

HANDS ACROSS THE SEAS

Samaritan surprises

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RELAXING EASTERN RHYTHMS

Bollywood comes to Deloraine

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FEMALE ELDERS'
CELEBRATION

NAIDOC week

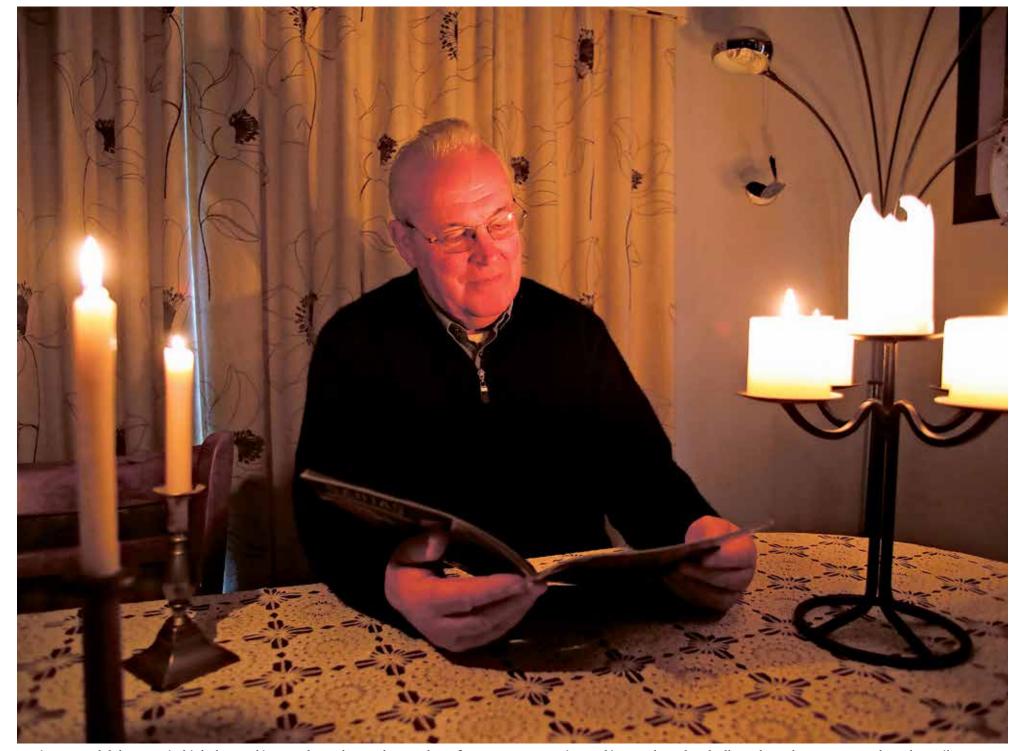
> COMMUNITY P17

Meander Valley Gazette

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August 2018

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper



Designer candelabras are in high demand in Westbury due to the number of power outages. Pictured is Westbury local Albert de Veth.

Photo by: Mike Moores

Westbury, Meander Valley's power cut capital

By David Claridge

A HIGH number of recent power outages in the Westbury area have prompted locals to speak up in the hope of finding out what is going on.

Information supplied from Tas Networks can confirm that from 2017 to 2018 there have been 33 outages, with only 16 of them planned.

The outages have varied in length from three minutes to nine hours.

Talking with a spokesman from Tas Networks, this reporter has learned that the bulk of the Westbury area is supplied by a feeder from the Hadspen substation. The same feeder also

supplies Whitemore and Glenore.

Tas Networks are aware of the issue, claiming that 'The Westbury community does not currently meet their reliability standards'.

"TasNetworks recognises Westbury urban community as one of the poor performing communities and

has plans to reduce the length, and hence exposure, of the feeders supplying it" the spokesman said.

"A project has been proposed to rationalise the supply to Westbury urban area, enabling the feeder a cleaner, more direct route to Westbury.

"The project will involve extending our

network 5 km along the Bass Highway between Hagley Station Lane and Veterans Row at an estimated cost of \$1.7 million and it is planned to be operational by June 2023."

"Interim solutions, such as investigating if we can eliminate or minimise outages through better protection and transfer

capability are currently being investigated to improve the reliability performance of the community prior to the execution of the longterm solution."

It has been shared that one Westbury resident has been refunded \$80.00 by Tas Networks for an outage that lasted longer than nine hours. 2 August 2018 **NEWS** Meander Valley Gazette

Rates up 4.46%

By Sharon Webb

HOME OWNERS in Meander Valley on average will pay an extra \$34.00 in rates this financial year, with commercial properties paying around \$170.00 more.

Meander Valley councillors disputed for a month over a 2018-2019 rates rise before boosting them by almost 4.5 per cent.

Mayor Craig Perkins said the rise couldn't be avoided, considering factors such as a loss of \$278,000 in decreased Taswater dividends and increased inflation costs for core work such as road and bridge repair.

"After hearing concerns around the council table about increasing by five per cent, we found some savings to bring it down," he said.

"I'm comfortable we've had a good look at the finances to make sure we're providing a level of service at the lowest possible cost."

At the June council meeting on 2018-19 budget estimates most councillors seemed a bit shell-shocked at the council staff recommendation to increase rates by five per cent. Since 2015 rates have risen by no more than three per cent, sometimes lower.

They deferred the rates decision to the July meeting and held a workshop to consider how to reduce the increase to around 3.5 per cent.

That goal was never achieved, but the following budget items were axed so ratepayers have only a 4.46 per cent increase:

- Westbury town common management plan: \$15,000
- Westbury community facilities review: \$20,000
- Deloraine pop-up community space (Flashing Chook block): \$15,000
- International Women's Day event: \$10,000
- Deloraine recreation facilities feasibility study:\$10,000

 Deloraine Community Complex scoreboards and shot clocks: \$6000

In the July meeting, Cllr Andrew Connor put a motion, seconded by Cllr John Temple, that these cuts not be enacted. Instead, the \$160,000 Myrtle Bridge north of Liffey upgrade listed in capital works should not be done.

"Things are really tight and we can cut \$10,000-\$20,000 here and there, but it's just fiddling around the edges," Cllr Connor said. "It's a lot cut out for not much benefit.

"There's nothing to say Myrtle Bridge is urgent; we do no bridges a year, all in rural areas and we're doing them too fast. We have to tone down our investment in bridges.

"We're doing little bridges in the middle of nowhere – it's not where the majority of our ratepayers are."

Cilr Connor's suggestion was not supported and in the end councillors compromised on a 4.46 per cent increase for the sake of finding a way forward.

Cllr Rodney Synfield has recommended a future "root and branch review" of all council activities to identify efficiencies – in waste management, for example.

"Council's rates, based ultimately on the Assessed Annual Value (rental value) of properties in the municipality, and currently set at less than 6 cents in the dollar of that AAV, is one of the lowest in the state," he said.

"Compared to, for example, Launceston Council's ... which is in excess of 7 cents in the dollar and an even higher figure in respect of West Tamar municipality. This means Meander Valley rates in most cases are hundreds of dollars a year less than they would be in neighbouring municipalities for an equivalently valued property.

"This, however, results in less capacity for Meander Valley Council to absorb losses in income, such as from Taswater. This loss is not just for



Mole Creek Progress Association President Trudy Richards (L) looks over plans for a playground on the old school site at Mole Creek with designer Martins Apsitis and Susan McLeod

one year, amounting to well in excess of 1.5 million dollars by the end of 2024/25."

sharonwebb@ meandervalleygazette.com

Hagley tree day

ON THE 27th July, Liberal Member for Lyons, Guy Barnett joined students from Hagley Farm School to plant some native Tasmanian trees as part of Planet Ark's annual National Schools' Tree Day.

The National Tree Day event encourages the revegetation of the Australian landscape with native plants, and offers all Australians and in particular our children, to learn and re-connect with their local environment.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania (STT), provided Hagley Farm School with 300 Bottlebrush seedlings for the planting.

Over the past 13 years STT (formerly Forestry Tasmania) has donated more than 92,000 seedlings to Tasmanian schools and community organisations to celebrate national tree day.

Old school site reborn

By Hayley Manning

A COMMUNITY meeting was held at Mole Creek on 14th July to discuss a playground proposal for the vacant former school ground on Pioneer Drive.

A spokesperson from the Mole Creek Primary School (opposite) said the proposed recreation area should benefit their school and the entire community. Martins Apsitis, a member of the Community Playground Working Group, says he is the driver of the design while Jenny Lloyd is a key organiser of the Group within the Progress Association, which has offered \$5000 towards the project.

Martins has a vision of a connected social space that starts at Café Bozzy, winds past the public swimming pool and barbeque facilities into the existing community garden at the rear of the ground, with the playground at the core and native land-scaping throughout.

The design details a visually open space built from limestone and timbers sourced from the natural surroundings

to reflect Mole Creek's backbone industries of farming, timber, mining and honey. It is hoped the community will donate old logging and farming equipment and perhaps an old boat, in addition to materials and machinery use.

"We want to create a radically different playground using the 'phenomenal' skills of the local volunteers...you wouldn't get that physicality and immediate history in a city environment," Martins said.

The proposed playground will have affordable and 'enriching' equipment to encourage future engagement outdoors, including a dry creek bed, grotto with slides, a beehive and a snake swing.

Martins says his design allows for many children of all ages and their parents to engage in continual play without having to wait for an available piece of equipment which can be a problem with conventional playgrounds.

"The site acknowledges local and Aboriginal histories within the environment which can be shown through materials, form and the actual making of the playground."



Launceston

Meander Valley Gazette NEWS & EVENTS August 2018



Wei Wei (L) and Tara during Vaudeville dress rehearsals. The family friendly evening of entertainment will be held on the 18th August.

Photo by: Claire Badcock

THE DELORAINE Dramatic Society (DDS) is hosting its inaugural Vaudeville Show on the 18th August. An invitation is extended to come along and enjoy a family friendly evening showcasing a breadth of local talent and specially commissioned pieces for the event.

The DDS plans to host an annual event each winter, presenting an eclectic array of theatre, performance, puppetry, music, dance, comedy, poetry, opera & acrobatics coupled with light refreshments and a warming supper made from local produce.

The rejuvenated volunteer committee aims to grow its annual programme and develop its relationships within and beyond the local community. It seeks to promote and share a passion for drama, nurture youth theatre and support homegrown talents old and new.

