



### PLETHORA OF PLACARDS

Protest to stop logging old growth in the Tarkine

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Specialty timbers at Elizabeth Town

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# Meander Valley Gazette

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May 2018

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper



## The memories linger on

L - R Derek Thompson, retired Lt Col Ron Irwin assisted by his daughter Linda Irwin lay wreaths at the 11.00am Anzac Day service in Deloraine. The service was attended by approx 700 people including Her Excellency, Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, Governor of Tasmania. Anzac story Page 4. Photo by: Mike Moores

## Council back-flips on Beefeater St development

By Sharon Webb

A DEVELOPER'S appeal to the state planning tribunal has caused Meander Valley Council to back-flip on its opposition to a Deloraine development using seven ex-Pontville detention huts as accommodation.

Even though council twice rejected the \$400,000 Beefeater Street development,

Meander Valley Council's general manager, Martin Gill, said solicitors had advised council would lose developer Andrew Terry's appeal to the Resource Management and Planning Appeals Tribunal.

The likely result would be that the council would be obliged to pay Mr Terry's legal costs as well as its own.

Two councillors, Tan-

ya King and Bob Richardson said the legal advice indicated they should follow council staff advice not to fight the case.

"Ratepayers would essentially be left to pick up the tab," Cllr King said. "I felt the most responsible action for me was to support the officers' recommendation."

Now, Meander Valley Council is assisting Mr Terry with his

development.

Mr Terry has assured the council and objectors that the development is for long-term residents, not fruit-pickers or backpackers as he originally proposed.

Council's grounds for rejecting the project were because Beefeater St was unsafe for the estimated extra 63 vehicle movements a day.

So now it will upgrade

the section of Beefeater St between Emu Bay Rd and Moriarty St. Mr Gill said he could not estimate the upgrade cost, to be included in council's 2018/19 budget.

Council requires Mr Terry to pay around \$10,000 to construct the kerb, channel and footpath across the total width of the property and widen its internal driveway, including a

passing bay every 30m.

Mr Terry's first 2017 development application to council was to place seven four-bedroom huts to house seasonal fruit pickers on the dogleg-shaped block at 46A Beefeater St, owned by his parents Geoffrey and Judy Terry.

It caused resident consternation, as did his second application, rejected by Meander Valley Council in January this year.

Continued on Page 2...



# Council back-flips on Beefeater St development

Continued from Page 1...

Residents wrote letters to council complaining of potential noise, invasion of privacy, loss of view, loss of surrounding property value and the development's lack of suitability for location adjacent to elderly people's units – none of which are valid grounds of complaint according to the planning scheme.

Initially, 10 residents also joined Meander Valley Council in the appeal.

Mr Terry confirmed the detention huts now would not be used by fruit pickers but as permanent accommodation. Their concerns alleviated, four residents dropped out leaving Gayl and Paul Mansell, Michael and Gina Sullivan, Pauline and David Cole, and Rodney and Lou-Ella Kershaw still opposing.

Gayl Mansell who lives in neighbouring units for elderly people, said: "We didn't know until recently they would be for long-term rental," she said.

"Our objection is that they are not in keeping with the neighbourhood and will detract from the area; it would take a lot of money to make them look good.

"Jared Bryan from RMPAT said we must take Andrew Terry's word for what he's going to do but once these buildings are in place the horse has bolted. This development would be good – with decent units."

Michael Sullivan of 48 Beefeater St said locals did not want the development

because "it's going to be huts just dropped there", believing their property values could drop 20-30 per cent.

"It's not the right location for what it is and there's a big question mark over the definition of 'primary residents,'" he said. "Andrew Terry has said they are not for fruit pickers and I hope he doesn't go ahead with that plan."

The owner of 46 Beefeater St, Rodney Kershaw, is disappointed in the planning scheme because appeal grounds were so limited that neighbours had no say.

"There's nothing we can do about the developer using recycled buildings – he's taking advantage of the situation and it's great for him but not for anyone else."

But Andrew Terry said that the issue had been "blown out of proportion in a monumental way".

Acknowledging his first planning application was causing confusion about the second, he complained of being "dragged through the wringer".

"I have no intention of putting backpackers on the property. I know I'd have fines slapped on me if I did.

"I've got this piece of land, I'm paying interest to the bank and I want to develop it with residential units no different from any other.

"There's talk about a housing shortage and to be honest I think the town [Deloraine] needs it."



MV Council's Community Development Manager, Patrick Gambles delivers an address to the Prospect Vale Community Forum.

## Council on location

Story and photograph by David Claridge

PROSPECT VALE and Blackstone Heights locals were given a chance to interact with local councillors in a community forum held at Prospect Park in March.

Members of the Blackstone Heights Community Group attended to explain who they are and what they hope

to bring to the area.

The forums, held quarterly around Meander Valley, are a new way for council staff and elective members to engage with the community and vice versa in an informal setting.

Meander Valley Councillor, Tanya King, said the forum at Prospect Vale park was well attended.

"The community in

Prospect Vale and Blackstone Heights are a relatively happy bunch.

"Some minor road safety and storm water improvements were suggested, and I trust our Council officers will follow up accordingly," she said.

"The newly formed Blackstone Heights Community Group are vibrant and active, and I look forward to working with them to promote Community Safety, and to help them with any issues that arise.



Some residents are concerned that the proposed recycling of detention huts will lower the value of their properties. Pictured above are similar huts located at the berry farm on Exton Road.

## A sour taste for new homeowner

By Sharon Webb

THE BUYER of a Mole Creek property auctioned by Meander Valley Council because its owners would not pay rates has said he had been "gutted" to find \$50,000 of fittings and fixtures ripped out of the building.

Geoffrey Styles, who bought Blue Wren Hideaway at 36 South Mole Creek Rd, said when he took over the property in October 2017 all light fittings, vanities, rangehoods, ovens, cooktops and

heaters had been taken.

"Even toilet roll holders were gone, as well as a combustion stove needing three people to move it, 13 solar panels, an inverter, and the water pump," he said.

"What they couldn't get out they damaged; the water pipe was cut. There was a level of viciousness in what they did."

Police maintain the theft is not in their jurisdiction; Inspector Scott Flude of Deloraine Police maintained at the time it was a civil matter.

More recently, Commander

Brett Smith of northern district police commented: "It is a civil matter. The matter was reported to police but there was no evidence of a criminal offence."

In addition, Mr Styles' insurance company, CGU, will not pay out on the stolen goods because there is no police report. It argued the house was inhabited by "tenants" at the time, even though those tenants were the Beerepoot family who had owned the property and were entitled to live there

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# Theatrical Tarkine protest



Photo by Mike Moores

Anti-Greens protester, Kelly Wilton (in white t-shirt), stages her one-person protest amongst the crowd of some 50 people protesting against logging in the Tarkine.

By Cody Handley

A PLETHORA of placards were seen in Deloraine on the morning of Tuesday 17th April.

Members of the Bob Brown Foundation and supporters turned out for a demonstration against the logging of old growth forests in the Tarkine region.

The protest took place at 11.00am outside the electoral office of Minister for Resources, Guy Barnett MP.

Placed firmly in focus by placards and speakers were the protesters assertion of a "black hole" of taxpayer subsidies to the forestry industry, and the destruction

of ancient eco-systems of the Tarkine rainforests.

The short protest included a sing-along led by Lisa Yeates on an acoustic guitar, and speeches from former Greens candidate Scott Jordan, and scientist Deb Hunter.

Things turned lively when a single anti-Greens protester infiltrated the crowd, waving a placard of her own that read "No hunting, no camping, no fishing, no riding, no 4WDs, no fun, NO GREENS!"

The counter-protester, Kelly Wilton who runs a Facebook page called Support Tassie's Timber Industry, wrote "I was welcomed by the protesters, until they read my signs."

However, event organiser Carol Beaumont said her family had had a lot to do with the timber industry. "I support the forestry industry, just not logging old growth forests," she said.

Greens campaigner Scott Jordan said "The state government spent \$23 million building the Tarkine Drive to encourage tourism, and yet tourists can see logging sites. There have been numerous recommendations that this area should be world heritage, and we're logging it at a loss."

"There's no economic reason, and certainly no environmental reason. It's about choices. Do we want more teachers and nurses, or

to prop up a dying industry?" he said.

Minister Barnett was away from the office on the day, but told the Gazette his government is a proud supporter of Tasmania's sustainable forestry industry.

"This is nothing more than a stunt by Save the Tarkine. The North West has been crying out for more jobs, and the area suffered significant forestry job losses under the so-called Forestry Peace Deal. The people of Tasmania voted overwhelmingly against the Green anti-everything agenda at the last State election, and it's time the perpetual protest brigade took note."

## Drug Education

MENTAL HEALTH Carers Tasmania in partnership with The Drug Education Network are offering a two hour education session for families, friends and unpaid carers of a person with mental ill health. Participants can expect to gain more understanding of drugs, drivers of drug misuse, how mental ill health and drug use intersect, harm reduction, self care and accessing support.

Monday 28th May 10:00am to 12:00 noon at Deloraine House, morning tea supplied. Register online at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/6XJRBL8](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6XJRBL8) by Monday 21st May or call Vicki on 6228 7448.

