbitant prices."

Leather pieces are available for purchase and come with encouraging advice for those wanting to make something themselves.

"The internet makes it possible to learn anything these days, so there really is no excuse not to have a go."

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Mark Shelton MP
Liberal Member for Lyons

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St Patrick will return

FOLLOWING THE retirement of the St Patrick's Festival committee, a steering group has been formed to develop plans for the rebirth of the next Festival.

As March 2018 is so close, it was decided not to run the Festival this coming year. Instead, the next Westbury St Patrick's Festival will be held in March 2019, which will give the new group a full year to plan and develop a successful event.

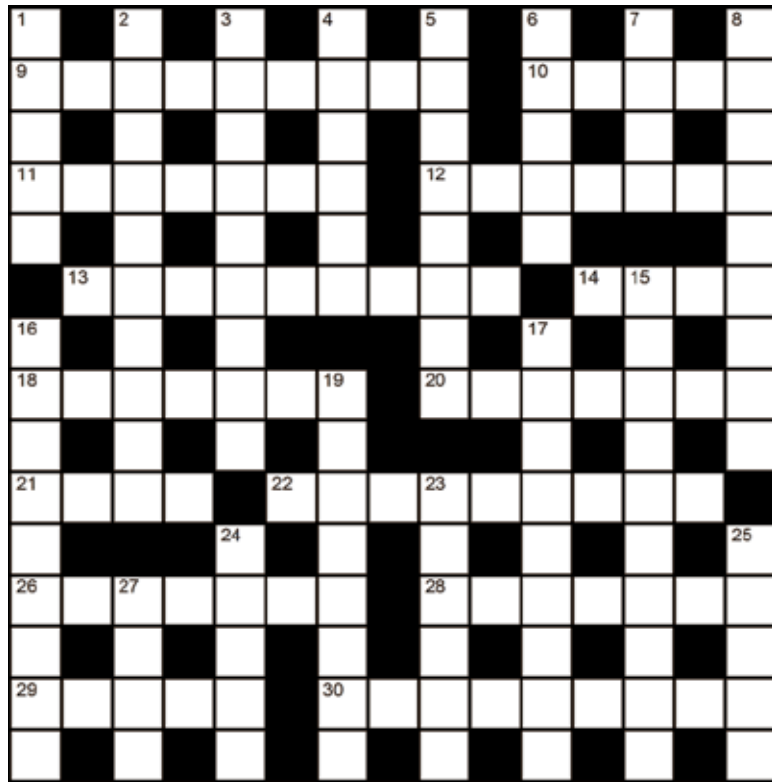
It was agreed that a concert be held at Westbury on St Patrick's Day, Saturday 17th March 2018 and that this would be a valuable fund raiser for the 2019 event.

The new steering group was formed at a public meeting attended by over 30 people, who shared ideas to help shape the future of the festival.

Plans for the revived festival include returning to the Village Green, free entry and a focus on Irish/Celtic Folk tradition and historical / rural activities.

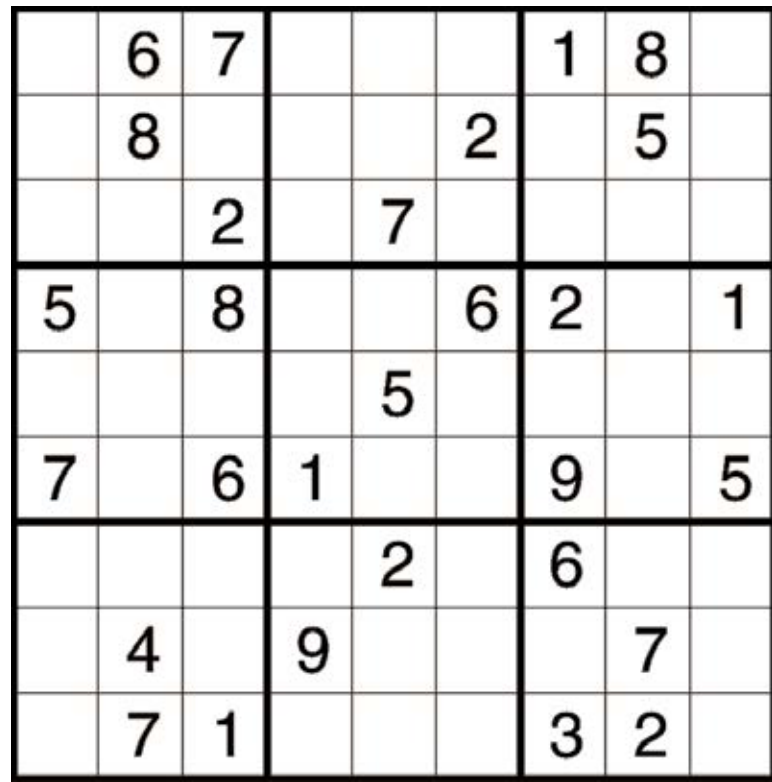
The new group invites anyone interested in offering support for the festival or who would like further information to contact Phil Steers (Acting Secretary) on 0419 858 880.

