



GEN Y FULL STEAM AHEAD

Steam engines have cross generational appeal

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TRUFFLE HUNTERS DIG BACK IN

Henry and Anna reflect on MKR experience

> NEWS PAGE 4



THE SUNS BOUNCE BACK

Meander Valley Suns pick up their game

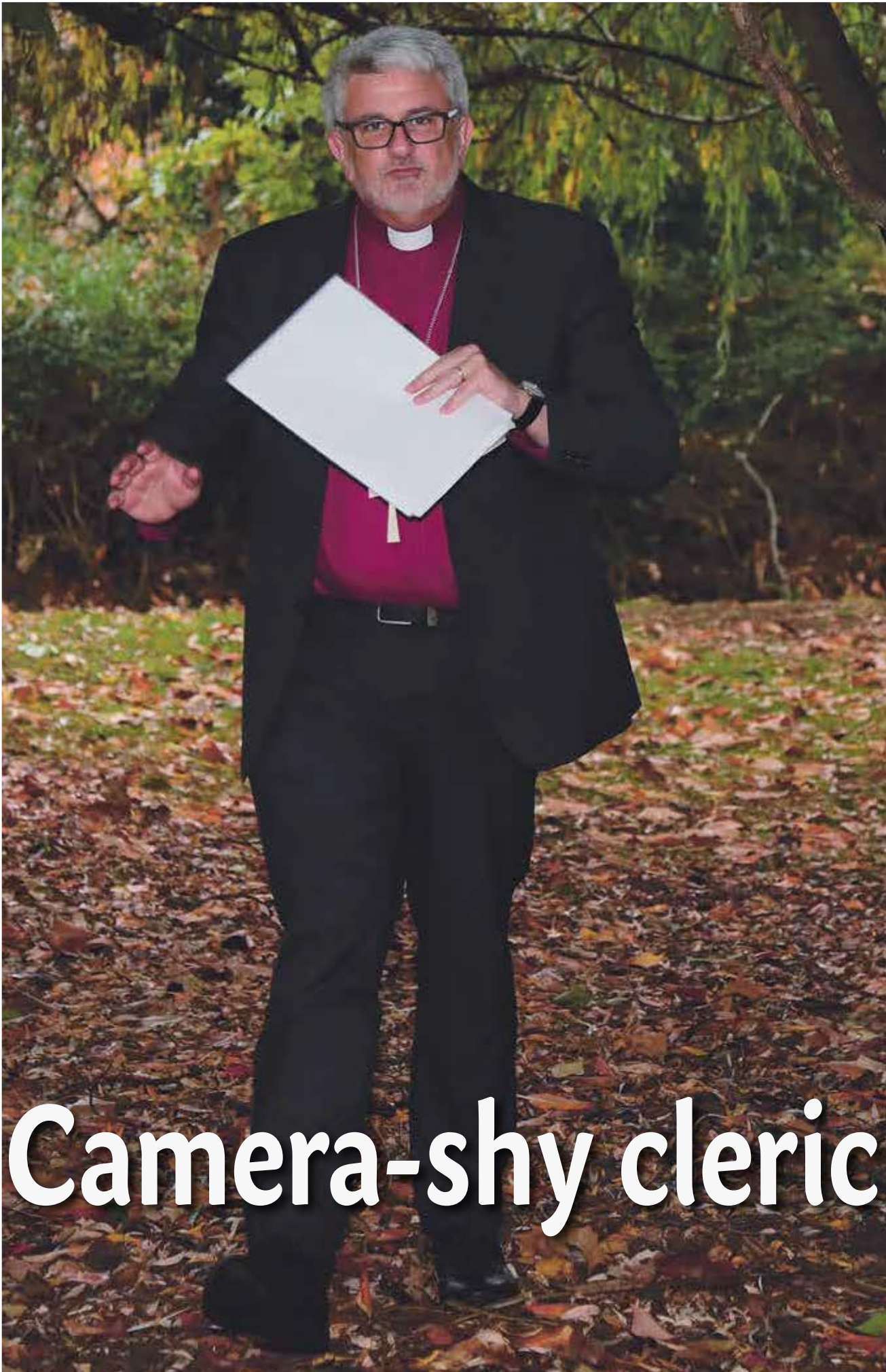
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Meander Valley Gazette

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June 2018

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper



Camera-shy cleric

After several similar meetings, Anglican Bishop of Tasmania Richard Condie was trying to avoid having his photo taken as he arrived at the Westbury Anglican Church to face a less-than-happy crowd. *Meander Valley Gazette* was refused permission to take pictures inside the meeting. Photo by: Mike Moores

By Cody Handley

A PUBLIC meeting for concerned Anglican Church parishioners of Quamby was held at Westbury in May.

Anglican Bishop of Tasmania, Richard Condie, addressed an audience of 90-odd people at St Andrews Church.

The meeting concerned the proposed sale of churches and cemeteries to fund the National Redress Scheme.

In his address, Bishop Condie spoke of the importance of the Redress Scheme, saying that for survivors of sexual abuse, "redress provides a small measure of justice and recognition."

Sales proceeds would be distributed as follows: 25% would go towards redress, a further 25% to a 'new ministry fund,' while the remaining 50% would stay with local parishes to be put towards finding a replacement site for congregations or to organise transport to another church.

The Bishop stressed that "A church is not the building but the people."

If money equivalent to 25% of the estimated value can be raised, the Bishop said there would be no need to sell properties. For Quamby Parish, churches at Hagley, Carrick and

Westbury are intended to be sold for an estimated total value of \$600,000; meaning, that in order to avoid any sales, Quamby parishioners would need to raise \$200,000.

Attendees were hostile to the proposals. One particularly distraught woman stated "These places are our memories. This is where I got married. This is where my children were christened. This is where my husband is buried!"

There was a sentiment that parishioners were being made to suffer for the sins of the clergy with the aforementioned attendee asking, "Why should we have to pay for your sins?" to which the Bishop suggested it was "the Christian thing to do," drawing scoffs from the audience.

The Bishop was asked how many cemeteries for sale had originally been gifted to the Church, which he took on notice.

The Bishop said the Church was in discussions with councils about taking on management of cemeteries and said more details would be known after a meeting with Treasurer Peter Gutwein.

Submissions are invited between June and October to object to specific sites being sold.

Roads & bridges winners

By Sharon Webb

MORE THAN 60 per cent of Meander Valley Council's 2018-2019 capital works budget will be spent on the municipality's roads, bridges and footpaths.

In contrast, the smallest percentage will be allocated to health, community and welfare capital costs – just seven per cent on commu-

nity amenities, tourism and area promotion, household waste disposal and urban storm-water drainage.

Of the total \$8,181,500 allocated for capital works, 22 per cent will go to recreation and culture facilities, with around eight per cent for council administration buildings, IT equipment and

Continued on Page 2...



Photo by: Mike Moores

Vera Walker is interviewed by Tom Johnson from Southern Cross News on her 100th birthday.

A centenary event

By Cody Handley

WESTBURY RESIDENT, Vera Walker, had her 100th birthday in May.

She celebrated the milestone at a friends unit in Deloraine with a large turnout of family and friends, and even a Southern Cross news crew paid her a visit.

Vera Walker has had quite a ride over those 100 years.

Vera was born in Deloraine in 1918. "My father killed a snake the day I was born so it must have been a warm day," she mused.

Vera spent her childhood at Westbury with her parents and 6 siblings, attending school at Exton.

Being a small town girl didn't stop Vera from

seeing the world, however. She has travelled extensively throughout Europe and Asia, and identifies her visits to Buckingham Palace and the Great Wall of China as some of the highlights.

Vera has had a long career in nursing, commencing at the LGH in 1939 and later completing accreditations in Midwifery and Child Health Training, making her a Triple Certificated Nurse.

Vera once won a competition to guess the weight of a fruitcake, which she attributed to all the babies she had weighed.

When asked about her secret to a long life, Vera was adamant: "Hard work and a good garden."

Roads & bridges are winners

Continued from Page 1...

software, and plant and light vehicle replacement.

The budget's largest allocation is to reconstruct and repair the municipality's bridges: \$2,150,000 for 11 bridges including \$275,000 for the bridge over Western Creek on Bankton Rd; \$260,000 for the Dalebrook River on Bankton Rd; and \$240,000 for the Liffey River on Bennett's Rd.

Road reconstruction and upgrades will absorb \$1,468,500 for 18 roads, including \$350,000 for Railton Rd, \$170,000 for Black Hills Rd (Hagley) and \$100,000 for Scotts Lane (Hagley).

Around \$115,000 is allocated for footpaths in Hadspen, Deloraine and Meander, as well as \$1,375,000 for general road resurfacing.

In recreation, sportsground improvement is the big winner with \$1,050,000 to be spent on four projects including \$510,000 on two new netball courts in Deloraine and \$470,000 on lighting improvements at Prospect Vale.

Meander Valley's excellent community halls will receive \$495,000 - the majority for the refurbishment of

Bracknell Hall, with small allocations for halls in Caveside, Westbury and Chudleigh.

The municipality's parks and playgrounds have been allocated \$200,000, including \$100,000 for Blackstone Park's new playground and funds for three Hadspen parks: seating and shade at Bull Run Reserve (\$25,000); playground renewal at Coronea Court Reserve (\$35,000); and new playground equipment at Winifred Jane Crescent Reserve (\$19,498).

In health, community and welfare, dealing with urban stormwater will cost the council \$475,000, including projects in Panorama Rd, Blackstone Heights (\$150,000); King St, Westbury (\$80,000); and Kimberley (\$60,000).

The only community amenity listed for improvement is Westbury Green's public toilets - \$10,000 for toilet planning - but wheelie bin replacements will cost \$30,000, and including Cluan in the household waste management system will cost \$50,000.

In tourism promotion, Deloraine Visitor Centre is allocated \$15,000 for landscaping.

Sherriff hands in his badge

By Wendy Laing

AFTER THIRTY four years of running his business in Deloraine, Peter Sherriff is letting go of the reins.

Peter and his wife, Jenny, sold their house in Launceston and came home to Deloraine to start an accounting business, now known as PJS Financial.

Peter Sherriff grew up in Deloraine where his father, Carl Sherriff, originally had an accountancy practice, before becoming the Account/Financial Controller for Harris department store.

After working for two large accountancy firms in Launceston, Peter said he always had ambitions and dreams of starting up his own business and moving back to live and work in Deloraine.

"Accounting must have been in my blood," Peter said, "just like farmer's sons become farmers."

Peter started PJS Financial with himself and one staff member who worked two days a week. His father would also occasionally help out.

During the past thirty-four years he has employed over

fifty staff, watched them grow, gain knowledge and qualifications. At present, there are fourteen employees at PJS Financial.

"We have had a fantastic bunch of long-serving employees, with over half of our current staff clocking up the second stage of their long service with the business.