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Kate Sheahan of Westbury is this year's Tasmanian winner of the Simpson Prize.

## Simpson prize for battlefield saga

Photo & story by Hayley Manning

FULL MARKS go to our Tasmanian winner of the National Simpson Prize writing competition, Kate Sheahan.

Former Deloraine High graduate, Kate, and State runner-up, Caleb Paine, were presented with a certificate and medallion in front of their parents at Parliament House, Canberra, on 26th March 2018.

The two-days spent in the Capital also served as a bonding opportunity for the eight first-prize winners prior to their all expenses paid tour of the Western Front battlefields and historical institutions throughout London, Ypres, and Paris.

Kate's father, Adrian, found the 2017 Simpson Prize

question online and encouraged her to enter in the ANZAC essay challenge, based on their shared interest in the Great War, and a collection of books by official war-correspondent Charles E Bean.

"I dismissed the idea of winning and just assumed the essay hadn't gone very well, but then I got an email in late January 2018, saying I had been selected as the Tasmanian winner," Kate said.

"The worst part was we couldn't tell anyone until after we had attended the formal ceremony in Canberra" she said.

Kate's Deloraine High English teacher, Mr Lewis, said the Education Department funded Simpson Prize, is best suited to students who want to improve their understanding of the ANZAC legacy.

"It was obvious from Kate's first draft and the amount of research she undertook that she was interested in the topic," Mr Lewis said.

Kate focused her essay on two Western Front battles, Bullecourt and Passchendaele, and the factors that made these battles so intolerable - frozen or muddy trenches, the British command, and an unprecedented casualty rate - to support her argument that 1917 was the worst year of the Great War.

National Serviceman, Peter Ashton, who received a Distinguished Conduct Medal for bravery in Vietnam, said the WW1 casualty statistics would not be acceptable today.

"There was a different mindset with regards to conflict resolution during that period," Peter said.

Peter went on to praise the

## Sour taste for homeowner

Continued from page 2

during the 45-day settlement period.

The insurance matter is now being considered by the Financial Ombudsman Service Australia; Mr Styles' insurance broker, John Wilkinson from Ruralco, is currently waiting on an opinion on the matter from the service's case manager.

"This is a unique circumstance, an anomaly, and I believe Geoff has been poorly treated. The insurance company's arguments around the ownership of this property are against the insurance company code of good faith," he said.

Fanny Beerepoot said she knew nothing about the missing fixtures: "It's an issue between the Meander Valley Council and the people who bought the property," she said.

In the meantime, Mr Styles and his partner Dorothy Lowe are preparing the property's four accommodation units for tourists, replacing the missing equipment and adding elegant furnishings to the rooms.

Mr Styles is Tasmanian and, at the time the 2.4 hectare Beerepoot family home auction, he lived in Bridport but was travelling interstate in his motor home.

He said he heard about the 1st September 2017 auction on a radio program by shock jock John Laws, decided to put in a phone bid, and bought it for \$120,000.

The low price shocked locals who knew the value was much higher; the Beerepoots bought it for \$130,000 in 1999. In 2012 the government land valuation was \$65,000 and the capital value \$320,000.

Simpson Prize competition and its measure of importance for present and future generations to remember

The auction reserve price of just \$20,000 was calculated to cover the Beerepoot family's \$3,500 council rates debt plus auction costs, which Mayor Craig Perkins estimated at \$10,000-\$15,000.

Mr Styles said: "I was half way between Bendigo and Ararat when I got a phone call from the real estate agent saying: You've got yourself a property."

"It was unbelievable; I hadn't even arranged finance.

"It was like winning Tattslotto, but anyone in Australia could have done it. About 20 people were registered to bid and I'd been prepared to go up to \$220,000."

But on 16th October when Mr Styles arrived to take over the property things turned sour fast.

There was no key handover and after paying a locksmith to get in, he found the interior ripped out, damaged walls, wires hanging out of the ceilings and masking tape notes on power points saying 'Do not turn on'.

"Some people said: Well, you got a good deal," Mr Styles said. "But that isn't the point, is it? When you buy a property at auction you expect to take it over with its fittings and fixtures."

Blue Wren Hideaway is an attractive house tucked in under the Western Tiers; its elaborate gardens are stunning and Geoffrey Styles and Dorothy Lowe know their future guests will love it.

"It's been a nightmare, but we are working on getting the accommodation up and running. We are moving forward," Geoff said.

the horrors of war. "We need to seek non-violent conflict resolution and more realistic options," he said.



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## In My Opinion...

By Joanne Eisemann  
Managing Editor

ANZAC DAY is a big event in Deloraine. Crowds of people flock to both the dawn and 11.00am service at the war memorial by the bridge. This year, it was made extra special by the presence of Her Excellency, Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, Governor of Tasmania

It's difficult for me to walk past the war memorial any time of the year without pondering the effects of war on towns and cities throughout Australia, or the world for that matter.

The hundreds of inscribed names of fallen soldiers are a shocking testament to the great tragedy that war brings.

Does anybody or any country ever really win a war? How do we ever end up in situations where we want to go and blow each other up? Don't we get that war is just as devastating in terms of social impact to the winner as it is to the loser? Isn't there a better way to sort out our differences? These are a few of the thoughts that cross my mind whenever I get within

cooee of a war memorial.

I spent a long time blaming leaders for taking our country into wars but, of late, my view is changing. I'm seeing that our leaders are but a reflection of our community and that there is just as much warlike behaviour going on amongst us that, unless curbed, will lead to more war.

Some may think that to be a radical statement, but then I think about the number of conflicts I see each day: conflicts between drivers on the roads, conflicts between people who are not acting the way others want them to, conflicts with people who have differing opinions, and then, of course, the inner conflicts I have within myself... the list goes on. If my observations are similar to other folk in society, then our world is awash with conflict.

How then do we ever have peace? I don't really have an answer to that one just yet. But I am pretty sure it is to do with how I relate to myself and other human beings; doing so in a way that is gentler, more dignified, and with a greater willingness to listen.

## Letters In...

YOUR FRONT-PAGE article of last month titled "The hidden costs of free camping" prompted a degree of disappointment for me in both the Meander Valley Council and the residents of Westbury.

Firstly, was it not possible to exempt towns that have no alternative camping sites from the regulation? The campers were a boon for Westbury in so many ways, particularly for local business. Our only cafe, for example, has since closed.

Secondly, I abhor the complaints from residents who are quoted as being concerned in regards to "noise, camp fires, the safety of young children, public urination, dumping of grey water and free access for campers while other users pay". Get a life people.

I live in very close proximity to the recreation ground, as do a number of friends, and we are totally unaware of any anti-social behaviour by campers. Most of these people are retirees who have chosen to explore our state.

It seems to me that the major motivation for these complaints is the free access to council toilet and rubbish disposal facilities the campers enjoy, while they see themselves as somehow subsidising this. It lacks humanity, good will and common sense. It's whinging for the sake of whinging.

Geoff Mooney  
Westbury

WE WERE recently at Boat Harbour Beach where everyone was talking about the closure of free campsites in your area.

One camper gave me a copy of your newspaper to read. We are on holiday from Qld and were looking forward to visiting Deloraine as we did 5 years ago. At that time we filled up with fuel, stocked up on provisions, paid for a hotel meal, entry to museum and Silks Exhibition. Bought gifts etc. spending over \$400.

Since then I have told everyone I know who is coming to Tasmania to visit Deloraine Not any more. We will support and recommend towns with free or reasonably priced campgrounds instead.

Your local businesses will suffer badly. Council's should not listen to greedy caravan park owners who are often too full anyway to fit in the influx of Grey Nomads and backpackers who frequent your area Shame on Meander Valley Council. They are making a big mistake.

Christine and Terry Edwards  
Redland City Qld

POINT TO correct!

An article titled '\$3.3 million to spend - have your say' written by Sharon Webb, was included in the April edition of the Gazette.

The article referred to a feasibility study that was undertaken by a number of independent consultants with input from a working group,

## A boost for valley radio

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY CommunityRadio, MVFM96.9, is going from strength to strength, widening its listener base all the way to Launceston and Wilmot with a new, stronger transmitter.

And committee President Mira Kuperstien said a new studio, mainly funded by a \$5,000 grant from the Bendigo Bank, would be occupied by a new radio desk and computers on permanent loan from fellow community radio station Pulse FM in Huonville.

She said that MV Community Radio was being guided by a strong, experienced committee including Nick Weare formerly with ABC Radio in Hobart and NSW, Deloraine identity John Phelps, and experienced treasurer Tim Biggs.

"Now we need more volunteers interested in making radio programs," Mira said.

Currently several locals present music programs including Eddie Tuleja and Greg Rossiter's *The Ecclectic Show* and John Phelps' *Classical Time*.

comprising council staff and community members.

The study was funded by Meander Valley Council, the Bendigo Bank and the State Government.

The preferred option identified in the report actually has a total identified cost in excess of \$33 million!

In my opinion, the preferred option is clearly aspirational in nature.

It's very important that further consultation is undertaken, especially with the local schools and potential user groups, as well as with the broader community; said consultation might identify, what if any, elements of the proposal, or variations or alternatives thereto, may be achievable in the short, medium and long term.

