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Meander Valley Gazette

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April 2018

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper



Forget the wind in your hair

Photo by: Mike Moores

200 years ago it was considered a medical fact that the human body would disintegrate if travelling over 60 miles per hour. No worries then for Brenton Smith and Lillie Keogh of Bendigo, who brought their Schacht to the recent Veteran Car Rally in Meander Valley tour - it has a top speed of 50 miles per hour. The tour is a biannual event held in various places around Australia. This year's tour was organised by Joe Clippingdale of Birralee. 67 people attended with 29 vehicles including 1 from WA, 3 from SA, 4 from Qld, 1 from the ACT and 20 from Tasmania. The weather for the event could only be described as average, with rain and wind hampering some plans.

The hidden costs of free camping

By Sharon Webb

COMPLAINTS FROM businesses and residents have caused Meander Valley Council to shut free campgrounds in Bracknell and Westbury and Deloraine is next on the list.

The move is unpopular with other businesses in those areas which depend on campers spending for increased profits.

Councillor Tanya King said many business people in Westbury are "outraged, frustrated and angry" at the closure.

"I hear about it as I go about my daily routine the butcher, the hairdresser, the pharmacy, the service station, food retailers and service providers such as the library," she said.

"The message is clear: people want campers in our towns the vibrancy,

energy and the financial contribution they bring is now sorely missed.

"I have heard residents comment that tourism has finally taken off and now the very people sharing our beautiful region are being driven away."

But Meander Valley Council manager Martin Gill said he had no choice but to shut down the campgrounds.

Council had already discussed the fact that

offering free camping on council property was against Federal Government's national competition principles to prevent local government competing against local businesses by offering free camping.

Recently, a business or resident complained officially about the camping.

"On review, it was clear that camping did not have the appropriate planning approvals,"

Mr Gill said.

"Under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act (1993) council is obliged to enforce the provisions of the planning scheme. Because no permits were in place council had to stop the activity."

Mr Gill said that despite councillors' December vote to keep campgrounds open until the State economic regulator gave

a clear direction on the matter, once council received the official complaint the planning laws had to be applied.

Complaints about camping at Bracknell generally have been about the impact on other tourism accommodation businesses - but many complaints are about camper behaviour.

Poor camper behaviour complaints have also increased in Westbury with regards to noise, camp fires...

Continued on Page 4...

Photo by: Hayley Manning



Anita Griffith has had to wait an hour and a half for an ambulance to arrive.

MS patient waits & waits

By Hayley Manning

THE LAUNCESTON General Hospital's protracted struggle with an overcrowded emergency department, ambulance ramping and a shortage of ward beds, has prompted the 'Bring Your Own Bed' industrial campaign by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation.

Deloraine's Anita Griffith, who has been forced to call for emergency ambulance transportation to the LGH Emergency Department (ED) due to the progressive and unpredictable nature of her Multiple Sclerosis symptoms, said she is far from impressed with the ED and Ambulance Tasmania. On one occasion she was left on a bed in ED for three days before being admitted to a ward, and more recently she endured a one and a half hour wait for an ambulance during a severe medical episode, during which she experienced difficulty breathing, and pain so immense she eventually passed out.

Ambulance Tasmania Regional Duty Manager, Alistair Shephard, said the Meander Valley Municipality has two ambulances, two paramedics and 15 active volunteers who work over a rotating roster. If a paramedic is already attending a call, an ambulance is sent from Launceston, then Sheffield or Latrobe.

Minister for Health, Michael Ferguson, responded to these concerns by saying he is committed to investing \$125 million in Ambulance Services, with the recruitment of extra paramedics in regional areas, upgrades to regional hospitals, and the launch of an integrated medical search and rescue helicopter. The Minister has also previously announced plans for a 'major redevelopment of the LGH', that included a new ward with an additional 40 beds.

However, Member for Lyons MP, Brian Mitchell, said the Turnbull and Hodgman Liberal Government has plans to cut \$11 million from Tasmanian hospitals over the next four years including \$1.95 million less for the LGH. In addition, he said the LGH had lost its Emergency Medicine Training Accreditation, making it even harder to recruit doctors and specialists to Tasmanian hospitals.

The Australian Medical Association's Dr Stuart Day, said specialist ED trainees required supervision from Australian ticketed emergency specialists, and the LGH now had just two remaining ED doctors, after several doctors resigned and others retired. He said intern loss would have a serious impact on patient care at the LGH in 2019, if the college did not review its decision over the next few months.

Glover prize highly contested



By Antonia Howarth-Wass

OF THE 400+ paintings submitted to the Glover Art Prize, Australia's most prestigious landscape award, just 42 were hung in the Falls Pavilion at Evandale, in this its 15th year.

The Glover was curated this year by Megal Dick and judged by Dr Jane Deeth, Natalia Bradshaw and Tony Stephens, who, together, represent a wealth of experience in the visual arts.

Visitors were treated to a varied feast of landscape interpretation which was

"political, engaging, intriguing and sometimes challenging but always beautiful", according to the Chairman of The John Glover Society Inc, Andrew Heap.

Described as both a national and international event, this year the winner was Halinka Orszulok from NSW who painted a fantastical playground at Cataract Gorge called *Ponies*. It is a mysterious image of dark nighttime, highlighted by strong artificial light that makes for moodiness and strong contrasts belonging "to neither nature nor culture".

The variety in this exhi-

bition was noticeable in its diversity of place and time through history and aboriginal contact, and included shorelines and seascape, the Central Highlands, Frenchman's Cap, and Savage River amongst other Tasmanian landmarks.

The Glover has become synonymous with images as ideas using a wide range of materials, mediums and painting styles and "no pretty pictures".

True to form, there were spaces in line and colour on plexiglass, fish nets, shapes in resin formed into a tree and tractor tracks on a local farm, unmistakable geology, and a rocky shore in digital

print on aluminium.

Yet there were two stand-out pictures which received High Commendation. The Hanger's Choice was a beautiful, glossy and lustrous image of native vegetation called *Correa Alba* which shifts the focus on the minutiae of landscape from scientific documentation to a more poetic realm. It is a small section of earth in transparent oils which shines like a pre-Raphaelite image in a very romantic and nuanced way. The artist Kylie Elkington was keen to make much of the changing face of landscape since European

settlement and she attracted much attention and admiration for her work.

Another Highly Commended work, this time by Nicholas Blowers, was also The People's Choice. A very large work in oils on canvas called *Savage Entropy*, it was impossible to ignore the state of collapse of vegetation creating a spikey and intrepid scene along the banks of the Savage River. This picture was a clear favourite amongst viewers of all ages.

Overall, a wonderful event. Evandale has done it again.



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What am I bid?



Hagley Uniting Church parishioners Valerie Gibson and Robert Clarke with two harmoniums up for grabs at the upcoming car boot sale.

Photo by: Mike Moores

By Cody Handley

THE WESTBURY Uniting Church Parish will be holding a Car Boot Sale and Sausage Sizzle on Saturday, 14th April.

The sale will take place at the Hagley Uniting Church property from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Items for sale include old church organs and pews, assorted crockery and old-style fold-up chairs. Plenty of car boot spaces are available at a cost of \$10.00.

Chairman of the Parish Council, Robert Clarke, told the Gazette they are trying to sell as many items as possible. "We're selling anything that isn't nailed down, and we can

pull the nails out if it comes to that," he said jokingly.

This comes as the Parish are looking towards selling the church site, which closed in 2016.

"The Uniting Church body is not allowing the church to be sold until the cemetery has been disposed of," Mr Clarke said.

According to the Cemetery Act, an owner of a cemetery automatically becomes the manager of that cemetery, which carries the potential for some hefty consequences for noncompliance with regulations. This could be a turn off for potential buyers of the site.

To book a carboot space, phone Val Gibson 6392 2243.

Aerial firebombing

FUEL REDUCTION burn season is underway to protect the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, by reducing risks of bushfires and large-scale landscape fires.

Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) will undertake these large-scale burns within remote areas of the Southwest, Franklin-Gordon Wild Rivers and Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair national parks and the Southwest Conservation Area till the end of June.

They will be ignited at short

notice via helicopter and by hand from road edges anytime as weather and fuel conditions permit.

Bushwalkers and campers should be vigilant but not alarmed by the generated smoke and flames.

"The safety of park users [remains] of paramount importance," said Paul Black, PWS's fire manager.

Remote walking tracks and campsites in the burns vicinity will be checked prior to the burns. Logbooks at track heads will be checked too, and walkers are advised to enter

their walk details.

Aircraft overhead of remote tracks may be trying to ascertain walker's positions in the park to determine if it is safe to proceed with a burn.

Walkers can assist by making themselves visible from the air by moving to clearer ground and by wearing or waving a highly visible clothing or object.

To allow burns to take place, public access on some roads and tracks may be restricted or closed at short notice. Visitors in these areas have to comply with directions from PWS staff or any signage on site.

It is advisable to check the PWS website for updates on any proposed or active burns.

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Russ Whitcombe checks the tyres of a newcomer's bike before a ride. Photo by: Beryl Pearn

U3A ride easy in Westbury

A COLOURFUL cycling group has recently appeared on the streets of Westbury. Cyclists are a frequent sight on our beautiful country roads but this group is different men and women riding slowly in straggly single file, participating in a Meander Valley U3A activity led by Russ Witcombe.

