

THE BIGGER THE BETTER

at the top pub

Giant pumpkins on show

**> PAGE 9** 



#### LIFE IS A DANCE FLOOR

Square Dance Convention hits town

> PAGE 3



JUMPING FOR JOY!

Freshman's Day at the Westbury Showground

**> PAGE 20** 



May 2019

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ur-vear-old Malacai Chambers-White (centre front) and Deloraine Primary School classmates at the 12 ocam Deloraine Anzac Day ceremon

hata bu Mika Maara

# **Closures on Emu Bay Road**

#### **By Hayley Manning**

THE ANZ, a wellestablished bank on Deloraine's bustling Emu Bay Road has closed and a popular retail shop is set to follow suit.

The Reject Shop will close its doors on 5th July 2019. A spokesperson from the Reject Shop Head Office (Vic) issued the following brief statement. 'After taking lots of factors into consideration we have decided to close the store. Staff will be redeployed to other stores.'

ANZ Deloraine branch closed at short notice on 24th April, after many decades of service. Guy Barnett, MP, has gathered a petition to be tabled in the House of Assembly, aiming to draw attention to the effect the sudden closure has had on residents and small businesses throughout the Meander Valley. ANZ General Manager (Vic/Tas), Michael Wake, said ANZ is disappointed that leasing circumstances beyond their control led to the Deloraine branch closure. 'We were recently notified of changes to our leasing arrangement and have now reached an impasse which will see us discontinue our lease. We are working with customers and staff to ensure we can make this difficult tran-

sition as smooth as possible,' Mr Wake said. Online banking saves a bank the most money per transaction, followed by use of an ATM. Face to face customer service within a branch is the most expensive transaction for a bank. In 2017, the four major banks spent a combined 4.2 billion dollars on online and mobile banking technology; giving an insight into the future direction of banking. Mr Wake acknowledged the inconven-

ience rural branch closure would cause to a rural community.

'We understand our regional customers are often adversely affected by branch closures and we apologise for the inconvenience we know this will cause some of our customers,' he said.

#### Meander Valley Gazette

# Some of our passionate politicians

THE GAZETTE asked the following question of those politicians contesting the seat of Lyons or standing for the Senate in Tasmania.

As a candidate in the 2019 Federal Election, what one thing are you most passionate about achieving if elected?



**Justin Stringer, ACP** I WOULD like to address cost of living and put Australians first again.

Freeze politicians' pay until the country is back on track, we can also cut some post politician entitlements.

Every decision must be made in the best interest

Our mail-out to prospective representatives did not get as many responses as we had hoped. We would like to thank those who took the time to respond, even during a busy campaign.

One response was from a candidate who has since been disendorsed and has stepped back from their candidature. This response has been removed.

of our country to protect its culture, sovereignty, and economy.

I intend to fight against foreign ownership, commit to farmers instead of foreign aid, discontinue commitments to the UN, leave the Paris agreement and focus on Australian services and infrastructure.

Simplifying the tax system, cutting red & green tape in order to create new jobs and opportunities.

I am a father of two young children, I'm against the safe schools program and any indoctrination of our children.

We want to address power prices, lifting ban on nuclear, actually make use of our resources instead of just shipping them overseas, pay off the national debt and secure our future.



#### Catryna Bilyk, ALP

AS A cancer survivor, cochair of Parliament's Brain Cancer and Tumour Awareness Group, former chair of the Senate Select Committee into Funding for Research into Cancers with Low Survival Rates and a Cure Brain Cancer Foundation Ambassador, I have been a longstanding advocate for more investment in cancer care and research.

My personal experience with cancer, and my advocacy as a Senator for cancer patients and their families, have given me an appreciation for the physical, financial and emotional struggles that Australians with cancer face.

For this reason I am passionate about seeing the implementation of Labor's \$2.3 billion Medicare Cancer Plan, which will deliver millions of free consultations and scans as well as cheaper medicines for cancer patients. This Plan will dramatically reduce out of pocket costs for cancer patients in Meander Valley, and throughout Australia, so that they can focus on getting well without going broke.



Matthew Stephen, One Nation IN MY heart you'll find a rock-hard will to make Tasmania a better place for families. My father, grandfather and great-grandfather were all from Tassie.

And I've had the privilege of growing up with sweet memories of greeting my exhausted Grandad returning home from work at the Paper Mill, watching Grandma serve customers in their Burnie café and picking wild blackberries near Great-Grandma's home at Round Hill.

I'd like my children to have memories as good as I do – spending time with family growing up in Tassie.

And in order to do that we have to look after our pensioners, workers, families and small business – with policies that will protect them from unfair taxes, while helping them do business, work, thrive and flourish.

I've got a good chance of achieving my passion – because I'm part of a team who's likely to hold the balance of power in Canberra with a strong One Nation Senate voting block.



#### **Brian Mitchell, ALP**

I'M MOST passionate about improving access to services and rebuilding our regional communities.

The number one issue across Lyons is access to healthcare, the second is the rising cost of living.

Decisions by past governments to centralise, automate and cut community services has a lot to do with the issues we face today.

Too many towns have been stripped of state and federal government services in the name of efficiency and the budget bottom line.

Centrelink, Medicare, health workers, police, teachers – the list is endless of service jobs that no longer exist across country Tasmania.

Addressing this is not a matter of turning back the clock, it's a matter of recognising that communities are healthier when they have local access to services, and that some of the issues our communities face today are a result of them being hollowed out.

So that's what I'm passionate about. Rebuilding our regions. And that's what I'll continue to work hard to achieve.

#### Do you know how to help a suicidal person?

A FREE course, Suicide Prevention Training for Mental Health Carers, is oin Deloraine on Wednesday 15th May.

The course takes 4 hours to complete and participants will receive a Handbook and online Certificate of Completion at the end of their training.

It pairs with the 12 hour Standard MHFA course.

Course content will be evidence-based, with the input of mental health professionals, researchers and consumer supporters.

The training is delivered by Mental Health Carers Tasmania and an accredited trainer through funding from the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services. Website: https://mentalhealthcarerstas.org.au/ free-suicide-prevention-training-is-coming-to-deloraine-15th-may/ Facebook: https://www. facebook.com/mentalhealthcarerstas/ Registration: https://www. surveymonkey.com/r/ JG7ZTLY Venue: Deloraine House, Wed., 15th May, 9.00am – 1.00pm





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The Community Complex was a sea of movement and colour as over 600 square dancers took to the dance floor to strut their stuff.

Photo by Mike Moores

# Swinging dancers, not so square

#### **By Wendy Laing**

**DELORAINE AND the Valley** welcomed the 6oth National Square Dancing Convention this month.

Six hundred and thirty-five registered square dancers, ranging in age from 12 years to over 80 years, came from all over Australia for the event, which was held across

two venues, the Community Complex and the Bowls Club, from 24-28th April.

'The Deloraine Community Complex is amazing,' Coordinator and Caller, Di Ashton from the Launceston Square Dance Club said. 'We had a great rapport with the Meander Valley Council to help stage the event in Deloraine.' Square dancing clubs

began in Tasmania in 1952 and then went on to join the National body 60 years ago. Usually conducted in capital cities, this was the first time a National Convention had been held in a regional town anywhere in Australia.

Not only were the established square dancers having a wonderful time, but on the Sunday afternoon a public session was held, and anybody interested in learning how to square dance was invited to come along and join in.

During the Convention, the Australian National Association also held well-attended workshops on all aspects of square dancing.

'The square dances at this Convention are called the mainstream level,' Di Ashton

said. 'There are 64 moves you need to know by heart. Consistency is the keyword and once learned, you can dance anywhere in the world.'

Weekly classes in modern square dancing have begun in Deloraine and are held on Friday nights from 7.30pm to 10.00pm at the Bowls Club. Couples, singles and families are welcome to come along and enjoy a fun night of dancing and friendship. For further details contact Gary Petersen on 0499 088 680 or email tassquare@bigpond.com.





ALL Enquiries welcome, Please phone or email Guv on Phone : 0418 697 061 or 6362 2532 Email: guv-kate@bigpond.net.au

Contact Brian • 6398 1115 (northern office) brian.mitchell.mp@aph.gov.au

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# Letters to the Editor...