As with the original complex constructed at Alveston Drive, Deloraine, significant financial support from the State and or Commonwealth Governments would, in my view, be essential, to see any significant improvement to the recreational facilities in the area.

Rodney D. Synfield  
Meander Valley Councillor.

AS WE uphold the Anzac Day tradition, we are reminded of the high price the young men and women of our grandparent's generation paid to purchase the freedoms we, their grandchildren, take today for granted.

There is one main reason why so many Australians and

More recent additions include an intriguing local history program by Deloraine resident Wendy Laing, who delves into newspapers from the 1800s for her themes; and a poetry program fronted by Mole Creek poet, Peter Bamford.

Students from Mole Creek Primary and Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Schools have made their own 20-minute programs. Plus, coming up, there will be a series of interviews by committee Vice President John Kenzey with the local University of the Third Age.

"Our main goal is to go live on radio covering community events and openings and making bushfire announcements, but we just don't have the people to do it," Mira said.

Nick Weare said the radio's music was broadening all the time: "A few years ago it was middle-of-the road stuff, but now we have everything - reggae, blues, jazz, classical and Americana."

John Kenzey encourages locals to drop in to the station's office at Deloraine Creative Studios, just to say hello and see what's going on.

Allied young men, women and civilians died in World Wars I and II. There was an influential pacifist minority in Allied nations supportive of Germany/Japan. They talked our leaders out of having a strong defensive readiness to respond to the well-publicised military build-up and territorial expansion of Imperial Germany and Hitler's Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

Failing to act on the many signs of pending military aggression, our leaders had to sacrifice the lives of far too many untrained young men. opposing well-trained German and Japanese soldiers.

Before they could be stopped, many freedom loving countries fell to those two ruthless aggressors, with millions of men, women and children brutally abused and murdered.

The next 'unexpected' war will be beyond our worst fears. Like France's President Macron, let us also reintroduce serious military training for all young people. This would show our determination to defend our homes, families, freedoms, and our nation. Let us expose and hold accountable those who oppose national military service, who want to repeat those avoidable great losses of young lives. The next great conflict will be swift and destructive for under prepared nations like Australia, which dwell quietly without strong walls or defences.

Mike Johns  
Riverwood NSW

EST. 2013

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Omali Austen, aged 7, takes a stroll along the Lower Liffey Falls Track. Photo by: Jade Hallam

### Liffey Falls misty wonderland

By Tara Ulbrich

APPROACHING LIFFEY Falls from downstream is entirely different from the more popularly worn path leaving from the upper carpark. An argument can be made that waterfalls ought to be discovered by climbing up. It makes the grand finale more spectacular.

volunteers welcomed us at the lower campground area. This band, costumed in lurid orange and equipped with safety goggles and secateurs, were marching forth to clear the path from overhanging fern and bracken. A Park's team were also nearby, chainsaws at the ready. They were there to deal with tree fell from a recent storm.

After the floods of 2016 this track had to be entirely rebuilt and now takes a higher route along Quinns Creek without crossing the Liffey River at all. It is a walk that requires tending, as wild nature and thriving vegetation push back against human taming.

The Liffey Falls area is wet forest at its jaw dropping finest. Water droplets hang off leaf and twig. A mist encloses the valley far above, like the

## Beware the scammers

By Alistair Carr

IT SEEMS phone scams are on the rise again, with a couple of new variations.

One is the usual call about problems with your computer, but this time claiming to be from NBNco.

NBNco will never cold call you about this sort of problem. NBNco do not deal with retail customers, so ignore what they say and hang up no matter what they claim. Visit [www.scamwatch.gov.au/news/watch-out-for-nbn-scams](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au/news/watch-out-for-nbn-scams).

The usual Telstra and Bigpond support scam calls are still doing the rounds, so keep those in mind too.

Another variation I have just come across, is a cold

call claiming to be from the Do Not Call (DNC) Register telling me that I need to pay a fee via my credit card to stay on the DNC. Again, this is complete rubbish. The DNC is totally free and does not charge you to list your number on the register. In my case, the caller ID showed as being a Burnie phone number which may trap some in to thinking it is legit. It's not. The scammers have just set up a routing service to make the call look like it is local.

Also, as it is getting close to tax time, I would expect the usual Australian Tax Office phone scams to start up again. Again these calls are fake, just hang up on them,

*Continued on Page 7...*

canvas of a big top. The path is a gradual steady incline but the track is so smooth it is easy to imagine young ones exuberantly scampering up.

Sometimes you're at the water level of the creek and other times higher above. One moment you're in the taffeta skirts of fern fronds, their new lashes blinking down at you, and the next you're above and looking down as a trapeze artist over a safety net of verdant foliage.

After a little more than one hour's walking, you're greeted

by the thunderous applause of the falls. Find a picnic spot just downstream and let the waters hurry back to your point of origin.

The start of this walk can be found from three approaches, via the A5 and the road to the Upper Carpark, via Quamby Brook and Bogans Rd or the more two-wheel-drive-friendly route from Westbury or Bracknell which passes through the tiny hamlet of Liffey. The return takes three hours including time for lunch.

# HAPPIEST KIDS IN THE NORTH



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Film director Ben Briand and cameraman Jeremy Rouse get down to work. Photo by: Matt Dooley

# Spy thriller in Mole Creek

By Sharon Webb

FORTY CREW and actors hit Mole Creek last month to shoot atmospheric footage at the Old Wesley Dale property and a motorbike crash in a Sassafras forest, complete with stunts.

The Collider Films crew blanket-booked accommodation in the small town, raving about the dramatic countryside offering scenery that, unlike the rest of Australia, could be in Europe or the US.

Producer Matt Dooley described the "elevated aesthetic" as eminently suitable for the spy thriller he is creating.

"Overall, Tasmania has a much more international feel simply because of the climate," he said.

"With its lush forest and great architecture it could be anywhere."

The movie, which Matt was unwilling to name, is set in an

anonymous location and will be released online after doing the rounds of the film festivals. Its production designer is Stephen James Evans, who worked on the 2012 movie *The Hunter*, also filmed in the Meander Valley.

Filming for only three days following Matt's earlier scouting trip, the crew soaked up the friendliness of the Mole Creek locals and the stunning environment.

"The dramatic countryside and climate gives wonderful variations of scenery," Matt said.

"It's hard to get a sensational backdrop like the Gog Range, the trees' splashes of colour and the morning mist anywhere else in Australia.

"We filmed inside and outside the barn at Old Wesley Dale, the building feels European, there's an ambiguity to the architecture."

The environment and super-helpfulness of accom-

modation providers and individuals like Chudleigh resident John Hawkins who gave access to his antiques for props, has Matt thinking that for him a move to Tasmania is an option.

"Lots of film production people have moved to Tasmania but there's no organisation of the skills they offer.

"It's expensive to come here and shoot, with fares and freight, so it would be great to be able to pull together all of those people and the equipment, and offer apprenticeships in lighting, stunts etc."

## Beware scammers

*Continued from Page 6...*

and don't believe a word they are saying. The ATO will not cold call you.

If you are worried about any of these calls then you could try calling the organisa-

## Beating heart of community

By Wendy Laing

SPONSORED BY Government funding, the Western Tiers Community Club has recently taken possession of an Automated External Defibrillator worth \$1,900.

An AED, as it is known, is an electrical device that provides a shock to the heart in the event of a cardiac arrest to hopefully start the heart beating again in the correct rhythm.

It is estimated that up to seven out of ten people who suffer a cardiac arrest could survive if they were treated with a defibrillator within the first five minutes of their arrest.

The President of the Western Tiers Community Club, Mr Barry Westwood said he hoped it would be on standby only but would be used if an emergency arose.

The club has now celebrat-

ed 45 years of operation in its current site at 33a Parsonage Street and, for most of that time, was known as the Deloraine Senior Citizens Club. But in October 2014, in order to attract a greater use by a wider section of the community, it was renamed the Western Tiers Community Club.

Whilst still providing activities for seniors, there is a variety of events on offer suitable for all ages. These include monthly teas, musical entertainment, Tai Chi, bingo, card afternoons, indoor bowls and trivia afternoons.

The venue is also available to hire for private functions.

For enquiries about what the Community Club has to offer, or to make a booking for an event, please ring President Barry Westwood on 6362 2243 or call into the club on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays between 10.00am and 4.00pm.



President, Barry Westwood displays the new defibrillator.

tion they claim to be from, but do not use any number the caller may provide.

Get the phone number from the white or yellow pages or from the organisation's web site.

Some useful numbers:  
ATO - phone 132 865.  
8:00am - 6:00pm Mon-Fri; for

email scams forward complete email to ReportEmailFraud@ato.gov.au

NBNco - ph 1800 687626 or use their web form at <https://www1.nbnco.com.au/corporate-information/contact-us-form.html>.

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# Volunteers are worth their weight in gold

By **Cody Handley**

**NATIONAL VOLUNTEER Week** is an annual nationwide celebration of the generosity of volunteers which will take place from 21st May this year.

Volunteering Australia announced this year's theme will be Give a little. Change a lot.

The Gazette spoke to three local volunteers about their experiences and why they do what they do.

**Roy Axeleson**

Roy has spent the last 22 years as a driver and administrator of the Deloraine

Community Car.