Russ, who recently moved from the mainland, took up cycling after retirement to join Rotary mates on long distance charity rides and enjoyed the regular exercise, friendship and coffee.

To provide an opportunity

for beginner riders to share his passion, Russ started the group for casual cycling around the "flat" streets of Westbury. His invitation to "join us for fun, fitness and friendship ... stronger riders welcome but will pedal slower!" must have captured imaginations as twenty people enrolled.

On Wednesday mornings, members meet at the Village Green. Riders have been surprised that there are quite a few hills that aren't noticed when they travel by car. The weekly ride was not enough for one beginning rider, so

to improve his fitness he organised additional rides between the Wednesday rides.

Things are on a roll for MVU3A this year after sponsorship from Deloraine & Districts Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank, making it easier for U3A to share affordable courses and activities. A strong U3A group benefits the whole community – members involved with local activities remain in the district to support businesses and add to local vibrancy.

For information about MVU3A, phone 0484 758 466 or www.mvu3a.org.

LGBTI communication

DELORAINE HOUSE is hosting a five-hour workshop on working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (LGBTI) on 20th April from 10.00am.

Free for community members, service providers and professionals, it deepens

understanding and confidence in relating to LGBTI's mental health. It offers practical strategies to reduce suicide.

Conducted by Sharon Jones, Julia Taylor. Register by 15th April via email: admin@kentishrc.com.au or phone 64 911 552.

Proud to be a worker

By Cody Handley

THE DELORAINE Rotary Club's Pride of Workmanship Awards were presented on the 13th March.

The awards night took place at the Bush Inn and included a meal and a guest speaker.

The Pride of Workmanship awards went to Linda Pittard of Seppenfelts Emporium, and Zach Langley of Sibelco Limeworks.

Zach has been an employee of Sibelco for 3 years. During that time he has demonstrated pride in his work by always giving his best and his

willingness to pitch in and lend a hand.

Linda engages with people from all walks of life, addressing customers by name where she can and often going out of her way to be helpful.

Rotary President, Gayle Plunkett, said the award is "a good chance for businesses also to showcase themselves to Rotarians and for us to put faces to businesses. The night was very enjoyable and, just judging by the level of conversation and interaction between everyone attending, it was a good social night as well."



Photo by: Mike Moores

Zach Langley of Sibelco, Mole Creek and Linda Pittard from Seppenfelts, Deloraine receive their awards.

The hidden costs of free camping

Continued from Page 1...

...safety for young users, public urination, impact on existing uses, dumping of grey water and free access for campers while other users pay, Mr Gill said.

In contradiction, Coun-

cillor Ian Mackenzie moved at the March council meeting that the Bracknell campground, used for that purpose for 50 years, should re-open or that the Bracknell recreation ground be used until camping can resume at the

river reserve.

"I believe council did not need to shut down camping at Bracknell; all that was needed was to implement a fee," he said.

"Tasmania's economic regulator Mr Joe Dimasi never

mentions a camping area has to close, he states they need to 'implement a fee structure'.

"I believe a fee with an honour box system as provided by

Parks and Wildlife services in camp sites and national parks in Tasmania could be sufficient or at least used as an interim measure."

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In My Opinion...

By Joanne Eisemann
Managing Editor

YAY FOR Tasmania, the first Australian state to elect a majority of women to government.

13 women (7 Labor, 4 Liberal, 2 Green) and 12 men making up the new 25 member lower house of state parliament, shows a steady increase from the 9 women elected in the previous ballot and 6 in the vote before that.

It's great to see a parliament that is reflecting the gender make up of the general population.

Although for some it may have seemed like a long time in coming, when you consider that women gained the right to stand for Tasmanian parliament in 1922, and the first woman to gain a seat was Margaret McIntyre, Legislative Council in 1948, it has happened rather quickly.

From there, it was 1955 when two women, Mabel Miller and Amelia Best (both Liberal) were the first females elected to the lower house.

The first female cabinet minister was Gillian James (Labor) in 1980, first female party leader, Christine Milne (Greens) 1993 and the first female deputy premier was Sue Napier (Liberal) 1996.

Probably most of us will not have forgotten our first female premier Lara Giddings (Labor) 2011, or the first female Tasmanian to be appointed speaker of the House of Assembly, Elise Archer (Liberal) in 2014.

You may have the perception that Australia is a leading light when it comes to equal representation in parliaments but not so. Rankings determined by the Inter-Parliamentary Union showed Australia currently ranks 49th out of the top 50 countries, way behind New Zealand in 17th place with surprisingly Rwanda, Bolivia and Cuba taking out the first 3 places. America comes in at 100 and United Kingdom at 39.

While New Zealand is on an upward trend in the rankings sadly Australia is slipping. In 1999 Australia was at 15th place.

Why do we need women in parliament? Because to have happy, healthy communities we need balanced decision making. Decisions that are made taking into account the needs and concerns of everyone lead to more effective spending of public dollars. Diversity is key.

Lets hope the rest of Australia takes the lead offered by Tasmania in this regard.

the ratepayers and people of Meander Valley and taking notice. Once again, many thanks.

Helen & Tom Perry
Westbury

Oh to be in Westbury
Where once the tourists stayed
And camped beside the sports ground
And watched the cricket played

And when the game was over
They'd wander down the street
And stop to have a friendly chat
With the townsfolk that they'd meet

They would ask about the area
What to see and where to go
And find out about the places
That the brochures never show

Almost every local business
Has a notice on display
Saying welcome to the campers
And now they are sent away

Once again authority
Has raised its ugly head
The caravans don't call in
They use the bypass road instead

So why doesn't someone tell us
Where the problems coming from
So that all us simple locals
Understand what's going on.

We don't hear any comment
From the politicians mouth
Maybe it's all a cunning ploy
TO KEEP THE TOURISTS MOVING SOUTH

Michael Martin
Westbury

Letters In...

FOR 14 years we've been able to drive ourselves from Deloraine to Launceston for medical appointments, until recently when an injury stopped us driving. So we called on the Community Car, which took my husband and myself to three Launceston medical appointments within a week.

On one trip I learned that our driver had done five trips to Launceston that day, one even going back and forth to Meander. His record was seven trips to Launceston on the same day!

At just three months old the current Community Car, a Toyota Camry, has done 35,000 kms.

I'd like to acknowledge our unsung heroes: the voluntary drivers, who effortlessly get those in need to their appointments on time, with prompt pick-up afterwards. On return trips often conveying prescriptions from LGH to our local pharmacy when needed.

Judith-Anne Tahir
Deloraine

TO THE Councillors and all concerned, thank you all for holding a Public Meeting regarding the proposal of the "new Sports Centre".

Many more thanks for listening to the concerns of

A musical tribute

By Antonia Howarth-Wass

SEVERAL MONTHS after the passing of Kent Geoffrey Furnage, a passionate and dedicated group including family, friends, musical comrades and musical protégés collaborated to produce an afternoon in Gallery 9 at Deloraine, in celebration of one of Tasmania's outstanding musicians and a Deloraine personage without peer.

On a Saturday in March, the Gallery was packed and music once again filled the room, flowing into the street and surrounds as those who knew and loved Kent brought heart and soul to a commemoration of his life and work.

They brought something of the outstanding quality of his presentations of celebrated music, to patrons committed to the sounds that emanate from Gothic Cathedrals, ancient choirs and a history way before our time.

Kent was a formidable advocate of such music and one of the great musicians in the country.

It was a sad and beautiful afternoon with sunlight surreptitiously streaming through the upper windows, as every single attendee had in some way been touched by Kent. He was more than a local hero. His musicianship could have taken him much further than participation in Sydney Opera House choral works, but his life, his art, his extraordinary talent remained a local secret of the community where he was born and

INTERESTING TO read "Meander Falls short of consensus" by Sharon Webb (MVG March 2018). It's hard to believe Meander Valley Council wants to build a road to the Meander Falls.

That's lazy. What's wrong with the 6½ hour return walk? The average walker can easily complete the walk in about 4 hours. When you walk you see things that you don't see when you drive. It's not just all about the Falls itself, but the many wonders along the way which make the experience more enjoyable and rewarding. While MVC is putting in new toilets at the Huntsman Hideaway Hut, renovate the crumbling, dangerous hut and renew the wood heater and flue. The \$125,000 of taxpayers money MVC has squandered on a feasibility study for a tourist road to the Falls, would have (and should have) been more than enough to cover the upgrade. While they're at it, take a load of gravel and sling a shovel or two in all the potholes along the existing road.

A.R. Trounson
Needles

raised and where his wife Shirley and sister Robyn and her family, in part, remain.

Filling the shoes of Kent as an accompanist is downright impossible, but Roslyn Tierney ably conducted the Don Chorale and soloists known to all of us over the years; namely Leonie Gryta, Lois Evans, David Priddle, Rosie Stapleton, Tamsyn Stock Stafford, Carolyn Harris and Dorothy Bauca as they sang a variety of songs, arias and duets. Kent's longtime friend Gillian Woods from Flinders Island came to provide her support on the piano, as did Jill Bacon, Jo Anne Kemp, Elizabeth Rockcliffe and Meredith Stronach, all in recognition of a Master.

Kent's early days in musical theatre in Hobart with Master of Ceremonies John Phelps, gave a glimpse into his repertoire. With music from Strauss, Delibes, Saint Saens, Schubert, Offenbach, Sondheim, Rossini, a partial rendition of Faure's *Requiem* by the Don Chorale and a people's celebration of The Hallelujah chorus, it was a tribute broad in range and befitting solemnity.