The rejuvenated volunteer committee aims to grow its annual programme

Members of the DDS committee hail from a diverse array of professional theatre, music, literature, broadcasting and arts backgrounds and are nationally and internationally recognised for their technical skills and artistic merit.

Based in the Little Theatre, in Meander Valley's Art

Centre, Deloraine, they plan to provide onsite mentoring and offer opportunities for any young (or mature aged) individuals wishing to gain new skills and experience within a performing arts context.

The upcoming Vaude-ville Show commences at 6.00pm with supper served by 6:30pm. Pre-purchasing tickets is recommended as seating is capped. Tickets can be purchased directly from Seppenfelts (Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine) or via www.try-booking.com/XCLD.

For all DDS enquiries please email delorainedramaticsocietyPR@gmail.com or phone Suz 0409 695 200.

Pathway to Uni degree

By Wendy Laing

MR JAMIE Mitchell is the Community Outreach Officer with the University College in Tasmania.

The University College sits between TAFE and the University of Tasmania and is perfect for a mature age student embarking on a career change or someone already working in an industry and looking to upgrade business skills and gain formal qualifications.

Mr Mitchell was the first person in his family to attend University, entering as a mature age student at the age of 49. He is now into the first year of an Applied Business

Associate Degree.

"I admit to thinking University was only for 'rich, intelligent kids,' which, of course, is

not true," he said.
"My role," he went on to say, "is to challenge negative perceptions around studying University level subjects in rural and regional Tasmania. My goal is to ensure that you are fully supported in your choice of university study."

Programs offered by the University College include university preparation, Associate Degrees...

Continued on Page 4...







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Zig Zag Track Training: Shaun Vidler standing, Alistair Horsburgh lying, Simon Sherriff sitting and Hamish Watson is the young fellow at the back. Photo supplied

Stairway to happiness

By David Claridge

OUR VOLUNTEER Firefighters already give a lot of their time to keep the community safe, but in September a team is heading off to take part in something that will test them on many levels.

Following a challenging first year at the Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb, Elizabeth Town Brigade Chief, Richard Bennett, has made good on his promise to put a team together.

Members from Elizabeth Town and Deloraine are training hard and using Richard's knowledge to prepare themselves for what will be, not only a physical challenge, but a mental one as well.

In structure gear and breathing apparatus weighing 25kg, hundreds of firefighters from Australia and beyond will race up 28 floors of stairs, raising money to fight depression, PTSD and suicide.

Richard said that he now four firefighters from has

Deloraine, plus his wife, himself and one other from Elizabeth Town. They are training together when they can.

been training "We've together, using the few stairs in Deloraine, the Zig Zag track at the Gorge and at MFX Gym in Deloraine," he said.

"Doing it last year taught me that it involves a lot of sore legs and burning lungs.

"We will have a raffle leading up to the stair climb and will hold a garage sale to raise funds for the event on the 12th August at the Deloraine Fire Station at ten o'clock.

Brigade Chief Dan Watson has joined the team because the charities are important to him.

"Depression and suicide are important to me. I lost a really good mate because of them, ever since then it's been a project I've wanted to help support where I can. I'm working on cardio and getting my leg strength better."

Donations can be made

on the Stair Climb website https://www.firefighterclimb. org.au/ under the participants name.

Richard's team consists of his wife, Fiona Bennett, Lyell Dean; and from Deloraine: Dan Watson, Simon Sherriff, Shaun Vidler and Alistair Horsburgh.

The event is aiming to raise \$700,000 for Lifeline and the Black Dog Institute.

According to the stair climb website, three million Australians are living with depression and anxiety and that suicide is the leading cause of death for Australians aged between 15 and 44.

Not happy but no option?

about their decision to increase rates by 4.6 per cent.

Mayor Craig Perkins

I'm comfortable that we've had a good look at our finances to make sure we're providing a high level of service at the lowest possible cost. Even though our per centage increase in rates is higher than others, because MV has one of the lowest costs per ratepayer in the state, in real terms our ratepayers are still paying less.

Deputy Mayor Michael Kelly

No I'm not happy with the rates increase. There was little interest from councillors to reduce the increase amount. In fact two indicated that rates should increase well above the 4.46 per cent. I changed my vote on the second vote as it was important to give council certainty so that it could meet its legal obligations and be stable.

Cllr Tanya King

I'm not entirely happy with the rise as in per centage terms it is relatively high. I am satisfied however that the council explored many options to keep the rates rise at a minimum while still maintaining service levels to ratepayers. Because council already has a tight budget and operates efficiently, it is difficult to make savings. It is noteworthy that despite the rate rise, Meander Valley Council still maintains the lowest average rates in the northern region.

Cllr Rodney Synfield

Happy is not a word I would use to describe the level of rate increase agreed to. I have long held the view that with relatively low annual average adult incomes in our municipality, we need to be very careful to keep

THE GAZETTE asked Meander rate increases manageable and Valley councillors how they felt to a minimum, in consideration of our community's capacity to pay such.

Cllr Deb White

No-one is happy to see costs go up, however I agree that a rate rise above CPI is necessary for the council to keep pace with the expenditure required to maintain our assets and infrastructure in a safe and acceptable condition.

Cllr Ian Mackenzie

Initially I was supportive of the five per cent increase proposed in June, however in review we can't keep putting up rates. We are locked into contracts that need, in my view, to not be renewed that pay for functions of council or regional bodies that could be done in-house or are in areas that I believe councils shouldn't necessarily be involved in.

Cllr Andrew Connor

No I am not happy; the five per cent rise recommended by council officers that I supported was to maintain budget status quo in the face of ever-rising costs and reduced income from Taswater dividends. The slight reduction to a 4.46 per cent increase pushed by other councillors was achieved only by cutting services and raising charges. I initially rejected that as too low but made a pragmatic decision to approve the budget which was already a month overdue so that council could issue rates notices in a timely manner and continue to operate normally. The difference between 4.46 per cent and 5.00 per cent was only \$2.00-\$4.00 per property.

Cllr Bob Richardson and Cllr John Temple

No comments given.

Pathway to a Uni degree

Continued from Page 3...

...and Diploma of University Studies.

The University Preparation Program is open to everyone and provides an alternative entry pathway into university. When completed, it qualifies students for general entry requirements into a

university degree.

"I enjoy meeting people who think the door to university level study is closed to them. I give advice and discuss what choices and courses are available. This can help people make an informed decision on changing their future direction through continuing education."

He will also assist rural students with options regarding online study and the hours required each term for their chosen subjects.

You can make an appointment to meet with lamie Mitchell at Deloraine House to talk about the pathway options for tertiary study by phoning 0475 183 652 for further information.



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In My Opinion...

By Joanne Eisemann Managing Editor

WHILE I am appreciative of the convenience of being able to purchase so many food varieties in one place, and endlessly in awe of the logistics and organisational ability it must take to run a supermarket, I can't help having concerns over the quality of some of the food I purchase there.

I once enjoyed a supermarket's four grain baked bread, that was, until this past summer when I noticed what happened when it got past its use by date. Instead of going mouldy and dry like it used to, it began going slimy and mushy; its texture made me feel ill to the point where I could no longer look at the loaves of that bread range. wondered what had changed, and came to the conclusion that a new additive must have been included.

I began buying other varieties of bread sold there and found that I had become so sensitive to this new additive that I could touch bread and tell whether it was included; it sort of felt more elastic or something. Eventually, I found a couple of brands without it; needless to say, they are in the most expensive price bracket.

Also, it's probably not particularly good gardening practice, but if I enjoy a new variety of potato that I've bought from a supermarket I'll sometimes plant a few in the garden. That is, until I found one variety that wouldn't grow, apparently treated with so much sprouting retardant that it could no longer sprout!

I know the reasons why food might be treated in this way - it's all about shelf life; but it makes me wonder about what it is doing to our bodies when we ingest these mutations.

Letters In...

IN VIEW of the recent rate rise, readers might be interested to know that the Meander Valley Council at its July meeting voted to become a campsite owner and operator.

This related to a site at Bracknell but other sites around the municipality will undoubtedly follow the Bracknell precedent. Council proposes to charge an arbitrary \$3 fee per van per night to use the site. This figure is well below that necessary to cover costs which other observers estimate will be between \$6 and \$9 depending on the services that are provided. The Council has no written business plan or estimate of costs and will most likely have to subsidise each overnight van by up to \$6. That over a year at potentially many sites would be an open ended commitment by ratepayers for thousands of dollars for a non essential operation. Many ratepayers would argue that Council should limit its expenditure to core activities and balance its accounts so that rate increases are less or no more than the rate of inflation. The Councillors who voted for Meander Valley Council to become a campsite operator were Councillors Mackenzie, Kelly,

King, Synfeld and Temple.

Kevin Briggs

Quamby Corner

ON 30 June, I and approximately 80 other people attended a quiz night, and exceptional country style supper, aiming to raise money for the Westbury Pri-

mary School's Grade 6 Centenary of Armistice excursion to Canberra.

I was proud to be able to support and MC this event and I congratulate local students, Ruby, Minesha and Amy, who expertly assisted and supported me in this role.

Held at the Westbury RSL, the event attracted a broad cross section of the community, including people across all ages, families, students, RSL members, and of course, nearby trivia buffs.

This fantastic event raised more than \$1400 for the school, complementing the additional funds raised by other community and school fundraisers.

This was an excellent evening, and I would like to thank and acknowledge the community for coming together to fundraise for such an important cause. I also congratulate the quiz winners, Two for Tango, who impressed everyone with their general knowledge prowess.

This was an outstanding event that really demonstrated the strength of the Westbury community. I congratulate everyone involved and was deeply pleased to be able to support this event.

Brian Mitchell MP Labor Member for Lyons

I WRITE to congratulate the immediate past Member for the Western Tiers Greg Hall MLC for his outstanding service to the people of northern and central Tasmania.

Greg was born and bred in northern Tasmania and was a Mayor of the Meander Valley Council from 1997 to 2002, where he worked tirelessly on behalf of the community.

He served in the Vietnam

Deloraine water now safe

By Sharon Webb

DELORAINE RESIDENTS and businesses at 1,250 addresses boiled their drinking water for a week in July because dirty water overflowed from a holding tank into the town's reticulated water supply.

Water is now back to normal with TasWater having reviewed its processes to ensure the problem is not repeated.

It is unknown whether anyone became ill from the water; Taswater said tests detected no E.coli, toxins or other pathogens.