The usual letter from the editor will not appear this month. The Gazette management and editorial response to stories and events of last month can be read on Page 6.

OVER THE last month there have been a number of conversations in the community about what was said or not said in a meeting between Meander Valley Council and the Meander Valley Gazette on 26 March 2019.

Council has received correspondence from residents asking if there had been threats to withdraw advertising money, and asking if Council was trying to censor content or interfere with editorial decisions at the Meander Valley Gazette.

These letters were followed by a number of public questions at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 9 April 2019 which sought clarification on the same matters.

In response to these questions, it is important to recognise that Council does not have the right, or the desire to censor the Meander Valley Gazette.

Valley The Meander Gazette is an independent, local community newspaper providing an important community service. Council supports the Gazette's independence and the commitment of the staff to produce an engaging and informative newspaper, that, when warranted, holds Council to account.

During a meeting with the previous editor Council couple of matters and raised concerns about the accuracy of some specific reporting; noting that these were isolated occurrences. Council raised these matters in order to address a communication issue that risked damaging what has been a positive and respectful relationship. The intent of this conversation was to bring these concerns to the Gazette's attention, not to tell the editor how to deal with them.

did provide feedback on a

With respect to this it is worth saying that Council is not planning to withdraw advertising from the Meander Valley Gazette.

Council has advertised and will continue to advertise in the Meander Valley Gazette because we recognise that for many locals the Meander Valley Gazette is the place they go to find out what is happening in their community and at Council.

Council will continue to support the Meander Valley Gazette, because like all local businesses we want to see the Gazette thrive, grow and continue to provide an important community service.

> Yours sincerely, Martin Gill, General Manager, Meander Valley Council, 25 April 2019

I AM writing to express my views on the closure of the Deloraine Branch of the ANZ Bank.

Firstly, why was the decision made to relocate the accounts to Devonport when the majority of residents in Deloraine go regularly to Launceston, not Devonport for shopping?

Deloraine is located in the North of Tasmania, not the North-West Coast and is Meander Valley the Municipality, not Devonport Municipality. I wonder about the sound reasoning behind

Secondly, it is obvious that not much investigation was undertaken. If it had been, it would have been noticed that the building next door which has been more recently used by the First National Real Estate is now vacant and for rent and is an old bank with a strongroom, e.g. Launceston Savings Bank. Why wasn't the decision made to move next door rather than disrupt the lives of customers? How the hell are businesses supposed

I HAVE been told that your journalist, Sharon Webb, will no longer be reporting for this newspaper because the Meander Valley Council does not agree with her views on various topics.

I understand that no specific objections have been given by Council about Sharon Webb's articles – only a general complaint about the quality of her work.

If this is true then it appears to be gross interference and a breach of the principle of free speech in your newspaper.

In my view, Sharon Webb's articles are interesting and give a fair coverage of the facts. She explores a range of different topics and many readers find her work to be useful and entertaining.

If the local Council is attempting to dictate the policies of the Meander Valley Gazette, then this is a reprehensible step which should be resisted.

> Sonja Kaleski, Deloraine

AT THE March Council meeting (Item 49/2019), eight Councillors voted to spend \$30 000 on a car for the Mayor, and pay all the maintenance and running costs. This car can also be used by the Mayor for private purposes. The same motion amended Council policy, which used to say the Mayor would only be provided with a car if it was more cost-effective than paying a travelling allowance.

No rationale for this decision – cost or otherwise – was provided in Council minutes. Funny how things can change after an election. When Councillors were considering rate rises last year, the debate was all about keeping them as low as possible.

We were also told (June 2018 Minutes) that '(Council) staff numbers are low and we run a very lean organisation given the extent of the capital works program and general workload of staff'.

Buying and maintaining a car for the Mayor must be a new definition of a 'very lean organisation'.

Karen Hillman, Secretary, Meander Area Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc. :

CAN ANYONE enlighten me about the huge laurelberry tree growing in the doctors' yard in Deloraine? to their doctor. Who decided a laurelberry requires 'heritage listing'? Someone did! No one can touch this tree, evidently. Every year it drops huge amounts of purple, slippery it the doctor they were trying berries all over the footpath to see? Or Heritage Tasmania leading to the doctors' rooms. who won't let a laurelberry It has now become so rotten go? Or, is it Council's responsibility – after all, it's their footpath. that limbs are falling and it has a decided lean towards the road. Everyone is now using Concerned resident, Brian E Maroney, Deloraine : the road as their footpath.

This month the Gazette has received more letters than could be printed. Thank you to all of our correspondents.

NO MANAGEMENT is bad management.

As we have established, 38% of the Meander Valley is currently located within the TWWHA. A staggering 1258 square km.

Insufficient resources are being invested to currently achieve successful management, and land owners are stifled from managing the land and prevent these damaging fires that we have recently seen.

Many of the areas traditionally burnt and grazed by cattlemen have now become overgrown invaded by undesirable species and are now a detonator for wild fire.

Our current situation sees us with burns being hindered by government legislation, and the result in the Highlands, is the original mixed species grasslands have now been overtaken by kerosene bush.

No one disputes the beauty and magnificence of the environment that we have, but to limit the management to the point where we end up with many years' worth of fire fuel, and allowing it to burn unchecked in catastrophic summer conditions is ridiculous.

It is also creating a monoculture situation in the bushland with many of our forests in the same stage of not having been burned, which is decreasing the diversity of both flora and fauna. Many of our native species actually need fire to propagate, but an out of control, destructive summer fire is not the best way to achieve this.

With a well-timed cool burn, birds survive easily, fauna can escape, and microfauna can survive in the untouched damp areas. The result is a reduction in the fuel load so that a summer fire can be much more easily fought, and is less likely to take hold and cause the destruction of a summer wild fire.

I reiterate that no management is bad management. Tanya King



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#### **Editorial enquiries**

Contributions welcomed! Email: editor@meandervalley gazette.com Phone: 6286 8212 (leave a message, it will send an email) The editorial closing date for June 2019 issue is 24th May.

#### **Advertising enquiries**

Email: advertising@meander valleygazette.com Phone: 6286 8216 (leave a message, it will send

an email) The advertising closing date for June 2019 issue is 20th May.

#### Photo sales

Many of the photos in this publication are available for sale in varying sizes. For more information, please call 6286 8216 or email photos@ meandervalleygazette.com.

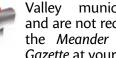
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While every care is taken, the producers of Meander Valley Gazette cannot be held liable for any publication errors in written material or advertisements. The opinions expressed, whether by paid advertisement or editorial content, do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper. Some material may be abbreviated due to space availability.

#### <sup>please</sup> Meander Valley Gazette

#### Home delivery and digital

If you live in the Meander



Who is responsible for the next step? Because, the next thing to happen, is a broken hip by someone trying to get If someone takes a fall due to this tree and its berries, who is responsible? Is it the person who fell or is

the Meander Valley *Gazette* at vour home each month, you may have a 'No junk mail' notice on your letterbox.

Valley municipality and are not receiving

this decision.

**REGARDING THE rural road**side rubbish collection service, I urge the Meander Valley Council to adopt the democratic majority wishes of ratepayers, or alternatively, adopt the opt-in, user-pay system, where those who want the scheme can pay the starting price of 200 plus dollars per annum and those who don't shouldn't be forced to pay for something they don't need or want.

Many people prefer to take their household rubbish to the tip at the same time they take their garden or other waste (that will not fit into council bins) to the tip themselves. In effect, they won't need to pay for rubbish disposal twice. They also eliminate the

to do their daily banking and

to obtain change for their tills?

Carole Tracey,

Deloraine

need to lug bins backward and forwards, in many cases, a considerable distance to the roadside.

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#### May 2019

away from fully committing to electric models. Luxury brands are ahead, as their potential buyers can afford more expensive vehicles.

Another obstacle is the lack of quick charging infrastructure across the country.

In the run-up to the federal election, both sides of politics have had to address the future uptake of electric vehicles.