The pace of performance demanded by Kent and the astonishing sounds he exacted from his piano, together with iconic conducting from the piano stool may have been missing, but the emotion in the room was overflowing for a life cut short, for the loss and yet grateful thanks for the experience of having known and loved a more than lifesize and a truly unique identity.

An exceptional musician, a wonderful Tasmanian and a great Australian.

ACD relocates

AGED CARE Deloraine (ACD) have sold their Offices in the main street of Deloraine. Administration will soon be relocated at Grenoch Home at 7 East Barrack Street.

Some work needs to be done at Grenoch which is expected to take a few months, so ACD sold the premises with a lease back of six months.

The move is expected to take place around the end of June, subject to the progress of works.

ACD CEO Charlie Emmer-ton says the move is a part of restructuring that will create greater efficiencies in running the business of aged care in Deloraine.

SEEN A PHOTO IN MVG THAT YOU LIKE!

Many of the photographs in the Gazette can be purchased. It's a great way to capture memories of friends, family or places you love in our region. For prices and more information, please phone 6286 8212.

Meander Valley Gazette

EST. 2013

Meander Valley Gazette

This newspaper is published by Meander Valley Connect Inc., 21 West Parade, Deloraine 7304. ABN: 89090614412. 9,300 copies are printed each month on paper made in Tasmania. Delivered to all homes in Meander Valley.

Editorial enquiries:

Contributions welcomed!
Email: editor@meandervalleygazette.com Ph: 6286 8212 (leave a message, it will send an email).

Editorial closing date for May 2018 issue is 27th April.

Advertising enquiries:

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Advertising closing date for May 2018 issue is: 23rd April.

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Tony Ostini and Vito DeLiberali enjoy some time at the Italian Day Centre. Photo by: Mike Moores

Respite care viva Italiano in Prospect Vale

By David Claridge

THERE HAS been a boost to services for the senior's community in Northern Tasmania. An open day to commemorate the official launch of the new Italian Day Centre was held in late February, based at the Italian Club in Prospect.

Running for more than 25 years and providing services to older people in the south, Centre Manager, Elyse Lufi, is pleased that they can now help in the north as well.

"Our original focus was looking after the Italian migrant community in Tasmania, that focus has now expanded to anyone in the wider community, especially for seniors, who enjoy Italian food, culture and language.

"We offer services from hot meals at the day centre or delivered, to providing a place for getting people together to do fun activities such as art and craft, bingo, exercise classes, Italian card games,

working on jigsaw puzzles or even just having a chat."

Meander Valley Mayor Craig Perkins was among many of the attendees at the open day.

"The Australian Italian Club has been a significant cultural and community institution for many years. The new service is part of the evolution of the club and the role it plays in our community," he said.

"The engagement of the Hobart Italian Day Centre's

Hadspen NBN woes

by Cody Handley

THERE HAVE been reports of frequent NBN outages in Hadspen.

One node in particular seems to be the issue. The node in question services premises in Roebourne Avenue, Hadspen Park Drive and Vrouka Place and constantly seems to have NBN technicians tinkering with it.

NBNCo Local Manager Russel Kelly informed the Gazette that there was a problem with a particular node in February but claims the issue has now been rectified.

However affected residents have been experiencing outages for some time.

Alisha Cornish said "We have been on and off for the past year since joining the

NBN. We have good periods then terrible periods where we drop off for weeks at a time."

Max and Janet Wiggins said they "have experienced problems since connecting to NBN. We were offline several times last year . . . We need a permanent fix and not constant patch up jobs.

NBNCo reiterated that individuals needed to report issues to their service provider first. However, this appears to be causing much of the frustration.

The Gazette contacted Bass MHR Ross Hart for comment, who acknowledged what he termed "the NBNCo runaround."

"We think that there should be a consolidated fault reporting network which prevents the service providers from blaming NBNCo and vice versa. In other words, we think we have the solution but the government is not listening to us. In fact, the rollout of inferior technology is going to perpetuate the problem," he said.

Mr Hart noted that "Hadspen does appear to be a hot spot with respect to NBN issues."

"Constituents should feel free to contact me if they are not receiving satisfaction and we will endeavour to assist," he said.

resources to assist the Australian Italian Club is a logical extension and I'm sure will prove to be very successful."

The day centre is open every Tuesday from 9.00am to 3.00pm at 414 Westbury Road, Prospect.

Please call 6311 1801 or visit www.italiandaycentre.com for more information and to subscribe to the centre's newsletter for new activities and special events happening in the Meander Valley.



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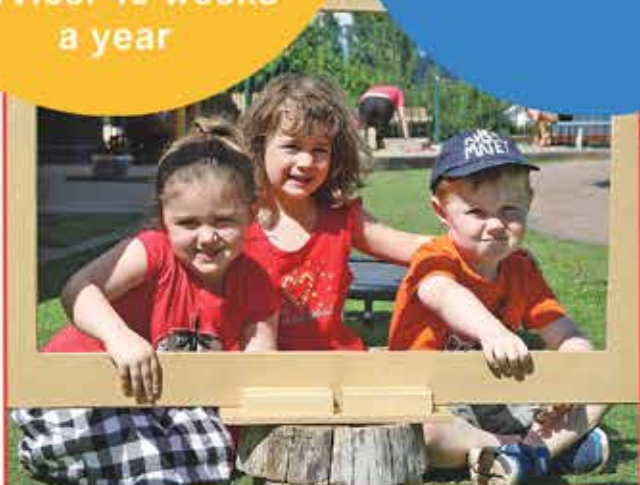
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Joanne Mitchelson and Hamish Pike entertain the crowd on St Patrick's Day. Photo by Mike Moores

Shindig for Saint Patrick's

SATURDAY 17TH March saw a huge St Patrick's Day celebration in Westbury.

An estimated 250 people attended 'Shindig' - a concert held in the Town Hall which was followed by supper and a music session in the RSL. Attendance exceeded all expectations and probably set a new record for Irish Stew and Guinness consumed at one sitting!

The concert program had a bit of everything with pipe band, Irish dancers, folk instrumentalists and singers, and a large enthusiastic audience.

This was a bridging and fundraising event for the

Festival which was held over this year to give the new steering group time to find its feet.

A well-attended public meeting in November 2017 identified a strong idea as to how the Westbury St Patrick's Festival should be, moving forward.

The success of the St Paddy's Shindig reflects a new energy and direction and taps into the widespread affection that exists for the Festival. The new Steering Group is about to begin plans for a bumper 2019 Festival program.

Enquiries and offers of support can be made to Phil Steers (Acting Secretary) on 0419 858 880.

Free advice on rural relief

By David Claridge

FARMING IS an important part of Tasmanian life, we are world known for our produce which can be highly sought after.

But not every farmer finds it easy to continue producing fine Tasmanian products, as some suffer plights or financial difficulty.

There is help and it has been around for some time. Rural Business Tasmania is a not-for-profit organisation which has been running since 1986.

"If a disaster hits we are

a means of help," expressed Michal Frydrych, Deputy Chair and Treasurer and Mole Creek Deer Farmer.

"Our goal is to assist farmers in providing business plans and looking at their financing, and helping them get loans," he said.

Many farmers have suffered from plights to the Meander Valley the floods, the fires, drought and the dairy crisis.

"There are farmers who aren't doing so well out there. Some have to get a second job to supplement their income.

"We can even help with succession planning, if a farmer wants to hand over the business to his children," said Michal.

Supported by the Federal and State Governments, Rural Business Tasmania can provide confidential and independent assistance to not only farmers but fisherman and small rural businesses if they are suffering from financial hardship.

For more information about Rural Business Tasmania visit the website rural-business-tasmania.org.au.



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Photo by: Mike Moores

Kathy Hall of Dunorlan checking on the irrigation system with her two faithful helpers.

Rural women rally round

By Lorraine Clarke

FOR THOUSANDS of years, women the world over have played a major role in agriculture. Even during eras when it was considered unseemly for ladies to work, women have pulled their weight on farms, often going far beyond a supportive role beside their husbands.

20 years ago, Tasmanian Women in Agriculture was formed, an organisation whose aims include providing support, fellowship, education and social interaction among dedicated, committed women involved in Tasmanian rural communities and industries.

One of TWIA's goals is to update members' practical skills through programs relevant to their needs. Recently they covered the NLIS system's regulations on tagging and moving livestock between properties, and ran fitness classes.

Bendigo Bank annually sponsors the First Aid Course and refresher credits, providing women with a life-sus-

taining skill on farms where it is all-too often needed.

Field trips to enterprises such as Tas Alkaloids, Max Baker's potato plant, and Brandsema's tomato farm, are valuable opportunities to gain and share knowledge.

Several members have been beneficiaries of the Marcus Oldham scholarship.

If someone has a problem, we rally around and offer support

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, addressed by guest speakers on topics of interest.

When Deloraine hosted the biennial State Gathering, a chef was featured, whose talents are the crowning glory of so many agricultural end products.

"Meander Valley Women in Agriculture is one of the State's strongest groups, because of the caring attitude we have for each other," said Anne Cresswell.

"If someone has a problem, we rally around and offer support."