But it moved quickly on 6th July to advise residents via the media about the risks of drinking the water, and to letterbox residents and businesses. The alert was lifted on 12th July.

Describing how the incident happened, Taswater incident controller for the boil water alert, Peter Januba, said when high rainfall in the first week of July caused "water in excess of acceptable turbidity limits" to leave the treatment plant, the plant automatically shut down.

"Water which did not meet specification was diverted and stored in a tank and the plant was manually restarted and normal treatment resumed," Mr Januba said.

But the tank was too small for the dirty water and it overflowed, polluting Deloraine's drinking water.

As a 'precaution' Taswater advised Deloraine people to:

* Boil all water used for consumption and food preparation and cleaning of teeth; ager of service delivery Bennie Smith announced his organization was investigating technical causes of the event, while the whole reticulation network was flushed and scoured to clear the system of any compro-

Discard any salads

prepared or food or fruit

washed to be eaten uncooked

in either the home or com-

beverages including ice and

prepared baby formula pre-

pared using water from

TasWater's general man-

10.00am Friday 6th July.

* Dispose of food and

mercial premises;

By 12th July non-compliant water was no longer in the system and Taswater had changed its protocols

to prevent overflow occurring

again.

mised water.

Mr Januba said in future any out-of-specification water would be discharged directly into the storm water system, avoiding any chance of it entering the reticulation network.

He said test results confirmed Deloraine's drinking water now meets the standards of the Tasmanian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines and the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and is therefore safe to drink.

TasWater will continue to provide ongoing monitoring and testing to demonstrate water quality meets the drinking water guidelines. It is not aware of Deloraine's problem occurring at any other Tasmanian water treatment plant.

sharonwebb @meandervalleygazette.com

war as a trooper with 3 Cavalry and has represented the interests of Tasmania's veterans consistently during the years since.

Greg was elected to the Legislative Council at the 2001 Rowallan election and re-elected in 2006 and 2012.

Greg based his electorate office in Deloraine, an honour I was pleased to share with him since 2014. Greg has concluded a long and distinguished career in Parliament and will continue to be a valued member of the community.

I thank Greg for his dedicated service and hard work for the people of the Meander Valley, Western Tiers and indeed, Tasmania, over the past decades.

Guy Barnett MP Liberal Member for Lyons

IF THERE'S one thing that irks me more than the government allowing hundreds of thousands of foreign refugees into Australia to take our jobs and homes, it's the

government allowing those who "can afford" private health cover to use the public health system.

It isn't fair that the "paying patients can use the PHS or go private, when those who "can't afford a choice" aren't allowed to use private facilities". The PHS is bereft of "equality". It's all about making money. What good is a co-located private hospital to the "can't-affords" when we can't use the private hospital, while the "can-affords" to use both? That's a pretty sneaky way of queue jumping the years-long waiting lists. That's not fair, that's un-Australian.

> A.R. Trounson Needles

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Meander Valley Gazette



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Trevor Berne of Meander ties a 'shrek,' a wet lure for trout, that takes from 5 to 20 minutes to tie.

Tying up flys for fun

QUAMBY FLY Fishers Club has regular practical fly tying sessions to guide, encourage and share ideas.

The second fly tying workshop this year was held at Westbury Community Health Centre on Saturday 21st July, preparing members for the trout fishing season opening for most waters on 4th August. In a relaxed, easy-going

atmosphere, experienced members with invaluable information and expertise showed new tyers how to extend their basic knowledge.

The club's experienced tyers were also polishing their skills in readiness for this year's Deloraine Craft Fair.

'Women in Waders' is a new initiative by Club President, Eve Berne. This women-only event is being held to encourage more women to take up fly fishing and takes place on Saturday 25th August at Huntsman Lake, Meander.

Quamby members will coach the basics of casting, individually or in small groups.

The session will be two and a half hours, followed by a sausage sizzle and an opportunity to ask questions, socialise and network. Equipment will be provided for use by participants on the day.

From terror to Tasmania

By Marguerite McNeill

ROMANTIC CONNECTIONS in JH Fletcher's latest novel *In the Valley of Blue Gums* are softening backdrops to the perilous and frantic life of story heroine journalist Thea Anderson.

From frightening child-hood adventures in Malaya to journalistic experiences in Vietnam and America, Thea is a magnet to high drama that sees her caught up in intrigues that are explosive and dangerous, both overseas and in Australia.

Her refuge is in southern Tasmania with wine maker Peter Torrance, the love of her life who, despite her restless lifestyle, she finally marries.

The calming effect of the vineyard nestled in a blue gum valley, reverberates through the story as a recognised safe haven from a career spiced with fear and the horrors of war and death.

Fletcher's skilful imagery transports readers to various

The first session is free, but it is anticipated that regular sessions for those keen to build skills and knowledge will follow throughout the season and these will incur a small fee.

Registration is essential. Please contact Eve Berne on 0427 695 121. locations around the world and envelopes them with the sensations associated with the climate, landscape and culture of each country.

The Tasmanian scene is an added bonus for people who know and love the area and, while giving the whole story a local focus, it also highlights the value of local viticulture.

With its fast moving action, intrigue, romance and superb imagery, there is plenty of scope in this novel to please a wide range of readers.

JH Fletcher is the author of eighteen novels, numerous short stories and plays for radio and television. Educated in England and France, he travelled and worked in Europe, Asia and Africa before emigrating to Australia in 1991.

He now lives in Mole Creek. To enter a draw to win a copy of the book, email general @meandervalleygazette.com Let us know what you like best about the Gazette. Entries close 21st August.

Quamby Fly Fishers Club has regular meetings, presentations, activities and fishing trips. Meetings are on the first Wednesday each month at the Rotary Hall, Deloraine.

The club can also be found on the Meander Valley Community Directory website.

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Meander Valley Gazette NEWS & EVENTS August 2018 7



Samaritan's Purse volunteers Bernadette Whitcombe and Mark Leonard work together packing samaritan boxes in Westbury.

Samaritan in a shoe box

By Lorraine Clarke

THE DAYS when our children play happily for hours with an empty cardboard box are sadly far too few.

Imagine the delight of a child so poor that he or she has never had even an empty box, on being presented with a shoebox crammed with goodies from an unknown faraway friend!

Samaritan's Purse is an international charity which packs and distributes shoeboxes full of love and treasure for children in impoverished countries. Mark and Dorothy Leonard from Westbury, Regional Co-ordinators who have been putting heart and soul into this for many years, would love to share their experience with you.

In 2017, Meander Valley

residents contributed 700 of Tasmania's total of 16,400 boxes which went to Cambodia. This year, they are aiming to delight 18,000 needy children with Christmas boxes. Collection date is in October, so there is still time for families, groups and individuals to get involved in this worthwhile endeavour that can change a child's life.

Bernadette Whitcombe, another Regional Co-ordinator, began packing boxes with her young family. "It teaches our children to share," she explained. "For many recipients, this will be the first present they have ever received."

Boxes are graded for boys or girls according to age groups. All items packed must be safe and new. A helpful brochure lists categories of items suitable for stuffing boxes. Some-

thing to Wear, Something to Love, Something Special, Something for School, Something to Play With, Something for Personal Hygiene.

A hat, T-shirt or sandals and soft toys are good choices. Skipping ropes, tennis balls, a cloth carry bag to hold treasures when the box wears out. Soap, a face washer, toothbrush and scrunchies are excellent inclusions. Finger puppets, a musical instrument, stickers, marbles, a wind-up torch. A photograph and a personal note from the donor makes the gift special.

Samaritan's Purse is run by volunteers. There are no administrative overheads to deplete funds donated to them. In-state transport of completed boxes is generously provided by several trucking companies. It is only when the

filled containers leave Australian shores that fees accrue.

To cover printing plus international shipping and distribution costs, it is asked that a \$10 note be included in every box. Printed boxes can be obtained through Samaritan's Purse, or wrap a shoebox in attractive paper, sized to fit on an A4 sheet.

Volunteers work in many countries, liaising with officials who may be wary of foreign intervention, accurately numbering children to ensure that nobody in a village misses out, and personally handing out gifts at each destination. They relate heart-warming stories of joy as children open their cache of treasures.

A fundraising High Tea to support this year's effort will be held at the Westbury Baptist Church on Sunday 19th August at 2.00 pm. RSVP by 12th August to Mark or Dorothy on 6393 2422, or Bernadette on 0448 577 409.

Hydro grants

THIS YEAR Hydro Tasmania's annual Community Grant Program has awarded two of its grants to services in Meander Valley.

Mole Creek Opportunity Shop will use its grant to fund maintenance and revival work to extend being a community focal point beyond its three decades, giving volunteers, averaging an age of 80, heating for the first time.

Deloraine House will assist "Harvest Helpers" maintain its programme of preventing excess fruit wastage through preservation for use in an emergency, as food for people in need, or as catering at community get-togethers with its grant.

Applications for Hydro Tasmania's 2019 Community Grant Program open in February. For more information, visit www.hydro.com.au/community/community-grants.





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August 2018 **FEATURE** Meander Valley Gazette

SHORT MANAGER VILLE

Part of the delicate universe found on the forest floor at Fairy Glade.

Photo by: Jade Hallam

Quamby's enchanted glade

By Tara Ulbrich

THE PEAK of Quamby Bluff is an identifying silhouette on the horizon of the Meander Valley. Along the high street of Deloraine it seems as if the buildings have parted so you can see its form.

Residents of the area use 'Quamby' as a weather station. Snow on top? Sun shimmering off wet dolerite? Less often enjoyed is a direct contact with the mountain. For this, a trip to the Fairy Glade is recommended.

From the roadside-parking bay, it's a mere a ten-minute stroll and a walker is already passing through chin-high bracken into tall melaleuca forest. Mist rises from still pools. Whatever the forecast, this microclimate is moody, the light, the bark, the fallen branches, the dulled effects of sound.

At first glance only the

verdant moss rocks offer proof of vibrant life. But getting down at ground level opens up a delicate universe.

Soon the forest shifts into a dogwood stand so dense you might have to turn sideways to pass by. Throughout the walk huge tree-fall suggests the trespass of some giant, prehistoric creature, one that has noisily wrecked havoc. Can it only be the forces of decay and wind?

Keep following the red arrows. There is no signpost to declare you've arrived at the Glade. As the path builds to climbing you can turn back at whim. After around forty-five minutes of walking a scree slope is reached.