Labor's electric vehicle strategy contains proposed emission standards as well as a target for 50 per cent of new car sales to be electric by 2030. Labor has also promised about \$100 million in grants

for about 200 new stations. Energy Minister Angus Taylor denies that the Liberals are against electric cars and are currently working on an electric vehicle strategy. Speaking to 7.30 he said 'What we're not going to do is tell people what cars to drive. That's just not the role of government.'

Less than six months ago Mr Taylor announced funding for an ultra-rapid charging station network from Brisbane to Adelaide via Sydney and Melbourne, with charge times around 15 minutes.

Fewer than 200 battery electric vehicles were sold in Australia last year, along with about 1,100 plug-in hybrids.

A recent Cities Power Partnership survey shows that almost 81% of local councils are looking at increasing EV uptake in their local areas.

in their council fleets.

In the Meander Valley, as part of the Tasmanian Government's Chargesmart Program, MVC has installed a 22kw electric vehicle charging station at the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre and another at the Council offices in Westbury.

'The charging units are compatible with major vehicle brands and are a first step in providing more energy efficient transport alternatives across the community,' Mayor Johnston said.

Meander Valley Council is working through recommendations from an Electric Vehicle Implementation Plan completed after an assessment of their current fleet by Sustainable Living Tasmania and The Tasmanian Climate Change Office.

The charging stations support the future transition of Council's fleet from petrol to electric and are currently available to the general public for use for free.

approximately Installed six months ago, the chargers are equipped with meters to measure electricity use with investigations under way to enable a payment system as usage increases.

'Initial estimates indicate that over the last six months, 227 kilowatt hours have been used at a total cost of approximately \$57.00,' Mayor Johnston said.

#### ADVERTISEMENT





Three-year-old Lylah Ulbrich and her friend Ted, both from Biralee, are concentrating on getting that perfect bubble, at the Deloraine House Teddy Bears' Picnic. Photo by Mike Moores





Funding for the Meander Valley Mountain Bike Trail

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# A letter from the Gazette

THE GAZETTE has been dealing with some difficult issues recently.

Because these have been made public, the Manager (Joanne Eisemann) and Editor (Elizabeth Douglass) have chosen to respond publicly.

The Gazette has found it necessary to review the ways in which representatives of the newspaper interact with the people, organisations and businesses they are dealing with.

This review was initiated by a temporary breakdown in communications with Meander Valley Council. The relationship between the Gazette and Meander Valley Council required some clarification on both sides.

Both the Gazette and Council now consider the breakdown to be repaired. The manager and editor of the Gazette have met with the council, and will continue to meet with the council, to make sure that lines of communication remain open.

The Gazette had hoped to resolve this issue quickly and quietly.

However, contrary to what we had expected, our conversations with the council and subsequent internal discussions were made public through Facebook posts, the circulation of emails, and the usual progression of social media and rumour.

Despite social media commentary not always being an accurate reflection of real events, it became very clear, very quickly, that the Gazette has many passionate supporters in the Meander Valley community.

We deeply appreciate the level of concern that has been expressed about our economic viability and editorial independence. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who has contacted us in the last month for their interest and offers of assistance. It also became clear that there is confusion about our ongoing relationship with the Council and whether they make any financial contributions to us. The Gazette's editorial integrity and our commitment to fair and unbiased reporting have also been questioned.

To make our independent status completely clear, we are sharing the following information about the Gazette.

- We are a not-for-profit, independent paper covering news and events across the Meander Valley municipality with approximately 20 000 readers.
- Gazette revenue mainly comes from the sale of advertising space that pays for part-time production and editorial staff, printing, delivery and other running costs.
- Meander Valley Connect Inc. is the organisation that supervises and advises the Gazette as well as the Online Centres at Mole Creek and Deloraine.
- Committee members of MVConnect Inc. are drawn from volunteer workers for all three organisations and the Gazette shares office space and some staff with the Deloraine Online Access Centre.
- The Gazette receives no funding from the Meander Valley Council, Tasmanian State or Federal governments.
- The Gazette has no obligations, financially or editorially, to the Tasmanian Education Department or Libraries Tasmania.
- Sponsorships from local businesses supply additional funding.

Our relationship with Meander Valley Council also seems to require explanation.

The Council pays for a double spread in the Gazette every month. This allows the

Council to regularly inform ratepayers about council activities without needing to print and distribute a separate publication. The council is solely responsible for the content and appearance of these pages.

The Gazette is always willing to engage with anyone who chooses to advertise with the Gazette, contribute stories and photos, or just read the paper. We expect that anyone should come directly to the manager or editor with any concerns they may have about the content of the paper or if they feel that they have a right to reply.

This includes Council management, the Mayor and individual councillors, because, as one of the largest 'businesses' in the valley, Council affairs are often the main topic of many stories.

It is extremely important for the Gazette to maintain a good relationship and clear communication channels with the Council. As with all who make up the 'subjects' of our stories, the Gazette tries to ensure that our reporting remains balanced.

Hearing from all parties concerned is the only way we are able to gather and cross check information, and cover all aspects of a particular story.

We can assure readers that we remain financially independent and strive to be impartial. We try to make balanced and careful judgements about what we publish.

Good communication is the essence of what we try to achieve every month.

As long as our readers find us relevant and we can continue to generate sufficient income to produce the paper each month, the Gazette is proud to keep making a contribution to the Meander Valley community and is grateful for the affection and interest that is returned.





Lynette Morris, Woolworths longest serving employee with the newest, 17-year-old Nykara Simpson. Photo by Mike Moores

#### **By Wendy Laing**

ON THURSDAY, 18th April, the staff at Woolworths Deloraine held a surprise morning tea for Lynette Morris, their longest serving employee.

Lynette has been working at Woolworths Deloraine for 50 years, and was presented with a fifty years of service badge and \$500 voucher from Group Manager, Graeme Connelly, who congratulated her on behalf of all the staff.

'She is a pleasure to work with,' Mr Connelly said.

Lynette's sister, Christine, who works for Woolworths Port Sorell was also present to see Lynette receive her thank-you gifts.

During the morning tea, Lynette received a phone message of congratulations from the Chief Executive Officer of Woolworths Australia, Mr Brad Banducci.

Phone calls were also received from the Woolworths Tasmania Operations Manager, Mr Tristram Merrit and Ms Kate Rownsley, Culture and People partner for Woolworths Tasmania.

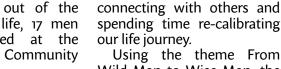
'Yes, I took my aunt's place when she married', Lynette said when asked if Woolworths Deloraine had been her first job, 'and started as a checkout chick'.

As she cut her special cake, an overwhelmed Lynette thanked Graeme Connelly and all the staff for their best wishes and the lovely morning tea.

# Men's retreat, the right direction

TAKING TIME out of the frantic pace of life, 17 men recently gathered at the Meander River Community Shed at Montana.

Philip Harback, lead facilitator of DirectionsTas, said that retreats are a fantastic way, especially for men, of



Using the theme From Wild Man to Wise Man, the retreat acknowledged that men have an essential wild side but they also have four other aspects of their makeup. These are father, spiritual man, romantic man and 'grand father'.

'If all these facets of a man are developed in a man. men will become a true wise man ...' Philip said. Ian and Neni Flowers of the Shed said that they will be hosting other useful events in the future. The retreat was co-ordinated by Men Connecting Australia and run by DirectionsTas. Men Connecting is based in Launceston and Directions-Tas in Hobart. For more information on these organisations see the Men Connecting Australia Facebook page and DirectionsTas website.







Retreat organisers: David Forrest, Men Connecting; Philip Harback, Martin Haldiman, John Nash and Geoff Madden, DirectionsTas; Nico Luciani, Men Connecting; Ian Flowers, the Shed and Men Connecting; Colin Bastick and Richard Levett, Men Connecting. Photograph by Richard Levett



Rasmus McSwain, age 11, and Hespera McSwain, age 12, both of Penna Farm, with Radella, their 16 month-old Highland Cattle entrant in the Deloraine Junior Beef Expo 2019. Photo by Mike Moores



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# Probus celebrating 30 years of fellowship Mending the rift

#### **By Hayley Manning**

THE DELORAINE Ladies Probus Club held an action-packed morning of events in April to celebrate their 30th anniversary and launch a commemorative book of the Club's history.

members Foundation Vonda Hardy, Helen Greene and Joan Loone, who were present at the inaugural meeting of the Ladies Probus at the Mountain View Motel on 6th April 1989, were given the honour of cutting the cake.