Peter and his wife, Jenny, who is the daughter of

another local family, Jimmy and Margaret Arnold, have two sons, Adam and Jason who are now in their thirties and live and work on the mainland.

Peter has been a board member of Grenoch Aged Care and the Rotary Pratt Foundation and is a Senior Active member and a Past President of the Deloraine Apex Club.

Continued on Page 4...

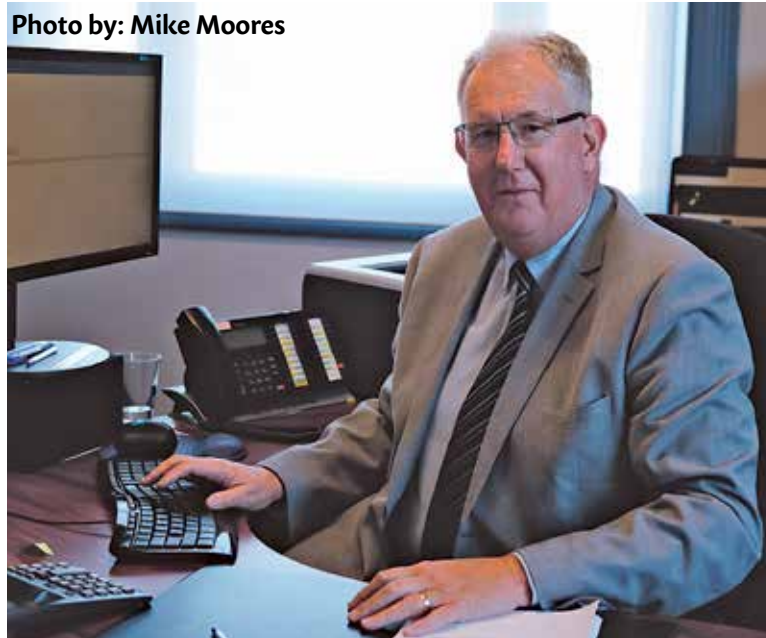


Photo by: Mike Moores

Peter Sherriff has enjoyed his business and community life.



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Full steam ahead!



Young steam mechanic Paivi Sims works with old hand Bernard Boon to keep steam engines at Pearn's Steamworld in top condition.

Photo by: Mike Moores

By Marguerite McNeill

THERE'S SOMETHING about steam traction engines that captures the imagination of most people. The ageing giants have a special charm that attract people from all walks of life and across generations.

The sooty smell, hissing steam and chugging engine spell a kind of romance that evokes images of a bygone era... a time when man's ingenuity challenged the power of a horse-drawn plough.

Nowadays, totally outpaced by modern smart tractors, the steam workhorses are regarded as prized relics of the past and generally only fired up for special events or just for fun.

But starting a steam engine

takes a lot more effort than just turning a key; and maintaining the machines is dirty, tiring and time consuming.

It's a job that keeps Hagley duo Bernard Boon and Paivi Sims absorbed for hours at a time. And they love it.

The working mechanisms of steam engines hold few surprises for 87-year-old Bernard who is a regular volunteer at Pearn's Steamworld in Westbury. He has owned a 1912 Foden steam traction engine for more than 40 years (though not from new, as he once explained to a couple of interested youngsters. "They even wanted to know if I could do burn outs," he laughed).

The only burning with that engine is keeping the firebox topped up until it reaches the

optimal temperature for full steam and it's not a job for any mean slouch. Reaching steam-up involves feeding in three quarters of a ton of wood and 500 gallons of water and takes around three hours. But it's all in a day's work for Bernard and Paivi who work together in complete harmony while pandering to the old engine.

"You can't build up the steam too fast," Paivi said. "It will cause cracking." A much newer recruit to the magic of steam, 26 year-old Paivi is in her element working around steam engines and hasn't stopped smiling since gaining a license to drive the sturdy machines earlier this year. The intensive course involved a lot of online study, hands-on

training and 250 driving hours. "It's very strict," she said. "You're working with a pressure vessel and have to pass a standard boiler operation exam." She is also up to speed on all-round maintenance.

One of just three women drivers in the state, Paivi's enthusiasm is infectious. I just love it," she said. "I love the smell and the way they move."

As well as time spent at Pearn's, occasional excursions further afield allow the volunteers to meet with other enthusiasts and show off their machines.

Paivi believes that steam engine drivers are one of a kind and said women are well accepted into the mould. "Go and talk to them, you can learn a lot," she said. "We need

more people to be interested (in steam), we need more of the younger generation to become involved."

Sell it on Gumtree

GUMTREE IS a trading website where you can sell/trade or give away stuff. Deloraine Online Access Centre will run a workshop on how to use Gumtree on Tuesday 19th June.

Learn how to create an account, post an ad, take and upload suitable pictures for your ad, and delete an ad once the item has been sold.

The workshop will cost \$10.00 and run from 10.00am to 12.00 midday and include morning tea. Call 6362 3537 to book a place.

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Henry and Anna Terry relax in the orchard with truffle dog Doug. Photo courtesy of Wayne Enright

Tasmanian Trufflers rule the kitchen

By David Claridge

TASMANIANS ARE proud of two Deloraine siblings, Henry and Anna Terry, who made it big on television, showing what they were capable of on *My Kitchen Rules*.

Reaching the final six they were unfortunately eliminated after a cook-off just before the semi-finals.

Henry and Anna are now back to what they were doing

beforehand, but are much happier for the experience.

Henry has returned to running their truffle farm 'Tasmanian Truffles' after a 'massive year'.

"It is nice to be back to normal life, but we had such a great time. We're relieved to be heading onto the next chapter but happy for the experience we have had.

Anna has returned to studying nursing and helping

Henry with the farm.

"We met some amazing people. We went through highs and lows together and got in a bubble. It was a friendship you don't find in normal life," she said.

"Being on the show we have grown as people, it was a learning curve that had a big impact on our lives that we will never forget.

The duo was able to showcase some of Tasma-

Sherriff hands in his badge

Continued from Page 2...

Over the years, Peter has also participated in local sporting organisations. These include Little Athletics, junior and senior basketball, football, and tennis. As well as involvement with junior football, Peter is a Past President of the Deloraine senior football club.

"It has been great being involved in the town," he said. "Both Jenny and myself have gained a lot out of being part of the community and helping others."

Six years ago, Sam Horsman, also a local Deloraine lad, joined the firm from KMPG, where he was a senior manager. Sam said he is

looking forward to continuing to steer PJS Financial into the future.

"Since Sam has been with us," Peter said, "I have had a chance to develop other business interests which I will now be able to concentrate on."

Although they also have a Launceston office, PJS Financial Deloraine will always be the main centre and core business.

Peter still intends showing a keen interest in PJS Financial and will act as a consultant for the business.

"I have no intention of sitting back and doing nothing," he said. "I hate the term 'retirement' and have banned the word from our home."

nia's finest produce in one of the episodes, preparing kangaroo fillet, chicken, lamb and some mouth-watering desserts for the teams and judges at their house. Unfortunately, it was out of truffle season, so they couldn't use their favourite ingredient.

A story published in *New Idea* on 6th May claimed that many fans voiced how they wished Henry and Anna had made it to the final - which goes to show how popular they became in their time on the show.

Free training

FREE MENTAL Health First Aid Training is coming to Deloraine House.

Learn more about how you can support people who are developing a mental illness or experiencing a mental health crisis.

Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st June 2018, 9.30am to 4.30am.

A light morning tea will be supplied, participants bring their own lunch.

Register with Deloraine House on 6362 2678.

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In My Opinion...

By Joanne Eisemann
Managing Editor

THIS MONTH we welcome Deloraine & Districts Community Bank as the newest sponsor of the *Gazette*.

In these times of huge corporate profits and big bank shenanigans, it is refreshing that this bank is channeling so much of their profit back into community groups and projects.

Hats off to the group of locals who, even though Deloraine was not without banking services back in 2000, saw the benefit that the Bendigo Community Bank model could financially bring to our communities.

The group went on to raise pledges of half a million dollars from local people who, eventually, became the shareholders whose money was used to open the first branch in Deloraine back in the middle of 2005.

A Bendigo Bank community bank runs differently to a regular Bendigo Bank branch. The community bank is run as a franchise of the Bendigo Bank.

'Bendigo' takes care of the banking side of things making sure all the checks and balances are in place so people banking with them know that their money is safe. The revenue generated by the branch is divided into a 50/50 split between Bendigo Bank and the community company;

in this case, Meander Valley Financial Services. Meander Valley Financial Services must pay all the expenses of the branch and, from the remaining net profit, distributes this back to the community.

And that they do, returning over 1.3 million dollars since the branch was opened. They do this in the form of sponsorships, donations and a yearly community grants round - all that and they still manage to provide a healthy dividend on shareholders investments each year.

The Community Bank board consist of local volunteers who oversee the day-to-day management of the community company. It's an amazing thing when you think about it. In a similar company, board members would be paid handsomely but our Community Bank board members do all the director training and take all the risk associated with being involved in such a venture without receiving a dime.

When you speak with them, they all say the same thing; they enjoy being involved because they see it as the most effective way of pouring money back into local groups and projects.

A way to return even more money locally is to bank with them. They have a branch and ATM in Deloraine, located on Emu Bay Road.

places to buy gifts etc. Tourists should not, and on the whole do not, expect to have local ratepayers and tax payers subsidise their visit.

If some areas do not have adequate campsites it could be because of Council or State freebie camps paid for by ratepayers and taxpayers. These provide unfair competition for private enterprise, which is one reason why Tasmania has an economic regulator who has a mandate in certain circumstances to curtail such activity. Protecting private enterprise from unfair competition encourages it; allowing unfair competition can lead to its demise.

For businesses that say they depend on freebie camps there is absolutely nothing to stop them using due process and setting up their own free campsites. There are many successful examples of where this has happened. In such situations they get their visitors but at their own expense and not ratepayers' or taxpayers'.

I would add that in my opinion MVCouncillors do not just listen to "greedy caravan park owners". They will take into account a wide range of views on any issue including those of visitors from Queensland and, more importantly, local residents. To shame MVC for a particular action is unfair and unhelpful. Many locals apparently feel that Westbury recreation ground, for example, should be just that and not a free for all campground which is quite a different thing.

Kevin Briggs

WENDY LAING (MVG May 2018) gives us an informative history of the bridge that spans the Meander River in Deloraine.

Ms. Laing concludes her story by saying "The last major upgrade was in the mid 1900s when the bridge was widened to include a walkway on each side so that pedestrians could cross the bridge in safety". The bridge height was also raised 18 inches. You can see the concrete blocks in the wonderful photograph by Mike Moores.

A.R. Trounson, Needles

Beefeater St plans agreed on

By Sharon Webb

DISPUTE OVER a unit development in Beefeater St Deloraine is now resolved, with Meander Valley Council allocating \$57,000 in road improvements to stop the developer appealing to the planning authority.