TWIA is open to ladies currently or formerly involved in agriculture, however diverse their interests. Some work off farm as well as helping with crops or livestock. Glenda Wootton is growing pasture in a shed on her small farm at Kimberley. Judy Kilby addressed a meeting where she shared her experience of the horsemanship of Outer Mongolia.

Success of the organisation has been celebrated with publication of a 90-page book containing 28 Meander Valley women's stories of their farming experiences, illustrated by many photographs. Jane Bennett, one of the founding members of TWIA, penned the foreword. Older members recall the simple pleasures of a rural childhood despite the primitive conditions and challenges of a bygone era, transitioning through to today's world-class practices.

Recreation centre decision revisited

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY councilors have heard objections made at February's public meeting regarding plans for a new recreation centre and withdrawn the project.

The council will now consult user groups and prepare a design for the upgrade and refurbishment of existing Westbury Recreation Ground facilities used mainly by the local cricket and football teams.

Cllr Connor acknowledged few people at the 140-strong public meeting had supported plans for a two-storey building costing up to \$5m, with sport team facilities on the ground floor topped with a function centre seating 200 people.

"This whole thing has been a mess," he said. "Let's just get something happening."

Cllr Tanya King said the meeting had given council a clear direction on what the community did and didn't want.

At the public meeting motions put by residents Pam Swain and Sean Manners requested council:

- Halt the function side of the project;
- Increase consultation by establishing a working group including community members;
- Upgrade current football and cricket facilities quickly.

The Westbury Recreation Ground project has been a saga, growing from a \$12,000 change room 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.

Before residents finally demanded a public meeting, the project had reached the unusual point where Councillors were attempting to design the building, frustrated by design costs.

But some Councillors appeared still to be smarting from defeat on the issue. Cllr Bob Richardson refused to accept the public meeting's recommendations because he hadn't been allowed access to a list of the names of those attending.

Cllr Ian Mackenzie said: "I have spent many hours on the proposed Community Function Centre and I am very disappointed that the majority of the community members did not support council's vision to revitalise Westbury."

Cllr Rod Synfield did not support the motion to get on with planning the new sports facilities: "How can you spend a considerable amount of money on just two sporting teams? It can't be justified."

"It's a waste of our effort; our proposal allowed other groups to use the building, not just two teams."

Cllr John Temple questioned whether it would be cheaper and better to knock down the current sports facilities and rebuild. Council manager Martin Gill confirmed council staff would decide that.

City girls who married farmers relate their accounts of adjusting to such a different lifestyle. All experienced the joys and sorrows, the highs and lows of a farming life, and it is this common thread which draws women together into such a strong network.

The annual membership is \$20.00. The newsletter *Bluegum* is distributed every 3 - 6 months to keep members aware of current events and future programs.

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'The very best for very much less'



Photo by: Jade Hallam

Syds Track near Western Creek offers an adventurous walk through varying landscapes.

A walk of operatic grandeur

By Tara Ulbrich*

DO YOU boldly launch into a walk or ease into it? My companions - three young, Italian travellers, were striding. They intended to take far less than the four hours return indicated by the sign marking Syds Track but they weren't counting on the spell about to befall us all.

Located on Westrope Road above Western Creek, foot climbing starts on a disused vehicle access track. Look for the right veer at a Y intersection and take the sign-posted walking track further on the left.

Part way up is a section of scree. Distracted by the view back to the lowlands and you might miss the path. Previous walkers have left evidence of lichen-worn stone faces, even moved rock into posi-

tion to level a route and, in the event of snow, built small cairns. With a clang and an echo, a stepping-stone declares it was not so sure of my footing. The joy of my companions is not tempered. They burst into a loud operatic song. Did the famers below hear that?

A rare treat lies beyond this scree, a section of old, old forest like some enchanted habitat for gnomes or trolls or fairy folk. Surely the King Billy Pines are ancient wizards? Luxurious, green fur covers every surface. Gnarly, twisted burls sit on myrtle limbs. They're clothed in a moss which itself seems to sprout whiskers. The light has a quality that puts a walker into a dream state made all the more deeper by the scent

of sassafras and moist earth.

It is no wonder that, upon reaching the top, each one of us fell into a soporific sleep. Lizards on a rock. An ocean of ranges unfolded before us. Native currents were orange and ripe and wild bees sought out the red, flowering rocket but our senses dozed. It was only as the afternoon cooled that we were roused to return.

The adventure ended up taking four and a half hours. You could do it in much less but you might miss the magic. Carry a walking stick if descents are unkind to your knees and you'll need to bring water.

*Please note: the short walks article 'Lobster Creek Falls' (March 2018 issue of the Gazette) was written by Tara Ulbrich and not by Jade Hallam as indicated in the paper.

Safety upgrade for lake

LAKE BARRINGTON'S Kentish Park recreational boating facility is now safer for all users.

The boat ramps and pontoons have been upgraded by Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST), with support from Hydro Tasmania, Kentish Council, and the Mersey-Forth Recreation Management Committee.

Two of the existing pontoons at Kentish Park have been linked to increase the area for temporary berthing. The work has also created a safe swimming zone, away from other lakes users.

Hydro Tasmania's Chief Operating Officer, Evangelista Albertini, said with the support of MAST's Recreational Boating Infrastructure Fund, Hydro Tasmania has upgraded the existing pontoons.

"While providing clean, secure energy is Hydro Tasmania's first priority, we also take pride in supporting recreational water users," Mr Albertini said.



"And we're delighted to improve safety for people who enjoy using the Lake Barrington facilities," he said.

The Kentish Council Mayor, Don Thwaites, said the Council was very pleased to provide \$10,000 towards this very worthwhile project.

"This project has been a long-term initiative of the Mersey-Forth Recreation Management Committee. Many different users access Lake Barrington at Kentish Park, therefore, the new pontoon will contribute towards reducing congestion at the boat ramps and, importantly, improve user safety."



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VALLEY VIEWS



Mayor's Message

Above: Cr Deb White and GWTA major prize winner Pauline Winwood with Mayor Craig Perkins.

Recently I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the 2018 Great Western Tiers Art Award. This new art initiative was successfully launched to an enthusiastic audience at Deloraine Creative Studios on 1 March.

Provided through a partnership between Meander Valley Council and the Launceston Art Society, the aim of the Award is to support both existing and emerging artists. The new format encourages participation through a broader scope and offers a non-acquisitive first prize and no commission on sales.

Clean Up Australia Day held in March saw an enthusiastic group of volunteers walk over 20km of roadside at Quamby Bend, collecting rubbish.

Supported by Council, the efforts of this group are commendable. It is disappointing that the issue of littering is still apparent in some areas, but heartening to know that there are many in the community willing to work together to set an example and take action on this issue. Thank you for your efforts.

Last month, the St Patrick's Day Shindig was held in Westbury. This bridging event was designed to lift morale and raise funds for the 2019 St Patrick's Day Festival. By all accounts, the event was a resounding success with an estimated 250 people enjoying a show, at the Westbury Town Hall

followed by supper and a music session held at the Westbury RSL. There is clearly strong support for the St Patrick's Day Festival and it is wonderful to see such community involvement. Well done to the new steering group!

At the end of this month I will once again be attending the Anzac Day Service.

Over the last century, more than 100,000 Australians have put service before self. Anzac Day is a time for us to remember those who never returned and those who did, but carry the burden of war with them forever.

Historically, attendances at Anzac Day Services across the municipality have been strong. This 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.

A list of Anzac Day Services have been included in Council's pages this month, so I hope if you haven't attended one before, that you consider doing so this year.

Agfest kicks off again in early May. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience all that rural Meander Valley has to offer. It also wouldn't be Agfest without umbrellas and gumboots, so be prepared and I hope to see you there!

Mayor, Craig Perkins



Purple 4 Prostate exceeds expectations

For a few members of the Westbury RSL, braving the shave or donning the dye could not have been for a better cause.

Last month, the RSL's Purple 4 Prostate event raised funds for what remains the second most common cause of cancer deaths in males. After a successful auction of donated goods and a sausage sizzle, the new hairstyles were revealed.

"The goal was to raise \$5,000, but we were optimistic that we could surpass that amount," club member Anne Sackley said. And surpass it they did, with the event raising over \$10,000.

"We would like to thank everyone who contributed. Such generosity exceeded all our expectations," Anne said.

Due to the success of P4P, the decision has been made to run the event annually with funds raised spent through the Cancer Council to provide support locally.



Safer travels ahead

Motorists can expect safer travel with the recently completed intersection upgrade at Railton and Dunorlan Roads at Moltema.

Council awarded the work to contractor Treloar Transport in late 2017, and the project was not without it's challenges.

"The poor ground conditions required re-enforcement with geogrids and geofabric before the new pavement works could be completed," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

Co-funded by the State Government's Black Spot Program, with a total budget allocation of \$500,000, the intersection has been re-aligned which will improve safety for all road users.

Council Community News

Did you know that Council produces a monthly email news bulletin called 'Council Community News'?

It is a listing of Council news, local events, development opportunities and information resources. Council Community News is available to community groups and interested individuals. To receive your copy, simply forward your email address to patrick.gambles@mvc.tas.gov.au

Back copies are available for viewing in the 'Community' section of Council's website, www.meander.tas.gov.au



Work on Railton Road stock underpass reaches completion

A new stock underpass has recently been constructed on Railton Road as part of a new dairy project.