The Rotarians who conducted the meeting all those years ago – Paul Bowman, Athol Smith and Malcolm Taylor (apology) – attended the celebration as special guests, as did former foundation members Beverley Davis and Anne Haines.

Author of The Third Decade, Pauline Grey, thanked Rotary for their establishing support and continued assistance, but said the reason the club had survived for three decades was because of its members. 'Loyal members who come week after week, year after year,' she said.

'I have a theory that if thirty Probus women had been tasked with designing and rolling out the NBN, it would be up and running all



Newest Probus member Vicki Downing and Foundation member Joan Loone share a welcome cuppa.

over Australia and it would work - all the time!'

Probus began in the 1960s as a social club for retired businessmen in the UK, but under parent body Probus South Pacific Ltd, it has developed into mixed and single gender clubs in 23 countries worldwide.

Over 3000 active members of the Probus family in Tasmania share: 'Friendship, Fellowship and Fun' in a social club that gives retired people 'a new lease of life' through

monthly meetings, knowledgeable guest speakers, local outings and interstate travel.

Pauline thanked Council for a \$500 donation towards catering and printing costs and Type It Copy It for printing the book.

THE TASMANIAN Catholic Diocese has removed Father Nicholas Rynne from his position at the Deloraine and Westbury churches after an outcry from parishioners.

But after an incident on his final Saturday in the job, police have charged three parishioners with common assault.

Tasmania Police say they were called to attend a minor disturbance at Deloraine's Redeemer Catho-Holy lic Church at 6:50pm on 30th March.

Father Rynne and a 77-year-old Deloraine woman were allegedly pushed and grabbed by three other people during a minor altercation. No one was injured.

A 76-year-old woman and a 75-year-old man, both from Elizabeth Town, were charged with common assault via summons and will appear in the Launceston Magistrates Court.

The Catholic Diocese has confirmed Father Rynne has ceased work in the Meander Valley parish and is on leave.

It was also confirmed that the Dean of the North, Father Mark Freeman, has agreed to act as a moderator of the parish for the immediate future.

Provision of masses for the community in the coming weeks has been arranged.

#### ADVERTISEMENT

Labor's \$2.3 billion Medicare Cancer Plan will provide cancer patients in Tasmania with up to 120,000 free scans and 60,000 specialist consultations with no out of pocket costs.



Labor

"One in two Australians will be diagnosed with cancer over the course of their lifetime. Many patients require multiple scans over several years as part of their cancer journey, with out-of-pocket costs adding up to thousands of dollars. Cancer patients should be able to focus on getting well without going broke."

Catryna Bilyk Senator for Tasmania **Cancer Survivor** 

Authorised by C. Bilyk ALP Tasmania 3/20 Channel Highway Kingston TAS 7050.



Winning pumpkin grower Andrew Gleeson enthroned on a heap of giant pumpkins.

#### **By Hayley Manning**

GIANT SMASHING pumpkins of all shapes and sizes were weighed and displayed at the British Hotel Giant Pumpkin Competition in April.

Novice vegetable grower Andrew Gleeson took out first prize with his 57.5 kg pumpkin. The only grown vegetables a few times before,' he said, 'so there must be something in the Osmaston soil!' Andrew was reluctant to share any growing hints besides 'peeing on the plant at midnight.'

Second place holder with her 38.3kg pumpkin, aptly named Bi, Bernie Knipping of Elizabeth Town, said the competition started with a few friends discussing their vegetable-growing prowess and it just grew from there.

Growers and patrons carefully guarded the ever increasing pumpkin patch throughout the afternoon, and a new arrival would have everyone estimating its weight.

Meander resident, Trudi Buttery, came third with her 36kg pumpkin, but it was a close contest with Mole Creek Primary School's 30.6kg entry.

The competition started in September 2018, when seeds were sold for \$20.00 each. The funds were then pooled for the first prize of \$750, second

\$450 and third of \$350, organiser Tom Green said.

'We really had no idea how many people would support something like this, so the response has been overwhelming with so many taking part. It is such a community-building event we will do it again next year but with a few changes including two seeds for \$20.00, which can be planted anytime after purchase in September,' he said.

Tom would like to thank the British Hotel Fishing Club for putting on the barbecue, Roberts for lending the scales and everyone who participated.



#### Photo by Hayley Manning

Telstra tower approval at Blackstone Heights

By David Claridge

'We all live in our own towns, the petition and the arguments of the neighbouring land owners were all relevant, but when we act as a planning authority you are not supposed to take certain things into account which is hard when you are trying to act on the good of everyone.' The council stated that it was a 'difficult decision' and that some residents will be 'extremely disappointed'. Many residents have disapproved of the tower's proposed location due its proximity to houses, possible health issues, affecting future sale prices and being an eye sore. Council's initial rejection was based on strong community feedback and lack of due diligence on Telstra's part.

THERE HAS been a development with the process of a Telstra tower being built in Zenith Court, Blackstone Heights.

Since the Meander Valley Council rejected the proposal by Telstra it has been appealed and is now before the Resource Management and Appeals Tribunal.

In a media release from the Meander Valley Council, the council held a meeting and decided to support the approval of the tower being built.

Mayor of Meander Valley, Wayne Johnston spoke for the council to explain their decision change was due to new information coming available during the appeals process.

'Council have decided not to be a part of the appeals process anymore, as a planning authority we can't contest it. 'The new information which we had been waiting for from Telstra since the beginning was about the community benefit of having the tower in Blackstone, now it has been produced our hands are tied.'



- Retailers
- **Trades and Construction**

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

#### Meander Valley Council



Above: Mayor Wayne Johnston addresses the crowd at the Anzac Day service held in Deloraine

#### Meander Valley remembers

Anzac Day is one of our most important national occasions and this year I stood with many of you, who, like me, reflect on the sacrifice made by a family member. For me, it was my great uncle who was killed on active duty in Singapore.

As the meaning of Anzac Day has broadened, we commemorate all those who have lost their lives in military and peacekeeping operations in which Australia has been involved.

This year, we remembered them at Dawn Services, we

honoured them with marches and we united at our local RSL over a game of two-up.

Anzac Day continues to instil an understanding of the gravity of war, the brevity of life and the enormity of sacrifice.

The strong attendance at Anzac Day Services across Meander Valley this year demonstrates our expression of gratitude for those who fought and continue to fight for the privilege freedom brings.

Mayor, Wayne Johnston

#### Carrick Community Hall

29 Meander Valley Road, Carrick Thursday 13 June 2019 • 7pm - 8.30pm



Council holds quarterly forums in different townships to discuss local achievements and issues with residents.

A mix of Councillors and Council officers attend and all interested community members are welcome. These gatherings are intended to be informal and conversational - a sharing of information to raise awareness and to generate practical outcomes.

This particular meeting will focus on the community of

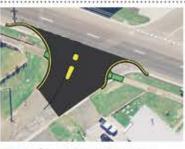
#### Walking track upgrade is all about the journey!

With recent track upgrades complete, the walk to Meander Falls is all about the journey. Located in the heart of the Great Western Tiers World Heritage Area, the Falls are one of the tallest in Tasmania with water cascading over two tiers from a staggering height of 130m.

The walk to Meander Falls commences at the Meander Forest Reserve and the 10 kilometre round trip is listed as one of Tasmania's 60 Great Short Walks.

'There have been vast improvements made to sections of the walking enabling track greater accessibility," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

Work undertaken at a number of sites along the includes levelling track of the walking surface,



#### **Beefeater Street** intersection to benefit from upgrades

As part of Council's capital works program, upgrades will be undertaken in Beefeater Street, Deloraine, at the intersection with Emu Bay Road. This work will be the initial stage of a larger project to upgrade the remainder of Beefeater Street between Emu Bay Road and Moriarty Street.

Work at the intersection will include construction of new pavement seal, kerb and channel, traffic island and pedestrian ramps in accordance with current standards to improve accessibility and safety for pedestrians. realignment and benching of banks in flood-prone areas, the construction of steps on steep inclines and the clearing of dead and intrusive vegetation.

funded Fully by the Australian Government's Community Development Grants Programme, project contributes the positively to the positioning of Meander Valley as one of the premier short walk destinations in Tasmania.