Roy began driving in 1996, took over as coordinator in 2002 and only passed on the reins to his daughter Anne last month.

"In all that time they didn't even give me long service leave!" Roy jokes.

Roy's background in the police force instilled in him a sense of community service and he maintained this in his retirement. When the day came that he was no longer working, Roy had the stark realisation that he needed something to fill in his time. "We all have to have something to do, a reason to get out of bed in the morning,"

he said. "Volunteering kept me in touch with the community."

Roy sees the community car as a way for elderly people to live life on their own terms rather than relying on family who often have to work. "We have an aging community who need medical services but aren't being looked after by the current bus service. Elderly people often don't have transport but they still need to get to places."

"These people see the community car as a means of establishing their own independence that otherwise they wouldn't have," he said.

**Sheila Stevenson**

Sheila is a veteran volunteer who had her first volunteer role 52 years ago with the Red Cross.

"I just gravitated to it," she said. "It was a way to get to know the community, to get involved and help."

Sheila is currently the President of the Carrick Community Committee and the curator of the Overload Exhibition which promotes awareness for Hemochromatosis.

Hemochromatosis is a condition where the body cannot offload excess iron levels. It affects 1 in 200 people, of which Sheila is one. The only 'medicine' is to donate blood, which Sheila does once every 3 months.

When she was diagnosed, she realised there was very little awareness about the condition. The Overload Exhibition seeks to remedy this by raising money for the illness while giving exposure to local artists.

Sheila said Overload has been the most influential volunteering experience in her life. "Being able to take the story out there after being diagnosed myself, I feel like I am able to do something really worthwhile," she said.

When asked what her advice to anyone considering volunteering would be she said, "Australia runs on volunteers. It doesn't matter how much or how little you do. Just get out there and help."

The Overload exhibition will begin on the 8th of June.

**Jake Pederson**

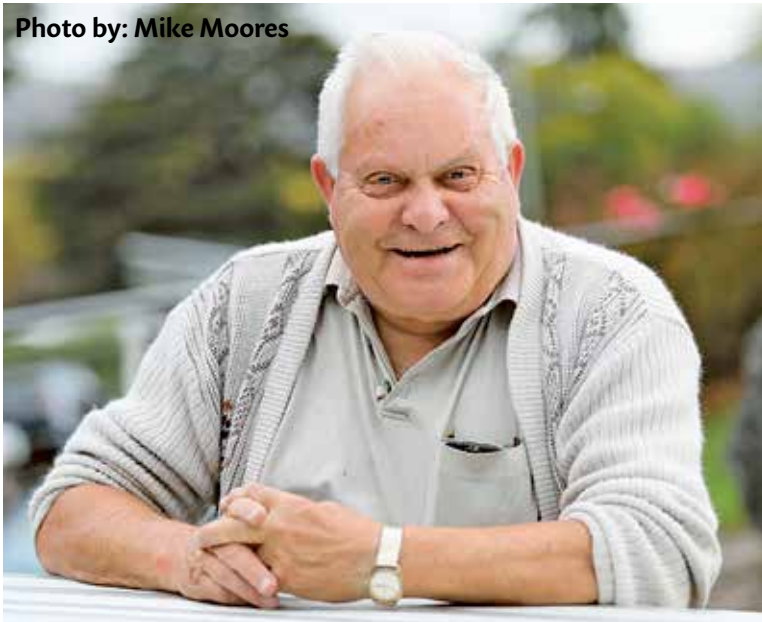
Jake spent 3 months volunteering at the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre in Deloraine.

Being just 22, like many other young people, Jake was having a rough time finding employment. As part of his requirements, he had to drop off 20 resumes per month.

One day he took a punt and dropped one into the Visitor Centre. "I took a resume in, not hoping for much, but they said there was a volunteer position going and asked if I could start tomorrow," he said.

The position involved desk

Photo by: Mike Moores



Roy Axeleson of the Deloraine Community Car.

Photo by: Cody Handley



Sheila Stevenson, curator of the Overload Art Exhibition.

Photo by: Mike Moores



Jake Pederson, formerly of Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre.

duties, serving customers and restocking brochures.

"It allowed me to regain my confidence after being out of the workforce for a while. It gave me a good foundation, particularly on the social side, and made me feel of benefit to the community."

"I learned heaps about the area and it was good to be there to give tourists their bearings."

Jake is interested in bushwalking and has a good knowledge of tracks in the area which he said was handy to have for the role. He also plays drums for local steampunk band 5 or 7 which takes inspiration from Tasmania's convict past.

Jake now has a job at Ashgrove Farm working on the production line and in the cutting room.

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Surrounded by ancient trees the picturesque Deloraine Bridge has been serving travellers in one form or another since 1831.

Photo by: Mike Moores

# The bridge where east meets west

By Wendy Laing

IN THE early 1800's the only way to get to Deloraine from Launceston was either finding places to ford, or over a huge log which spanned the Meander river, near where today's bridge now stands.

The first wooden bridge was built by convicts in 1831. It was destroyed by a flood in 1844, which caused considerable inconvenience to the early settlers.

A second wooden bridge, also built by convicts, was erected a year later and remained in place for thirty years, proving to be a strong structure, capable of surviving the roaring waters of the Meander River floods.

In August 1873 a public meeting was held in Cox's Assembly Rooms in Deloraine to consider erecting a new bridge across the Meander River. A report said that it was necessary it be erected very quickly, as the old bridge was becoming unsafe, and not worth repairing.

A petition was sent to His Excellency the Governor stating that the present bridge across the Meander River at Deloraine was in a decayed and dangerous state, and it was necessary to erect a new bridge as soon as possible.

The Petition worked, and a grand ceremony was held when the bridge was formally opened on the 24th May 1877.

The *Launceston Examiner* of Saturday, 2nd June 1877 reported that a crowd of over 3,000 people attended the event.

The Chairman of Promoters, Mr R. H. Munce climbed onto the bridge, and in a few happily chosen remarks declared the bridge open for traffic, naming it the Queen's Bridge in honour of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, whose birthday it was that day. There was loud cheering as everyone paraded across the bridge and back again.

In March 1906 an article in *Launceston's The Daily Telegraph* reported that the Queen's Bridge wooden decking had to be repaired as it was in a very dangerous state

and responsible for many falls, especially from those on horseback.

**The stone piers, retained from the 1877 bridge, are still standing today.**

A tender from Messrs. Finlayson Bros was accepted by the Public Works Department for the upgrading and the contract included steel girders and a concrete super structure.

Three years later, in September 1909 a reporter for *The Mercury* wrote that the Deloraine bridge was nearly finished, and was a fine structure, and a great improvement to the town.

By the middle of October 1910, it was finally completed. Brand new except for the stone piers retained from the 1877 bridge. These are still standing today.

In 1933, six memorial lamps were erected on each corner of the bridge by families of prominent citizens who have died. They commemorate Dr. P. Cole, Messrs. R. P. Furnage, John Field, and F. J. Bowman. The two centre lamps are in memory of Mr Norman Cameron.

The last major upgrade was in the mid-1900's when the bridge was widened to include a walkway on each side so that pedestrians could cross the bridge in safety.



**Aged Care Deloraine Seeking Volunteers**

We are currently seeking expressions of interest for volunteers to join our friendly and dynamic team.

All interested people need to be willing to participate in an application and interview process and, if successful, be able to attend an induction.

All successful applicants must have a current satisfactory (as per Aged Care Act 1997) National Police Check or be willing to undertake.

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Labor Member for Lyons

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# VALLEY VIEWS



Mayor's Message

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

Thank you to everyone who attended Anzac Services across the Municipality.

This year, it was an honour to be joined by special guests, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC, Governor of Tasmania and Mr Warner.

My introductory address at the Deloraine service began by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which Anzac Day is commemorated.

It is also important to recognise the contribution of the Aboriginal Community to our armed services and our country.

I also read this short extract from the second verse of the famous poem, "In Flanders Fields," by John McCrae, written in 1915;

"We are the dead. Short days ago we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, loved and were loved and now we lie, in Flanders fields".

That is war, an event built with stories of heroism and love for country and sadly, for many, it ends with the ultimate sacrifice.

In November this year we will commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War I, a war that claimed the lives of 62,000 Australians and impacted on

many more afterwards.

Since then, as we know, Australians have continued to serve our country and those fortunate enough to return home to their loved ones have had their lives altered forever.

They went to war to guard our freedoms and our values. This is the legacy of the service of every man and woman who has defended us.

By preserving their memories we seek not to glorify war but to reflect on their selflessness and sacrifice.

Their names are inscribed on war memorials across our municipality.

They are the names of families known to us and who's generations since, contribute significantly to our beautiful part of the world and our strong and connected community.

Today there are still many who answer the call of their country to serve selflessly.

Anzac Day is our opportunity to remember the sacrifice of others, to also remember their humanity and to celebrate our good fortune in living in a situation of peace and plenty.

Lest we forget.