TasSpan was engaged by the dairy owner in January 2018 to install the underpass using two 3m wide, 2.1m high culvert sections. Council will provide a \$50,000 contribution toward the project in line with its policy for stock underpasses on Council roads.

"Council recognises the importance of providing safer rural roads and further, understands that projects such as this support Meander Valley's rural industry," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

Contractors worked hard to complete the project prior to the 2018 Oceania Cycling Championship event which was held in late March.

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Above: Cr Deb White with willing Clean Up Australia Day volunteers at Quamby Bend

Quamby cleans up with willing volunteers

Many hands made light work for 22 selfless volunteers as they converged at Quamby Bend for an early start to this year's Clean Up Australia Day weekend.

"After an informal gathering to collect roadside rubbish last year, it made sense to this year register the site for Clean Up Australia Day and receive safety support from Council," resident Janette Mitchelson said.

Late in 2016, Cr Deb White put forward a successful motion to encourage community groups to participate in the Clean Up Australia Day initiative.

This year Council was able to provide the group with roadside safety support,

installing temporary road signage, arranging rubbish collection post pick-up and providing the group with additional hi-vis vests, flashing lights for vehicles and disposable gloves.

"The large turn out on the day was just wonderful and the enthusiastic approach to the task at hand was commendable," Cr Deb White said.

The group covered over 20km of roadside which is a significant achievement in itself.

"A large proportion of what was collected comprised bottles, cans and take away food wrappers, which, whilst not unexpected, is disappointing," Janette said.

Council will be placing some follow up signage along the roadside as a reminder not to litter.

"Whilst roadside littering occurs, we need to continue to remind people to take their rubbish with them and dispose of it the right way," Cr White said.

Individuals, community groups, businesses and schools can all register their chosen Clean Up Site or join an existing Site through the CUAD website.

All registered and approved CUAD Sites receive free resources, information and public liability insurance cover.



Anzac Day Services Wednesday 25 April

- Carrick**
Morning service from 7am, Memorial Park
- Hagley**
Morning service from 9.45am, Hagley Recreation Ground
- Westbury**
Dawn service from 6am, Westbury Cenotaph
Morning service from 11am, Westbury Cenotaph
- Deloraine**
Dawn Service from 6am Deloraine Cenotaph
Morning service from 11am, Deloraine Cenotaph

Residents are reminded that for the purpose of conducting the Anzac Day march and services, the following roads will be closed to all traffic:

Deloraine: Emu Bay Road at the Highland Lakes Road junction to west of the bottom roundabout and West Parade from 5:45am to 6:30am and from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

Emu Bay Road between middle roundabout and West Parade from 5:45am to 6:30am.

Emu Bay Road between Parsonage Street and West Parade from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

Motorists who would normally use the Deloraine bridge and township during these times will need to divert via the Bass Highway.

Westbury: Lyall Street between the Town Hall car park and Lonsdale Promenade and Lonsdale Promenade between Meander Valley Road and King Street will be closed from 10am to 12pm.

YOUTH WEEK TASMANIA

IT'S YOUR WEEK

13-22 • APRIL • 2018 *Connecting communities through conversations*

FRIDAY 13 APRIL • 6pm - 11pm
Courtside Conversations (12-25yrs) • Deloraine Community Complex
Eleventh Hour Basketball Lockout & Guest Speaker.

SATURDAY 14 APRIL • 10am - 2pm
Crazy Competition, Credible Conversations (10-16yrs) • Deloraine High School Oval
Compete in a crazy day of challenges.

MONDAY 16 APRIL • 9am - 4pm
Cross Country Conversations (12-25yrs) • Meander High Country
Walk & talk your way to Bastion Cascades in the picturesque high country behind Meander.

TUESDAY 17 APRIL • 10am - 4pm
Creative Conversations - Art Workshop 1 (12-25yrs) • Deloraine House
A picture paints a thousand words with Annette Fleming & Fakingtan White.

THURSDAY 19 APRIL • 10am - 4pm
Creative Conversations - Art Workshop 2 (12-25yrs) • The Granary, Longford
A picture paints a thousand words with internationally acclaimed artist Tony Lambert & Hugh McKinnon.

FRIDAY 20 APRIL • 10am - 4pm
Cookery & Conversations - Session 1 (12-25yrs) • Deloraine High School
Bake cakes, biscuits & slices to be served at Sunday's Conversations Cafe.

Cafe Conversations - Course 1 (12-25yrs) • Trade Training Centre, Deloraine
Learn the art of making coffee for Sunday's Conversations Cafe.

SATURDAY 21 APRIL • 10am - 4pm
Cookery & Conversations - Session 2 (12-25yrs) • Deloraine High School
Bake cakes, biscuits & slices to be served at Sunday's Conversations Cafe.

Cafe Conversations - Course 2 (12-25yrs) • Trade Training Centre, Deloraine
Learn the art of making coffee for Sunday's Conversations Cafe.

SUNDAY 22 APRIL • 1pm - 5pm
Coffee, Cake & Conversations Cafe • Deloraine Community Complex Auditorium
Be entertained and inspired by young people and their achievements while enjoying coffee, cake and conversations.

To register or for more information contact Vicki Jordan 0400 155 690, email vicki.jordan@mvc.tas.gov.au or visit www.meander.tas.gov.au

Town Planners Here to Help

Council's Planning Department receives a high volume of complex enquiries and our Town Planners are committed to providing the best possible service.

If you have a planning enquiry our Town Planners are available to assist over the phone or face to face during the following times:

Mondays

10am - 1pm

Wednesdays

1pm - 4pm

Thursdays

1pm - 4pm

Meetings outside these times can be arranged by appointment by phoning 6393 5300.

Date Claimers

Originals Only Night • Saturday 21 April
Meander Valley Performing Arts Centre

Agfest • 3 - 5 May • Quercus Park

Winterfire • Saturday 16 June • Deloraine Showgrounds

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Sarah Johnson of Mole Creek braves the rain at the Forth Blues Festival. Photo by: Hayley Manning

21 years of Forth Valley Blues

By Hayley Manning

THE 21ST Forth Valley Blues Festival drew an estimated 2,000 attendees, including many familiar faces from around the Meander Valley region. Proving yet again that a little bit of adverse weather won't keep Tasmanian audiences away from a live music event.

'The Guitar Extravaganza' featuring Australian Blues Hall of Fame inductee Kevin Borich, Phil Emmanuel and Tim Gaze, was Friday night's headline act. Each guitarist

played solo before collaborating on stage for a gig that mesmerised the crowd in a mutual exchange of gratitude.

Borich said "Music frees people. It is a therapeutic stress relief for pressurised people." While Emmanuel said it was good to "really let go" with a talented rhythm section, and expressed his surprise at the fantastic numbers considering it was pouring when they arrived.

Forth Committee Head of Production, Trent Allen,

said after 17 years the event was starting to get stale and under threat of closure, but new committee members decided to take on the task of keeping it alive. He said the introduction of pre-ticket sales enabled improved budgeting and better bands as a result.

Borich urged people to get out and support live performance, particularly in the current era of limited venues. "I'm happy; I've done okay. One year we played 66 shows. We'd do one show, then head off to the next place and play until daylight," Borich said.



Photo by: Sarah Lloyd

Elaeomyxa cerifera, one of the photos on display at Pixels Gallery.

Jewels of nature

WELL KNOWN local naturalist and photographer Sarah Lloyd (recently featured on Gardening Australia) will share some exquisite photos of slime moulds in an exhibition called *Nature's Miniature Jewels* during the month of April at Pixels Digital Gallery.

Sarah has studied slime moulds in the tall, wet eucalypt forest that surrounds her home at Birralee in northern Tasmania since 2010.

Warming up for WinterFire

THE WINTERFIRE committee, under the auspices of Arts Deloraine, is busy planning this year's event – to be held on 16th June at Deloraine Showgrounds.

Alongside old favourites – fire drums, marshmallow toasting, drumming, music, poetry and song – will be several new additions with a recycling theme.

For the lantern parade, everyone is encouraged to make a tin can lantern to bring along.

There will also be two scarecrow competitions.

Primary school children can make a scarecrow no more than 20 cm high to be stuck in a flowerpot. This competition closes on 1st May, so entries can be displayed in the Aged Care windows. There will be 8 prizes of \$25.00, sponsored by Deloraine Amcal Pharmacy.

The second competition is open to individuals, families and community groups, for a life-sized scarecrow to be attached to a star picket at the showgrounds on the day of the event. Deloraine Deli has sponsored 1st prize of \$100.00 and 2nd and 3rd prizes of \$50.00 each.

The committee is also creating and trialling a new fire event featuring outlines of various structures in flames, to take place during the lantern parade. The details are presently being kept secret, along with burnt fingers!

Instruction sheets, examples and entry forms available at the WinterFire stall for the next 3 Deloraine markets (first Saturday of the month) or the Alpaca Shop.

Enquiries: Tim or Jaqui on 0428 237 078 or check out WinterFire on Facebook.



Make a scarecrow for this year's WinterFire. Picture supplied

During that time she has taken hundreds of photographs. A 'time lapse' series that illustrates the remarkable changes the plasmodia undergo as they form fruiting bodies. Photographs taken with a camera on a stereo microscope, show the variety

of forms at the macroscopic scale. Photographs taken with a camera on a compound microscope, show the intricate beauty in their microscopic structures.

Pixels Gallery is located in the Deloraine Online Access Centre behind the Library.