Consider taking photographic images as a report for those back on the lowlands. They might not believe all you've seen.

Mayor hands in his chain

By Craig Perkins

IN OCTOBER this year, local government in Tasmania will go to the polls. I recently announced that I have decided not to re-contest.

When I was first elected to the Council nearly nine years ago, I made a commitment to myself that two terms on Council would seem to be a fair contribution, assuming I was re-elected a second time. So some months back, I started to reflect on that commitment, resulting in my decision to not continue.

It has been a huge privilege to have been an elected representative of our community for those nine years. I am even more humbled to have been your mayor for seven of those years.

I don't feel that I have been anything other than a servant of our community, clearly never an expert, but most importantly never anything more than a community member. I would certainly encourage any member of our community to put your hand up. I would also encourage more women and younger people in our community to nominate for a role.

What have I learnt during my time on Council? The first thing is that there are so many people in our community who participate and engage in so many community activities. As an elected member, whilst we have our own personal view on matters, engaging broadly with our community enables us to make informed decisions. Secondly, I have learnt that feedback from our community, no matter how positive or negative should be listened to and respected.

I hope that I have represented you well. I hope that I have listened to you. I hope that I have earned your respect. You certainly have mine! But it's now time for someone else.

I want to say a big thank you to the staff of Meander Valley Council. They are awesome and we are very fortunate to have such a committed bunch of employees making our little patch the wonderful place it is.

Thank you to my work colleagues at the RDA Tasma-

nia Committee, where I have tried to balance a full-time role with my Council duties for the past nine years. They will be seeing more of me now!

And finally, a huge thank you to my wonderful partner Leith, my daughters, Georgina and Rebecca, my family and friends who have given me so much support along the way.

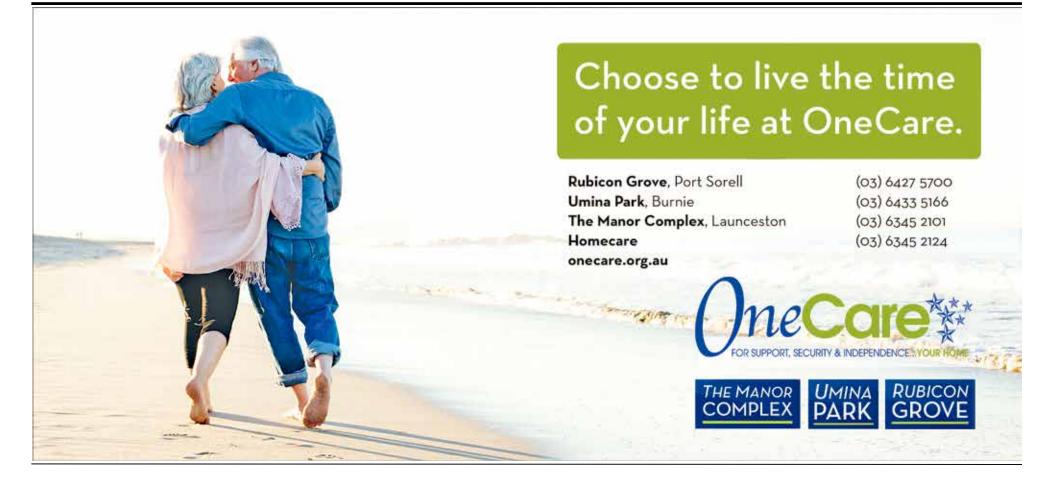
Hopefully between now and the end of October I will be able to say thanks to many of you before my term concludes.

2018 Local Government Election Calendar

Sat 8th Sept - Notice of Election 9.00am Mon 10th September -Nominations Open 6.00pm Thurs 13th Sept - Rolls Close 12 noon Mon 24th Sept - Nominations Close 12 noon Tues 25th Sept - Announcement of Nominations 10.00am Tues 30th October - Close of Polling



Mayor Craig Perkins will not recontest the upcoming Local Council election in October. Photo supplied.



FEATURE August 2018 Meander Valley Gazette



Lexie turns 80

By Hayley Manning

CONGRATULATIONS Lexie Young who celebrated her 8oth Birthday and OBE (admission to the 'over 80's' club) at the Rotary Pavilion on Saturday 7th July.

A large party of family and friends connected to the Meander Valley region and Lexie, in one way or another, returned to help commemorate the milestone birthday.

You may recognise the Deloraine elder as one of the three ladies in the Four Roses flour advertisements that have been so successful. Lexie and the other 'roses' Jan Atkins and Sandra Atkins were asked to do a series of ads for TV and radio.

Lexie has volunteered tirelessly for many organisations over the years, including the Red Cross since 1976, and Lexie's Town and Country, a column she wrote for the former Western Tiers community newspaper for 20 years, but she cites her daughters' achievements: Karen's admittance to the bar in 1990 and the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) awarded to her eldest daughter Merrilyn this year, as her proudest moments.

Some personal highlights include: winning Australia's Fastest Knitter competition at Hobart in 1969, and the exhilaration she felt when most of the spectators were cheering her on. And The Yarns Artwork in Silk where "we got to meet so many new people who offered so many new skills."

In May of this year Lexie says she was "totally surprised" when presented with Rotary's Paul Harris Fellow Award for community service. "When Rotary President Gayle Plunkett started a speech describing the winner, I turned to Merrilyn and said 'that sounds a bit like me.'"

Life hasn't always been 'a bed of roses for Lexie. She has endured her share of hardships, including the loss of her husband six years ago,

A brew to gladden the heart

By Karl Gammler

THERE ARE many reasons a person decides to have a go making beer at home.

The first reason for most people is usually financial motivation. But I am always hearing sentimental stories about helping dad, granddad or an uncle out in the shed making beer...

Whatever it is that helps you decide to take the first step, it can be a hugely satisfying hobby.

There is a kind of magic that happens every time we pour ourselves a beer that is a concoction purely designed by oneself. To have total control over all aspects of the brewing process, the satisfaction is enormous.

We are entering the modern era of beer-making at home, and there has never been a more exciting time to be entering this world.

The cost of semi-automated, miniature breweries is quite reasonable and these machines are becoming more readily available, and the equipment and ingredients readily accessible.

Nowadays, we can make beer in the comfort of our homes which can easily surpass commercial equivalents and that can compete with the best of craft breweries that are springing up everywhere we look.

Whether it is all-grain, extract or a mixture of both, the available options are seemingly endless.

You could actually brew the same extract all year and never have the same beer twice, (unless you've made something you're happy with and do not want to experiment any more.)

The days of being offered a homemade beer at a mate's place and secretly thinking, "Hello, is he trying to poison

attributing this to

the diverse range

of friendships she

has made, good

humour and the

habit of writing

a list everyday to

me or what?" are long gone.

Now you are eagerly waiting for your host to pull out a sample bottle or a beer from his kegorator, so you can tip your commercial swill down the drain and ask, "What have we got this time?"

As with any hobby, you can spend bucketloads of cash, but you really don't need to, when first starting out. With a basic starter kit you can make really good beer with a minimum of equipment. It's what you do with the equipment that counts.

The completely uninitiated will ask, "Where do I start?"

You will definitely need a fermenting vessel (FV). Food grade plastic is fine - it's what I still use. The FV will need to have a tap with sediment reducer, thermometer,

grommet and airlock.

Also on your checklist should be: sanitiser, cleaning materials, hydrometer, stirring paddle, bottlebrush (if bottling), and bottle filler (little bottler).

As with any hobby, you can spend bucketloads of cash

You could be lucky enough to have these items gifted to you. That's how I came by my first two fermenters.

You can also go to your local home brewing store (LHBS) or shop online and just purchase a starter kit.

Or, you can do worse than look for private ads (such as Gumtree). Unwanted Christmas present starter kits seem to pop up regularly.

You will also need access to a kitchen, plenty of water and a kettle.

What are you going to do with the finished product? (Besides drink it!)

You will either need to bottle or keg your beer. I still bottle, but kegging has become a lot cheaper. If you are bottling, will it be in plastic or glass?

Glass is cheaper but you will need a capper and caps (crown seals). Plastic bottles (PET) can be purchased from your local home brewing store or online and should be included in a starter kit.

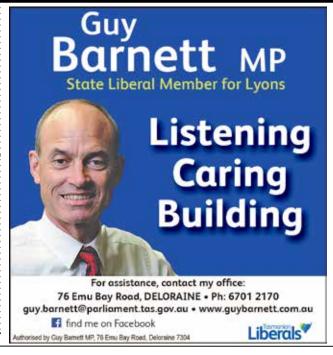
Glass bottles can also be sourced from a tip store. Twist offs will work, but crown seals are better.

Next time: Brewing your





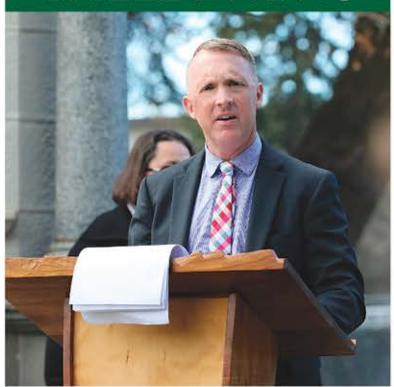
Email: allweedsolutions@bigpond.com





Also in Launceston at G1, 26 Elizabeth Street 6331 5838

VALLEYVIEWS



Above: Mayor Craig Perkins delivers a speech at the NAIDOC Week celebration held along the Kooparoona Niara Cultural Trail in Deloraine.

This month we celbrated NAIDOC Week. More than a hundred people attended the event which was held by the Meander River, along the Kooparoona Niara Cultural Trail in Deloraine.

The event, organised by Colony 47 was a resounding success and was based around the theme "Because of her, we can", which recognises the spiritual significance women have in Aboriginal culture. NAIDOC Week brings people together from a variety of backgrounds and the Kooparoona Niara Cultural Trail increases the visibility of Aboriginal history in the area.

The social benefit of this is immesurable, and I thank all who were involved in organising what was a wonderful cultural experience for all.

In October this year, Local Government in Tasmania will go to the polls and I have made the difficult decision to not re-contest.

It has been a privilege to have been an elected representative of our community for nine years. I am humbled to have been your mayor for seven of those years. It's now time for someone else.

I've never considered myself as anything but a servant of our community, never an expert, never anything more than a community member. To our community, I hope that I have represented you well. I hope that I have listened to you. I hope that I have earned your respect. You have certainly earned mine!