Mayor, Craig Perkins



## Tell us what you think about the Deloraine & Districts Recreation Precinct

Public Meeting  
7pm Thursday 17 May  
at the Deloraine Community Complex



Council is holding a public meeting to consider the results of the Deloraine & Districts Recreation Precinct Feasibility Study. The Community Working Group has recommended that Council proceed as follows:

- Expand the Deloraine Community Complex to include additional indoor sports courts and other indoor facilities.
- Begin lobbying State and Federal Governments for funding support.
- Commence investigation and negotiation of the purchase of land adjacent to the Complex for the construction of sporting grounds including the relocation of football from the Racecourse Reserve.
- Support the design of two outdoor netball courts and approve their funding and construction.
- Fund the installation of pathways and linkages to the Deloraine Community Complex from neighbouring schools and town centre in the 2018/19 budget.

If progressed, these projects are significant and will have an estimated cost of more than \$13m. Council is seeking your feedback and welcomes your comments.

### Come along and share your views about this significant proposal.

For further information contact Council's Recreation Coordinator, Daniel Smedley on 6393 5306



### Council plays host to Meander Valley's Miniature Marvels

From Friday 1 June, the foyer in Council's Office will be transformed by a photographic exhibition, the likes of which are rarely seen.

Slime moulds are unpredictable, ephemeral and small. They are known to be abundant in the world's temperate regions so the tall wet eucalypt forests of northern Tasmania are ripe for the picking.



Sarah Lloyd is fortunate enough to live in such a place. She can track the

progress of plasmodia, watch as they feed and transform and collect exquisite spore-bearing 'fruits' before they are spoilt by rain, fungi or invertebrates.

Since 2010, Sarah has built up an impressive collection of approximately 1600 specimens representing over 115 species - more than 10 percent of known species worldwide.

'Natures Miniature Jewels' showcases Sarah's photographs taken with either a camera on a stereo microscope that shows the variety of their miniature forms; and photographs taken with a camera on a compound microscope that show the intricate beauty of their microscopic structures.



This exquisite photographic exhibition will be freely open to the public from 8.30am - 5pm from Friday 1 June until Friday 29 June 2018 in the foyer at Council's offices at 26 Lyall Street Westbury.

Sarah will be at the Council Offices on Tuesdays from 1pm - 7pm during June to discuss her work and show samples of her collections.





### Greening Meander Valley

Council is currently scheduling a number of tree planting projects across the municipality.

Undertaken in collaboration with community groups, service clubs and the Department of State Growth, these projects will enhance our streetscapes and add aesthetic appeal to our municipality.

A second stage of tree plantings is scheduled for Mole Creek Road in Deloraine which will add twelve trees to the existing avenue of maple and pear trees north towards the Bass Highway.

This tree planting initiative is a continuation of a collaborative effort undertaken by Council and the Rotary Club of Deloraine.

Similarly, at the eastern entrance to Westbury, Council will be partnering with the Department of State Growth to replace trees of poor condition with twenty cherry, oak and maples.

In Meander, Council will be assisting the Meander Hall Committee to plant forty pittosporums to enhance the western side of the recreation ground.

In Kimberley, Council's works crew has been busy removing trees of poor condition along Railton Road and Council is continuing to

work with the community to finalise a streetscape improvement plan that is expected to include a number of ornamental plantings.

In addition to identifying new tree planting opportunities, Council actively manages existing tree stocks, assessing risk and tree health.

Part of this process involves completing an industry recognised condition assessment of over 7000 trees across the municipality's parks, reserves and streets - every three years.

This assessment is currently underway and will take approximately six weeks to complete.

### Meander Valley Council means business

As part of the ongoing commitment Council has to supporting local small business and helping to create an active and vibrant business environment in Meander Valley, Council has added an experienced small business operator to its Community Services Team.

Alan Blackmore has taken on the new role of Business Engagement Officer. Alan has a long track record in small to medium enterprise businesses (SME's), having built and sold multiple businesses over the past 30 years.

Having a background in technology, online marketing and events, Alan brings a valuable skillset that can assist the Meander Valley business community to strengthen and grow, using free and low cost strategies both online and offline.

Alan's previous businesses have been centred on providing operational and marketing support to SME's and he is keen to discover your business needs and challenges and uncover opportunities for business improvement and growth of the local economy.

Alan is commencing an ongoing program of rolling visits to Meander Valley businesses to find out what your business does now and your plans for the future.

An important aspect of Alan's role is to identify ways that he can assist in connecting your business to relevant programs, business networks, grant opportunities and industry bodies that can help support your business growth.

"Being focussed on the success of the small business community, I am here to help and look forward to being of service and helping your business succeed. I am looking to foster networks of like-minded businesses in addition to discovering cross-promotional and event opportunities.

I would like to hear from all the business owners in Meander Valley and look forward to meeting you and



gaining an insight into the resources, venues, products and services you have available," Alan said.

Future projects include the development of a business directory and a business-centric bulletin highlighting upcoming opportunities in the funding, training, events and economic development space.

You can contact Alan via email at alan.blackmore@mvc.tas.gov.au or phone him on 6393 5365 or 0429 053 763.

## GIVE A LITTLE. CHANGE A LOT.

### NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

21-27 May 2018

This National Volunteer Week we acknowledge and celebrate the generous contributions of Australia's 6 million volunteers, and the incredible impact they make in our local communities, society and the world!

Thank you volunteers for contributing to the Australian community!

#NVW2018

[volunteeringaustralia.org/nvw](http://volunteeringaustralia.org/nvw)

### National Volunteers Morning Tea

Deloraine House is hosting a morning tea for all volunteers

Thursday 24 May 2018  
10:30 to 12:00  
at Deloraine House  
(112 Emu Bay Road)

If you volunteer anywhere, we invite you to attend a thank you from your community.

Please RSVP to Deloraine House by Monday 21st May for catering purposes.  
Email: [info@delorainehouse.com.au](mailto:info@delorainehouse.com.au) or Phone: 63622678

### SLIME MOULDS - NATURE'S MINIATURE JEWELS

an exhibition of slime mould photographs by Sarah Lloyd

Meander Valley Council Offices, 26 Lyall, Street, Westbury  
Friday 1 June - Friday 29 June 2018

Viewing is free and available in business hours.  
Sarah will be at the Council Offices on Tuesdays from 1 pm - 4 pm during June to discuss her work and show samples of her collections.

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#### Customer Service Office

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Photo by: Mike Moores

Marg Cruickshank (L) chats with Isabel Shapcott about the upcoming book signing at Seppenfelts.

# I'm just here to rattle your cages

By Cody Handley

LOCAL AUTHOR, Margaret Cruickshank, will be holding a book signing at Seppenfelts Emporium on Saturday 26th May from 11.00am to 1.00pm.

Marg is pleased to be launching her new book, *Parenting the Next Generation: A Journey of Life, Love and Learning*.

By and large, Marg's book has its origins in her career as a teacher.

Marg taught at the Launceston Matriculation College from 1976 to 1981, before heading overseas for several years. She returned in 1985 and took up teaching Behavioural Studies at Don College on the north-west coast.

"I realised I had in front of me the future parents of the world," she said. As the years progressed, Marg started noticing changes in their attitudes and behaviour, all the while raising her own children.

Some of these changes were concerning, Marg notes.

"It wasn't a major jump to conclude that we (the baby boomer generation) were responsible for these changes!"

"I was particularly interested in where our society was heading and the challenges the Family Institution was confronting," Marg said. "Knowing that changes in our society obviously have an impact and cause changes in successive generations, fascinated me."

Marg found her students more than willing to engage with this new direction in her teaching. "I, as a new parent, learned heaps from them," she said.

When asked what the greatest lesson her students taught her was, Marg identifies the importance of being heard. "Parents often listen to their children, but they don't hear. The hearing part can take a long time."

Marg's students suggested she write a book about some of the significant topics covered in class discussions.

"Marg, you need to write this stuff down! Nobody tells us these things!" Marg says, mimicking one of her students.

"I said I would do it and then life got in the way, big time. The greatest thing about the book is that I got it finished!"

Cultural differences around raising children also influenced the book. Marg's first experience of raising a child was in an English village where the attitude was that the whole village took responsibility for that child, often reprimanding other people's children for misbehaving. Marg noticed that Australians tend to be much more individualistic in their approach to their kids.

Marg says *Parenting the Next Generation* is not a how-to book - "It's a book to make you think."

As she used to tell her students, "I'm just here to rattle your cages."

For more information about Marg and her book, visit [www.margcruickshank.com](http://www.margcruickshank.com).

# Homegrown originals night

By Antonia Howarth-Wass

THE ORIGINALS Only Night was an evening of presentations by singers, instrumentalists, writers, dancers, drummers, storytellers and actors.

This event has no winners, yet is an opportunity for an audience to support local talent, and for performers keen to gain exposure.

Held at the Community Theatre, the evening opened with some indie pop by two young performers, Kiarnna and Dana from Scotch Oakburn School, one on cello and the other singing with a ukulele, followed by some steam punk, which, for the uninitiated,

is rolling guitar strumming.

The crowd were delighted by poetry recitals, story telling and a piano recital of blues by Asuka Woods, just 13 yrs old.

Catzen Smith compered this convivial evening and gave verses about her children and a new life she is making down south.

"Ben's Booty Angst" included grunge, punk, rock, indie and orchestral, but the event of the night for most was the performance by two brothers from Hobart, Rahul and Rohan Sharma providing progressive metal and gypsy jazz with guitar and piano. Beautifully synchronised sounds are rare in modern music, but this duo had the audience on their feet.