Meander Valley Council general manager Martin Gill said all joined parties to the appeal, several residents, the developer Andrew Terry and the council, have signed a consent agreement. The mat-

FOLLOWING THE completion of the Legislative Council electoral boundary redistribution changes I have now been given the privilege of representing this part of the McIntyre electorate formally Western Tiers.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and provide contact details should you require assistance in the future.

I was first elected as the Independent Member for Apsley in 2004 and was fortunate to be re-elected in 2016. I look forward to being your representative in the Tasmanian Parliament and will do my best to assist and support you and the community as the Member for McIntyre.

It is with the utmost respect that I acknowledge your previous member of 17 years, Greg Hall who made a significant contribution representing his electorate in our Parliament over those years to the highest standard through leadership and dedication to the role. I wish Greg, Cathy and his family all the very best for the future.

Contact Details: tania.ratray@parliament.tas.gov.au.

Ph: 6350 5000. Mobile: 0427 523 412.

Tania Rattray, Scottsdale

The Meander Valley Breast Cancer Support Group and Breast Cancer Network Australia wish to say a huge thank you to all who attended our event at the Deloraine Train Park.

This was our 8th Riverbank Walk. Your generous donations will assist the promotion of awareness of Breast Cancer and support those who are on the "Breast Cancer Journey".

Thank you to the local businesses that displayed our posters and made the extra effort to decorate their shop front windows with Pink ladies etc. Your support is really appreciated as records show 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with Breast Cancer in Australia.

Don't forget, Men can get Breast Cancer as well.... Ladies check your Man....

Maureen Holland, BCNA



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Letters In...

THIRTY FOUR Probus members from Prospect Ladies, Westbury Ladies, Deloraine Ladies and Deloraine Mens Clubs embarked on a four day holiday at Bright, a beautiful town in sub-alpine Victoria.

We were met at Melbourne Airport by our friendly coach driver Ken, and we proceeded along the Hume Highway to our destination, the Bright Chalet, where we were greeted by our host Michael.

Our accommodation was very comfortable and spacious, meals were buffet style, delicious, with an abundance of fresh produce.

Our first day tour was to the Red Stag Deer and Emu Farm, where we saw deer, emus, ostriches and baby goats. Our hostess gave a very interesting talk about the farm and the by-products of deer harvesting.

On our second day we visited the Artisan Flour Mill where our host John explained the processing of the special Styrian pumpkin seeds into flour and oil. Some pumpkin seeds are roasted and flavoured with chilli or other spices, others coated with chocolate.

On the third day we

visited Beechworth and Yackandandah.

Beechworth Bakery is an award winning attraction. Yackandandah is an historic former gold mining centre.

We visited Wandiligong, which is classified as an historic town. On our last day we travelled back to Melbourne Airport.

What a wonderful Probus holiday of Fun, Fellowship, and Friendship with Members of Probus Clubs in the Meander Valley.

Valma Sainty
Prospect Ladies Probus

I WOULD like to respond to the letters of Geoff Mooney and Christine and Terry Edward in MVG May edition.

The overwhelming majority of tourists to Tasmania make provision for and are happy to pay for their accommodation. This may be in hotels, holiday units, cabins, caravans, motor homes and many other variants. Their prime motivation is to see Tasmania's natural beauty, heritage, events, produce and a host of other attractions not because of freebie camping.

Moreover, the overwhelming majority of tourists stock up with fuel and provisions and pay for hotel meals and go to museums and other



Greg leaves Halls of Parliament

Former Legislative Council member Greg Hall has retired from public life. Photo by: Mike Moores

By Cody Handley

LONG SERVING Legislative Council member, the Hon. Greg Hall, has retired.

Mr Hall has had a long career in public life, spanning 28 years.

Greg was first elected to the Deloraine Council in 1990, before it became Meander Valley Council, and later served 6 years as Mayor.

Greg hadn't thought much about politics, and was still preoccupied with farming and local issues when he was approached by John Loone to stand as an independent

for the Legislative Council. He has since been re-elected twice, and spent 17 years in the Upper House, including 2 terms as Deputy President.

"As an independent you don't get to set policy, but have to be proactive in convincing the government of the day that they ought to make changes here and there for the betterment of the state," he said.

Greg counts the Meander Dam and the Lakes Highway amongst his major achievements in which he had an influence.

"The Lakes road used to be

an old goat track which was dangerous given the level of traffic," he said. "I'd been banging on about it so long Paul Lennon said 'get this bloke off my back, get it done.'"

As an independent you don't get to set policy

Greg notes "it was harder to get grants as an independent, it's easy if you're one of the government." However, there were also advantages. "In a large diverse electorate, I found that people would prefer to approach an independent member than

Beefeater St plans agreed on

Continued from Page 5...

Moriarty St to accommodate the extra 63 vehicle movements a day from Mr Terry's development.

The \$57,000 cost of the road improvement is in the council's 2018-2019 capital works budget.

Mr Gill said council's work on Beefeater St would include upgraded pavements, kerbing and guttering.

"The intersections will be designed to contemporary standards and an upgrading of driveway entrances if necessary."

Responding to Beefeater St residents' safety concerns, Mr Gill said the council

would look at line-marking and signage.

Mr Terry applied twice to the council to place seven four-bedroom ex-Pontville refugee huts on his parents' Beefeater St block.

Councillors rejected the plan twice but changed when Mr Terry appealed to the RMPAT because they were loathe to pick up the legal bill for the appeal.

Beefeater St residents continue to be unhappy about Mr Terry's project because they believe the ex-refugee huts are unsuitable for the area but this is not sufficient grounds for appealing to the RMPAT.

a 'party person.' Tasmanians like a predominance of independents in the Upper House as they see it as a house of review."

"As an independent, I always voted on the issue, not the politics, and tried to avoid paralysis by indecision. 'Perfect' can often be the enemy of 'good,'" he said.

Another positive of working in the Legislative Council was its collegiate nature. "We had the ability to cross swords on the floor and then go for a beer afterwards. This doesn't happen so much in the House of Assembly."

Greg has a reputation as a practical joker, and thinks his best gag was putting talcum powder in President Jim Wilkinson's umbrella. However, this was payback for when Greg was a newly elected member and Jim put a talc 'bomb' in his desk draw, giving his suit quite the distinctive hue.

When asked about the best and worst aspects of being a MLC, Greg identifies the

satisfaction of achieving good outcomes for your electors and state, conversely the amount of travelling and time spent away from home.

Despite retirement, Greg plans to keep involved in the community. "I'm not good at doing nothing," he said. Although greater consideration will be given to the family, farm, cycling, and a long reading list, he admits.

"I really appreciate those people who have supported me throughout three terms in parliament. I've met some fantastic people who have volunteered for their respective communities. I think we're very fortunate in regional communities for the people who step up to the plate and assist those in need."

Greg's electorate of Western Tiers has recently been abolished in what he describes as a bizarre decision by the Electoral Commission, creating another electorate in the South, whilst denying people in the central north a vote for 10 years.

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**RUBICON
GROVE**

Photo by: Mike Moores



Deloraine High Students (L-R) Ebony, Emily, Freya, Jo, Garan Lewis (teacher), Colby, Chloe, Brittany and Ruby will soon trek through the jungles in Borneo.

Adventure seekers

By Cody Handley

EIGHT DELORAINE High School students are raising funds for an overseas expedition to Malaysia and Borneo in September.

The expedition will be student-led, with guidance from teacher Garan Lewis and an expedition leader from World Challenge, an organisation that works with schools to provide overseas travel opportunities for students.

The students are expected to raise approximately 70 percent of the funds themselves, a total of \$5,800 each, which will cover necessities like flights, accommodation and travel insurance.

So far, they have done this via part-time jobs, an auction that raised \$2,400 organised with help from Rotary and local businesses, and have 3 weekends lined up to do sausage sizzles at Bunnings.

The trip will be three weeks in duration and include a 5-10 day trek through the Borneo jungle and a community project. This project, decided by the village, could

include repairing schools or buildings, teaching English, creating drainage or plumbing, or conservation. Materials and skilled labour will be supplied by World Challenge, the students will do the rest.

Asked what they hoped to take from the expedition, answers were varied.

"Doing something different, I guess. Experiencing something you otherwise wouldn't," said Ruby.

Ebony looked forward to "The leadership and responsibility."

Colby, the only boy on the trip, had a simple request: "I want to see an orangutan!"

The trip resulted from an information night and an email circulating the school about World Challenge.

The students had a training weekend at Narawntapu National Park where they learned useful skills such as erecting hammocks, using stretchers, first aid, building shelter, and safety and risk assessment.

To make a donation, email garan.lewis@education.tas.gov.au for more information.

Council dilemma as sale money returned

By Sharon Webb

A FAMILY whose home was sold by Meander Valley Council because they owed \$3,500 in rates has returned around \$105,000 to the council from the house sale money.

And the new owner of the property will write to the council requesting compensation for \$50,000 in missing fixtures and fittings from the property.

Both moves shift Meander Valley Council into uncharted waters and the council manager has confirmed he will take legal advice on the "unfolding situation".

The council auctioned Blue Wren Hideaway, a house on 2.4 hectares in Mole Creek, in September 2017 for \$120,000 to recoup the rates, unpaid because the Beerepoot family owners believed the land was "owned by God".

After the council deducted around \$15,000 for the rates and auction costs, it returned around \$105,000 to the Beerepoot family.

But it is believed that a Beerepoot family member Remmo turned up at the

Westbury council chambers with \$105,000 in cash to return to the council because the family views the auction as a hostile sale and don't wish to collude with it.

Former property owner Mrs Alida Beerepoot refused to comment on whether the family had returned the money.

"It's between us and the council and we don't want any newspaper stories on it," she said.

I also believe the council, when it took on the property sale, had a duty of care

Council general manager Martin Gill would not confirm or deny that the Beerepoots had returned the money.

But he did verify that he had advised the new owner, Mr Geoffrey Styles, to write to the council stating his concerns about the property's missing fittings and fixtures.

"I also advised that Mr Styles should state his thoughts on what should happen to the returned funds,"

Mr Gill said.

Mr Styles said he would write to the council seeking compensation for the missing fittings and fixtures.

"I had a long conversation with Mrs Beerepoot and she told me the family had returned the money to the council and why," he said.

"I also believe the council, when it took on the property sale, had a duty of care to ensure the house and contents were secure."

Mr Styles' insurance company, CGU, will not pay out on the stolen goods because Tasmania Police have said the theft is a civil matter and won't provide the insurance company with police report. Mr Styles has taken up the issue with the Financial Ombudsman Service Australia.

Mr Gill said Tasmania's local government legislation provides no guidance on council's responsibility for the returned house sale money.