There are many people in our community that give so much. One of my pleasures of being mayor, is meeting, witnessing and recognising all the wonderful contributions that people in the community have made.

I want to say a big thank you to the staff of Meander Valley Council. They are awesome and we are very fortunate to have them committed to making our municipality the wonderful place it is.

Lastly, a huge thank you to my wonderful partner Leith, my daughters, Georgina and Rebecca, my family and friends who have given me so much support along the

Becoming a Councillor is a rewarding experience and by undertaking the role you will learn new skills and make a real difference in the community. Support is available and information about the role for prospective candidates can be found on the Local Government Association of Tasmania website.

Nominations open are from 10 September until 24 September 2018, and I encourage anyone with an interest to consider it.

Mayor, Craig Perkins

Meander Valley Council Delivers 2018-2019 Budget

Meander Valley Council adopted its budget for the 2018-2019 financial year at the July Council meeting.

'We have been very conscious to deliver a reasonable budget despite external factors and a large capital expenditure program including unexpected flood remediation works,"- Mayor Craig Perkins

On average, residential properties will see their annual General Rate increase within the range of around \$29 for a property in Mole Creek to around \$42 for a property in Prospect Vale. These amounts include the State Government Fire Commission Contribution.

There have been a number of external factors that have impacted the budget and additional costs associated with infrastructure planning which is necessary to meet the community's road network and stormwater requirements. Despite this, Meander Valley Council continues to have the lowest General Rate in Northern Tasmania.

The total rates and charges income in 2018-2019 equates to about \$12.4 million and goes some way to funding Council's total operating expenditure of \$19.9 million.

"I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and staff in developing a responsible budget with an eye on our longer term financial sustainability. With this in mind, Council will remain very cognisant of expenditure now and over the coming years," Mayor Craig Perkins

The budget includes an extensive capital works program. This is the program from which Council works to replace, upgrade and build new infrastructure such as roads and bridges. Some of the community infrastructure Council committed to in the budget is outlined below.

2018 - 2019 Community Infrastructure Overview

- The replacement and upgrade of 11 bridges in the areas of Rosevale, Western Creek, Golden Valley and Bracknell
- The construction of two new netball courts in Deloraine
- The construction of a new playground at the Blackstone Recreation Reserve
- Repairs and upgrade to Black Hills Road, Westbury
- Bracknell Community Hall building refurbishment
- Stormwater infrastructure improvents in Kimberley
- Repair and upgrade of Railton Road
- AFL lighting upgrades at Prospect Vale Park

For a detailed copy of the 2018-2019 budget visit www.meander.tas.gov.au

Plans underway for upgrade in Westbury

Plans for the upgrade of The plans outline the information session and Ground Clubrooms are progressing through finalisation and planning stages.

After a public meeting held earlier this year, a number of motions were passed which saw the project get underway with a clearer objective established.

After further consultation. architects have developed a revised set of designs for the upgrade.

the Westbury Recreation repurposing of the existing the public meeting held building to incorporate changerooms for both teams and umpires and a separate but adjoining building that will form a multipurpose function space.

> Earlier this month an information session about the progress of the project was held in Westbury.

> "I'd like to thank everyone who came along to the

earlier in the year. The importance of this upgrade and the Recreation Ground itself is evident with the ongoing involvement of the community and local clubs. We value and appreciate your feedback," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

The revised plans will now progressed through the planning application

Councils have a significant impact on the lives of all Tasmanians, enabling economic, social and cultural development, supporting individuals and groups, and providing a wide range of services for the wellbeing of the community.



It's your Meander Valley - vote for the representatives you want.

By voting you can help influence what sort of place the community will be. Talk to other people you know and encourage them to vote too. Almost everyone over 18, living, owning or leasing property in Meander Valley can be eligible to vote.

- You can vote if you are on the State electoral role and are resident in the Meander Valley Council area (you don't have to own a property).
- You can vote if you own or manage property in the Meander Valley Council area but are not resident, but you need to complete an enrolment form as an owner/ occupier or corporate body.

You must be enrolled by Thursday 13th September. Polling is conducted by post from 9 October to 30 October 2018.

Consider becoming a Local Government Councillor

Whether you are a resident, property owner or business operator, becoming a Councillor can be the most rewarding way to contribute to your local community. It is important to have people from all walks of life represented on council. Standing for election provides you with a great opportunity to influence the future direction of the local community, learn new skills and help those who require support.

Council is a complex and vibrant organisation and there is support and renumeration available if you are elected. Visit www.lgat.tas.gov.au or call in to the Council Offices at 26 Lyall Street, Westbury for more information about this rewarding role.

Your nomination needs to be lodged by 12 noon on Monday 25 September 2018

Recognition of local Aboriginal Culture fosters community partnerships

In September 2015, Colony 47 approached Meander Council with a concept to create a cultural trail along the banks of the Meander River in Deloraine. was envisaged that the trail would recognise and celebrate Tasmanian Aboriginal (Palawa) culture, build knowledge within the community about local Aboriginal history and provide an insight into the value and significance of local flora.

As the concept evolved and expanded over time, additional cultural aspects were incorporated and it became the realisation of what was an ambitious dream, giving rise to what is now known as the Kooparoona Niara Cultural Trail. Meaning 'Mountain Spirits', Kooparoona Niara is the Aboriginal name given to the culturally significant Great Western Tiers mountain range which forms the backdrop to the Trail.

Strong community partnerships were essential in the creation of the Trail and these connections led to the development of a shared vision about the social and economic opportunities generated by the project, which has become a tourist attraction in it's own right.

The Trail was widely publicised and its development brought people together from a variety of social and cultural backgrounds. Together they participated in planting garden beds with native flora, creating and laying decorative paving and artistic stonework, developing sculptures of native fauna and installing intricate mosaic walls.

The Trail culminates at Yarning Circle. This culturally significant space incorporates decorative central fire pit depicting the Central Plateau surrounded by nine boulders representative of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Nations. More intimately, the Yarning Circle provides gathering space for people to connect, share and nurture one another, strengthening the resilience within the community.

"This communal project reconnects the Palawa stories with place and the local community. It increases the visibility of Aboriginal history in the area. The social benefits of such activities are immeasurable," Mayor Craig Perkins said.

The extent of external partners' engagement and support, contributions from volunteers and artists, the sharing of a common goal and going above and beyond initial expectations, culminated in the creation of a community delivered Cultural Trail of the highest standard.

"For individuals in a community engaged in the process of community development, healing naturally occurs in building a common language between cultures," Aboriginal Elder, Aunty Dawn Blazeley said.

The Kooparoona Niara Cultural Trail is a unique asset to the township of Deloraine and the Meander Valley region, showcasing local Aboriginal culture. Its distinctiveness is a drawcard to the area, acting as an invitation to experience the riverbank precinct and it showcases the success of cultural and community partnerships.



Want more information?

Talk to your GP

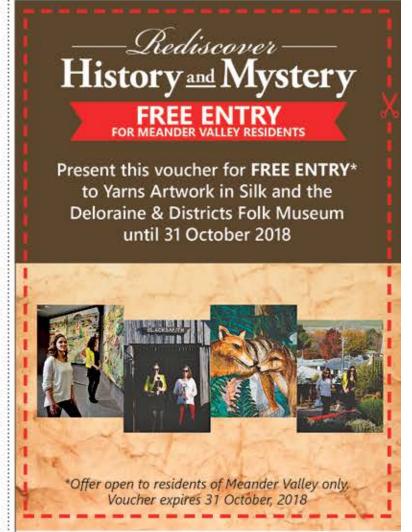
www.health.tas.gov.au

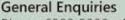
or call the Public Health Hotline on

1800 671 738

All Tasmanians aged from six weeks to 20 years will now be able to get vaccinated for FREE against meningococcal W (for those born after 1 August 1997).







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Bruce McNicol, Joanne Mitchelson and Hamish Pike will perform at Gallery 9 on 26th August.

Recital Rustica Romania

By Sharon Webb

A FEAST of classical and European folk music performed by local musicians will be presented by Arts Deloraine at Gallery 9 on Sunday 26th August.

The star attraction will be Deloraine composer Bruce

McNicol playing the premiere of his recently completed *Left Hand Piano Sonata* along with two more of his compositions, *Two Nocturnes and a Waltz Macabre* and *Ten Conversations with my Mother (Elegy).*

Mr McNicol said his compositions for piano will be the first of three of the concert performances featuring very different types of music.

"Concert goers will also be treated to a duet: Westbury's Joanne Mitchelson on harp and Hamish Pike on violin," he said.

"They will play several pieces from their extensive repertoire, including an original work by each, *Plaisir d'amour* by G. Martini, *Heartstrings* by Rolf Lovland and *Butterfly*, a traditional Irish tune."

Finally, as a trio, the musicians will present the first performance of their new world music group *Rustica Romania*, with Bruce on piano accordion, Joanne on Romanian Pan flute and Hamish on violin.

"As the Romanians themselves do, this will be a mixture of folk music and such pieces as *The Lonely Shepherd*, written by James Last in 1978 for pan flute and *Hungarian Dance No. 5* by Johannes Brahms," Mr NcNicol said.

The concert begins at 2.00pm; tickets are \$20.00, \$15.00 concession and Arts Deloraine members, and \$10.00 for youth up to 16 years, available at the door or from the Alpaca Shoppe.

Life on the farm on show

POP INTO Pixels, Deloraine's digital art gallery during the month of August to check out a selection of rural images ranging from farm animals to magnificent rural panoramas by Joanne Gower.

Now living in North West Tasmania, Joanne has taken photographs all over Australia and completed formal photographic studies in Canberra.

"Rural images are my passion and capturing the history of a family, and the generations, the people, the house, the surrounds, the animals and the feeling of a place is very important to me," said Joanne.

Photographer for the Celebration of Farmers publication, produced as part of last year's Creative Ageing Festival, Joanne has also exhibited her works at the High Court in Canberra as well as winning a number of art show prizes.

Pixels Digital Art Gallery is located in the Deloraine Online Centre at 21 West Parade, Deloraine. It is open from 10.00am - 4.00pm weekdays and from 10.00 - 1.00pm on weekends.

Bopping a la Bollywood

By Wendy Laing

HAVE YOU ever thought about learning to dance Bollywood style?

The Deloraine Neighbourhood House now hosts Bollywood dance classes on

Saturday mornings.