# Quinn-tessential artist

WESTBURY ARTIST Brad Quinn is the 2018 winner of the inaugural Esk Art Award.

Brad received the Tas Art Award Acquisitive Prize for his painting 'Cataract Gorge 2'.

The Esk Art Award was announced on 13th April and is curated by the Launceston Art Society with the support of the Eskleigh Foundation.

All entries and prize winners are exhibited at Eskleigh in Perth, until 27th May. 'Cataract Gorge' will then become part of the Eskleigh Foundation's permanent collection.

Brad has been concentrating on painting and exhibiting his work since settling in Westbury in 2015 and was the winner of Meandering 2016 with his painting 'Chudleigh Show'.

His larger paintings, such as 'Cataract Gorge 2', are often destined for exhibitions both in Tasmania and interstate.

Brad's work can be seen in his workspace at Deloraine Creative Studios, on Emu Bay Road. Here, Brad spends up to two days a week, painting and drawing alongside other local artists and craftspeople.



Brad Quinn with his winning artwork. Photo: Elizabeth Douglass

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**Mike Moores 'Retrospective'**

THROUGHOUT the month of May, Pixels Gallery is proud to exhibit a selection of Mike's photographs taken over his long and illustrious career as a photojournalist.

Pixels can be visited any time during Deloraine Online Access Centre's opening hours.

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This Ethiopian seafood stew can be cooked with any white fish whose flesh stays firm in a stew.

# Ethiopian seafood stew

Photo and Story by  
Wai Lin Coultas

DESPITE BEING a landlocked country, Ethiopia is renowned for a freshwater fish stew laced with its staple berbere spice mix.

Tampering down the heat without compromising on the layers of flavour in the berbere spice, this hearty seafood stew draws from late autumn's natural bounty in Australia; the perfect conversation starter when friends come over for dinner.

**Ingredients:**

- 1 large onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 6 cloves garlic, peeled and finely chopped
- 8 cm long fresh old ginger, peeled and finely chopped
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 tsp cardamom pods, grounded
- 1 tsp allspice
- 1 tsp fennel seeds, grounded
- 2 tsp ground cumin

- 0.2 g saffron, soaked in a little hot water for 1 hour to draw out the colour
- 14 pinches ground nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp sweet paprika
- 1/3 tsp cayenne pepper
- 5 tsp salt
- 1 x 400g tin whole tomatoes, pureed in its juices
- 1 tbsp tomato paste
- 400 ml water
- 5 tbsp Prickly Box honey
- 5 tbsp raspberry jam
- 400g fresh snapper fillet\*, cut into chunks
- 600 g fresh prawns, shelled and deveined
- 600 g peeled roasted sweet chestnuts
- 300 g brussel sprouts, blanched and halved
- 2 large carrots, diced 1.5 cm thick and steamed
- 2 medium sweet potatoes, diced 1.5 cm thick and steamed
- Extra virgin olive oil
- 4 large limes, quartered

\*Note: Can be substituted with any white fish whose flesh stays firm in a stew.

**Instructions:**

1. Stir-fry onion, garlic and ginger in heated olive oil in a pot over a medium flame till the bulbs are translucent and you can smell the ginger.
2. Stir in the 9 spices and saffron with its liquid until fragrant.
3. Stir in tomatoes (pureed and paste), water, salt, honey and raspberry jam, bringing to a boil.
4. Add the seafood to simmer until the fish turns an opaque white and prawns pink.
5. Add chestnuts and vegetables; cooking a further 2 minutes.
6. Serve individual bowls hot, with squeeze of lime to taste and warm buttered ciabatta on the side.

Serves 6

OUT AND ABOUT IN MEANDER VALLEY



Having a ball at this year's riverside Easter Festival in Deloraine



L - R Shaylyn Cooke, Chloe Collins and Freya Cooper creators of the new outdoor mosaic at Deloraine House.



CAMELLIAS BELONG to a huge group of shrubs and trees from the Orient. In addition to their ornamental value, they possess more practical uses for industry and society. *Camellia sinensis* is the tea plant whose extracts make the great universal reviver. Green tea is made from freshly cut tea leaves, while black tea is made from leaves which have been fermented. The oil from seeds of *C.sasanqua* are used for textile purposes in the silk industry, and also in the manufacture of soap. But it is even more renowned for the beauty and hardiness of its many cultivars. *C.sasanqua* "Hiryu" has single deep red flowers in late autumn to spring. "Lucinda" has lolly pink semi-double

flowers in very early spring. "Paradise Blush" (here photographed by Hayley Manning in the Visitor Information Centre), has pink buds which open to double white with pink edging. It flourishes on a south facing wall, beside a lawn where the June frosts remain day long.



Unlike its relative *C.japonica*, *C.sasanqua* prefers an open, sunny position so long as it is not buffeted by harsh winds.

**In the veggie garden.**

Only onions may be sown in May, although shallot bulbs can go in this month. Red onions are preferable to brown, as they are so much dearer in the shops. Finely sliced, they are delicious, and quite decorative, in a salad.

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## A life well lived

Pat Hodgetts with her dearly loved 28-year-old pony, Paluka Coconut.

Photo by: Mike Moores

### By Lorraine Clarke

ONE OF Meander Valley's most loved and respected characters is veterinarian Dr Pat Hodgetts. She was raised in Kimberley, where she ran free on her parents' dairy farm during the 1950s.

She and her two sisters were presented with a Shetland pony Bubbles, intended to be their conveyance to Kimberley Primary School, which did not quite work out. Pat always loved riding, and if there was no horse available, used to ride a favourite cow bareback to the local shop.

While other 8-year-old girls were tucked up in cosy beds dreaming of fairies, young Patricia Lucas was already making a determined start on her intended career.

"I used to climb out the window at night with my kerosene lantern and a piece of baling twine in my pocket. I would go around the field, harassing cows in labour. I was going to 'assist' them whether they needed assisting or not. Many years later, my dad told me I was a trouncer of a kid. He never got any sleep at calving time, because he was always out there watching over me."

The 3 girls moved on to Devonport High School, boarding in town with a family of 10 kids. Pat excelled both scholastically and at sport. She gained a scholarship to Sydney University to study Veterinary Science.

"I was getting \$17 per week which had to cover my board, train fares, books and living expenses. I had to save up for

many weeks to buy a twin set. Every dollar counted those days," she said.

Pat applied herself to sport and athletics in her spare time. She was awarded a University Blue for Badminton, and made a Life Member of the Sydney Women's Sporting Association, the first Tasmanian to achieve this honour. She sang in the Sydney Uni Choir, performing Beethoven's "Song of Joy" at the opening of the Opera House.

After 5 years of concentrated study, she graduated in 1974, and came home to work for Dr Stephen King for 15 months before setting up her own veterinary practice in Deloraine. "It was hard as a woman working on my own in a large animal practice, in days when many farmers thought all vets ought to be men, but the good times made up for it," she said. "I always had an affinity with cows, and an underlying love of horses."

At that time there was regular racing in Deloraine, so Pat was in her element, dealing daily with dairy cows and horses.

Her brother took over the Kimberley farm, and with her parents, Pat bought the farm at Elizabeth Town where they established the Paluka Shetland Pony Stud. They had almost 90 ponies on the property at one time, selected for child-friendly traits and champion show qualities. Many an equestrian career has been launched on the back of a Thelwell-esque Paluka pony!

In 1985, Pat married local police sergeant Wayne Hodgetts. They shared a

love of horses, with Wayne's Clydesdales towering over Pat's Shetlands. They were active in the Mountain Cattleman's Association, Tasmanian Driving Society, and many other groups. Sons Hugh and Lucas learned to ride on Amber and Coconut, now aged 30 and 27 years, two of the seven much-loved ponies that are still with Pat today.

Pat first became involved with Endurance riding events when this sport took off in Tasmania in the 1970s. After she sold her practice to Dr Roger Blackwell in 1985, this branch of veterinary work proved to be the perfect career move, fitting in with her growing family. They travelled to Endurance events all over the country.

In 1998, Pat was accredited with the FEI (Fédération Equestre Internationale) as a veterinary official for International Eventing, Carriage Driving and Endurance disciplines. This provided Pat with the opportunity to work in Namibia, California, Peru, Argentina, New Zealand, and at the 2006 World Equestrian Games at Aachen as a 4\* Team Vet.

But it has not all been plain sailing. In 2002, Wayne was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, and passed away in 2004. Tragically, Hugh died in a car accident a few years later. Pat has undergone two spinal fusion surgeries, yet still managed to run her sheep farm at home as well as maintaining her international schedule. "While I can still walk, I'll run," she said. She has shown great strength in dealing with chal-

## A million deer by 2050

By David Claridge

AN EVER-GROWING presence of wild Fallow Deer around the Meander Valley is encouraging people to speak up and voice their concerns.

Wild deer have been responsible for damage to property and have caused car accidents, the increasing presence is making people question whether the population is becoming too large.

Meander Valley Councillor, Tanya King, has been approached by ratepayers who have alerted her to the safety issues caused by wild deer on the roads.

"There have been collisions causing injury and damage to vehicles on our local roads. Similarly, they are causing damage to rural properties, vegetation and fencing. However, the issue for me is primarily one of safety," she said.