"If we were to receive money like that we would hold it and explore the situation with our lawyers," he said.



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Dale Brook

By Tara Ulbrich

AS YOU drive across Dairy Plains, the Great Western Tiers rise up as a wall of rugged wilderness. From afar, the ranges and their trees look impenetrable and insurmountable. As you move closer, entry points appear.

One doorway worth entering is the beginning of Higgs Track. The car park is a little further than four kilometres up Westrope Road from Western Creek. As soon as you cross the threshold into the forest all evidence of cars and roads disappear. Another world opens up, an ecosystem of growth and decay.

The fifteen minute, moderate grade walk leads to Dale Brook where an interpretive board explains that the track was cut in the 1870's so farmers could drive livestock to and from the alpine grazing land above.

Many will choose to make the stream and bridge their destination. They'll be well satisfied with the contemplative spots on offer and the chance to dip their feet. The more adventurous will climb on.

In 2014 a team of skilled volunteers, using old Scottish stone-pitching techniques, laid walls, drains and steps up the track. The craftsman-



The delights of Dale Brook, a short walk along Higgs Track near Dairy Plains is well worth exploring.

Photo by: Jade Hallam

ship of these men and women will blend into the landscape as moss and vegetation inevitably grow over their work, but the beauty of the features will endure.

A fine spot to view the project lies just forty five minutes of hard climbing up

from the bridge. The steep track will give cause to catch your breath. Check in with the proportion of the human form against the height of the

sub alpine tree canopy. Turn back after the stone wall here or aim higher for the plateau. But be aware this would make a four to six hour return.

Regardless of your stopping point, the short walk to Dale Brook is a complete experience. Be welcomed into the forest.

He haw, he always talks about me!

STEPHEN FRENCH'S Facebook posts about Missy the Irish donkey have resulted in her getting quite a personal following.

Stephen was recently approached by the ABC in Hobart about a weekly state-wide radio guest spot where Stephen talks about the exploits of Missy and other happenings on his farm in Whitemore.

'There's a Donkey at the Window' goes to air Sunday mornings on 'Weekends with Chris Wisbey', Tasmania's highest rating weekend radio show.

'There's a Donkey at the Window' started this week and the link to the show is: www.abc.net.au/radio/hobart/programs/statewide-weekends/weekends/9733524

Stephen and Missy's bit comes on at approximately 1:17:09 into the show.

'Weekends' is uploaded to the ABC site a day or two after each show and Stephen will post the link on Facebook each week.

Stephen has also been asked to make a regular contribution about life on the farm (and assorted topics) to the national quarterly magazine 'Earth Garden'.

Stephen's stories and photos will start appearing from the next edition.

'There's a Donkey at the Window' will also be the name of Stephen's forthcoming book.

Could he be basking in, and capitalising on, Missy's reflected popularity?



'Missy' the Donkey. Photo by: Steven French

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Car show cash for elderly air hockey

By David Claridge

LOCAL BUSINESSES are continuing to benefit from the ever-growing Deloraine Car Show with Grenoch Home receiving an air hockey table.

A table was purchased with funds from the show and restored by committee members, it was delivered in May much to the delight of residents.

Car Show Committee member, David Sherriff,

explained that they suggested an air hockey table because there doesn't seem to be many things for men to do in aged care.

"It's not just a man's thing either. It means they have something else to do other than knitting, that will help them with exercise," he said.

"Apparently it's getting a real good work out.

"We're selecting other things that are needed elsewhere so that we can

put money back into the community."

The CEO of Aged Care Deloraine, Charlie Emmerton, was thrilled with the donation.

"The residents love it, they line up to use it, we had a smaller one, but this is about eight feet long and they are getting more out of it.

"We want to thank the Deloraine Car Show people for their donation."

The local Apex club also received a donation.



This heritage home on West Goderich St in Deloraine has entertained former Prime Minister Joseph Lyons and his wife Enid.

Photo by: Mike Moores

Prime Ministers, the Presbytery and secret tunnels

By Mark Butson

THIS IMPRESSIVE elevated heritage home at 29 West Goderich Street Deloraine, has an intriguing history when it was the Presbytery (Parish Priest's residence) for the Catholic Church from 1899 until 2002.

Even today, there are stories about secret tunnels built between the Church, Presbytery and Convent. In the last 30 years, these tunnels have been exposed during road excavations, but their purpose is not known.

The original Georgian style house was built in 1888 by Mary Terry and bought from the Terry family by the Church in 1899, along with another acre of land around the house for gardens and stables.

The Church of the Holy

Redeemer in West Goderich Street was built in 1886. A bluestone Gothic style building designed by Tasmanian architect Henry Hunter, with only the main hall built at this time.

Opposite the Church, Blakes Manor (originally Blakes Hotel, built in 1861) served as the first Presbytery from 1871 to 1895.

Archdeacon Michael Beechinor was the Priest from 1894. In 1895 he arranged for 4 nuns from Goulburn in NSW to establish a Convent School in Deloraine. The nuns moved into the first Presbytery (Blakes Manor) and started the school there.

Beechinor moved into a timber cottage behind the church and cemetery. He was uncomfortable living alongside a cemetery, and rented a

house in town until 1899, when he persuaded the Church to buy the Terry family home for use as the Presbytery.

Archdeacon Beechinor started a highly regarded Church choir, which sang in the surrounding districts on a Sunday. The choir developed over many years and won the 1951 Commonwealth Jubilee School Choirs competition. The trophy was presented by Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies.

High Teas were held regularly at the Presbytery for the Church choir and parishioners.

After a pilgrimage to Lourdes in France, Beechinor presented lectures on the subject and had a grotto built behind the Presbytery (similar to the cave at Lourdes) where

he regularly held prayer services. In 1906 he organised major fundraising to complete the 2 church wings.

From 1908, Father Peter O'Reilly was the Priest and he organised renovations to the Presbytery. Living in Deloraine from 1917 to 1918, the Tasmanian Opposition Leader and his wife, Joseph and Enid Lyons, were regular guests at the Presbytery after Sunday services (later becoming Prime Minister and Dame).

From 1920 until he died in 1944, Monsignor Monaghan was the Priest. In 1930 he engaged Mr Beer, a Melbourne architect with expertise in the Federation style, to design the superb elevated front to the Presbytery.

The Presbytery gardens were also improved with the

planting of many magnificent roses and spring bulbs. Weddings and baptisms were regularly held in the grand front rooms from 1930.

Still in magnificent structural condition, the house has enormous elegant front rooms with sweeping bay windows overlooking the mountains. Original heritage features include black and white marble fireplace surrounds, towering decorative ceilings and Tasmanian Oak floors and cupboards.

Present owner Mark Butson is continuing the care shown by previous owners.

Thanks to Maureen Bennett for her assistance with historical information. Anyone who has any early photographs of the home, please contact the editor.

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Also in Launceston at G1, 26 Elizabeth Street 6331 5838

Free grant writing workshop

THE RDA Tasmania Committee will run a free grant writing workshop at Deloraine House on 25th June from 10.00am to 12 midday. The workshop will cover the fundamentals of what makes a strong grant application and provide links to where you can get support when you need it.

Tickets at Eventbrite or ph:Del House 6362 2678.

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VALLEY VIEWS



Mayor's Message

Above: Mayor Craig Perkins celebrates Volunteer Week at Deloraine House

This month, I had the pleasure of enjoying morning tea with some of Meander Valley's dedicated volunteers, courtesy of Deloraine House.

Volunteer Week, held during May, is our opportunity to say thank you to all those who selflessly contribute by helping others.

Congratulations to the Westbury Community Car Committee who were recognised for their outstanding voluntary contributions to the community.

The Meander Valley Council Community Car service provides residents with access to subsidised travel to attend non-urgent medical appointments at locations such as Launceston or Devonport. The service was established in 1983 and is supported by Council.

Both Westbury and Deloraine community cars are managed and driven entirely by volunteers across a seven day a week schedule.

This service is highly valued and we thank you for providing such a vital transport link for residents of Meander Valley.

If you know of someone in the community who deserves to be recognised for their volunteering efforts you can nominate them for a Voluntary Service Recognition Award.

These awards are presented each year as part of Council's Australia Day celebrations. Nomination forms can be downloaded from Council's website or you can contact Council's office.

Council recently supported Meander Valley's National Youth Week Program. Events were based around a 'community connections' theme that facilitated engagement.

At the week's conclusion, I had the privilege of attending a "Coffee, Cake and Conversations Cafe" held at the Deloraine Community Complex.

Hosted entirely by young people, the event was designed to promote discussion with different topic questions placed on each table.

It was a wonderful afternoon and I wish to thank those who shared their stories of resilience, demonstrated leadership and provided us with an insight into the challenges facing rural youth.

A reminder that despite the onset of winter, there are a number of events being held in the municipality over the next couple of months including NAIDOC Week celebrations and Winterfire, so I hope to see you all out and enjoying all that Meander Valley has to offer.

Mayor, Craig Perkins

Breathe better this winter

As you settle down in front of a roaring fire this winter, spare a thought for your neighbours.

Smoke emitted from your chimney says a lot about how you use your wood heater and what you burn. Wood heater smoke can produce concentrations of fine particles that can adversely affect air quality and the health of you and your neighbours.

The good news is, it's an easy problem to fix.

Firstly, always ensure that you use dry, seasoned wood. When storing your wood, stack it to maximise air flow between logs and keep it dry and covered.

When filling your wood heater, take care not to overload it - a space of about 2cm between each log is adequate.

Ensure you have your flue cleaned every year. A flue that is clogged with creosote (black, sticky or sooty material) will be unable to draw air effectively. This will make your fire difficult to light and smoke may enter the room.

Lastly, burn your wood heater with the air vent fully open for at least 20 minutes before turning it down, especially before going to bed for the night.

More information on how to burn brighter this winter

can be found on Council's website at www.meander.tas.gov.au. Just type "Burn Brighter" into the search function located at the top of the home page.

The EPA Tasmania website also has a number of resources, including Real Time Air Quality Data Visit www.epa.tas.gov.au for more information.



Town common now home for the not so common...

A threatened plant species has recently been identified growing on the Westbury Town Common.

The Australian Gypsy Wort (*Lycopus australis*) is a semi aquatic herb that bears small white flowers from January to March and grows to just over one metre.

This is the fourth threatened plant species to be identified growing on the Westbury Town Common, and highlights the ecological value of this recreational space.



Free Wi-Fi trial underway in Meander Valley

Connectivity in Meander Valley just got easier with a six-month trial of free Wi-Fi now underway. Five Council facilities are offering free access for two hours with a generous download limit of 250 megabytes.

"Council recognises that online connectivity is an important part of the visitor experience and provides a way for residents to share local events, community initiatives and support small business," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

The free public Wi-Fi trial is available at Carrick Hall, the Deloraine Community Complex, the Meander Valley Performing Arts Centre, Council's offices in Westbury and the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre.