They are run by Pooja Thakkar Noshi, a professional Bollywood dancer who has been teaching this style of dancing for eight years.

Based around the popular

Indian film genre, this type of dancing fuses classical Indian dance steps with folk, hiphop and free form.

"Bollywood dancing is suitable for all ages," Ms Noshi said, "It is upbeat and energetic, and most of all fun to do."

At present classes are held from 10.00 am to 11.00 am once every fortnight. You do not need special clothes; just track pants and a t-shirt.

The next classes will be held on Saturday, 11th August and Saturday 25th August 2018.

To learn more about this style of dancing, or if you wish to attend a class, please phone Pooja on 0475 608 062 for further information.





Meander Valley Community Grants Program

Apply Now

Drop into your nearest branch at 49 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine or phone 6362 4801 to discuss your organisation's grant application.

'Supporting local community projects.'





Deloraine & Districts Community Bank® Branch

Photo by: Mike Moores

Pooja Thakkar Noshi teaching Bolly-

wood style at Deloraine House.





Chicken soup, perfect for a hearty lunch to warm the soul.

Roast Chicken Soup with Ginseng Spice

By Wai Lin Coultas

THERE IS nothing more comforting then a roast chicken as an easy dinner; especially when there is leftover succulent meat for whipping up an aromatic and tasty broth that marries traditional western stock from roast chicken bones with age old Chinese essence of brewing and serving chicken soup, perfect for a hearty lunch that warms the soul after tending the garden on a nippy morning.

Ingredients

1/2 roast chicken breast, torn

into chunks
2 large carrots, cut into 1 cm
thick discs
2 red onions, peeled and
quartered
1 large potato, cut into 1.5 cm
thick cubes

7 button mushrooms, quartered
1/3 cup frozen peas
1/3 cup frozen corn kernels

41° South Tasmania ginseng spice For the chicken stock* 800 g roast chicken bones (approximately from 4 roast

1.2 l boiling water 2 carrots, diced

chickens)

4 stalks celery, diced 2 onions, peeled and diced lodised salt Crack black pepper *Note: Can be advance prepared and frozen, for making fresh roast chicken soup another day.

Instructions

- To make the stock, add bones, water and vegetables into stock pot, bringing to boil.
- 2. Simmer covered for 1 hour before straining out the bones and vegetables.
- **3.** Return clear stock to pot, seasoning with salt and pepper.
- **4.** Add carrots, onions, potato and mushroom to stock, bringing to boil.
- **5.** Over a medium flame, simmer covered for 20 minutes.
- **6.** Add chicken, simmering covered for another 5 minutes.
- 7. Add peas and corn, simmering for a further 5 minutes before seasoning with ginseng spice.
- 8. Serve hot with crusty multi-grain bread and with teriyaki sauce laced to taste with finely diced red and green bird's eye chillies for dipping the chicken.

Serves 2

Social media holiday

By Matilda Page

HAVE YOU ever realised how popular selfies have become?

I searched the definition of selfie on Google and it said, "a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and shared via social media." What surprised me though is that underneath this definition was written,

"Occasional selfies are acceptable, but posting a new picture of yourself every day isn't necessary".

So my question to you as a reader is, do selfies show that people have self worth, that they are happy with who they are and how they look, or are selfies just part of a massive popularity contest where everyone says "look at me"? Or, maybe people feel that they need dozens of likes and comments in order to feel valued and loved?

Some people try to portray their life in a perfect light through what they post on social media, which includes

selfies. A college student from the Meander Valley area said, "I think everyone is guilty of this at one point or another, but doing so is putting ideals onto younger people and giving them an unrealistic view on what their world should be."

In today's society, it is often difficult to distinguish the difference between what is real and what is fake. We only see what individuals want us to see through what they post.

Recently, I chose to participate in a "break from the fake" where I did not go on social media for seven days. The results were worth it. By taking up this challenge I was able to focus on what was around me, instead of what was in my hand. I was able to socialise with the people right in front of me, instead of being too distracted by those elsewhere.

I accomplished so many more tasks during this break without the constant pressure of social media and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I challenge and encourage YOU to give it a go and see for yourself.

In the Garden with Nell Carr



Geranium sanguineum

IT IS odd to be talking about drought resistant plants in a month when rivers are running "bankers" and average rainfall to the third week in July at the Western end of the Valley, has already exceeded the historical average.

At time of writing 147mm of rain has been recorded, and more is predicted. The dwarf Geraniums, or Cranesbills, as distinct from the larger and more showy frost tender Pelagoniums, are tolerant of frost and many have deliciously scented foliage.

The Meadow Cranesbill, *G.Pratense*, has single flowers of purest white or pale blue, and *G maculatum*, the American Geranium, is reputed to have medicinal properties.

Passers by will have noticed in the beds of the Commonwealth Bank in Deloraine, the bright red, deeply cut winter foliage of Geranium sanguineum, the Bloody Cranesbill, in the lower bed, while in the upper bed in the same bank

the mauve flowers and green foliage of the same species are still evident.

Possibly the lower bed gets more winter sunshine than the upper one, but in any case all stages of this useful ornamental plant are attractive.

In the vegie garden:

If the soil tends to be acid, beds destined for green peas should have been limed already. It is not advisable to sow if the soil is still very wet.

Make rows 40 to 50cms. apart in loose, moist soil. Spread some seed raising mix in the bottom and press seeds into dark, damp soil 3 or 4 cms. apart. Some experts recommend sowing in cold districts in June and July, however, if there is a late frost when peas are flowering, the crop will be ruined.

WWOOFing...

Continued from Page 14...

"What our family eats has been strongly influenced by them," said Tara. "The expectation was that they would cook one meal per week from their culture, and we kept all their recipes in our WWOOFer guest book. We included them in family barbecues, as well as normal household duties.""

After finding a situation which might suit them, WWOOFers negotiate their expectations and discuss special skills they may have.

"You have to supervise them and put in a lot of time. Often you have to teach them from the ground up how to use tools. We took accidental damage as part of life. The system relies on goodwill on both sides," Tara explained.

Many who arrived for a few days ended up staying weeks or months. Often returnees would bring parents with them to share their experiences.

"I don't think our daughter would have had the confidence to go to Canada this year as an Exchange Student if not for the international exposure."

Tim's advice for would-be WWOOFers is "Go for it!"

For birthday membership special offers, visit www.wwoof.com.au.

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TANIA RATTRAY MLC Independent

Member for MCINTYRE



Your Independent Legislative Council Member representing the Meander Valley community in the Tasmanian Parliament.

Looking forward to being in the community on a regular basis where I will be available

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

Meander Valley Gazette



Front L- R: Agri-Tech Consultant Laurie Hooper with Ian and Chris Dornauf; and Back Nick and Bek Dornauf with their newly installed 54 unit DeLaval Rotary E100 and Teat Spray Robot at Moltema. Photo by: Hayley Manning

Three generations of dairy Dornaufs

By Hayley Manning

DORNAUF DAIRIES at Moltema has shown they are not afraid to 'grab the bull by the horns' when it comes to adopting cutting edge farm technology.

The third generation farmers installed Australia's first DeLaval Rotary E100 and Teat Spray Robot (TSR) after extensive research in Germany and New Zealand with their Agri-Tech Consultant, Laurie Hooper. Laurie was involved in the design and set up of the \$1.6 million system and will

provide on-going support.

The TSR is an external piece of engineering mastery that has the main function of spraying teats using an advanced camera on a robotic arm that locates and sprays each teat - not the legs, tail or udder - with a measured application of disinfectant.

The 'unobtrusive' cleaning method reduces waste, minimises infection, improves udder health and features a safety system to prevent harm to the cow and staff.

Nick Dornauf said they decided on a 54 unit rotary

dairy for its comfortable size and ease of management for one person from the 'cockpit' point of control for the vast majority of the year.

"The ergonomic design of the low profile bale and the functional platform appealed to us," Nick said.

"The cows have plenty of time to consume grain as they stand on thick rubber matting for comfort and improved hoof care, while water saving jets spray the milking platform before and during milking to ensure a cleaner environment." Based on research they placed the tank and chemical room outside, giving the 'light and airy' milk shed approximately 4 meters of clear space around the perimeter.

"We built a dairy with good facilities, not just for ourselves and our staff but to attract young, long term workers into the industry."

Nick thanked Sweden based DeLaval, the Agri-Tech team and local contractors Delquip Industrial Sales, Underlin Electrical, Chris Hughes Plumbing and builder Stephen Holmes.

Tasmanian Truffles nominated for award

TASMANIAN TRUFFLES from Deloraine have been nominated for the Fonterra Australia Agriculture Award in the 2018 Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards.

The Awards are all about recognising our silent achievers, the salt of the earth. Nominations are still open in the following categories until Thursday 23rd August:

Prime Super Business Achievement Award; Prime Super Employer Excellence in Aged Care Award; Heather & Christopher Chong Outstanding Achiever Award;-MAIB Disability Achievement Award; Get Moving Tasmania Physical Activity Award; Fonterra Australia Agriculture Award; Ricoh Business Centre Hobart Community Group of the Year Award; Betta Milk 'Make It Betta' Health Achievement Award; Rural Health Tasmania Innovation in Mental, Social and Emotional Wellbeing Award; EPA Sustainability Award; University of Tasmania Teaching Excellence Award.

To submit a nomination, simply go online awardsaustralia.com/tascaa and select 'Nominate Now'. Or make the process even easier by calling 6234 9677 and and the administration team will follow up.

Great prizes are up for grabs with winners receiving either \$1,000 from Bentleys Accountants, Auditors, Advisors and a trophy or a Southern Cross Television Airtime package and a trophy.

A WWOOFing good time

By Lorraine Clarke

WWOOF AUSTRALIA has just turned 37 years old.

From hippyfied beginnings in 1972 England, Willing Workers On Organic Farms has developed into a major worldwide movement, especially in Australia which boasts the largest organic agricultural area in the world, at 27 million hectares.

Tim Doyle is a staunch advocate of WWOOFing. He moved to his 46 acre property at Western Creek 26 years ago, and began to develop his organic berry and vegetable farm. "I did it all with no money," he said. "I lived very frugally, and eventually it all came to fruition."

He soon realised the mutual benefits of sharing the load and the joy with adventurers who trade enthusiasm and labour for accommodation and training in a multitude of

organic farming skills.