"These practical improvements further the objectives of the Great Western Tiers Tourism Association and Tourism Northern Tasmania in establishing Meander Valley as the place to go to experience World Heritage listed wilderness that is within close proximity to major town centres," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.



Above: The Meander Falls Walking Track upgrades. Photo courtesy of Jade Hallam Photography.

The Australian Government's Community Development Grant of \$150,000 fully funded the project and supported three jobs during construction. The upgrade is expected to generate increased trade and job local opportunities for tourism and hospitality businesses.

#### Community Complex cements itself as a major event centre

.....

It's not just sporting clubs At over 2,100 square meity has to offer.

Convention, comfortably more. catering for over 600 national and international With reasonable rates, it is delegates.

"The Deloraine Community days and trade shows. Complex is a multi-faceted Johnston said.

Centrally located with am- ments. ple parking for vehicles and buses, the centre is the larg- For more information phone est and most flexible meet- 6393 5300. ing venue in Meander Valley.

who are enjoying the Delo- tres, there is a heated audiraine Community Complex, torium and meeting room, event organisers are also a commercial kitchen and benefitting from all the facil- dual stadium space. A good selection of AV equipment is also available for hire in-The Complex was recently cluding projectors, screens, the venue of choice for microphones, sound systhe National Square Dance tems, a stage, lighting and

> an ideal venue for weddings, corporate events, training

facility that can be used for Available for hire seven days a huge array of events and a week, experienced Counconferences," Mayor Wayne cil staff are on hand to help with bookings, site inspections and catering arrange-

#### Carrick and surrounding areas.

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

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

> > ......

#### Need help with your recycling?

Download the free Recycle Coach app and never miss your bin collection day. With recycling tips and advice, you'll always know what goes where!

Recycle Coach™ app Coogle play



The work will be undertaken by Council's Works Department and it is anticipated that work will be completed early next financial year.

Council's capital works program is reviewed annually with the program for the 2019/2020 financial year to be approved at Council's Ordinary Meeting in May.



#### Meander Valley Council

#### Westbury set to bloom this spring!

Westbury will be filled with colour this spring with over 3000 bulbs being planted out in May.

In collaboration with Council, the Westbury Garden Club has driven the project which will see bulbs planted at the base of over 200 street trees and on the eastern bank of the entrance to the township.

President of the Westbury Garden Club Heather Clarke said, "We are thrilled that Council has embraced the initiative. Their support and involvement has ensured the project can be delivered with greater scope and will have a huge impact."

The bulbs will complement Council's street tree plantings, further enhancing Westbury's aesthetic appeal.

The Westbury Garden Club received a \$3,000 grant from Council towards the project, as well as in-kind support from Council's Works Department.

In addition to grant funding, the Westbury Garden Club has contributed \$1,000 for the purchase of bulbs, and many more have come from community donations. "This is a great example of what can be achieved when we all work together. On behalf of the Westbury Garden Club, I would like to thankCouncil, Club members and the community for their generous donations and offers of help," Heather Clarke said.

The bulbs will continue to grow and the annual floral display will be appreciated for generations to come.

If you wish to donate bulbs or lend a hand, drop into Fitzpatrick's Inn or phone Pam on 6393 1153.



Above (L to R): Council Works supervisor Colin Lockhart, Emily, Alex & Pam Swain & Jessie Scott as they prepare to plant thousands of bulbs throughout Westbury.

#### New courts offer opportunity for growth Community benefits from Council's latest grant round

#### The recent completion of two new netball courts at the Deloraine Community Complex offers team sports the opportunity they need to grow.

"Sport not only improves health, it also strengthens social connections and this project will allow more people to access courts more regularly," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

With just over 200 club patrons reguralrly using the facilities, the new netball courts will play a large role in expanding operational capacity, catering for closer to 300 participants throughout the year.

Incorporating a plexi-pave playing surface, fencing, spectator seating and sports lighting, the courts offer year round, all-weather access.

"Team sports particularly, provide a foundation for the development of resilience and collaboration. As a result of this project, netball and other sporting clubs including basketball and badminton have greater opportunity to use this valuable addition to the Complex," Mayor Johnston said.

The Deloraine Devils Netball Club helped drive the project which was funded by Sport Australia, the State Liberal Government, the Community Infrastructure Fund, the Tasmanian Community Fund, the Deloraine and Districts Community Bank, Community Sport and Recreation and Meander Valley Council. Grants up to \$3,000 are available to community organisations for projects that address community needs through special events, sport and recreation and/or community development. A total of \$15,430 was allocated to the following community projects as part of Council's April grant round:

Organisation	Project		
Children First Foundation	Special Children's Variety Show		
Deloraine Agricultural & Pastoral Society	Sheep Shed Extension		
Hadspen Cricket Club	Barbecue Area		
Make a Wish Foundation	Special Children's Christmas Party		
Meander Hall & Recreation Committee	Barbecue Shelter Upgrade		
Meander Valley Community Radio	Broadcasting Equipment Upgrade		
Prospect Hawks Junior Football Club	Coaching Equipment		
Westbury Bowls Club	Water Pipe Survey		

#### Need help applying for a grant?

Interested applicants for Council Community Grants are warmly invited to a free Grants Information Session to be held on **Wednesday 22 May** at Council Chambers, Westbury from 7pm - 8.15pm. This will be an opportunity to discuss project ideas and learn about what makes a good application. First-time applicants are particularly encouraged to attend. Please register by calling 6393 5300.

Applications for consideration in the next Community Grant round should be lodged by 15 June 2019. For information please phone Patrick Gambles on 6393 5334 or visit www.mvc.tas.gov.au

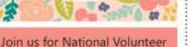






Below: The new courts are ready for action at the Deloraine Community Complex





Week, for a morning tea for all volunteers as a thank you from the Meander Valley community.

All volunteers throughout the municipality are invited to attend.

10.30am - 12pm, Thursday 23 May, 2019 Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine

RSVP to Deloraine House by phoning 6362 2678 or email info@delorainehouse.com.au

#### DELORAINE SHOWGROUNDS SATURDAY 22 JUNE 2019

Great music, delicious food, local entertainment, mulled wine, community spirit & marshmallows round the bonfire!

Pre-sale tickets available at www.trybooking.com/BCLEH

Pre-sale ticket holders go in the draw to win a family photo session with Kristy L Photography valued at \$650! General Enquiries Phone 6393 5300 Email mail@mvc.tas.gov.au Mail PO Box 102 Westbury Tasmania 7303 Former Service Office 8.30am - 5pm Monday - Friday 26 Lyall Street Westbury Tasmania 7303 meandervalleycouncil www.meander.tas.gov.au

# Thumbs up for Kanga, the Roos' new recruit

#### **By Hayley Manning**

THE DELORAINE Football Club's latest recruit - Kanga, has become quite the socialite, posing for snaps, sponsoring businesses and handing out Easter eggs around Deloraine.

It is going to be a busy year for Kanga on the field and at the club, as they prepare to acknowledge Deloraine Football Club's milestone 125 years with a host of events.

Club President, Shaun Donohue, said he wants to ensure the year is a success, not just in terms of winning games but with the local community taking part in the celebrations. And presumably Kanga and friends will be there too.

**Deloraine Football Club's new** mascot Kanga gets to know some of the club's rusted-on supporters. From left, Cooper Field, Benji Crowden (6) and Lucy Crowden (3).

Photo by Mike Moores



## **TasCOSS** election priority wish list

THE TASMANIAN Council of Social Services has a wish list of election priorities:

- a secure, affordable home for everybody
- quality health and community services for all in need income support for tough

times. TasCOSS calls on the next government to waive Tasmania's housing debt so that investment can be made in affordable housing.

Tasmania still owes about \$188 million, over \$7 million being interest re-repayment.

TasCOSS also recommends doubling the number of adults eligible for public dental services. More than 10% of Tasmanians report delaying or not seeing a dentist due to cost. Tasmania has the second-lowest rate of dentists in the country, after the NT.