"The six-month trial period will enable Council to

quantify usage rates and the possible benefits this connectivity may have for the municipality before considering serviceability options for a broader rollout long term," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

Throughout the trial, Council will continue to review the service to ensure it meets the needs of visitors and the community.

"This trial will enable us to share the vibrancy of our communities, improve the connectivity of our townships and complement small business activity," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

Access to the service is simple. Enable Wi-Fi on your device, select "Meander Valley Public Wi-Fi" and accept the terms and conditions.

2018/19 Capital Works Program Approved

At its Ordinary Meeting in May, Council approved its 2018/19 Capital Works Program.

"With an estimated cost of approximately \$8.2m, the Program comprises bridge reconstructions, road and footpath upgrades, sportsground improvements and a number of other key projects," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

Funding for the Capital Works Program will be presented to Council for approval in June. A copy of the Program is available on Council's website in the Ordinary Agenda - May 2018.

Looking for something to do these school holidays?

Visit www.meander.tas.gov.au for details about the July School Holiday Program (12-18yrs) and register for one of the many activities running from 7-22 July!



Above: Mayor Craig Perkins congratulates Michal Frydrych of Springfield Deer Farm after being recognised with a 2018 Delicious Award.

Best venison in the State for a second consecutive year

Springfield Deer Farm has been recognised for producing the best venison in Tasmania after being awarded the Delicious Produce Award for the second year in a row.

"This is a wonderful achievement. Contenders must be nominated by a number of top chefs before even being considered in the running," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

To win the State Award for a second time is testament to the consistent quality control and best practice employed on the farm.

"This recognition is very well deserved. The Delicious Awards also help to promote Meander Valley's quality farm gate produce more broadly," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

Fifteen trophies were awarded this year with Springfield Deer Farm taking out the State award for the "From the Paddock" category.

The National Award winners will be announced later this year.

Remember when you used to...

Dare to Dance?

Bring yourself or bring a friend and step out this winter!

Dare to Dance? All abilities are welcome. Come along, have a laugh and enjoy this gentle introductory dance program. Try one session or the full eight. You don't need to know how to dance to enjoy moving to music you like!

2PM • THURSDAYS • WESTBURY TOWN HALL
 Afternoon tea provided for gold coin donation
 Full program runs from 2 August - 20 September 2018
 For more information phone Dinah FitzGerald 0417 292 622

Supported by Westbury Health & Meander Valley Council

Dog registration discounts for early birds!

If you own a dog that is over the age of six months, it is required to be registered. When renewing, you will need to refer to the account number located on the top right hand side of the renewal notice. There are a number of payment options listed on the back of the renewal notice. Early birds will receive a significant discount if registration is paid by 31 July.

If you are renewing your dog's registration, you will receive a renewal notice in June.

When renewing, you will need to refer to the account number located on the top right hand side of the renewal notice.

There are a number of payment options listed on the back of the renewal notice.

Early birds will receive a significant discount if registration is paid by 31 July.

Dog ownership & your responsibilities

Do I have to clean up after my dog?
 Yes. Dog faeces cause environmental harm when washed into our waterways. They also may harbour E-Coli bacteria which can cause ongoing illness. Respect others by always cleaning up after your dog when in a public place. Use a scooper or plastic bag and place faeces in the nearest rubbish bin. Green bins with dog tidy bags are located throughout the municipality for your convenience. This does not apply to a guide dog that is accompanying a wholly or partially blind person.

Does my dog have to be on a lead in public areas?
 Yes, however, off leash areas always require dogs to be under effective control.

Off leash areas
 There are four off leash areas in the Meander Valley municipal area for the exercising of dogs:

- Deloraine - Alveston Drive (near the Community Complex)
- Westbury Town Common
- Hadspen - on the riverbank near Lions Park
- Blackstone Heights - Pitcher Parade

Meander Valley

Council Community Grants

Council Community Grants are available to community organisations for projects that address community needs through special events, sport and recreation and/or community development.

Applications are invited all year round.

Visit Council's website: www.meander.tas.gov.au to download an application form.

Date Claimers

- Slime Moulds Photographic Exhibition
1 June - 29 June • Council Office Foyer, Westbury
- Overload Art Exhibition
8 June - 7 September • Deloraine Hospital Gallery
- Winterfire • Saturday 16 June • Deloraine Showgrounds
- NAIDOC Week Celebration
Wednesday 11 July • Meander Riverbank, Deloraine

Connectivity in Meander Valley just got easier with a 6 month trial of free public Wi-Fi

The following Council facilities are now offering free Wi-Fi for two hours with a generous download limit of 250 megabytes:

- Carrick Town Hall
- Deloraine Community Complex
- Meander Valley Performing Arts Centre
- Council Office, Westbury
- Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre

Mole Creek Memorial Hall

2 Caveside Road, Mole Creek

Tuesday 26 June 2018
7pm - 8.30pm

Throughout the year, Council holds quarterly forums in different townships to discuss local achievements and issues with residents. These gatherings are intended to be an informal sharing of information to raise awareness and to generate practical outcomes. Councillors and Council officers will be in attendance and all interested community members are welcome.

This particular meeting will focus on the community of Mole Creek and surrounds.

Refreshments are provided, please come along and share your thoughts.

For more information on Council Community Forums contact Patrick Gambles on 6393 5334

General Enquiries

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

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Photo by: Mike Moores

Emma Hodgkinson and Joel Wilson try out some costumes for the Vintage Woodland Masque Ball

Dance the Macarena

THE SUCCESS of last year's Steampunk Fairytale Ball has the valley abuzz with anticipation for the 2018 5th Annual Deloraine Winter Masque Ball.

Belle and Beau, Emma Hodgkinson and Joel Wilson (pictured) are keen to see the costumes that folk come up with for this year's 'Vintage Woodland' theme.

Organisers Megan Brinsmead and Sarah Sonata are busy designing the decorations, and report that ball-goers are planning costumes including woodland creatures, fairies and elves. "We haven't heard of any Maid Marians yet," said Megan, "and I'd love to see some tree people!"

"We started the Balls four years ago to get folks up and dancing ... the Pride of Erin, the waltz, the Twist, Strip the Willow, even a competitive Macarena! The Winterfolk

Orchestra really get the music pumping and everyone just has a great time."

She added, "We couldn't do it without our fantastic main sponsors, Seppenfelts, Deloraine & Districts Community Bank, Empire Hotel, Best's Butchery, Shandi, and Goslings. Other businesses show support by donating raffle items. Ball-goers really contribute too. People bring amazing supper dishes, some even in theme. We are really lucky to be in such a supportive community."

The Vintage Woodland Ball, with the Winterfolk Orchestra is at the Meander Valley Community Club, Saturday 14th July at 7.00pm.

Prizes for best dressed, best mask, and best dish. Tickets available soon from Seppenfelts: \$10.00 pre-booked, \$12.00 at the door, \$5.00 child under 16, \$30.00 family ticket.

People's choice announced

THE NEW art initiative Great Western Tiers Art Award has concluded for this year.

The 'People's Choice Award' attracted 107 votes and was won by artist, Phillip Austen of Travellers Rest, for his work entitled

Bastions of the Valley. 23 of the 30 exhibited works received 'People's Choice' votes. The lucky voter prize was won by Geraldine King of Deloraine.

Budding artists should note that it will run again in March 2019.

Fire, food, fun and scarecrows

WINTERFIRE IS a community event taking place in Deloraine centred on the theme of fire and held close to the solstice.

WinterFire is shaping up to be another great night. All the old favourites will be there. Fire drums for toasting marshmallows, a drumming circle, belly dancers, a poetry circle, and a roving magician. Plenty of food, hot chocolate and mulled wine.

New additions are a puppeteer, a scarecrow competition and 3 sculptures which will be set alight during the telling of a story. The evening will conclude with the lighting of the giant bonfire.

This year you are invited to make a life-size scarecrow. It can be traditional, quirky or just full out whacky. Any materials can be used and there are three cash prizes sponsored by The Deloraine Deli. If you wish to have your scarecrow burned on the bonfire, please ensure that only natural materials are used (cotton, straw, timber etc).

WinterFire 2018 will be held at the Deloraine Showgrounds on Saturday 16th June starting at 4.30pm. Entry is \$10.00 and children 16 and under are free if accompanied by an adult. Further details can be found on the WinterFire Facebook page or phone 0428 237 078.



Photo by: Mike Moores

Replica of a viking ship burnt at the 2016 Winterfire. This year's event is on Saturday 16th June.

Adam wins world's best Cabernet 2018

By Antonia Howarth-Wass

ADAM EGGINS, who attended Deloraine High School, and for the past 20 years been a winemaker for Taylor's Wines in South Australia's Clare Valley, has won the highest award for his 'The Visionary' Cabernet Sauvignon 2014.

Awarded in Lyon, France by the Concours Internationale des Cabernet, it is selected by France's top sommeliers from a sample of 250 wines.

This is by no means Adam's first award but it represents something of a crowning success for Taylor's who have accumulated interna-

tional fame in recent years with Adam at the helm.

"Australian wines are recognised for their immediate freshness, generous flavours and diverse styles. It is a testament to the consistent quality of Australian wine," says Managing Director, Mitchell Taylor of this renowned family owned winery.

"Cabernet is the heart and soul of our business and it is the very first variety we planted on the family estate back in 1969," says Mitchell.

France is the birthplace of Cabernet Sauvignon but with a South Australian winning the title of World's Best Cabernet 2018, it would be fair to

say that Taylor's have made it their own.

The award comes on the back of a string of accolades gained since Adam Eggins became Chief Winemaker, which includes World's Most Awarded Winery 2017 and World's Most Awarded Wine by the World Association of Wine Writers and Journalists for a 2013 Chardonnay.

Adam was unavailable for comment, but he is known to have returned to Tasmania for a short period and assisted Jansz Vineyards in the Tamar Valley to develop their now growing reputation for sparkling wines.

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Authorised by Brian Mitchell MP 53B Main Road Perth



Trowunna Wildlife caretaker Ned holds a Tasmanian Devil for young visitors to stroke.

Mother's Day treat at Trowunna sanctuary

Photo and Story by Hayley Manning

MUM'S AND their families had a Devilish Mother's Day at the Trowunna Wildlife Sanctuary.

New part-time Operations Manager, Darren Rumble, said the inaugural free entry for mothers on their special day was a way of saying thanks for the great job they do.

"It was also an opportu-

nity to celebrate our new logo and rebranding," Mr Rumble said.

He explained the privately owned Trowunna (Heart Shaped Island Home), had recently been rebranded a 'sanctuary' rather than park, to reflect the true nature of the tranquil surroundings enjoyed by the unique native mammals and birds, and the people who visit them.