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LET'S REBUILD OUR REGIONS

Authorised by Brian Mitchell MP 53B Main Road Perth



Treat yourself to this delicious egg and pork breakfast dish.

Photo by: Wai Lin Coultas

Savoury baked eggs with BBQ Pork

By Wai Lin Coultas

A HEART-WARMING egg-licious breakfast that draws inspiration from the culinary essence that distinctively defines Spanish baked eggs, Tunisia's shakshuka as well as the French eggs en cocotte, and wedding that to a down under love affair with the barbecue and unleavened wraps; just sublime for cooler, autumn days.

Ingredients

2 sheets Mountain Bread rye wraps
2 pieces Scottsdale pork ribs, lightly oiled, barbecued and then sliced 7mm thick
2/3 tbsp barbecue sauce
1/3 tbsp tomato sauce
1/2 x 400g tin diced tomatoes
2 tbsp tomato paste
1/2 x 230g bottle Port Arthur Lavender's spicy chutney
2 1/2 tbsp Tam O'Shanter's onion jam

2 to 3 tbsp Tam O'Shanter's chilli jam (to taste)
8 pitted Kalamata olives, sliced
3 cubes Meredith Dairy's marinated goat cheese, quartered
4 eggs
4 sprig tips fresh basil

Instructions

1. Line casserole dish with rye wraps with their edges slightly jutting over all sides of the dish.
2. Place dish in oven and let the latter heat up to 1600C to crisp wraps.
3. Meanwhile, mix diced tomatoes, tomato paste, chutney, onion and chilli jams in sauce pan; heating this spicy gravy through over a medium flame.
4. Mix barbecue and tomato sauces; tossing sliced barbecued pork through.
5. Stir the sauced pork and olives into the heated spicy gravy.
6. Pour heated gravy mixture into crisped wrap-lined casserole dish.
7. Insert chunks of cheese into gravy mixture, spacing them out.
8. Crack 4 eggs over each quarter of the gravy and return casserole dish to oven already preheated to high grill; grilling for 6 minutes.
9. Switch off grill and leave casserole dish in oven for 4 minutes till egg whites are just set and yolks still runny.
10. Garnish with basil sprig tips and serve hot with crusty toast.

Serves 2 to 3

MEANDER VALLEY - GET INVOLVED

Governor to Deloraine Anzac

DELORAINÉ RSL Sub-Branch President, Peter Ashton DCM, is pleased to advise that our State Governor, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC has kindly accepted an invitation to be this year's Guest Speaker for the 11.00am Service.

The Anzac Day dawn service will start at 6.00am at the Cenotaph in Deloraine followed by the main service at 11.00am.

Services will also be held in Westbury (6.00am and 11.00am) and Carrick at 7.00am.



Local veteran, Bianca William displays the correct position to wear medals on Anzac Day; Service medal from 6 years in the Australian Navy on her left side and her Grandfather's medals on the right.

Westbury home-made market

Westbury Market is held on the third Saturday of each month.

Situated in Lonsdale Promenade in the grounds of St. Andrew's Anglican Church, opposite the village green, the market starts at 8.00am and runs until 1.00pm.

It's a small, friendly market where you will regularly find fresh vegetables, an array of plants, brick a brac, craft items, books, honey and hand-made soaps.

The market has been operating every month of the year for more than 20 years, and organisers pride themselves on being the friendliest little market in Tassie.



A café in the hall sells teas, coffees, beautiful sandwiches, cakes and slices. Outside is a BBQ cooking breakfast early. More stall holders are always welcome.

Buskers are most welcome. For more details contact Rob Menzie on 0417 931 619.

Flyer design from an expert

WANT TO know how to create an attractive flyer or newsletter?

Join graphic designer Elizabeth Douglass at the Deloraine Online Centre to discover some basic principles of design.

Topics covered will include:

how to plan content, how to find save and use images from Creative Commons and how to create visual appeal.

When: Tuesday 8th May 10.00am – 12 midday, cost \$10.00, call 6362 3537 to book a place.



THE VERY prickly *Berberis* are the first to take on their Autumn colouring. *B. thunbergii* "Kelleris" (pictured), turns pink in late summer, then a brilliant light red in March. The tiny ovoid berries are orange.

The foliage of *Berberis x ottawensis* turns an intense purple at this time in striking contrast with its tiny bright red berries. Enquiries to the very few nurseries in Meander Valley found that Wychwood nursery in Mole Creek has stocks of these desirable shrubs which brighten the Autumn garden picture.

Welcome rains over the

last two weeks of March have made a big difference to the countryside, and have been a great relief for vegetable growers after almost three weeks of negligible rainfall.

In the Vegie Garden

Sweet corn should be harvested when the beard at the top of the cob turns dark brown. Harvesting time is crucial, as forgotten cobs become quite inedible.

To freeze, remove only the outer husks, and place them straight into the freezer. Thawed in cold water, it is impossible to tell them from fresh ones.

Brassica seedlings can go in now when the cabbage butterfly has disappeared for the winter. They will grow quickly if planted in well manured soil, and given regular side dressings, or liquid feeds of nitrogen fertiliser.



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Wild about Hooves protégés Danny Del Vecchio and Milton Ford practice the gentle art of barefoot trimming at their home in Meander.

Photo by: Mike Moores

Only the proprietors wear shoes

By Lorraine Clarke

“NO FOOT, no horse” is an old proverb heard less frequently now than when all transport depended on our equine servants. But for those involved in sport or pleasure riding, it rings just as true today.

Jeremy Ford and Jen Clingly have a passion that extends beyond endurance riding and retraining difficult horses. 15 years ago they began their successful business, Wild About Hooves.

Rather than shoeing horses with iron or aluminium shoes, they use barefoot trimming techniques, and the latest designs of synthetic hoof boots, both for lengthy trail riding and rehabilitation of damaged and diseased hooves. The philosophy of barefoot trimming is “Do no harm”. It is non-invasive, with the horse’s comfort and welfare paramount.

One of the horse boots they recommend is the

“Scoot Boot,” invented by Tasmanian Dave MacDonald, who formerly manufactured “Old Mac’s” boots.

There’s a whole lot of four-legged love at their tree-rimmed farm, The Gem, just outside Deloraine. Visitors are announced by the braying of watch-donkeys Gloria and Betty, then greeted by diminutive Daisy the West Highland White Terrier, and statuesque staghound Mr Wendell. 18 horses, mostly Arabs, appear when called.

Jeremy and Jen have now transitioned from their hoof trimming business, expanding into tourism and education, but horses remain the centre of it all. They have been taking international visitors on 5-day guided Tassie Tiger Trail rides through Tasmanian National Parks, and are now venturing further afield.

In 2017, they led a group of Australians through

Mongolia for 3 ½ weeks, riding the native horses there over terrain that few people are fortunate enough to experience. “They’re amazing, tough little horses,” said Jeremy.

This year, they have trucked 8 horses to South Australia, where seven 5-day Barossa Valley Grape Horse Adventure riding tours sold out within 10 days. 3-day Wild Horse Outback tours are offered in the Northern Territory. Jen and Jeremy also run Australia-wide DIY hoofcare workshops.

However, their local barefoot trimming clients are not being abandoned. The business has been handed over to Jeremy and Jen’s sons, Milton Ford and Danny Del Vecchio, who have grown up around horses, and recently completed intensive training in Perth, W.A. “It’s great to know that the business is in such capable hands,” Jen & Jeremy said.

The boys are available for everything from regular hoof maintenance, hoof-care advice, boot fitting and glue-on shoe services to rehabilitation of pathological conditions. Dan works with vets, using X-Ray diagnosis

when treating injuries and laminitis. “They’re a peaceful creature to work around,” he said. “At first it’s daunting to pick up their foot, but when you learn to read them, it’s a beautiful part of the job.”

The guys demonstrated their barefoot trimming techniques on several willing volunteers. “It takes 20 to 30 minutes for a trim, depending on how bad the feet are,” said Milton. He will soon be travelling north for a while, where he has work lined up with practitioners from northern NSW to Cairns.

Clients can reach Danny Del Vecchio on 0488 098 948, and Milton Ford on 0499 151 570.

Where flavour reigns supreme

By David Claridge

A BAD forecast in March looked to hamper the Tasmanian Garlic and Tomato Festival in Selbourne, but many came anyway and were rewarded with almost clear skies and delicious snacks.

Event Organiser, Annette Reed, said that for their fourth year they were hoping for 2000 people to visit, but were concerned the weather would impact numbers.

“It is just wonderful to see so many braving the weather to come out,” she said.

The event started in 2014 as a project to look at alternatives for what to do with small farms.

“We started a small festival with a few volunteers, it went so well that we kept going every year.”

Hobart Chef, Luke Burgess, was on hand to make mole oxaca, a sauce used in Mexican Cuisine.

“Garlic and Tomatoes

aren’t indigenous to this part of the world so it is interesting to see what we can grow here,” he said.

There was a lot of tasting available with dozens of tomato’s of many different shapes, sizes, colours and tastes. Patrons could buy many of the tomatoes or ready-made garlic and

tomato products.

Desiree Will and her friend from Devonport were amazed with the variety available.

“I’ve been trying to get here for two years and today we were coming, rain hail or shine.

“There was a tomato that tasted like a pineapple and another where the skin peels off.”