Tim's first guest was a 64-year-old Swiss lady, and the youngest a helpful 12 year old girl who came with her mother, a Canadian National Park Ranger.

"There is such a range of people, from very wealthy families in Paris, or poor areas of rural Asia. They come with no skills or fully trained."

There are some challenges with people who have never had their hands dirty. Tim loves evenings with 8 or 10 people around the dinner table, who have all contributed something to the meal, from milking the cow, tending vegetables, pruning, picking berries or cooking up an international feast with the produce minutes after it is harvested.

"Everyone comments on the excellence of the food because it is all so fresh. By late summer, this place explodes with food. It is great to be able to share growing and eating it with people who gain confidence and discover, 'I can do that!'"

Since 1995, Tim has lost count of how many hundreds of WWOOFers from 27 different countries have passed through his gate, and he pays it forward by WWOOFing in Japan.

Mark and Tara Ulbrich hosted WWOOFers while their children were growing up. They offered experience of building, weed removal from native forest, milking goats, work in the family's large organic garden and handmade textiles to Asians, Europeans and South Americans who had fallen in love with Tasmania, seeking low-pressure time out.

The home-schooled kids had an instant rapport with the international guests. They learned songs in other languages and geography was a living lesson.

Continued on Page 13...



Praise for Hazelbrae dining

By Wai Lin Coultas

FINE FOOD, wine and hospitality are in Nathan and Lauren Johnston's blood.

Former Stillwater head chef, Nathan has been whipping up four course set dinners at Hazelbrae House in Hagley since October last year.

Inspiration from local produce is at the heart of Nathan's Italian-influenced dinners, drawing from his years working with Gordon Ramsay and Angela Hartnett at Michelin-starred Murano and at Texture with Agnar Sverrisson in London.

On the first and third Friday each month, dinners befitting the seasons are served in a refurbished 1890's shearing shed set against the backdrop of the Western Tiers.

Rustic linen-covered tables provide a warm and friendly style of service drawing on Lauren Johnston's experience at Murano, managing events at Hamilton Court on Park Lane and Madame Tussauds in London, and at Launceston's Natural History Museum.

At TasTAFE Drysdale, Lauren teaches and manages hospitality service for the Great Chefs Series, where acclaimed chefs such as Tetsuva Wakuda, Alain

Passard, Dominique Crenn and Guilliume Brahimi are invited to mentor students. Nathan also teaches in the Great Chefs Series.

The first courses for the June dinners at Hazelbrae were a light ricotta al Forno with a subtle yet distinctive hazelnut flavour, beautifully accompanied by savoury yet gently dressed Yorktown leaves and a warming 'Brodino' chicken broth with risoni and Grana Padano, heartily welcomed on a chilly evening.

With Nathan's forte for delicious vegetables, there are also vegetarian options

Risoni with Spring Bay mussels in a lemon and white wine-laced tomato sugo was second. Feedback that it was a tad lemony was taken most seriously. The next time we dined there the risoni had just the right hint of lemon, perfected with an equally fitting note of spiced sausage.

The mains were faultless. Scottsdale pork belly with crispy crackling and melt-inyour-mouth Cape Grim beef brisket with hints of fennel demonstrated that expensive cuts are not needed to work culinary magic.

Accompanying sides included celeriac to die for, baked or roasted. The simplicity of shallots roasted in garlic and thyme was only overshadowed by the gutsy flavours of grilled Brussel sprouts with confit shallots and capers.

Pastry Chef, Karen Johnston, capped it off with a deconstructed lemon tart and hazelnut icecream, crunchy salted roast hazelnuts under a citrus tang of soft 'creamed custard' paired with feathery shards of crispy baked buttered filo.

On the second occasion, Nathan's mum demonstrated her intuitive feel and practice for baking with icecream and a hazelnut brownie, delivering an added layer of light spongy sweetness gently toning down the nuts' saltiness.

With Nathan's forte for delicious vegetables, there are also vegetarian options for the dinners. First courses were handmade fettucine laced with lemon, parsley and Grana Padano and mushroom risotto. Toasted cauliflower steaks with mushrooms and spiced hazelnut crumb were replacement mains.

Dinners at Hazelbrae House are \$55.00 per head, with wine pairings an additional \$30.00.

Hazelbrae House is also open for lunch and cake daily at 127 Hagley Station Lane in Hagley. Weekend brunches, weddings, private events, offsite catering and hazelnut farm tours offer plenty of opportunity to savour the welcoming service: their magnificent crafts. and wickedly delicious food.

DELORAINE B&B Drumreagh

has topped the pops for this

quarter's Tasmanian Tourism

overall rated Tourism operator

in the North over the second

quarter, April to June, based

on a minimum of 25 customer

reviews about their business

across 175 online travel review

a finalist in the 2018 Tasma-

nian Tourism Awards Peo-

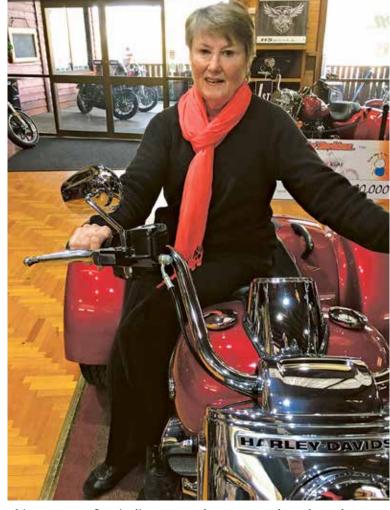
ple's Choice Category to be

They will go on to become

sites during that period.

They were voted the best

Awards People's Choice Poll.



This year's Craft Fair director, Lesley Dare. Photo by: John Dare

Revving up for Craft Fair

THE NEW Tasmanian Craft Fair Director, Lesley Dare, opens the throttle on this year's Fair with new exhibitions that offer something for everyone.

From working displays involving master artisans in stone and wood carving from Cambodia, to rediscovering the story of Hydro wood. Plus there will be masterclasses from top Tasmanian fine timber artisans and displays of

You can learn how to fly

announced at the Tasma-

nian Tourism Awards Gala

David & Glenys Sheppard,

Drumreagh is located on River

Rd, just outside of Deloraine.

win Glenys said, "I was gob-

smacked when I heard. I had

no idea such a competition

existed or why people would

vote for us." From speaking

with her further, it becomes

obvious why Drumreagh is a

favourite. Visitors are treated

Owned and operated by

Commenting on their

in November.

Drumreagh: people's choice

fish with top Tasmanian Fly Fishers, try a new craft or join in the conversation on creating a 'Beyond Blue Farmer'. Along with parades of wearable art and costumes from the local dramatic society, you can watch glass blowers in action.

This year's Craft Fair, from the 2nd to 5th November, offers a great opportunity for the entire family to experience Australia's largest working Craft Fair, organised by the Rotary Club of Deloraine.

to fresh baked muffins when

they arrive, families with

children are invited to help

feed the farm animals that

live on the property, and

breakfast is bacon and home-grown free range eggs

or continental with a selec-

tion of jams. All this, located

on a picturesque property

complete with 160-year-old

Also included in the top

10 people's choice for the

Northern region were Mean-

der Valley tourist attractions



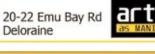


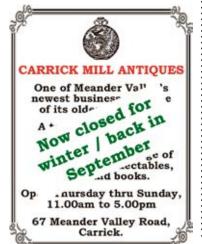
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3

5

1

4

3

1

6

Sudoku

9

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!

6

3

6

Treat yourself

WHAT BETTER way to celebrate the first week of spring than a get together with friends at the Deloraine House High Tea.

Organisers Mary Tyson and Charlie Keane, who volunteer at Deloraine House, have been busy collecting an array of traditional cups, saucers, plates and tea pots to make the experience something special.

Mary and Charlie are experienced in hospitality and have been trying out recipes all winter to create a delicious selection for the High Tea menu.

The Deloraine House High Tea will be an event to not miss. It will be held at Deloraine House on Wednesday 5th September 2018 at 10:30am, serving an assortment of scones, finger sandwiches, petite sweets and more. Gluten free is also available by order.

This is a fundraising event to support Deloraine House programs, events and community activities. Tickets are to be pre-purchased before the day and cost \$25.00 per person. Limited seats available, so to avoid disappointment buy your tickets early. Sorry, no walk-in's on the day. Tickets on sale now at Deloraine House Ph: 6362 2678.

Crossword												
1	2		3		4	5		6		7	8	
9								10				
11							12					
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15	16									17		
18			19		20					21		
22									23		24	
						25		26				
27						28						
29								30				

Across

- 1 Gossamer (6)
- 5 Like many Sherpas (8) 9 Affliction of cats and other fur-lickers (8)
- 10 Skin condition sought by beachgoers (6)
- 11 Science of logic, quantity, shape & arrangement (Abbr.)(5)
- 12 Tacit (7) 15 Owner of a business (10)
- 17 Inert gaseous element (4)
- 18 Sour (4) 20 Place for American children
- in the holidays (6,4) 22 Galilee native (7)
- 23 Spread out (5)
- 27 Small restaurant (6) 28 Elongate (8)
- 29 South American boa (8)

Event

30 Person in the petroleum

Down

- Spoiled child (4)
- Autopsy (4-6)
- 7 Wool fat (7)8 Private room on a passenger
- 14 Stub (5)
- 16 Economic decline (9)
- 19 Severe (7)
- 25 Entreaty (4) 26 Keen on (4)

industry (6)

- 2 D-Day beach (5)
- Navy vessel (7)
- World's longest river (4)
- Wool fat (7)
- 13 Hollywood (10)
- 21 Uppercase (7)

- ship (9)

- 24 Cub leader (5)

Crossword - August 2018 Solution

8

4

8

9

3

Details

Sudoku - August 2018 Solution

8

	3	6	9	2	8	9	Þ	7	1
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:	1	2	9	6	L	8	9	7	3
•	9	t	1	9	1	3	2	6	8

Events Diary

Date and Time

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Visit and like our Facebook page for regular competitions www.facebook.com/raspberryfarmcafe



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!