Crossword



- Across**
- 9 Playwright (9)
 - 10 Moor (3,2)
 - 11 Space surrounding an altar (7)
 - 12 Quickly (7)
 - 13 Runner (9)
 - 14 Cougar (4)
 - 18 Distinct sort or kind (7)
 - 20 Surgical knife (7)
 - 21 A great deal (4)
 - 22 Herald (9)
 - 26 Hedge (7)
 - 28 Books of maps (7)
 - 29 Young hooter (5)
 - 30 Abbreviated (9)
- Down**
- 1 Decree (5)
 - 2 Executives (10)
 - 3 Biting (9)
 - 4 Fiddle (6)
 - 5 Old liners (8)
 - 6 The Roman Empire's home country (5)
 - 7 Large mass of floating ice (4)
 - 8 As thumbs are (9)
 - 15 Disagreeable (10)
 - 16 Psalter (5,4)
 - 17 Moon (9)
 - 19 Astonishment (8)
 - 23 Lea (6)
 - 24 Threescore (5)
 - 25 Stage whisper (5)
 - 27 Depend (4)

Sudoku (Easy)

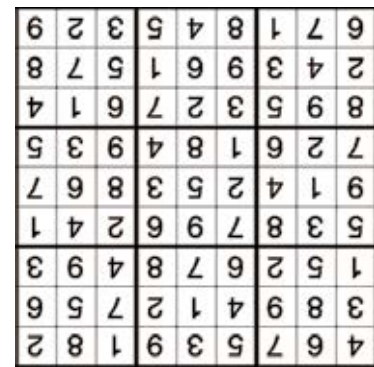


©2018 Syndicated Puzzles
 How To Play: Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 x 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9. Best of luck!