"I don't see the need for a feral introduced species to have partial protection, or a "season" at all. The only predator they have here are humans with firearms, and the odd vehicle who hits them when they are where they aren't supposed to be. It is widely accepted now that the population is spiralling, and it is my view that recreational shooters, and farmers alike should be able to humanely take wild fallow deer without the requirement for a permit.

Media outlets have speculated the state deer population to be between 20,000 – 40,000



Feral deer are becoming a problem in Meander Valley.

lenges and adversity.

Although she has now sold off most of her land, she remains active in her profession, and October 2018 will be Pat's 26th consecutive year as a Team Vet at Australia's gruelling Tom Quilty Endurance Ride, in which horses and riders cover 100 miles in one day.

Pat Hodgetts has been showered with awards and accolades by every state, national and international body with which she has been involved, but always

and that if there isn't further control it could reach one million by 2050 if not managed based on UTAS estimates.

Meander Valley deer farmer, Michal Frydrych, agrees and if it can be proven that the numbers are getting out of control, then something must be done.

"If there is an issue with the population, it should be as simple as identifying the problem areas and go through either the hunters or farmers associations and give them the ability to deal with it. This goes for all animals as the wallabies are totally out of control.

A State Government management strategy into the potential of hunting deer for commercial gain has received a submission pushing for wild deer felled in Tasmania to be sold to the public, whereas only farmed deer could be sold before.

"Tasmania has rightfully created a reputation as a pristine area and products, and now we would allow people to shoot a deer, someone then slaughters it in uncontrolled conditions and then they sell it as a pristine product. All you need is for one person to get sick and that is the end of venison market for farmers that have invested large amount of time and money to develop it in the first place," Mr Frydrych said.

"Tasmanian deer farmers have to go through strict rules with hygiene and how the meat is collected. I get inspected by the biosecurity people, by the council. We have a reputation built on years of following the rules. Only this week we have once again won the best product competition by Delicious food."

Professor Chris Johnson from the University of Tasmania is conducting some research into the states actual deer population.

Cr King is collecting local data on sightings, and encounters with wild fallow deer in the municipality.

"The data is sporadic, and anecdotal - but it's a starting point."

If you have any deer-related issues you can contact Tanya King on 0409 452 642.

remains the down-to-earth, warm-hearted neighbour ever ready to help others. She shares some words of wisdom to encourage young people starting out on their life career.

"Whatever I've been involved with, I've ended up becoming a Life Member. I've stuck to things whole-heartedly. Follow your dreams. Be committed and dedicated. The day you give up learning, is the day you jump in your grave."





Rob and Nelson Bird's new Wood-Mizer saw mill maximises recovery of valuable Tasmanian timbers. Photo by: Mike Moores

# Tailor-made Tassie timbers

By Lorraine Clarke

TASMANIA LOSES the talents of many young people to the lure of the subtropics, but Nelson Bird went against the tide when he relocated from Woombye on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, to Elizabeth Town.

Nelson worked in construction in Queensland, specialising in building stairs. He had always loved timber, and especially appreciated the unique species we are blessed with in Tasmania. For years, he had been buying our native woods to use in his business,

and when prices rose dramatically, the obvious solution was to buy a Tasmanian sawmill where he could cut his own timber.

With his parents, Rob and Helen, he searched for years for the right opportunity until 3 years ago, the Elizabeth Town sawmill was advertised on eBay. They flew down to inspect it, and fell in love with the beauty of the natural surroundings, and the potential for developing the business by milling specialty native timbers for niche markets.

Helen and Rob return north each winter, taking a load of

milled Tasmanian timbers with them for sale from their Queensland property. Nelson remains in Tasmania, working the mill with his trusty offsider, Ollie the chocolate Labrador.

"I HATE the winter, but this is where all the nice timber is, and I like the people down here," he said.

He now has 3 mills – a New Zealand Mahoe Minimax, a new Wood-mizer bandsaw, and a Slabmaster from Yass Engineering in Queensland. This is an overhead router, which puts a flat surface on both sides of slabs.

Wood-Mizer recently sent

their Public Relations officer Chase Warner, from Indiana, USA, to write an article on Nelson's mill, illustrated with photos taken by our own Jade Hallam. The advantage of this bandsaw is that it minimises sawdust and maximises recovery of valuable, increasingly-rare timbers such as Huon Pine.

Nelson and Rob are committed to sustainable sawmilling. All their timbers are ethically sourced. They make good use of trees culled from farms, such as macrocarpa hedgerows that have outlived their usefulness, or trees removed from the path of travelling irrigators. They are always interested in

purchasing sawlogs. "Availability of logs is a problem. Myrtle is very hard to get," said Nelson. "We mainly buy blackwood and stringy bark from farmland being cleared. Our Huon Pine is all fully salvaged from the West Coast."

The Birds have recently built a kiln to dry sawn timber. A wide range is stored in their huge shed, a veritable wonderland for woodcarvers, joiners, musical instrument makers, woodturners and furniture makers, whether professional or hobbyist. Figured woods, burls, fiddleback, sassafras, celery top pine, blackwood, silver wattle and numerous minor species are available to suit every purpose, from massive slabs to pen blanks. Macrocarpa, a naturally rot-resistant timber, is cut into bee box lengths for apiarists. A gallery showcases fine timber products for purchase, crafted by local woodworkers.

Nelson's love for his business is obvious, and he intends to expand into producing custom furniture. "We just finished making a nice burl table from blackheart sassafras salvaged from farm forestry operations."

Clients travel from as far as Hobart to purchase quality wood from what is, so far, a well-kept secret nestled in the bush high up above Elizabeth Town. Interstate tourists are delighted to find this treasure trove of unique timber. But once having seen the quality and variety of wood available, all are certain to become return customers.

The sawmill is located at 91 North Street, Elizabeth Town (call before visiting 0406 910 148); [www.tasmanianativetimbers.com.au](http://www.tasmanianativetimbers.com.au).

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## Art auction

**WESTBURY WOMAN** Joanne (Lucy) Rowe is assisting her friend Ben Dudman to organise a fundraiser for Viet Nam Health Improvement Project, a group who work tirelessly to assist Vietnamese children who are affected by HIV to receive education scholarships.

The fundraiser will take the form of an art auction, celebrating Tasmania's artistic talent while raising money for a worthy cause.

Artworks from Tasmania's much loved and up-and-coming artists will be auctioned at a 3 course dinner event to be held at Cataract on Paterson on the 26th May at 6:30pm.

Tickets are \$80.00 and can be bought via [www.trybooking.com/UZEG](http://www.trybooking.com/UZEG) or by calling Ben on 0477 935 137.

## Timbersport

**DELORAINE LOCAL** Daniel Gurr (21) finished a respectable 10th position in his first **STIHL TIMBERSPORTS®** competition which included father Matthew Gurr (52). Mathew showed that despite his age, he's still one of the best athletes in the series making it to the quarter finals to place 7th.

### Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
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- Across**
- 1 Eyots (5)
  - 5 Rubbish (5)
  - 8 Incantation (5)
  - 10 Russian sleigh (6)
  - 11 Defence covering (6)
  - 12 Having the form of a song (5)
  - 13 Sister of Mary and Lazarus (6)
  - 14 Resident of e.g. Nairobi (6)
  - 15 Stage play (5)
  - 17 Scratched (6)
  - 19 Plan (6)
  - 21 Cuban dance (5)
  - 22 Die from lack of food (6)
  - 23 Professional killer (6)
  - 24 Locations (5)
  - 25 Workshop machinery (6)
  - 27 Pressed (6)
  - 29 Grecian architectural style (5)
  - 31 Go back (6)
- Down**
- 2 Rill (9)
  - 3 Throw out (5)
  - 4 Not in any circumstances (Poetical) (4)
  - 6 Recall past experiences (9)
  - 7 Sweat room (5)
  - 8 Mayonnaise (5,8)
  - 9 Lazy (13)
  - 16 Allow to enter (5)
  - 18 Storage building (9)
  - 20 Cemetery (9)
  - 26 Representative (5)
  - 28 Oil source (5)
  - 30 Part of speech (4)

### Sudoku (Easy)

5	1			4	8			9
3	2							1
				7				5
				9				
	4	3		6		8		
				5				
7			9					
1						9		2
4	9	8				1		3

©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 - May 2018 Solution

Sudoku - May 2018 Solution

3	9	1	5	7	8	6	2	4
1	5	8	6	4	3	9	7	2
7	3	6	9	2	1	4	5	8
2	1	7	4	5	8	3	6	9
9	4	5	3	1	6	2	8	7
6	8	3	7	9	2	5	1	4
8	9	4	1	3	7	6	2	5
3	6	2	5	8	9	7	4	1
5	7	1	2	6	4	8	3	9

# Events Diary

**PROUDLY SPONSORED BY CHRISTMAS HILLS RASPBERRY FARM CAFE**  
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Running an event? Then make sure everyone knows about it. Email the details to: [editor@meandervalleygazette.com](mailto:editor@meandervalleygazette.com) - remember to plan in advance so you don't miss out!