Until 24th August 8.30am - 5.00pm	Natures Miniature Jewels	Meander Valley Council Office Foyer, 26 Lyall St. Westbury Free photographic exhibition						
Until 7th September	Overload Art Exhibition	eloraine Hospital Gallery, East Barrack St. Deloraine Raising awareness for Haemochromatosis						
Every day during August	'Life on the Farm' by Joanne Gower	Pixels Gallery, 21West Pde, Deloraine						
Every Tuesday 10.30am - 2.00pm	Emergency Financial Help	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine call 6362 2678 to book appointment						
Every Saturday 10.00am - 11.00am	Bollywood Dance (for fitness)	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Bookings essential Ph: 0475 608 062 Classes for all ages						
Sunday 12th August 10.00am	Garage Sale Fundraiser for Stair Climb	Deloraine Fire Station, Emu Bay Rd Donations: www.firefighterclimb.org.au/ under participants name						
Sunday 12th August 10.30am - 3.30pm	Chocolate Winterfest, Latrobe	Festival celebrating everything chocolate in & around Latrobe						
Saturday 18th August 8.00am - 1.00pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom. Westbury BBQ cooking breakfast, stalls. Ph: Rob Menzie 0417 931 619						
Saturday 18th August 6.00pm - 10.00pm	Deloraine Dramatic Society "Family Cabaret"	Deloraine Arts Centre. "music, dance, opera, short plays, puppetry etc". delorainedramaticsocietypr@gmail.com						
Saturday 18th August 9.00am - 1.00pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drive and Caveside Road, Contact Ross Quick 0413 681 252						
Sunday 19th August 2.00pm - 4.00pm	High Tea Fundraiser Samaritans Purse	Parklands Baptist Church, Franklin St. Westbury \$10.00pp RSVP by 12th August Ph: 6393 2422 or 0448 577 409						
Sunday 19th August 2.00pm	Tin Cup Country Singer Songwriter Show	Saint John Craft Beer Bar, St John St, Launceston \$25.00 Message Tin Cup Country on Facebook for Tickets						
Tuesday 21st August 7.30pm - 9.30pm	Australian Poetry Slam 2018 Deloraine	Empire Hotel, 19 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine More info: Ph. Yvonne 0413 321 834 (Dinner 6.00pm Ph: 6362 1029)						
Friday 24th August 10.00am - 4.00pm	Free Financial Counselling	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine call 6362 2678 to book appointment.						
Saturday 25th August 10.00am - 12.30pm	Women in Waders (Quamby Fly Fishers Club)	Huntsman Lake, Meander Free No equipment req. Sausage sizzle Registration essential Ph: Eve 0427 695 121						
Sunday 26th August 2.00pm	Arts Deloraine Classical Music Concert	Gallery 9, West Barrack St, Deloraine Tickets avail Alpaca Shoppe \$20.00 \$15.00 concession U16 yrs \$10.00						
Friday 31st August 8.00pm	Johnny Cash the Concert	Country Club Casino, Country Club Ave Prospect Vale Tickets available www.ticketmaster.com.au						
Saturday 1st September 9.00am - 1.00pm	Deloraine Showground Market	Deloraine Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine Ph: 0409 695 321 for Bookings & Details						
Saturday 1st September 1.30pm - 4.00pm	2018 Westbury Spring Flower Show	Westbury Town Hall, Lyall Street, Westbury. Entry \$2.00 Afternoon Tea \$5.00 Trade Table, Raffle						
Monday 3rd September 10.00am - 4.00pm	Free legal advice	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd. call LCLC 1800 066 019 to book appointment						
Wednesday 5th September 10.30am	High Tea funraiser	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd. \$25.00 pp Limited tickets to be pre-purchased Ph: 6362 2678						
Saturday 8th September 7.3opm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society "Death of Stalin"	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine R Comedy Drama 107m More info Ph: 0418 389 868						
Saturday 8th September 9.00 am to 1.00pm	Liffey Valley Market	Old Liffey School Contact: Jen Randall 0421 900 810						
Saturday 15th September 9.00am - 1.00pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drive and Caveside Road, Contact Ross Quick 0413 681 252						
Saturday 15th Sept. 8.00am - 1.00pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom. Westbury BBQ cooking breakfast, stalls. Ph: Rob Menzie 0417 931 619						
Sunday 16th September all day	Quamby Fly Fishing Club	Four Springs Lagoon, Selbourne Fish from boat or shore BBQ at boat ramp \$12.00						
Sunday 16th September 1.30pm	Back to Parkham Afternoon Tea	Parkham Community Hall & Church For more details phone Kaylene 0499 554 316						
Friday 21st September 6.00pm	Soup & Dessert Evening	St Marks Parish Hall, 5-7 East Westbury Pl, Deloraine \$15.00 RSVP 16th Sept. Bev 6363 6125 Carrol 0407 534 878						



Karen Smart-Pitchford from Latrobe participates in the smoking ceremony at the yarning circle.

Some not-so-secret women's business

By Antonia Howarth-Wass

NAIDOC WEEK was highlighted by ceremonies at the Cenotaph in Deloraine followed by a luncheon at the Rotary Pavilion. Melissa was Mistress of Carter Ceremonies and Auntie Dawn

Blazeley provided a welcome to country 2018, this year dedicated to the role of women within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities.

A celebration of the unique and central role of women in keeping alive the stories and

songs about land, water and family is central to cultures as old as that of Australian aborigines. Acknowledging lore, geography, history, society, astronomy, biology, food and much more than any other form of cultural inheritance and imbuing spiritual meanings which could so easily be lost.

"In such circumstances, each daughter, mother, auntie and child is essential to the strength and survival of our people" says Melissa Carter in her strong pronouncements about continued activities by her people and their involvement less in stories of sadness and more about community involvement and future opportunities which will ensure survival.

The usual flag raising ceremony took place, followed by a short speech from Mayor Craig Perkins who acknowledged the central role played by elders, past and present, to future leaders and, indeed, to the role of leadership itself.

The traditional procession to the Yarning Circle was accompanied by a short Firestick Festival along a Trail which shows a history prior to the 200-year white history, with food and animals key to land and love of country with its fruits and inhabitants as important as the people who enjoy it.

The luncheon provided traditional food such as mutton bird, rabbit stew, wallaby patties and fish, while Niecy Brown and Auntie

Dawn made decisions about awards for art work on display. Some of the recipients of the certificates of recognition were Bony, Oliver, Jasmine, Jill, Kyle and Guy. First prize went to Keah Bloomfield, second prize to Isabella Sherriff and Karen Back won third prize. Probably the most outstanding exhibit was that of Dillon Webb, with his depiction of the history of aboriginal peoples in Tasmania, especially of the Pallitorre Peoples who are local to the north-western tribe, together with 8 other tribes and 33 clans. The work described in pictures and words the evolution of an entire cultural movement which became separated from the mainland during the last glacial period.

Martin Hay of Colony 47 announced that he will be handing over the co-hosting of these celebrations to the Aboriginal Council and its local community. Melinda Horton was handed both the Aboriginal flag and the Flag of the Torres Strait Islanders in recognition of the new role, which is understood to be a national decision. And to that end, all ladies were invited to participate, presumably as equals to males, in the coming years.

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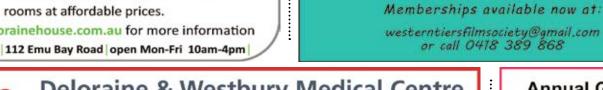




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Annual General Meeting





Meander Valley Connect Inc.

To be held on

Tuesday 18th September at 4.00pm Deloraine Online Access Centre, 21 West Parade, Deloraine

Election of office bearers, presentation of reports, appointment of auditor.

All welcome.

Victor Smith, Public Officer

Meander Valley Gazette August 2018

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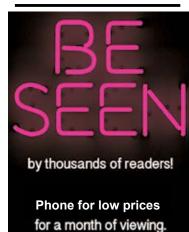
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CHILDREN OF the Meander Valley were treated to a special event during the school holidays with Westbury Play Gym opening its doors to young children of all ages.

Around 90 children attend ed with their parents and carers to enjoy jumping castles, face painting, play equipment and a sausage sizzle at the Westbury Sports Centre.

The Child Health Association of Tasmania (CHAT) Westbury Group run Play Gym for children aged o to 5 years every Thursday morning during school terms. In July they celebrated 20 years of continuous operation of Play Gym, thanks to a multitude of volunteers over the years.

For more info, find 'Westbury Play Gym' on Facebook.

Westbury Play Gym celebrates



Twins, Willow & Milo 18mths, with sibling Sloan 3yrs, go for a ride.



20 August 2018 Meander Valley Gazette



Kaiden Page (L) from the Northern Rangers and Ebony Glen (R) from the Southern Raiders under 16 Spartans team compete for the ball. The game was evenly matched resulting in a 3-3 draw. Photo by: Mike Moores.

Spartans hard to beat

By David Claridge

THE SOUTHERN Raiders U16 Spartans are the tip of the spear in NTJSA Div 2 league this year, with many strong performances leaving them clear on top of the ladder with eight wins and one draw in late July.

A founding club of the NTJSA back in 1986, the Southern Raiders have continued to field teams and be competitive.

Club President, Allister Cutler, shared how proud he is that the club is all-inclusive and has a strong mix of boys and girls amongst its 11 teams.

"There have been some kids playing with illnesses that can only come on for five minutes before needing to stop," he said.

"We try and encourage all girl's teams, there is currently one in the junior team in the competition, we've had a senior's team in previous years.

"The club is currently working on helping its players beyond junior soccer through a pathway program.

"One of the main things we have on the go is trying to work through a process whereby once kids get to the age of 16 they can't play junior soccer anymore. So the kids that want to go on and play more senior soccer can have a pathway to Launceston City," said Mr Cutler.

Currently with around 130 kids spanning over 11 teams, the club is hoping to continue building from its junior ranks.

"We are one of the smaller clubs. We're working hard on keeping our numbers to stay relevant. Big clubs are getting bigger and smaller clubs can slowly disappear," he said.

Valley Council switched on

MEANDER VALLEY Council will install an electric vehicle charger at its Westbury offices after receiving a \$4,422 ChargeSmart grant from the Tasmanian Government.

General manager Martin Gill said the funding is intended to encourage purchase of electric vehicles for the Meander Valley Council fleet, as well as personal electric vehicles for councillors and staff.

"This initiative of the Meander Val- as electric vehicle pr ley Council Sustainable Environment with current vehicles.

Committee will also result in a second charger being installed at the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre," he said.

The Tasmanian Climate Change Office states that electric vehicles are likely to be priced similarly to standard internal combustion engine vehicles by 2025. Therefore, the initial demand for electricity from the charge station is expected to be extremely low over the next few years, progressively increasing as electric vehicle prices reach parity with current vehicles.