Crossword - January 2018 Solution



Sudoku - January 2018 Solution



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
February 2018 9.30am - 2.30pm	Free Certificate II in Community Services	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine 1 day per week for 15 weeks Ph: Tameka on 6339 2813
January 1st to 31st	'Home' photos by Jade Hallum	Pixels, Deloraine Digital Art Gallery located in the Deloraine Online Access Centre 21 West Parade (behind the library)
Saturday 13th January 6.00pm - 10.00pm	Concert featuring "Crooked Weather"	Marakoopa Café 186 Mayberry Rd, Mayberry to book enquire@marakoopacafe.com.au or 6363 6033
Tuesday 16th January	School Holiday Program	Cooking Cakes & Deserts Cost \$5.00 12-25yrs Ph: Vicki Jordan 0400 155 690 or email vicki.jordan@mvc.tas.gov.au
Wednesday 17th January	School Holiday Program	Cooking Cakes & Deserts Cost \$5.00 12-25yrs Ph: Vicki Jordan 0400 155 690 or email vicki.jordan@mvc.tas.gov.au
Friday 19th - 21st January	Tasmanian Junion Beef Expo	Deloraine Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd 3 day camp
Friday 19th January	Holiday Program Mountain Bike Coaching	Hadspen Cost \$30.00 10 - 14 years 30 places available. All gear supplied. Ph: 0400 155 690 Vicki Jordan
Saturday 20th January 9.00am - 1.00pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drive and Caveside Road. Contact Ross Quick 0413 681 252
Sunday 21st January 1.00pm	Red Hot Summer Tour	Country Club Lawns, Prospect Vale Suzi Quatro, Angels, Baby Animals, Screaming Jets etc. Tickets 136100
Tuesday 23rd - 25th January	Bushwalk to Lees Paddocks (3 days)	Only 10 spaces available. 13 - 25 years Ph: Vicki Jordan 0400 155 690 or email vicki.jordan@mvc.tas.gov.au
Wednesday 24th January 2.30pm	Meander Valley U3A Coffee & Chat	Empire Hotel, Deloraine psychotherapist Mandy Cassidy on "Food for Thought"
Friday 26th January 8.00am - 10.30am	Australia Day Community Breakfast	Chudleigh Memorial Hall & Gardens Admission \$15.00 adults, Children Free Details Ph: 6367 8190
Friday 26th January 8.00am - 1.00pm	Lions Club of Hadspen South Esk Car Boot Sale	Riverbank at Hadspen
Sunday 28th January 1.00pm - 6.00pm	Jeremiah Johnson & Shanteya and Jo	Marakoopa Café 186 Mayberry Rd, Mayberry to book enquire@marakoopacafe.com.au or 6363 6033
Tuesday 30th January 11.00am - 1.00pm	Meander Valley U3A Enrolments	Westbury Town Hall Supper Room, Lyall Street, Westbury
Tuesday 30th - 31st January	Mountain Bike Camp - Derby	Cost \$120.00. 12 - 25 years 15 places available. Ph: Vicki Jordan 0400 155 690
Wednesday 31st January - 1st-2nd February	Circus Workshop for kids 6-12 years	Chudleigh Memorial Hall \$10.00 per child for 3 workshops 10.00am - 3.00pm each day Ph: 0428 043 786
Friday 2nd February	Kayaking - Huntsman Lake	12 - 25 years 10 places available Ph: Vicki Jordan 0400 155 690 or email vicki.jordan@mvc.tas.gov.au
Friday 2nd February	Community Family Circus Show and BBQ	Chudleigh Memorial Hall 6pm showcasing skills learnt by Circus Workshop attendees all welcome
Sunday 4th February	Australian Rotary Muster for Mental Health	To participate in the muster www.rotary9830.com.au/arh-muster-mental-health to download form
Saturday 10th February 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society - "Denial"	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd. Deloraine UK Drama Bio M rated 110 minutes Ph: 0418 389 868
Saturday 10th February 1.30pm - 4.00pm	Westbury Flower Show	Westbury Town Hall, Lyall Street, Westbury Entry \$2.00 Stalls, Raffle & Afternoon Tea available
Sunday 11th February 11.00am - 3.00pm	Tasmanian Cacti & Succulent Exhibition & Sales	Deloraine Bowls Club, Meander Valley Rd Gold Coin donation Light refreshments available
Monday 12th February	Meander Valley U3A Term 1 Classes begin	Various venues
Thursday 15th February 7.00pm	Public meeting re Westbury Function Centre	Westbury Town Hall & Supper Room, Lyall Street, Westbury
Saturday 17th February 3.30pm	Carrick Park Pacing Club Carrick Cup meeting	East Street, Carrick Fashions on the Field, free entertainment, polocrosse display. Ph: 0400 635 070
Saturday 17th February 7.30pm	Deloraine Big Band performs Retro Rock	Deloraine Little Theatre, Cost \$35.00 Arts Deloraine Members \$30.00 incl Supper. Bar available
Sunday 18th February	Deloraine Street Car Show	Emu Bay Road, Deloraine Ph: Grant Evans, 0408 133 421



Photo by: Mike Moores

Champagne cuddles up to Faye Shorter on one of her regular visits to Kanangra.

A weekly dose of Champagne

By Hayley Manning

CHAMPAGNE IS a friendly, lively, alert, sociable and devoted double-coated Samoyed dog. The breed were originally used to pull sledges, herd reindeer and hunt, but Champagne's

relaxed and gentle temperament makes her an ideal therapy dog.

'Champs' and her personal assistant, Michael, visit their 'extended families' at Kanangra on Tuesday mornings and Grenoch on

Thursdays. Recently retired Michael suggested the idea to a staff member and it started from there.

"Not everybody likes dogs but Champs naturally senses out who likes her and she goes to them. We can also visit a

Vera, jewel of Deloraine

...Continued from Page 9

They raised \$500 at their December 2017 event to help a widow, while other fundraisers have enabled children to travel to Melbourne or Hobart for surgery.

Vera has also taught people to sing with a 'no nonsense approach'. "You have to be honest with them or they will not progress; many of my learners have left to continue on with their careers," she said.