50+ varieties of tomatoes were available for tasting at this year’s Tomato and Garlic festival. Photo by: David Claridge

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Hungry? try hemp

By Cody Handley

ALONG A winding stretch of country road, five minutes out the back of Deloraine, is not the sort of place you'd expect to find a high tech operation ticking along. But that is exactly what is happening at Forager Foods in Red Hills.

Forager Foods have successfully made a name for themselves, both at home and abroad, for their freeze dried fruit, vegetables and ready-made meals for backpackers. However they have just branched out into a new venture, one that has substantial market potential here in Tasmania.

We could not have achieved what we have without that support and investment in our business

Forager Foods received a small grant from the federal government for \$75,000 to help build a powdering and packing line for hemp food products. Production will supply Brisbane-based company Fair Foods, who have their hemp grown and processed in Tasmania.

Forager Foods owner John Ranicar said the move was about tapping into a new market with a large potential, as well as diversifying their business which is predominantly built on freeze drying fresh fruit and vegetables.

"If anything happened to our dryers, we'd be in trouble," Mr Ranicar said. Forager Foods new hemp powdering

and packing machine will ameliorate this risk.

The machine takes the leftover "mash" from hemp plants that have had oil extracted and processes it into a 45% protein powder that can be used in foods such as smoothies or salads.

The process has a 50% production return which means, for example, 10 tonnes of raw hemp would make 5 tonnes of powder.

"Due to changes to the law, there has only really been a market for hemp food products since November," Mr Ranicar said.

Fair Foods also offer de-hulled hemp seeds which, according to Mr Ranicar, "have a subtle nutty flavour and are quite nice sprinkled on toast with honey."

This is not the first time Forager Foods have been given a government grant, having received funding for a freeze dryer in 2015 upping their process capacity to 1 tonne a day. Today, they process roughly 10 tonnes of fresh produce per week.

"The funding gave us an opportunity that otherwise wouldn't have been there," Mr Ranicar said. "We could not have achieved what we have without that support and investment in our business."

When asked about what was in store for the future, Mr Ranicar said "The focus now is on consolidation. We've invested a lot in equipment and we're now looking to consolidate that investment by operating at capacity."



Photo by: Mike Moores

Forager Foods Director John Ranicar controls the freeze drying process at the factory in Red Hills.

Council puts the bite on vendors

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY council has placed an annual fee of \$163.50 on mobile food vans operating on its streets and properties.

Councillors voted for the new policy in their March meeting; the application process will be available on the council's website shortly.

Councillor Tanya King said the policy would "provide clarity" for people with food vans.

And Cllr Bob Richardson said the policy was needed according to federal economic regulation principles

requiring councils not to allow free services on their property in competition with existing businesses.

Cllr John Temple, who runs a business in Westbury, was critical of food vans which he said "cherry pick the time of day to operate and are not loyal to the local community" like local bricks-and-mortar businesses who serve the community every day of the year.

But Cllr Deb White believes food vans should be welcome in the Meander Valley: "They expand the

pie rather than decreasing existing vendors' share. The more that's happening, the more it generates for existing businesses."

The food van fee will be charged annually and Council will monitor food registration licences and undertake inspections.

The new policy does not apply to applications by mobile food vehicles to operate on a public street during an event where council has granted permission for a street closure to conduct that event.

Council will review the policy at the end of the first year.

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Rubicon Grove

IMPRESSIVE NEW facilities will soon be unveiled at OneCare's residential facility in Port Sorell, Rubicon Grove.

With construction well underway for a new 20 bed wing extension, including a community centre and a tea house, the additional 20 suites will significantly expand the facility, bringing the total number of suites up to 80.

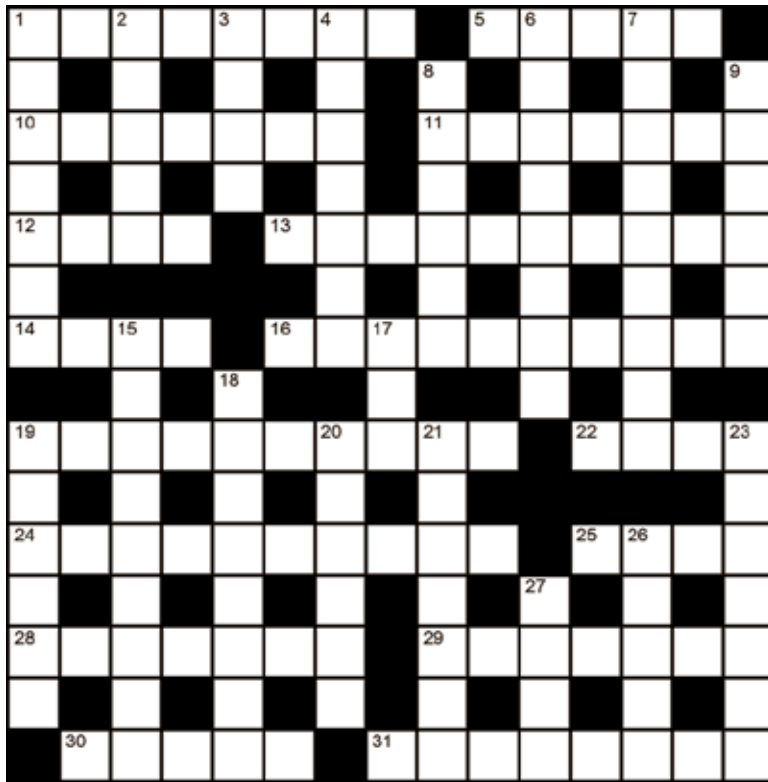
The \$5million expansion will help address the demand for aged care on the North-West Coast of Tasmania, following the provision of a licence for 20 low-care suites by the Commonwealth Government in 2015.

The new buildings will incorporate a community hub, to be utilised by local Rotary and Lions clubs, as well as the Bridge of Hope Church.

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Crossword



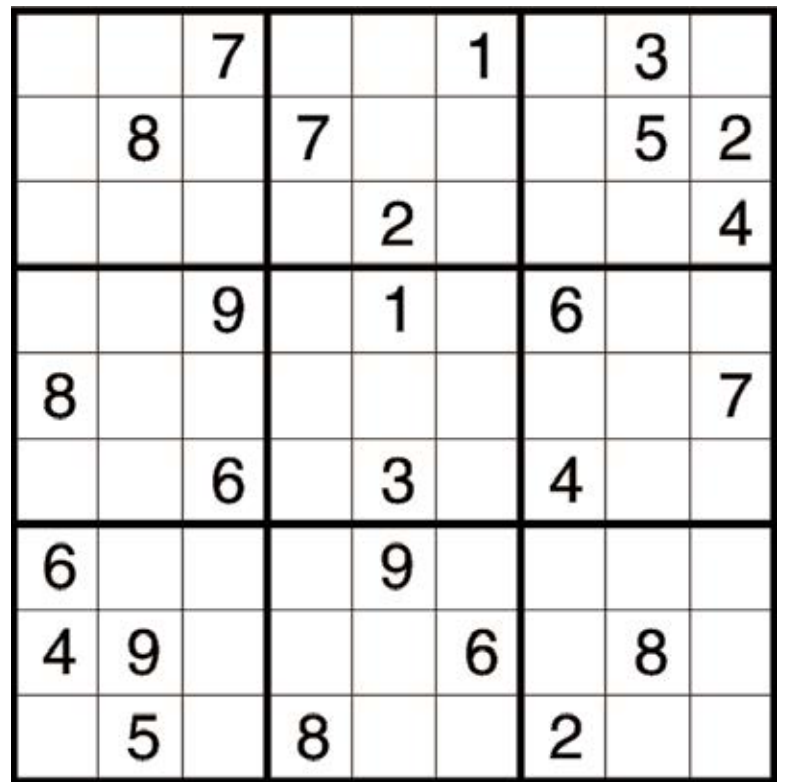
Across

- 1 Beautiful (8)
- 5 Moves through water (5)
- 10 Unconventional (7)
- 11 Pilot (7)
- 12 Pollen gatherers (4)
- 13 When the living is easy (10)
- 14 Otherwise (4)
- 16 Artificial sparkler (10)
- 19 Corridor (10)
- 22 Yorkshireman (4)
- 24 Preceding wedlock (10)
- 25 Precious stones (4)
- 28 Shining (7)
- 29 Hollowed inward (7)
- 30 Bovine mammary gland (5)
- 31 Austrian Alpine resident (8)

Down

- 1 Farewell (7)
- 2 Plunder (5)
- 3 Paradise (4)
- 4 Lie (7)
- 6 Restaurant worker (8)
- 7 Marriage (9)
- 8 Opera by Bizet (6)
- 9 Current of air (6)
- 15 Pendent (9)
- 17 Large island in the Channel (1,1,1)
- 18 Computer information store (8)
- 19 Thin and translucent (6)
- 20 Expels (6)
- 21 Disorder (7)
- 23 Oriental (7)
- 26 Fill with high spirits (5)
- 27 Untie (4)

Sudoku (Very Hard)