TasCOSS also calls on the next Federal Government to raise the rate of Newstart by \$75.00 a week.

One-quarter of Tasmania's population lives in poverty. Lifting payments to jobseekers, single parent families and students would assist thousands of Tasmanians to cover basic living costs and lead to improved lives across the state.

# Netball not taken for granted

THE DELORAINE Community Complex has been awarded a \$50 000 Sport Australia Move It AUS Community Sport Infrastructure Grant (part of the Australian Government's \$60 million program to develop community sport infrastructure).

The grant will be used to construct two new netball courts and associated facilities, including sports lighting and fencing.

The Deloraine Netball Club will see an upgrade and extension of their facility, the addition of two full-sized netball courts, spectator seating and sports lighting allowing the facility to increase participation in netball, basketball and badminton.

The new courts will enable the club to provide netball activities throughout the year, extended training times, increased junior programs, one off tournaments and try out days.

In particular, the grant will benefit junior, female and indigenous participation in the Meander Valley area, as a result of increased and reliable access for these user groups.



JOIN THE ABF FAMILY AND HELP B **REFORMS TO SOCIAL POLICY THAT ENSURE AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES ARE THE** 



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ABF Party objectives focus on reducing social and economic

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We will improve how families are supported in the areas of child care, aged care, affordable housing, health, employment, education, law, sovereign ownership and energy use. by producing better policy.

We believe all Australians regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or sexuality should be treated with respect and equality in all aspects of their lives in our society.



Phone: 1300 254 414 Email: info@betterfamilies.org.au Website: www.betterfamilies.org.au

Authorised by Leigh Erikson, Australian Better Families Party, Gold Coast QLD 4226





Inspirationally marrying the veggie versions of moussaka and lasagna, moussagna yields a light, yet hearty, fresh veg-packed casserole. Photo by Wai Lin Coultas

# Eggplant and Cucumber Moussagna

#### **By Wai Lin Coultas**

INSPIRATIONALLY MAR-RYING the veggie versions of moussaka and lasagna with what is in season in May in Tasmania yields a light, yet hearty, fresh veg-packed casserole just as deliciously savoury as these time-honoured Greek and Italian staples – perfect with a green salad for a healthy lunch, or as a side dinner dish with a slow cooked roast.

#### Ingredients

- 2 large eggplants, thinly sliced horizontally
- 2 large cucumbers, thinly sliced diagonally
- Extra virgin olive oil
- 120 g Cheddar, 24 months vintage, grated
- 80 g Parmesan cheese, grated
- 2 sprigs fresh flat leaf parsley, leaves coarsely chopped

#### Mushroom sauce

200 g white button mushrooms, thinly sliced 4 tsp ground caraway 4 red bird's eye chillies, sliced 30 fresh lemon verbena leaves, chopped iodised salt

#### Method

Pre-heat oven to fan-forced 180C.

In batches, sauté eggplants and cucumbers in heated oil till softened and slightly browned both sides. Set aside.

To make the sauce, sauté onions in heated oil till softened, before adding garlic. Sauté till fragrant and onions are slightly caramelised.

In batches, add mushrooms and chillies.

Sauté till softened, add spices and continue to sauté till fragrant.

Stir in passata, ketchup, pickles, vinegar, anchovies and lemon verbena. Bring to a boil before seasoning with salt.

Brush inside of casserole dish with oil. First, lay

# Preserving your produce with Harvest Keeping

EVER WONDERED what to do with those extra fruit on your trees and those tomatoes you successfully grew?

Become inspired and learn not to waste our produce. Find out how easy it is to keep our food safely with simple and cheap methods.

Come to the Meander Valley Harvest Keeping and learn the theory and practice of all things preserving, with hands-on experience.

#### **Deloraine House**

Wednesday 8th May, 9.00am – 10.30am: The theory behind tried and true preserving techniques

Wednesday 22nd May, 1.00pm – 3.00pm: Water bathing high acid – a practical class

Wednesday 5th June, 1.00pm – 3.00pm: Everything tomato, from passata to dried tomatoes

Westbury Community Health Centre



READERS WHO watch ABC Gardening Australia, will have seen Tino Carnevale on the 19th April extolling the glories of autumn colours in the Hobart Botanical Gardens.

That such pieces of valuable real estate in the young colony should have been reserved for the enjoyment of the public speaks well for early planners.

City Park in Launceston, the Village Green in Westbury, and the riverside park in Deloraine are all resplendent with autumn colours just now.

The main thoroughfare through Deloraine, and the garden at the Great Western Tiers Visitor Information Centre are more recent developments which enhance the street environment, from early spring to late autumn.

Viburnum opulus 'Guelder Rose' at the Centre has turned a striking red russet colour, and in the same garden, V. plicatum 'Thomasina' has leaves of brilliant scarlet.

Beginning at the western roundabout, where red leafed maples (Acer sp.) grow along the verges, the plantings extend through to the shopping area where the statuesque Tulip trees (*Lirio-dendron fastigiata*) adorn the median strip.

The trees with the unusual crinkly foliage by the Post Office and the Library are natives of Iran, the Persian Witch Hazel (*Parrotia persica*).

The Train Park has the most interesting collection of all the trees: with an Ash tree (Fraxinus sp.) – strong bright yellow in late April – and a Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocrastinum*).

The flesh from its shiny brown fruits are said to be a treatment for diarrhoea and rheumatism.

The most interesting and historic of them all are two specimens of *Ginkgo biloba*, the Maidenhair tree.

Fossil leaves have been found in rocks from the Jurassic age. Their foliage turns to pure butter yellow in late autumn.

It is claimed that extract from the leaves can be used to improve memory. The one pictured here was photographed in late April, with its leaves just turning from green to gold.



Gingko biloba, the Maidenhair tree.

Photo supplied



330 g Portobello mushrooms, sliced

1 head purple garlic, peeled and minced
4 red onions, peeled and quartered
5 tbl apple cider vinegar
24 anchovy fillets, removed from brine and coarsely chopped

 x 680 g bottle tomato passata
 tbl Taste of TamO'Shanter Pickled Cucumbers, coarsely chopped
 tbl tomato ketchup
 tsp ground cumin one quarter of the eggplants then one quarter of cucumbers. Spread one third of sauce over.

Repeat layering sequence, finishing with a final layer of remaining eggplants and cucumbers before sprinkling over first Cheddar, then Parmesan.

Bake in oven for 1 hour till cheese topping is nicely browned and dish is bubbling. Garnish with parsley when ready to serve.

Serves 4 to 6.

Tuesday 14th May, 1.00pm - 3.00pm: Water bathing high acid - a practical class

Thursday 30th May, 1.00pm – 3.00pm: Everything tomato, from passata to dried tomatoes

#### **Trade School Deloraine**

Tuesday 11th June, 9.00am – 10.30am: Understanding pressure canning

Contact Dinah FitzGerald on 0417 292 622 or westburyhealth@gmail.com. Cost \$5.00 per session.

May 2019 14

Meander Valley Gazette

# A little bit of puppetry



Jenny Ellis of Little Wing Puppets performing A Little Bit of Blue.

SPONSORED BY Arts Deloraine, A Little Bit of Blue is a 'Detective Story, told with puppetry', where help from the audience is needed to solve a mystery.

The 4th April performance at the Meander Valley Performing Arts Centre was a free gift to the children of the Meander Valley from Arts Deloraine, fulfilling the organisation's values of introducing

and fostering the love of live theatre at an early age.

The performance, secured from Victorian Regional Arts, was performed by Jenny Ellis of Little Wing Puppets.

The audience of children from the Valley were spellbound as the plot unfolded. They found themselves laughing uproariously, dancing, then helping the bumbling detective unravel a mystery.

Photo by Mike Moores

Along the way, they learned about the unique habits of the Australian Satin Bowerbird and their fascination with the colour blue.

They also learned of Mrs Mavis Hooley's upside down world of many small disappearances.

170 children attended Deloraine Primary, from Our Lady of Mercy and Mole Creek Primary schools.



A Sound House technician formatting the new sound system at Photo supplied the Little Theatre in Deloraine.

AT THE Western Tiers Film Society April screening, the Little Theatre Cinema was filled with the surround sound of the new \$40,000 sound system, recently installed to address difficulties that the Society has experienced since setting up in 2014.