Date and Time	Event	Details
Every Friday 10.30am - 12.00pm	Playgroup & Toy Library	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine Ph: 6362 2678 All welcome No cost
Every Thursday 3rd May - 5 July 7 - 8.15pm	Foundation Meditation Course	Deloraine Day Care Centre \$15.00 or \$12.00 concession per session. Ph: Jon 0408 013 341
Tuesday 1st - 31st May	Exhibition - 'Retrospective' - Mike Moores	Pixels Gallery, Deloraine Online Access Centre, 21 West Pde, Deloraine
Saturday 12th May 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society - "Their Finest"	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd. Deloraine UK Comedy Drama R rated 110 minutes Ph: 0418 389 868
Saturday 12th May 9.00am - 12.30pm	Liffey Market	The Old School, 1443 Liffey Road, Liffey more info Ph: Randall 0421 900 810 or Quenton Higgs on 6397 3670
Sunday 13th May 1.00pm - 5.00pm	James Bennett Alternative Roots / Folk artist	Marakooa Café, 186 Mayberry Rd, Mayberry Tickets from <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com.au">https://www.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Sunday 13th May 11.00am	Autumn Race Day 'Deloraine Community Cup'	Launceston Race Course, Jellico St. Mowbray Race 4 Ph: 6326 1070
Thursday 17th May 7.00pm	Deloraine Recreation Precinct public meeting	Deloraine Community Complex Alveston Drive, Deloraine Ph: Daniel Smedley 6393 5306
Saturday 19th May 8.00am - 1.00pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom. Westbury BBQ cooking breakfast, stalls. Ph: Rob Menzie 0417 931 619
Saturday 19th May 9.00am - 1.00pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drive and Caveside Road. Contact Ross Quick 0413 681 252
Saturday 19th May 5.00pm	The Acfields	Marakooa Café, 186 Mayberry Rd, Mayberry Tickets from <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com.au">https://www.eventbrite.com.au</a>
Monday 21st May 7.30pm	Westbury Garden Club AGM	Westbury Fire Station meeting room, William Street, Westbury
Wednesday 23rd May 11.00am	National Simultaneous Storytime & Morn tea	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Register early Ph 6362 2678
Wednesday 23rd May 4.30pm	Pixels, Digital Gallery official opening	Deloraine Online Access Centre, 21 West Parade Deloraine. Aternoon tea will be served, all welcome
Thursday 24th May 10.30am - 12 noon	National Volunteers Morning Tea	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine RSVP by Monday 21st May Ph: 6362 2678
Friday 25th May 9.00am - 4.30pm	CORES Suicide Prevention Training	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine RSVP to register Ph: 6362 2678 No cost BYO Lunch
Saturday 26th May 11.00am - 4.00pm	Marg Cruickshank, book signing	Parenting the Next Generation, Seppenfelts Emporium, Emu Bay Road
Saturday 26th May 3.00pm - 8.45pm	Sound Yoga Workshop	Yoga Centre, 795 Western Creek Rd, Western Creek \$30.00 for full half day Ph: Jon 0408 013 341
Saturday 26th May 6.30pm	Deloraine Lions Club Cheese & Wine Tasting	Western Tiers Community Club, 33 Parsonage St Deloraine Tickets from Alpaca Shoppe or Ph 0427 357 735
Monday 28th May 10.00am - 12 noon	Drug Education Session	Deloraine House, morning tea supplied register <a href="http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6XJRBL8">www.surveymonkey.com/r/6XJRBL8</a> Ph: 6228 7448
Friday 1st June to 29th June	Nature's Miniature Jewels	Photographs by Sarah Lloyd, Meander Valley Council Offices, Lyall St, Westbury Ph: 6393 5300
Saturday 2nd June 9.00am - 1.00pm	Deloraine Showground Market	Deloraine Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine Ph: 0409 695 321 for Bookings & Details
Monday 4th June 12 noon - 2.00pm	Eating with Friends	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Home cooked meal \$5.00 Ph 6362 2678
Tuesday 5th June 2.30pm - 3.30pm	Get Smart with Smart Phones	Online Access Centre 21 West Pde, Deloraine Ph: 6362 3537 to make a booking Drop-ins welcome Free
Thursday 7th June 1.00pm - 4.30pm	Meet Henry & Anna of 'My Kitchen Rules' fame	Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre 100 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine Chat about all things truffles
Saturday 9th June 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society - "Things to Come"	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd. Deloraine France Drama M rated 100 minutes Ph: 0418 389 868
Tuesday 12th June 10.00am - 4.00pm	Free Legal Advice	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Ph: 1800 066 019 to make appointment
Friday 15th June	MV Council Community Grants close	Information & Application Forms are available from the Westbury Council Offices or <a href="http://www.meandertas.gov.au">www.meandertas.gov.au</a>



# Lake Hut opening draws a crowd

By Tara Ulbrich

IF THE water level is low enough you can spot the footprint remains of a hut at Lake Mackenzie. However, thanks to a joint project between the Mountain Huts Preservation Society (MHPS) and the Parks and Wildlife Service, it isn't necessary to rely on low rainfall to have a lived experience of our highland history.

On Saturday the 7th of April over 250 people flocked to the opening of the Sandy Lake Hut Replica Build. Some walked the edge of the water. Others tramped across the mud, removing their boots to wade, or catch a ride in a canoe.

Guests who needed assistance were flown over the lake by helicopter provid-

Photo by: Anne Dunham



Joe Parsons (L) reminisces with Billy (William) Warner outside the newly finished hut.

ed by PWS and Tasmanian Helicopters. It was all in honour of 2400 hours of volunteer labour across forty working bees, resulting in this historically significant resource for everyone.

Perhaps fishing and hiking tourism are thought of as modern pursuits, but

the original hut was built to encourage visitors to the Chudleigh Lakes area way back in 1903.

According to the MHPS President, Roger Nutting, "groups like ours and the Tasmanian Mountain Cattlemen Association were born out of a need to promote this largely

unheralded history."

The MHPS will celebrate it's thirtieth birthday this year and, as a show of support, several Mountain Cattlemen and Women rode in to the launch, their horses adding a majestic presence to the event.

Park's Ranger Rob Buck

referred to the joint initiative saying "We could see the goals we shared and working together we've been able to achieve much more."

As Philip Crowden, guest speaker on the day, shared tales of his father and himself together in the highlands, there were many knowing nods and even the odd chuckle.

Four generations of Joe Parson's own family were present as he cut the baling twine 'ribbon'. His first night in the original Sandy Lake hut was eighty years ago.

What remains now is a shingle roofed, stone chimney, two-roomed cabin with fitted benches and some hooks to hang a wet coat.

In the future, there will be more generations smiling with memories of their time in this beautiful alpine setting.

Also launched on the day was the book *The History and Rebuilding of the Sandy Lake Hut at Lake Mackenzie*, compiled by Margaret Howe.

The publication gives an account of the work of the Society on this and other builds. For more information, please call Margaret on 6367 8181.

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**National Volunteers Morning Tea**  
Deloraine House is hosting a morning tea for all volunteers

Thursday 24th May 2018  
10:30 to 12:00  
at Deloraine House  
(112 Emu Bay Road)

If you volunteer anywhere, we invite you to attend a thank you from your community.

Please RSVP to Deloraine House by Monday 21st May for catering purposes  
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# SPORT



## Club outgrows Westbury facilities

By Steven French

THE MEANDER Valley Suns Netball Club has gone from strength to strength since its formation only three years ago. The club's code of behaviour (Above the Line) underpins everything that they do and has resulted in more players wanting to join their ranks. The club prides itself on being a family friendly organisation with an active social scene.

In 2016, their first year in the Northern Tasmania Netball Association (NTNA), the

club's then two teams both took out their respective premierships.

The club now has four teams entered in the NTNA. Last year, two of their teams once again played off in the finals.

Although the club is Meander Valley based they have, unfortunately, had to move most of their training to outside of the municipality.

With 46 registered members, the club has outgrown the Westbury Sports Centre where they had trained until

this year. The Centre only has one court and the club is adamant that all players train at the same time and place to enhance solidarity and goodwill.

The degree of friendship that has evolved is something that they are most proud of. The club is firm in its belief that community and team spirit is just as important as success on the court.

You can follow the netball club via their Facebook site at [www.facebook.com/MVSun-snetballclub/](http://www.facebook.com/MVSun-snetballclub/).

## Champs from cellar dwellers

By Sharon Webb

A DELORAINE Bowls Club team had a stunning State Championship win last month, rising from being at the bottom of the ladder at Christmas.

Rita Eastley, a member of the all-Mole Creek/Deloraine division two Thursday Pennant team, said her team won the northern premiership

over Westbury then went on to play the winners of the NW and southern premierships.

"After Christmas, we rearranged the team and that seems to have made the difference," she said.

"This is the first State title for Deloraine Bowls Club since 1994."

The club has had a successful few months on the green this year.

Not only did two Thursday Pennant teams reach the northern finals but, of five divisions playing pennant, three teams made the top four.

The Saturday division four team finished on top of the ladder and will be promoted to division three next season; unfortunately, they were eliminated in the semi-finals.

Mrs Eastley said her team was elated by its State win and celebrated with a few drinks at the club.



Rikki-lee Ross, who coaches the Meander Valley Suns Netball Blaze team, says that the current season is shaping up to be another successful one for the club. Photo by: Steven French



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