"Rehabilitation and conservation are our main focus

to augment threatened wildlife populations," he said.

Trowunna, established in 1979 at Mole Creek, remains committed to conservation through, education, training courses and active participation in breeding projects, such as the Save the Tasmanian Devil program, which continues to succeed due to the dedicated staff and an 'unprecedented' 17 generations of Devils in a family tree.

Arabic crumbed roast lamb rack

By Wai Lin Coultas

BAHARAT; A blend of black pepper, coriander, allspice, cumin, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg; is used in lamb, chicken, beef and fish stews in Arabic North Africa to the Persian Gulf. Marrying this with Australia's love of roasting lamb, yields a searing lamb rack deliciously defined by its crumb's varied layers of flavour and perfectly balancing divinely tempting morsels of sweet juicy pinkness within.

Ingredients

1 kg rack of 9 ribs of lamb, after most of the fat is trimmed off*
 3 tbsp plain flour
 2 eggs
 2½ tbsp lavender honey
 2½ tbsp red wine vinegar
 4 tbsp fine breadcrumbs
 2 tbsp crushed water

crackers
 1½ tbsp dried rosemary
 1½ tbsp dried tarragon
 1 tsp ground cassia
 1 tsp dried lemon myrtle leaves
 2 tsp Herbie's Baharat
 7 pinches ground chilli
 2 tsp black sesame seeds
 6 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
 Iodised salt
 Crack black pepper
 2 sprigs fresh rosemary
 Note:

* The thick crumb crust prevents the lamb rack's fat rendering and gaining flavour during roasting. Choose a rack with lots of meat.

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 220°C while seasoning lamb rack with salt and pepper.
 2. Beat together eggs, honey and vinegar.

- Mix breadcrumbs, crackers, herbs, spices, sesame seeds, cheese and salt.
- To crumb lamb rack, dust all over with flour before coating with egg mixture and then with crumb mixture.
- Place crumbed lamb rack on rack over roasting tray and drizzle remaining egg mixture over, before heaping on remaining crumb mixture; repeating until all egg mixture and crumb mixture are used.
- Roast crumbed lamb rack on oven's top shelf for 20 minutes before dropping to 175°C to roast an added 40 to 55 minutes.
- Serve garnished with rosemary sprigs and roast vegetables on the side.

Serves 3

MEANDER VALLEY - GET INVOLVED

NAIDOC WEEK celebrations will be held in Deloraine on Wednesday the 11th July.

This year's theme is 'Because Of Her, We Can'.

They are our mothers, our elders, our grandmothers, our aunts, our sisters and our daughters.

Festivities will commence at 10:45am at the Deloraine Cenotaph and events include

Welcome to Country, Flag Raising, fire-stick and smoking ceremonies along the Kooparoona Niara Cultural Trail, Aboriginal dance, cultural music and much more.

Events are followed by a luncheon, exhibition and traditional art and craft making at Rotary Pavilion, Alveston Drive Deloraine at 1.00pm. All welcome.



HELLEBORES: THERE is an infinite variety of these beautiful and very hardy plants which love the coldest time of the year. The single varieties include the beautiful pure white *Helleborus nigra* to the dark red H "Abchasicus", and the almost black H. "Single Black".

Catalogues now advertise a selection of doubles with picotee edges in contrasting colours. There's even a

yellow variety with burgundy edging. *H. orientalis* "Mrs. Betty Ranicar" (pictured). The originals of these were found in a very old garden in Deloraine, and several doubles in various colours have been developed from those. Hellebores need a soil which has been generously enriched with compost or aged manure. Most prefer moist conditions in dappled shade.



Hellebores enjoy moist soil enriched with compost.

In the Vegie garden:

June is the best time of the year to plant 2 year asparagus crowns. The bed should be dug to spade depth, and liberal quantities of organic matter added - add a little lime if soil is acidic. Set the crowns 15 to 20cms deep and 30cm to 50cms apart at the bottom of the trench. Cover

with 5cms of soil, and fill in the trench as the ferns grow. Keep them well watered and give them liberal dressings of high nitrogen fertiliser in summer. Cut down the dried fern in winter and resist the temptation to harvest the first season's shoots. With care, the bed should continue producing for many years.

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Looking forward to being in the community on a regular basis where I will be available to meet and discuss your needs and any issues.

Contact details -
 Office phone: 6350 5000
 Mobile: 0427 523 412

Email: tania.rattray@parliament.tas.gov.au



By Lorraine Clarke

'PERMACULTURE' IS the term coined by the late great Tasmanian Bill Mollison for his world-renowned systems of working with nature to develop permanent agriculture. 'Paradise' is a Persian word for a well-watered garden with a panoply of trees producing abundant perfect fruits. Graham Swinsburg has created just such a paradise, and shares it with others who come to learn about permaculture, or relax in his Farmstay accommodation.

When he purchased his 15 hectare property at Weegeena, it was mostly bush with a few hectares of cleared land. "I set up a tent and moved in," he said. He set to work creating stone and timber buildings from the property's own resources, which look as though they have grown out of the landscape.

He dug a rock-lined wild-life pond filled by water diverted from a roof. Lines of nitrogen-fixing lucerne trees were planted to serve many functions including shelter, feeding the cow, early forage for pollinating bees, and soil improvement. Graham dug swales, shallow ditches on contours, that delay the flow of rainfall off the sloping land, allowing it to be absorbed by the soil for use by trees. A dam collects runoff water that is reticulated around the property.

Orchard trees were planted from 1990 to provide sustenance for the family. Many years later, each mature tree is laden with hundreds of kilograms of superb fruit, and his delicious organic produce finds a ready market at the Deloraine Vegie Shop, Wholesale House and a juice outlet in Launceston.

Bush wildlife and birds



Photo by: Mike Moores

Permaculture enthusiast Graham Swinsburg shows off one of the 14 different varieties of organically grown apples found on his farm.

must be vigilantly excluded to protect the fruit crop. Graham initially made wire cages around each tree, then built a floppy fence. He has resorted to cracking a stock-whip and shooting hazelnuts from a slingshot. He now finds that hot-wires stop 95% of hungry marauders, and Lucky the Jack Russell terrier bails up the other 5%. Late in the season, the trees are netted to thwart currawongs.

Graham studied Horticulture at TAFE to support his passion for home-grown organic food. "I just love grow-

ing things and seeing the fruits of my labours. I've got all the infrastructure here now, so all I have to do is a bit of brushcutting and harvesting."

Graham has always used permaculture principles and biodynamic techniques to grow superb crops. All systems are interdependent and mutually beneficial. Permaculture design is foundational to success, with zones being allocated for each function. Vegetables and herbs needed daily grow closest to the house.

Hens are restrained in a

composting pen while fruit and vegetables are growing, with all kitchen scraps and weeds being tossed into their pen for them to scratch about in. The hens free-range in winter, clearing up insect pests and weeds while fertilising trees.

Some of the hardest workers on the farm are housed beneath layers of old carpet, fed on waste fruit and Elgar Farm's organic cow manure. The worm castings, "black gold" to Graham, are barrowed around to the fruit trees each year.

Graham offers Eco-Farmstay accommodation with a difference. Some come for the peaceful bush setting and proximity to many of Tasmania's tourist destinations,

but there is the option of taking a 2-hour Permaculture Farm Tour, free for those who stay 3 nights or more.

The high-rise cubby house built for his own kids is the Hilton of all cubbies which enchants visiting children. Clients rate the Elvenhome Farmstay so highly that Graham was recently awarded Airbnb Superhost for the 9th consecutive time.

"I want to be able to share what's possible on not-so-great soil. To be able to show city kids where food comes from is very rewarding. Some have never seen a cherry on a tree."

To book a Permaculture Farm Tour, or a Farmstay, go to <http://elvenhomefarm.com.au>



Photo by: Mike Moores

\$12,500 was raised by the Bracknell School Agfest Stall this year. L-R Kylie Johnson & Jess Rode.

Agfest - leading fundraiser

By Hayley Manning

THE CHEERFUL band of volunteers from Bracknell Primary School tout that they serve the 'Best Food at Agfest' and provide a large undercover area where you can eat it too!

Parents and Friends committee members Patricia Farmer and Maryanne Gilbert said the Agfest event had been their leading fundraiser for 25 years.

"The funds were instrumental in our fight to keep the school when it was listed for possible closure in 2011," Ms Farmer said.

"All past and present Parents and Friends and other

connected community members are committed to keeping the school going, so our students can gain confidence and leadership skills before they go to high school," Ms Gilbert said.

Bracknell, and other primary schools threatened with closure, staged mass protests, started petitions and used social media platforms to muster support during the Save our Schools campaign.

Generations of families have attended the school which has been at the heart of the small livestock, dairy and poppy production district in Northern Tasmanian for over 150 years.



Architect Warren French is leading the way in the prefabricated building market in Tasmania.

High-end product at a mid-range price

By Cody Handley

A SMALL Westbury business is revolutionising the way we build.

Valley Workshop is a pre-fabrication business that designs and constructs buildings that are quite advanced by Australian standards. Their most recent project was the hiking hut at Frenchman's Cap, paid for in partnership

by Dick Smith and Parks and Wildlife.

Make no mistake, these buildings are no ordinary, mass produced pre-fab jobs.

Every building is uniquely designed, with every component individually made to fit the whole. Materials are highly prefabricated to include insulation, cladding, windows and allowances for plumbing

and electrical, all ready to go.

Take the Frenchman's Cap hut, for example. The hut is an energy efficient, highly insulated building with its own mini hydro system to supply heating and limited power.

The hut had to be extremely versatile to cope with erratic weather conditions. During construction, the crew experienced snow on

site where the day before had been 37 degrees!

The way it works is fundamentally different to traditional building and tends not to be the realm of regular, traditionally trained carpenters

Due to the location, materials were flown in by helicopter in bundles weighing no more than 800kg. The material is designed to fit together for quick construction; so much so, that the floor went down in roughly one hour!

Owner, Warren French, said the design process has to comply with two simple criteria: "is it a manageable weight?" and "will it fit on the truck?"

"The way it works is fundamentally different to traditional building and tends not to be the realm of regular, traditionally trained carpenters," he said. "We're almost better off with a complete novice than trying to retrain someone with preconceived ideas."

Warren said he chose to start his business in Westbury as he was a local, and deliberately sources local, Tasmanian materials. Their plywood comes from Smithton, their hardwood from George Town, with the aim of offering a high-end product at a mid-range price.

The benefits of Valley Workshop's designs are that they are much better for the environment by way of superior insulation which increases performance and comfort.

"The housing debate is all about insulation and reducing reliance on electricity. Carbon footprint awareness is starting to happen at a grassroots level but isn't influencing the

mainstream building industry yet," said Warren.

Warren has 30 years of pre-fab experience. He seriously started researching advanced pre-fab in 2008, and won an award which included \$10,000 which he used to travel overseas to learn from other countries.