With the previous system, audiences struggled to hear some of the more rapid dialogue. The partial solution of using sub-titles was helpful to those with hearing difficulties, but sometimes took away from delicate moments portrayed on screen.

Installing a more complex sound system was expensive, so WTFS Secretary Deb White looked to local funding bodies for support and

was successful in obtaining major sponsorship from the Deloraine and Districts Community Bank.

WTFS also received generous contributions from the Rotary Pratt Foundation and the Meander Valley Council, who provided a Community Grant and in-kind support with electrical work. The Film Society and the Deloraine Dramatic Society also contributed funds to enable the project to go ahead.

The new system allows Little Theatre users to select a mode that suits either movies or performances. Both the DDS and the WTFS are confident that having such a sophisticated system will result in increasing use of the venue as movie goers (including U<sub>3</sub>A), bands and performance groups find that the system on offer caters so comprehensively to their needs.

On the 'opening night', President Lyn Prove expressed the Society's gratitude to the sponsors, noting the benefit to the community of having such a well-equipped venue.

'Being able to provide audiences with a top-notch experience goes a long way to ensuring the continued success of movies, plays and concerts at the Performing Arts Centre,' she said, 'and proves again that the Meander Valley is a great place to live!'

Past members are invited to attend the bonus movie I am not a Witch as WTFS guests on Saturday 29th June, to experience the new sound system.

For information about WTFS, email westerntiersfilmsociety@gmail.com.



The Don River Railway diesel locomotive and heritage carriages.

#### **By Wai Lin Coultas**

FANCY CATCHING a train from Deloraine to Devonport?

carriages will begin running one return service on Sundays, offering up to 6,000 forecast to attract approximately 6,000 additional passengers each year.

To be undertaken, operated

North West Tasmania tourist train on the main line.

Senator Steve Martin announced in April: 'The not

This may well come to pass within the next few years.

The Van Diemen Light Railway Society Inc. (trading as Don River Railway) is embarking on a significant expansion of its tourist railway products and services.

Anticipated to commence by Christmas this year, a weekly Penguin Market Train will travel 34 km along the spectacular North West coastline from Don River to Penguin.

Existing DDR diesel locomotives with refurbished locals and visitors annually the enjoyment of a 1.5-hour train ride each way.

At the start, a Tasrail driver will operate the train with one DRR driver on board.

Once the Penguin Market heritage rail service has been established, further expansion intends to deliver a similar weekly heritage rail experience from Don to Deloraine and return.

Expected to start in three years, this will be a similar distance and scope to the Penguin Market services, also

and managed solely by Van Diemen Light Railway Society Inc, which trades as DRR, the loop at Deloraine on existing freight train tracks would 'add another fantastic tourism option for Tasmanian visitors'.

'Deloraine is an infinitely marketable destination. The Meander Valley provides some of the best scenic travel in the country,' said Niels Brun, DRR's General Manager. DRR has met Liberal Senator Richard Colbeck with their plans for the new

for profit Don River Railway wins a \$200,000 boost to expand its operations and attract more tourists and therefore jobs to our local area.'

A volunteer owned and operated tourist railway and museum in Don, DRR was established in 1973. Passenger services commenced in 1976. Not only a unique heritage rail experience, DRR has significant social and economic benefits for the North West, providing work experience, support and training for longterm unemployed.

About 80 regular volunteers engage in activities including retailing, mechanical workshops, general maintenance, horticulture, railway safety, train driving, operations and mentoring.

Neils Brun also points out as part of the heritage rail sector, Don River Railway is 'for many people, the public face of the rail industry', enabling people to 'work together for the benefit of future generations.'

# Deloraine's fountain – a sad trickle of miscommunication

#### **By Sharon Webb**

WITH ITS lop-sided spray and preponderance of concrete and rock, Deloraine's Emu Bay Road fountain could be labelled the nation's most disappointing.

Locals have called it an excuse for a fountain, others have said it's boring and some have simply asked 'Why?'

Deloraine resident Lisa Bartholomew attributes vandalism to its ugliness: 'Nothing about that fountain encourages people to enjoy sitting by it or to take care of it.

'Given all the beautiful sculpture around this town, this lets us down.

'It's a 1970s concrete fountain that reminds me of the old Cat and Fiddle fountain in Hobart – not in a good way!'

So cheers to Meander Valley Council for coming up with an idea to add a contemporary creative element.

Director of works, Matthew Millwood, shot off an email to Deloraine Rotary, who funded the fountain originally, to ask for a donation to the project. And he spoke to Golden Valley sculptor John Parish about the possibility of designing a fountain adornment.

Without a formal project being established, and to his financial detriment, John blazed ahead with his idea.

'I've made a bronze family of native hens,' he said – most appropriate considering the hens on the river banks.

But this great idea has stalled. After 8 months, Deloraine Rotary has not replied to the email from Mr Millwood.

On being contacted, Deloraine Rotary president Maree Matanle said she'd never heard of the project but would look into it. The miscommunication could be because the email went to Deloraine Rotary's website.

Meander Valley Council may still be able to find some funds to contribute – if the idea goes ahead, general manager Martin Gill said.

Meanwhile, a beautiful family of three native hens sits in John Parish's studio, preserved in glowing bronze, waiting patiently.



Unloved by some, does Deloraine fountain need a make-over?

Photo by Mike Moores

# Rosy award prospects for women writers

THE SOCIETY of Women Writers Tasmania has announced the Rose Frankcombe Short Story Competition for 2019.

The Rose Award is open to all short story writers and is a competition for original short stories written in English that have not previously been published.

The word count is between 1,200–1,500 words and the theme is 'Earth'.

First Prize is \$200, Second Prize is \$50.00 and there are Highly Commended and Commended Certificates. The closing date for entries is 31st July 2019.

If you are interested in entering, and for more information, please contact Wendy Laing, Competition Coordinator at wendylaingo2@gmail.com or go to www.swwtas.org.



4 Marine calamity (9)

12 Form of bowling (6)

19 Needless bustle (4)

24 Statue support (8)

Basingstoke (10)

31 Prolonged pain (5)

21 Eye-glasses (10)

11 Teacher (10)

18 Peruse (4)

29 Taverns (4)

30 Opponent (9)

10 Abominable snowman (4)

14 Stiffness in the joints (10)

26 Llke some mammoths (6)

28 From e.g. Portsmouth or

13 Termination of a pregnancy (8)

# High tea and history too!

HAVE YOU ever driven past the imposing white Georgian building that is Fitzpatrick's Inn and wondered about the history within?

On Saturday 25th May at 2.30pm, the Anglican Parish of Quamby warmly invites you a special High Tea, where the history of the grand old Inn will be revealed. The property is now for sale, so this may be the last chance for anyone interested in its history to attend.

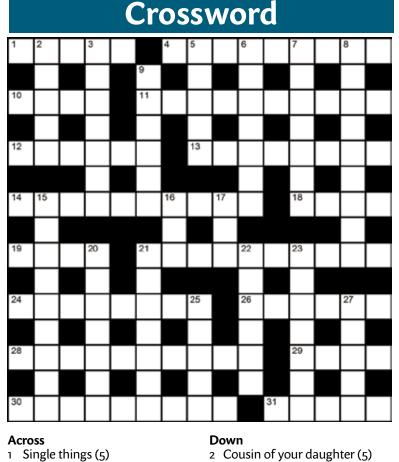
There will be snippets of the history of High Tea around the world.

Each table will be set with interesting tablecloths with a short description of their ownership on each table.

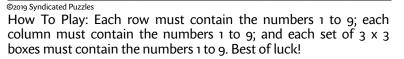
Included in the charge of \$25.00 is a welcome drink, a sumptuous high tea of savoury and sweet delicacies, and door prizes.

All funds raised will go to the Anglican Parish of Quamby **Sustainability** Fund, vital to keeping the historic churches of the Parish open and available for everyone.

Call Wendy Kilroy on 0413 437 720 for bookings and enquiries. Tickets available in Westbury and Deloraine. RSVP Friday 17th May.