The gifted songwriter won an award in the Tasmanian and New Zealand Song Writing Competition in 2007, with two songs based on real-life events: *My Treasured Picture* and *The Gift of Music*, a song about a boy who was born with a disability and couldn't

read or write, but soon progressed after Vera introduced him to the guitar and drums.

Another major award was presented to Vera and other Cystic Fibrosis fundraisers by Tasmanian Governor, Peter Underwood (dec), for 'significant contribution to Cystic Fibrosis Tasmania' at Government House, Hobart in 2012, followed by a Meander Valley Council Certificate of Recognition for Contribution to Community: 3000 Voluntary Hours in 2013.

Don't let ageing get you down. It's too hard to get back up.
John Wagner

resident's room if they place a star on their door. It is a simple thing to do," Michael said.

Leisure and Lifestyle Coordinator, Helen How, said "Everyone smiles when she enters the room. She brightens the day."

Jobe the Chihuahua is another canine visitor to Kanangra. Volunteer, John

Doolen, has been taking Jobe to 'assist' in the men's shed for six years.

Golden Carers research suggests pet therapy can be a source of happiness for animal lovers and previous pet owners. In addition, studies reveal pets can visibly 'lift the atmosphere' in residential homes.

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- Monday 12 February - Term 1 classes commence.

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SPORT



Doing the hard yards

From smoke-belching old Fordson Majors to alky burning super modifieds, they were all there at the Deloraine Apex Tractor Pull. Competitors from NSW and Victoria as well as a strong local contingent vied for tractor glory on reputedly the best track in Australia. A record crowd attended the first day of this annual, very popular show but heavy rain dampened enthusiasm for attending on day two. Generous donations from interstate sponsors enabled some of Australia's most exotic super modifieds to attend the Tractor Pull, which is gaining in popularity year by year. A spokesman for Deloraine Apex said bigger and better things are planned for next year. Pictured above is Tim Creswell testing out his Fordson Major on the first day of competition.

Photo by: Mike Moores



Photo by: Mike Moores

Deloraine Tennis club member Kaye Woolley enjoys a social game of tennis on Mondays.

A fresh serve in the tennis club kitchen

By Hayley Manning

DELORAINES TENNIS Club members have just completed an interior refurbishment of their club house.

According to coordinator, Debbie Kearns, it all started with a plan to replace the worn out kitchen floor and it progressed from there to a new kitchen, floor coverings

and a neutral coat of paint on the walls.

The revamped, bright and airy club house was made possible through the generosity of local businesses, volunteers, and neighbouring council workers, who 'chipped in' by clearing shrubs and broken trees.

Debbie made the

project a reality through her effective applications to: Meander Valley Council, National Court Rebate Scheme, Community Sport and Recreation Tasmania, and Bendigo Bank, for grants and rebate bids.

"Funding opportunities are available if you have a community project," Debbie said.

Favourable federal funding

By Cody Handley

TWO LOCAL sporting clubs have hit the jackpot in the form of a federal funding grant aimed at delivering social benefits to communities across Australia.

The Deloraine Kangaroos Football Club and the Deloraine Devils Netball Club have had their applications granted.

The Deloraine Kangaroos football club has a long history of playing great footy in Tasmania, but they've had a tough few years with floods damaging the club house.

Fortunately, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

The federal member for Lyons, Brian Mitchell, has announced the success of their application for

the Stronger Communities Grant, which will see the club receive \$10,000 to fix and upgrade facilities.

Mr. Mitchell said he was thrilled to make the announcement, when he caught up with club president Shaun Donohue and coach Brett Powe.

The Deloraine Devils also received \$5,000 for the upgrade of uniforms and equipment after putting in what Mr. Mitchell describes as "a top quality application."

The Stronger Communities Grant will be available again in 2018 for clubs and community groups seeking additional funding. If you know of such a group, contact your federal MP for more information.

Debbie and her team mates agree the hard work was worth it. "Tennis is all about friendship, sunshine and keeping fit while having fun. We have a player who is five years old and many who are still playing well into their late 70's, but we would like to see more junior players join our club.

Jack Heathcote, 10, had

an encouraging win in the Launceston-Bell Bay junior championships this year, she said".

People are more than welcome to have a social hit with players on a Monday morning or hire the courts for private use.

For private coaching and all other information, please contact Debbie on 0417 145 184.