"Australia is a long way behind with the way we build," he said. "Condensation is damaging a third of all new houses as it's not a well understood problem."

However, Warren says the TV show Grand Designs has changed the way people think about pre-fab. "That program has been good for my business. It makes people think beyond the ordinary."

Warren runs the business with his daughter, who handles the building operation. Warren said he is hoping to recruit a young architect but is having trouble finding someone who wants to stay local.

Valley Workshop is currently in the preliminary design phase for a house to be built in Deloraine.

Retreat to the forest

IF YOU are looking for accommodation that offers seclusion and mountain vistas, new Meander Valley business Peak Forest Retreat is offering just that.

The Retreat is located in Western Creek and is run by owners Carol and Geoffrey Kidd. There are several scenic walks on the property, including one built by Geoff which leads to a waterfall the couple named Mothers Falls in memory of their own.

"When you drive into the property which is tucked away with complete privacy you can immediately feel it is rather special," said Carol. "I suppose the one thing that sets this new accommodation apart from others in the region is its location and the beauty of its surrounds."

Carol and Geoff moved to the area last July after selling the family farm in Ringarooma. Geoff, a farmer all his life, did not want the burden of ageing while still on the farm and found the Retreat on the internet and was curious to inspect it.

"I wasn't so keen but he convinced me," Carol said. "Honestly, we both fell in love with the property at first sight."

"We also liked the location of the Meander Valley especially ... I was raised in Devonport but always had close connections to the general Meander Valley area."

Peak Forest Retreat is found on AirBnB or email thepeakforestretreat@gmail.com

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Smith Family

VOLUNTEERS PASSION-ATE about helping children with learning are urgently needed for The Smith Family's after-school Learning Clubs, currently running across Tasmania in 8 locations, including Invermay and Burnie.

Particularly suited to people with a background in education, tutors help provide a safe and supportive environment for disadvantaged students and are provided with access to resources and learning.

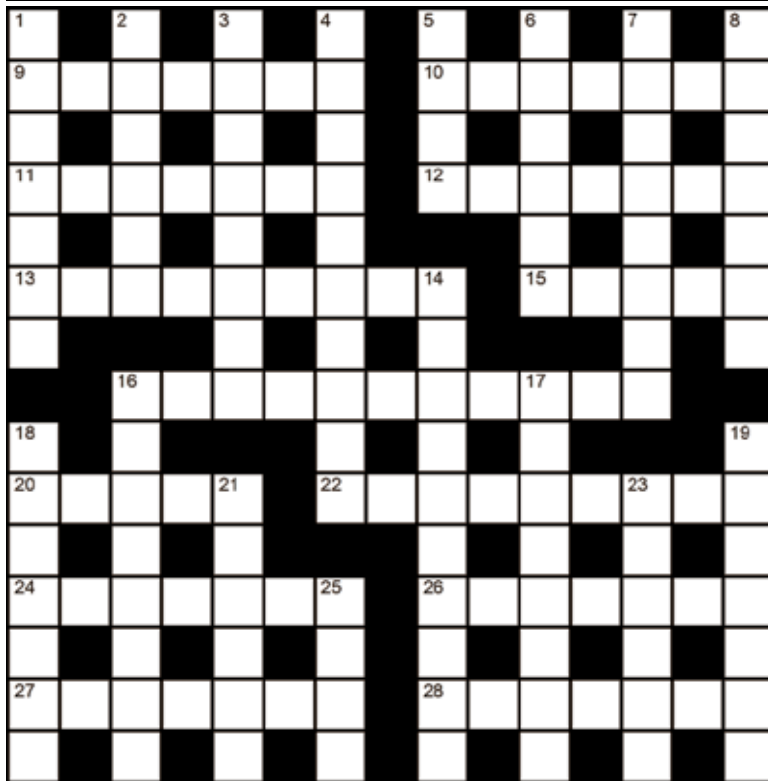
"Volunteer tutors need to be patient, enthusiastic and able to relate to students, in addition to being good listeners and communicators," said Lesley Mackay, The Smith Family's General Manager for Tasmania.

A recent survey showed the program has a positive impact, 87 per cent of students feel they're doing better in class, and 96 per cent of teachers comment that Learning Clubs positively influence class participation.

Volunteers must be over 18 years old and complete a selection process. Training and support is provided.

For more information visit thesmithfamily.com.au and click on 'Get Involved'.

Crossword



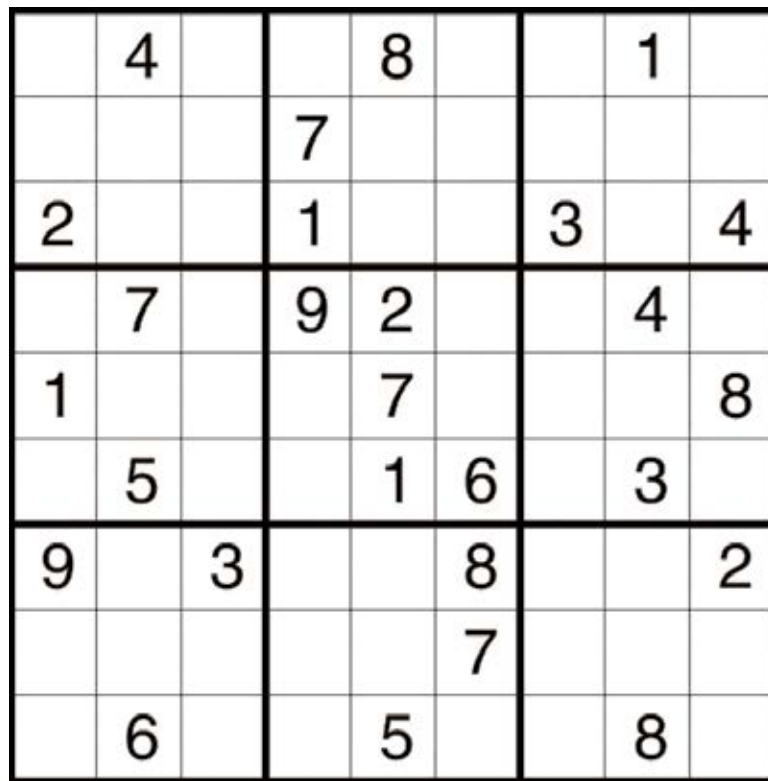
Across

- 9 Hair cleaner (7)
- 10 German measles (7)
- 11 Chatter (7)
- 12 Anxious (7)
- 13 Emphasize (9)
- 15 Astonish (5)
- 16 Decent (11)
- 20 First prime minister of India (5)
- 22 Chinese revolutionary leader (3,3-3)
- 24 Type of chair (7)
- 26 Poorly matched (7)
- 27 Demolish (7)
- 28 Cooking vessel (7)

Down

- 1 Sterile (7)
- 2 Largest desert (6)
- 3 On an upper floor (8)
- 4 Depression from lack of company (10)
- 5 Make beer or ale (4)
- 6 Spain and Portugal (6)
- 7 Last (8)
- 8 Walked like a duck (7)
- 14 Put out (10)
- 16 Practise (8)
- 17 Wrist band (8)
- 18 Indefinite person (7)
- 19 Fishermen (7)
- 21 Yet to arrive (6)
- 23 Squalid (6)
- 25 Supporting ropes (4)

Sudoku (Medium)



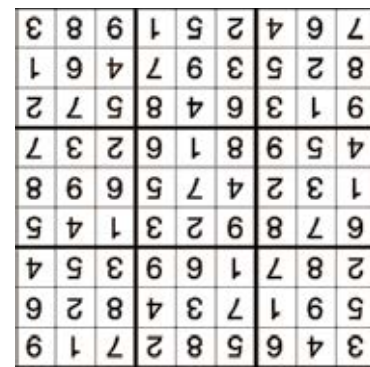
©2018 Syndicated Puzzles

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 - June 2018 Solution



Sudoku - June 2018 Solution



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 - remember to plan in advance so you don't miss out!

Date and Time	Event	Details
Saturday 9th June 8.00pm	Mick Neven & Nicky Wilkinson	British Hotel, 80 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine Tickets \$20.00 - Phone 6362 2016.
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.
Wednesday 13th June 5.00pm	Project Empower Leadership Skills Workshop	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine for high school students To register: cenright@bigpond.net.au .
Friday 15th June	MV Council Community Grants close	Information & Application Forms are available from the Westbury Council Offices or www.meandertas.gov.au
Saturday 16th June 4.30pm	WinterFire	Deloraine Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine \$10.00 Adult Accompanied children Free Ph 0428 237 078.
Saturday 16th June 9.00am - 1.00pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drive and Caveside Road, Contact Ross Quick 0413 681 252.
Saturday 16th June 8.00am - 1.00pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom. Westbury BBQ cooking breakfast, stalls. Ph: Rob Menzie 0417 931 619.
Tuesday 19th June 10:00am to 12:00 midday	Sell it on Gumtree	Deloraine Online Access Centre 21 West Parade Deloraine 7304 \$10.00 call 6362 3537 to book a place.
Wednesday 20th & 21st June 9.30 - 4.30pm	Free Mental Health First Aid Training for Carers	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine For carers of someone with Mental Health Ph 6362 2678 to book.
Saturday 23rd June 8.00pm	Ian Moss	Country Club Casino, Country Club Ave Prospect Vale Tickets available www.ticketmaster.com.au .
Monday 25th June 9.30am - 12.30pm	Grant Writing Workshop	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine RSVP Ph: Kevin 0419 395 178 for more info Run by RDA Tasmania.
Tuesday 26th June 7.00pm - 8.30pm	Council Community Forum	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drive and Caveside Road Interested community members all welcome.
Saturday 30th June 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.
Wednesday 4th July 7.30pm - 9.30pm	QFFC Monthly meeting	Rotary Pavillion, 2-8 Alveston Drive, Deloraine.
Saturday 7th July 9.00am - 1.00pm	Deloraine Showground Market	Deloraine Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine Ph: 0409 695 321 for Bookings & Details.
Saturday 7th July 7.00pm - 10.00pm	QFFC Games Night	Westbury RSL, 7 Lonsdale Promenade, Westbury Games incl Carpet bowls, bronco riding, roller derby + more.
Wednesday 11th July 10:45am	NAIDOC Week Celebrations	Deloraine Cenotaph followed by walk along Kooparooona Niara Cultural Trail and lunch & craft Rotary Pavillion.
Saturday 14th July 8.00pm - 10.00pm	Marina Prior & David Hobson - The Two of Us	Country Club Casino, Country Club Ave Prospect Vale Tickets available www.ticketmaster.com.au .
Saturday 14th July 7.00pm	Winter Masque Ball ft. Winterfolk Orch.	Western Tiers Community Club, Parsonage St Deloraine Tickets Seppenfelts \$10.00 Pre-booked \$12.00 at door.
Tuesday 19th June 10:00am to 12 midday	Sell it on Gumtree	Deloraine Online Access Centre 21 West Parade Deloraine 7304 \$10.00 call 6362 3537 to book a place.
Saturday 21st July 8.00am - 1.00pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom. Westbury BBQ cooking breakfast, stalls. Ph: Rob Menzie 0417 931 619.
Monday 23rd July	Meander Valley U3A Term 3 Classes begin	Various venues across Meander Valley Ph: 0484 758 466.
Every Monday 1.45pm - 2.45pm	English Conversation Circle	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine Meet new friends while learning to help others learn.
Every Tuesday and Thursday 9.00am	Heart Foundation Walking Group	Meet at Deloraine House just before 9.00am for an hour walk. Walk at own pace.
Every Wednesday	Community Garden - Westbury	For information Phone Fiona Thowe on 6701 2154.
Every Thursday 10.00am - 11.00am	Physiotherapy & Exercise Classes	Westbury Community Health Centre, Meander Valley Road, Westbury.
Every Friday 5.00pm - 6.45pm	Nights of the Round Table	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Road - Discuss Current Affairs etc Bring a plate of finger food to share.