- 2 Cousin of your daughter (5)
- Capital of Bhutan (7) 3
- Minor Biblical prophet (5) 5
- Execute (7) 6
- Earthquake scale (7) 7
- 8 Dark brown (9)
- Capital of Austria (6) 9
- 15 Home (9)
- 16 Ask for a loan (3)
- 17 Not sweet (3)
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  - 21 Lounges (7)
  - 22 Frustrate (6)
  - 23 Shutting (7)
  - 25 Kind of month (5)
  - 27 Fabric woven from flax
  - yarns (5)



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Sudoku

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Sudoku - May 2019 Solution

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Christmas Hills RASPBERRY

farm cafe

# **Events Diary**

#### PROUDLY SPONSORED BY CHRISTMAS HILLS RASPBERRY FARM CAFE 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!

Date and time	Event	Details
Every Wednesday 9.00am for 9.15am	Laughter Yoga	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Free event All ages welcome Ph: 0477 772 739
Every Friday 10.30am – 12.00noon	Playgroup for children/parents/carers 0–5 years	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Ph: 6362 2678 All welcome No cost
Saturday 11th May 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society "Gurrumul"	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine PG Documentary Australia 96min More info 0418 389 868
Saturday 11th May 9.00am	Freshmans Showjumping Practice Day	Westbury Showgrounds Info on Westbury Show website Contact Elizabeth Richards 0407 807 876
Saturday 11th May 9.30am	Quamby Fly Fishing Club Fly Tying Day	Westbury Community Health Centre 89 Meander Valley Rd BYO food & fly-tying equipment RSVP: 0409 369 756
Tuesday 14th May 1.00pm – 3.00pm	Preserving your Harvest e.g. tomatoes & fruit	Westbury Community Health Centre 89 Meander Valley Rd \$5.00 Ph: 0417 292 622 Water Bathing High Acid
Wednesday 15th May 9.00am – 1.00pm	Suicide Prevention Training (Mental Health Carers)	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Free 4 hours duration https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JG7ZTLY
Saturday 18th May 9.00am – 1.00pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drive and Caveside Rd, Contact Ross Quick Ph: 0413 681 252
Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th May	2019 Multiple Sclerosis 24 hour Mega Swim	Launceston Leisure & Aquatic Centre, High Street More info: Damien Stevens-Todd on 0418 511 562
Saturday 18th May 8.00am – 1.00pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom. Westbury Hot food, vegetables, plants & much more More info Ph: 0417 931 619
Tuesday 21st May 10.00am – 10.30am	Baby Play (babies up to 12 months)	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine More info: Anne-Marie on 0417 120 671 or Deloraine House 6362 2678
Wednesday 22nd May 1.00pm – 3.00pm	Preserving your Harvest e.g. tomatoes & fruit	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine \$5.00 Ph: 0417 292 622 Water Bathing High Acid
Thursday 23rd May 10.30am – 12.00n00n	Volunteers Morning Tea	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine RSVP essential Ph: 6362 2678
Saturday 25th May 9.00am – 2.00pm	Community Market Day & Car Boot Sale	Parkham Community Hall, Bradys Plain Rd, Parkham More info & stall bookings: Kaylene on 0499 554 316
Saturday 25th May 2.30pm	Anglican Parish of Quamby High Tea	Fitzpatricks Inn, Westbury \$25.00 Door prizes Bookings: Wendy Kilroy on 0413 437 720 RSVP Friday 17th May
Tuesday 28th May 10.00am – 10.30am	Baby Play (babies up to 12 months)	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine More info: Anne-Marie on 0417 120 671 or Deloraine House 6362 2678
Wednesday 29th May	Prepare your will & Estate Plan (Public Trustee)	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Appointments essential Ph: 1800 068 784
Thursday 30th May 1.00pm – 3.00pm	Preserving your Harvest e.g. tomatoes & fruit	Westbury Community Health Centre, 89 Meander Valley Rd \$5.00 Ph: 0417 292 622 Everything Tomato
Saturday 1st June 9.00am – 1.00pm	Deloraine Showground Market	Deloraine Showgrounds, 14795 Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine info Ph: 03 6369 5321
Saturday 1st June 7.00pm	Lions Club Cheese & Wine Supper & Swing Evening	Deloraine Community Club, 33 Parsonage St Tickets essential from Alpaca Shoppe \$35.00 Ph: Sue on 0427 357 735
Tuesday 4th June 10.00am – 10.30am	Baby Play (babies up to 12 months)	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine More info: Anne-Marie on 0417 120 671 or Deloraine House 6362 2678
Wednesday 5th June 1.00pm – 3.00pm	Preserving your Harvest e.g. tomatoes & fruit	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd \$5.00 Ph: 0417 292 622 Everything Tomato from Passata to dried Tomatoes
Saturday 8th June 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society "The Party"	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine MA15+ Drama/Comedy UK 71min More info: 0418 389 868
Tuesday 11th June 10.00am – 10.30am	Baby Play (babies up to 12 months)	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine More info: Anne-Marie on 0417 120 671 or Deloraine House 6362 2678
Tueday 11th June 9.00am – 10.30am	Preserving your Harvest e.g. tomatoes & fruit	Trade School, Landsdowne Place, Deloraine \$5.00 Ph: 0417 292 622 Understanding Pressure Canning
Saturday 15th June 9.30am	Quamby Fly Fishing Club Fly Tying Day	Rotary Pavilion, Alveston Drv. Deloraine BYO food & fly tying equipment RSVP: Eve on 0427 695 121
Tuesday 18th June 10.00am – 10.30am	Baby Play (babies up to 12 months)	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine More info: Anne-Marie on 0417 120 671 or Deloraine House 6362 2678
Saturday 22nd June 4.30pm	Winterfire	Deloraine Showgrounds, 14795 Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine More info: Arts Deloraine Facebook page

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Some players keeping their eyes firmly on the ball, Deloraine Roos and Hillwood Sharks sink their teeth into the game.

Photo by Mike Moores

# COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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Arts Deloraine Promoting the arts in the valley - concerts, plays and exhibitions Join to become involved as well as to get discounted entry prices

For info call Janet Morley on 0427 532 353 artsdeloraine@gmail.com or join at the Alpaca Shoppe (opp. Deloraine Hotel) Deloraine



For appointments, phone 03 6362 2266 22 Tower Hill Street, Deloraine and 80 Meander Valley Road, Westbury Deloraine & Westbury Medical Centre Have you had your flu shot?

It is important to get the influenza vaccine each year to be protected, because immunity decreases over time and flu strains also change.

The best time for a flu shot is early autumn before the flu season (June to September) starts.

5 The vaccine is available for anyone from 6 months of age. You may need a prescription or else be eligible for a free flu shot.

For more information on the flu vaccine, go to the Australian Government website https://beta.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation/about-immunisation

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- publishing of the regional newspaper Meander Valley Gazette
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- for homes & small business



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January 1998

May 2019

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# **Calling a service or retail business?**

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Bethany and Kylie, looking fresh

# SPORT

WESTBURY SHOW Horse Committee were most impressed with the performance of young horse riders and seasoned competitors who took the opportunity to jump their horses over well designed courses at the recent Freshman's Day, held at Westbury Showground on the 13th April.

Held in beautiful weather on a superb jumping surface, the riders thoroughly enjoyed the friendly, encouraging atmosphere.

Local course designer Liz Richards provided flowing courses, while Level II accredited coach Judy Kilby was available to assist the riders.

Participants on the day ranged in age from a 4-year-old led around the course on a pony to 77-year-old Sandra Atkins riding her horse Wally.

Sandra and Wally both thoroughly enjoyed the rounds of jumps that the day offered.

The Freshman's Day was a great chance for riders to educate their horses around the jumps without the stress of a real competition.

With about 30 competitors on this day, riders could choose 2 from 6 rounds at 50, 60, 70, 80, 90cm and 1m heights.

The horse committee have scheduled the next Freshman's Day on the 11th May, also at the Westbury Show Ground.

Bethany Macfarlane, 16, and her horse Kylie are looking forward to improving their showjumping over winter. From Exeter, Bethany rides for the Birralee and Districts Pony Club and has just joined the Tasmanian Showjumping Association (North) Photo by Mike Moores

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