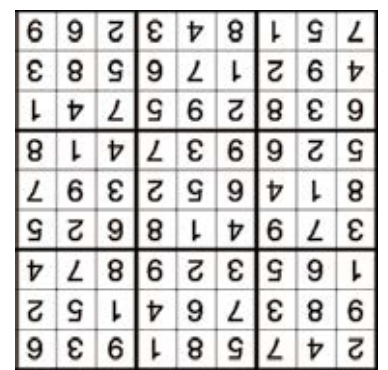
©2018 Syndicated Puzzles

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 - April 2018 Solution



Sudoku - April 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
Sunday 1st - 30th April	Nature's Miniature Jewels	Exhibition of Slime Mould photographs by Sarah Lloyd, Pixels Gallery, Deloraine Online Centre
Tuesday 10th April 2.00pm - 3.00pm	Get Smart with Smart Phones	Online Access Centre 21 West Pde, Deloraine Ph: 6362 3537 to make a booking Drop ins welcome Free
Saturday 14th April 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society - "Maudie"	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd. Deloraine Canada/Ireland PG rated 116 minutes Ph: 0418 389 868
Saturday 14th April 10.00am - 2.00pm	Car Boot Sale & Sausage Sizzle	Hagley Uniting Church Spaces available \$10.00 To book a site Ph: Val 6392 2243 or Marilyn 6398 2543
Saturday 14th April 5.00pm - 8.30pm	Jenny Biddle	Marakoopa Café, 186 Mayberry Rd, Mayberry Tickets: www.evenbrite.com.au Fun and music with good food
Saturday 14th April 9.00am to 1.00pm	Liffey Valley Market	Old Liffey School, 1443 Liffey Rd, Liffey More info - ph: Jen Randall on 0421 900 810
Tuesday 17th April 10.00am - 4.00pm	Youth Week Art Workshop 1 12 - 25 year olds	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Registration & Consent Forms essential Contact Vicki Jordan on 0400 155 690
Thursday 19th April 10.00am - 4.00pm	Youth Week Art Workshop 2 12 - 25 year olds	The Granary, Longford Transport Registration & Consent Forms essential Contact Vicki Jordan on 0400 155 690
Friday 20th April 10.00am - 3.30pm	Working effectively with LGBTI people	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Free RSVP by 15th Apr to Nat Savage 6491 1552 Limited places-book early
Friday 20th April 10.00am - 4.00pm	Youth Week Event - 12 - 25 year olds - Cookery	Deloraine High School - Bake cakes, biscuits & slices To register Ph: 0400 155 690 Vicki Jordan
Saturday 21st April 10.00am - 4.00pm	Youth Week Event - 12 - 25 year olds - Cookery	Deloraine High School - Bake cakes, biscuits & slices To register Ph: 0400 155 690 Vicki Jordan
Saturday 21st April 7.30pm	Dance at Chudleigh Hall	Chudleigh Memorial Hall \$10.00pp includes Supper déjà vu Band For more info Ph: Cheryl 6367 8190
Saturday 21st April 6.30pm	Deloraine Dramatic Soc Originals Only Night	Deloraine Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Hwy \$8.00pp Supper: by donation More info: 0409 695 200
Saturday 21st April 8.00am - 1.00pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom. Westbury BBQ cooking breakfast, stalls. Ph: Rob Menzie 0417 931 619
Saturday 21st April	Rosevale Woodchopping Carnival	Rosevale Hall BBQ Lunch, Market stalls and Tasmanian Veterans Car Club
Saturday 21st April 9.00am	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, 2 Caveside Rd. Mole Creek More info Ph: Ross on 6389 6030
Tuesday 24th April 2.00pm	Meander Valley U3A "Talents and Tea"	Fitzpatrick's Inn Westbury \$6.00. Enquiries Ph: 0484 758 466
Wednesday 25th April 6.00am & 11.00am	Anzac Day Services	Deloraine Cenotaph, Emu Bay Road, Deloraine
Wednesday 25th April 6.00am & 11.00am	Anzac Day Services	Westbury Cenotaph, Lonsdale Promenade,
Wednesday 25th April 7.00am	Anzac Day Service	Carrick Memorial Park, South Street, Carrick Breakfast afterwards at Carrick Inn
Saturday 28th April	Carrick Speedway 50th Year of Racing	Carrick Speedway Club Day BBQ, Bar, Entertainment for kids
Monday 30th April	Meander Valley U3A Term 2 Classes begin	Various venues across Meander Valley Ph: 0484 758 466
Thursday 3rd, 4th, 5th May	Agfest	Quercus Rural Youth Park, 415 Oaks Rd. Carrick 700+ exhibitors inc. Farm machinery displays, fashion parades
Tuesday 1st - 31st May	Exhibition - Retrospective - Mike Moores	Pixels Gallery, 21 West Parade, Deloraine
Saturday 5th May 9.00am - 1.00pm	Deloraine Showground Market	Deloraine Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine Ph: 0409 695 321 for Bookings & Details
Sunday 6th May 1.00pm - 5.30pm	Daniel Champagne	Marakoopa Café, 186 Mayberry Rd, Mayberry Limited tickets from www.evenbrite.com.au
Tuesday 8th May 10.00am - 12.00noon	Flyer Design with Elizabeth Douglass	Online Access Centre 21 West Parade, Deloraine \$10.00 Ph 6362 3537 to make a booking
Friday 11th May 8.00pm	Bjorn Again - Thank ABBA for the Music	Country Club Casino, Country Club Ave Prospect Vale Tickets available www.ticketmaster.com.au



Phyllis Cubit shares a tea party with Ariana Eyles (4) of Westbury, Cameron Wilson (3) Mole Creek, and Lara Thomson (4) Deloraine.

\$3.3 million to spend - have a say

Continued from Page 20...

Major factors in the favoured option include: a new AFL oval, renovation of the Deloraine Community Complex building, a community park, little athletics facilities, two outdoor netball courts, an outdoor basketball court, a shared-use trail network connecting the wider community and schools to the site, and upgrade of the Deloraine Primary School oval to a shared multi-use sportsground.

Cllr Bob Richardson was the only councillor to vote against more thorough community consultation on the proposal.

He said the project would confine council spending on sports, recreational and cultural groups to Deloraine for 10 years and that people in Prospect, Blackstone, Hadspen, Bracknell, Carrick and Westbury should be asked whether they want it.

Grannies galore for happy little Toddle Innners

By Cody Handley

Residents of both Kanangra and Grenoch aged care facilities have been receiving visits from Toddle Inn Child-care Centre.

The program has been up and running for 12 months and aims to benefit both the young and the elderly.

Director of Toddle Inn, Julie Purdon, said the program

provides "a lovely connection between the younger generation of children and the elderly."

The visits occur monthly and are a favourite with the children who look forward to it each month, as do the residents according to aged care staff.

"We take along a variety of activities and music to dance and sing to," Ms Purdon

said. "The children have also formed friendships and gained respect for the older generations. The sheer joy on the faces of the residents and the children is heart-warming."

It is Toddle Inn's hope that the visits will help the residents of Grenoch and Kanangra feel connected with younger people.

"When we first started going and the children noisily raced down the hallways of Grenoch and Kanangra we used to encourage them to be quiet. However, we don't now as we noticed residents poking their heads out of their rooms with a big smile and a wave on our arrival," Ms Purdon said.

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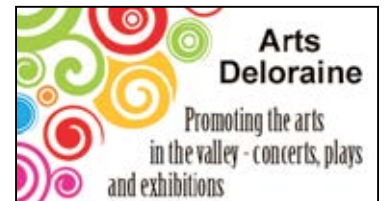
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SPORT

Darren's deadly knife strike



Master Darren Hyland of Westbury smashes a wooden board to demonstrate a 'knife strike' at the Shim Jang grading day at Westbury.

Photo by: Mike Moores

WESTBURY RECENTLY hosted a grading day for Shim Jang Taekwondo for the Westbury, Deloraine and Sheffield class members.

Students were graded to their next belt level by Examiner Master Greg Dovey who travelled from NSW.

Shim Jang is becoming increasingly popular. Parents being able to train alongside their kids is an incentive for families to join and develop the skills of self-defence, self-confidence, perseverance, focus, discipline and respect.

Tasmanian Shim Jang State Director, Master Darren Hyland, has witnessed explosive growth in the number of families and students

practicing the Art over the past 7 years, with ever expanding classes stretching along Tasmania's coast from Smithton to Westbury.

Master Darren along with his wife Tammy, an Instructor and 2nd Dan Black belt herself, and 2 children, one a Yudanja Black Belt and the other a Junior Black Belt, have made the Martial Art a real family affair.

Tammy and Master Darren instruct classes at Sheffield, Deloraine and Westbury and invite anyone to come along to a class and give Shim Jang a go.

Visit the website to find a class near you: www.shim-jang.com.

\$3.3 million to spend - have your say

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY Council will help community groups to give feedback on a feasibility report on proposed changes to Deloraine's recreation facilities.

The formal consultation period will be extended so that many schools and small sport and recreation community groups using the current facilities can give their views on the new ideas.

In addition, community groups who have not already responded to the changes can opt to meet council officers

who will explain the report and help them to complete feedback forms.

Cllr Deb White said effective consultation meant not only sending a reminder to community groups about the consultation but helping them to workshop and understand the report so they could make their comments.

Cllr Rodney Synfield said: "At the end of the day this is a \$3.3m spend and we need good conversations about it with the community."

Cllr White also proposed a public meeting at the Delo-

raine Community Complex at a time and date allowing a great number of community members to be present so as to present the report and receive feedback.

Of three options presented by the feasibility study, the working group's preference is to consolidate sporting, recreation and community facilities at the Deloraine Community Complex site, with the purchase of the adjoining private land and upgrading of the Deloraine Primary School sports ground.

Continued on Page 17...



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