Photo by: Mike Moores



Lexie Young (L) and Jan Atkins (R) present Sandra Atkins (C) with a congratulatory bouquet from the Deloraine Show Society.

Lifetime of service

OSMASTON RESIDENT, Sandra Atkins, has received a Medal in the Order of Australia (OAM).

The medal was presented at Government House on Friday 18th May by Tasmanian Governor Kate Warner AC.

Sandra received the honour for her nearly 60 years of service to equestrian sports.

Her contributions include her work with Equestrian

Australia, Northern Tasmanian Eventing Club, The Northern Hunt club, Deloraine Pony Club and the Deloraine Agricultural and Pastoral Society.

Sandra has also volunteered with the Deloraine Online Access Centre and Meander Valley Connect for 18 years.

The OAM investiture program described the reasons for giving people

Meeting calls for new facility

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY Council will consider buying land adjacent to the Deloraine Community Complex for an extended recreation precinct for the western end of the municipality.

A motion at a public meeting held in Deloraine in May urged Meander Valley Council to "progress the project", including buying the land to be used for a new football ground.

Around 70 people, many from the town's five major sports teams, attended the meeting at the Community Complex.

Two other motions supported by the meeting were

these acknowledgements: "Honours help define, encourage and reinforce national aspirations, ideals and standards by identifying role models. We give honours to recognise, celebrate and say thank you to those who make a difference, those who achieve their best and those who serve others."

that Meander Valley Council:
 • Recognises that current facilities for sport and recreation in Deloraine no longer meet the needs of users, both present and future;

• Supports the development of the proposed precinct at Alveston Drive, as outlined in the feasibility study.

The public meeting showed there is a lot of public support for this

Corey Youd from the Meander Valley Regional Recreation Precinct Working Group said that several months after the release of a feasibility study on the precinct, it was time for the council to get behind the project.

"The public meeting showed there is a lot a public support for this," he said.

"The total cost is \$33m but the working group would like to move into phase one, costing \$13.3m and incorporating facilities for football, squash and netball."

Meander Valley Council's general manager, Martin Gill, said council would further investigate lifecycle and main-

tenance costs of the proposal: "The cost as it is planned now is \$33m but there will also be an ongoing cost to the community forever."

The plan for an enlarged recreation precinct began more than two years ago, when sports groups joined to form the Meander Valley Regional Recreation Precinct Working Group.

The group aimed to house basketball, netball, football, squash and little athletics at Deloraine's Alveston Drive Community Complex.

The need for the move was emphasised when 2016 winter floods damaged football and squash facilities.

In January of this year, a \$98,000 feasibility study came up with three options for consolidating Deloraine sports facilities.

The option preferred by councillors and the working group was to consolidate sporting, recreation and community facilities at the Deloraine Community Complex site. It included buying adjoining private land and upgrading the Deloraine Primary School sports ground.

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Chips were flying

THE CHIPS were flying as Deloraine local Daniel Gurr competed and was crowned winner of STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® Rookie World Championship in Marseilles, France in front of thousands of fans from around the world.

The best rookie athletes in the sport performed against the clock in four exciting rounds: Stocksaw, Underhand Chop, Single Buck and Standing Block Chop.

Competing against favourites Chas Haas (USA) and Thomas Henderson (Canada), a thrilling final heat saw

Daniel trailing Italy's Michael Del Pin by 3 points. Smashing his personal best in the Underhand Chop to take maximum points, Daniel achieved a combined time of 1:00:20 seconds - a total of 23 points. Del Pin fell 0.30 seconds short, making Daniel the first Australian to win the coveted title!

Daniel, a second generation woodchopper, was thrilled: "I'm stoked, an Australian has never won the Rookie title before... I'm honoured to have represented my country and... I'm so glad all the hard work paid off in the end."



Daniel Gurr competes at the STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® Rookie World Championship in France.

SPORT

The Suns bounce back



Meander Valley Suns player Ross Tullich defends possession from opponents Old Launcestonians in a game played at Westbury Oval.

Photo by: Mike Moores

By David Claridge

A PAINFUL loss to Old Launcestonians was the last straw for the Meander Valley Suns in what has been a winless season.

Their hard work paid off a week later with a win against Uni Mowbray, the Suns kicked 15.16.106 to Uni Mowbray's 3.11.29.

The team has done it tough, not being able to field their best team all year and starting off the season against the stronger teams meant that they had to try some new game plans to try and adapt.

Suns Coach, David Manktelow, is hopeful they can continue to turn their season around in the games to come.

"The start of the season was always going to be tough

for us, playing against five of the top six sides from last year," he said.

"On paper, the results are very tough for us, but in every game we were there with them until about half time and then the good sides were able to get away from us.

"Things are looking positive, we just need to focus on when to be offensive and when to switch to defensive.

At the time of writing the Suns were heading into a milestone game, with their first player to reach 100 games to run out and play against the East Coast Swans.

"Brendan Jones has been a stalwart of the club, the best thing about him is that he always puts the team first" said David Manktelow.

Deloraine netball celebrates

By Sharon Webb

AROUND 150 Deloraine netballers are thrilled that by this time next year they will have two new netball courts.

The outdoor courts will be located at the Deloraine Community Complex and will be the first dedicated netball courts in the town.

Meander Valley Council has allocated \$510,000 in its capital works budget for 2018-2019 and will manage the project.

Council manager Martin Gill said council has preliminary designs; the project will go to tender in the next few months and the courts will be

constructed between December 2018 and March 2019.

Deloraine Devils netball team has also fund-raised and attracted grants for the courts from: Community Infrastructure Fund, \$55,000; Tas Community Fund, \$44,000; Bendigo Bank grant, \$30,000; Liberal Party election commitment, \$100,000.

President of the Deloraine Devils and the Meander Netball Association, Taneil Bloomfield, said for the 12 years netball had been played in Deloraine, teams had shared the indoor basketball courts at the complex.

"The lines on the courts

Kangaroos - beyond blue and white

By Hayley Manning

DELORAINE KANGAROOS Football Club welcomed guest speakers Rae Bonney, and former GWS Giants ruckman, Tom Downie, to their Beyondblue dinner on 5th May.

Football Club President, Shaun (Patch) Donohue said he started the annual fundraiser five years ago to help people, even one person, see the light at the end of the tunnel.

"We have raised \$15,000 over the last five years, but more importantly, we have raised awareness and we will continue to do that for our community," Shaun said.

Integrated Wellbeing Specialist and men's advocate,

are the wrong size and we struggle to get on-court time when we need it because of the demand on them," she said.

"It's been a long process to raise funds for new courts - we've held morning teas, catered for community groups and held raffles and the usual chocolate fundraisers.

"Fortunately we've had some wonderful, dedicated families working on it."

Ms Bloomfield said that two new courts would enable girls from six years old up to women to play netball, including net-set-go in spring for girls aged 6-10.

Ms Bonney, said increased resources and a focus on mental health, were vital in the challenge of altering preconceived ideas and attitudes towards marginalised people in society.

"It is crucial to remove the stigma and shame associated with how people are feeling. We need to create an environment of support, safety and security, with preservation of dignity and pride," Ms Bonney said.

Meander Valley Rural Alive and Well (RAW) Outreach Worker, John Clark, said his fourth-generation farming background provided

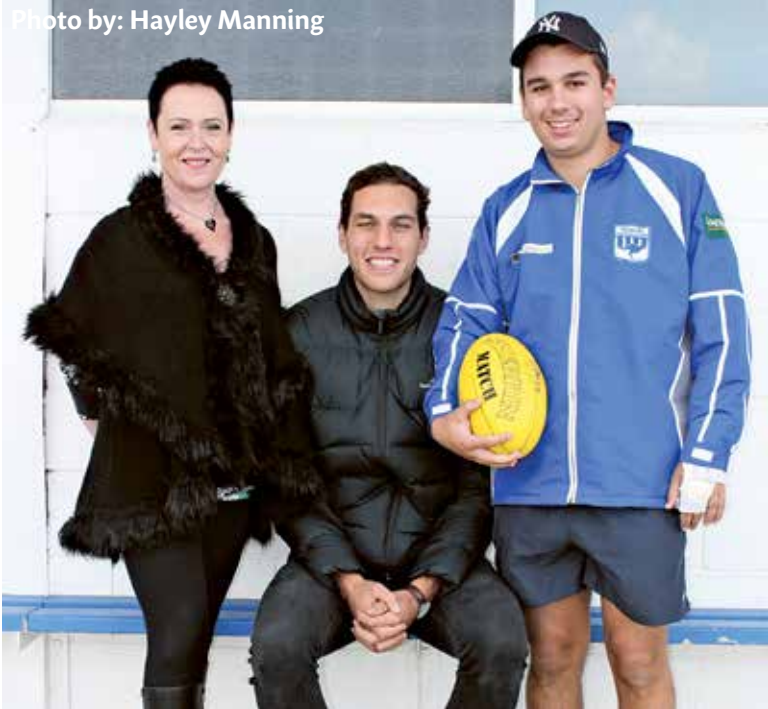
an insightful connection to rural people, their cultural ideologies, and awareness of their social standing in the community.

"Rural men are vulnerable due to a reluctance to seek help and a slower reaction to early warning signs. If a tractor warning light comes on and you ignore it, you know the problem is only going to get worse."

"We can visit you at your home, farm and workplace, have a chat on the phone or simply go for a coffee in the park," Mr Clark said.

Beyondblue: 1300 22 4636 or 1300 HELP MATE (4357 6283).

Photo by: Hayley Manning



L-R: Rae Bonney, Tom Downie, and Beau Elmer at the fundraiser.