



DUNORLAN'S OWN

Nell's well-deserved award

▶ PAGE 5



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▶ PAGE 12



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▶ PAGE 15

Meander Valley Gazette

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September 2019

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper

Springtime at the Farm School



Isabella Martin, age 10, and Elias Clarke, age 10, feeding Dottie, a three-week old lamb at Hagley Farm School.

Photo by Mike Moores

Supreme Court bid in Meander ratepayers' fight for school

By Sharon Webb

THE MEANDER ratepayers association will go to the Supreme Court with their case for the return of the Meander school to the community.

The trigger for the move was an appeal loss last month at Tasmania's planning appeals body RMPAT in their

fight against Meander Valley Council to prevent a drug dependence rehabilitation program taking over the former Meander Primary School site.

MARRA secretary Karen Hillman said, 'Our legal advice is that we have a good case.'

Meander Valley Council's decision to hand over the

school property for a peppercorn rent to Teen Challenge has already cost the council dearly in legal fees to RMPAT.

MARRA, which has 85 paid up members, says its fundraising through GoFundMe is going gangbusters.

At RMPAT, MARRA argued that Teen Challenge's use of the property does not comply

with the planning scheme's standards for vulnerable use of the Bushfire Prone Areas Code.

Speaking about Teen Challenge's appeal win, the organisation's executive director Tania Cavanagh told ABC Radio's Mornings program she believes the majority of the Meander community

supports the proposal to take over the school property.

'Our clients will consist of women with addiction issues – substance addiction, sex addiction, gambling addiction etc. They must detox for six weeks before they move in to the centre and enter a one-year program.'

(continued on page 2)

Supreme Court bid in Meander ratepayers' fight for school

(continued from page 1)

'The women can bring their children, who will do schooling.'

Ms Cavanagh said Teen Challenge's next step would be to gain a building permit.

Local resident Kevin Knowles told ABC listeners that Teen Challenge was a division of 'the far right religious group Assembly of God', and the school would be a religious conversion centre rather than a drug rehab centre.

Ms Hillman commented that Meander Valley Council was supposed to act in the best interests of the community but seemed to be operating in the best interests of Teen Challenge.

'A drug facility is just the wrong thing for our community. MARRA members are adamant that the school can be put to better use.'

Meander Valley mayor Wayne Johnston, who lives in Meander, told ABC listeners, 'We need a drug facility somewhere. It's all right to say "not in my backyard" but someone's got to help the women and children.'

Mr Johnston said the school buildings, now empty for several years, need maintenance.

'At the end of the day we can't lift the school up and take it somewhere else; it's in the middle of Meander. There's got to be some give and take on both sides,' he said.

Ms Hillman described RM-PAT's rejection of the appeal as 'a bump in the road'.

'We will return the school to community ownership,' she said.



A quiet Sunday in Westbury left some residents without power while the new IGA was hooked up to the grid. Photo supplied



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IN OUR August edition, on page 7, we ran a story about Terry Roles. The last paragraph of the story mentioned the amount of prize money won by horses trained by Terry over his long career. It should be noted that prize money won by horses goes to the owners of horses, not to their trainer.

Valley launches into action for the 100 Day Challenge

THE 100 Day Challenge launched into action recently when Meander Valley community members gathered at the Western Tiers Community Club to discuss the future of youth engagement and mental health, helping to identify the major issues impacting on the youth of today. Deloraine Primary and High school students were present to voice their concerns about mental health issues and engagement in learning 'real world life skills' such as understanding home finances and mortgages and how what they learn in school applies to their futures.

The workshop identified several key areas while working with the two themes of hands on learning and youth mental health. In the spirit of co-design, the participants chose to work with the theme of hands on learning for the 100 Day Challenge.

Discussions focused on how the community could draw upon local resources and create actions that would be completed within 100 days. The overall goal is to make a long-lasting impact on the future of young people by creating sustainable and measurable changes in the Meander Valley.

'The Meander Valley community should give itself a huge round of applause for the enthusiasm and commitment that was so evident at the workshop', said Bob Muller, from Devil's Advocate Consulting.

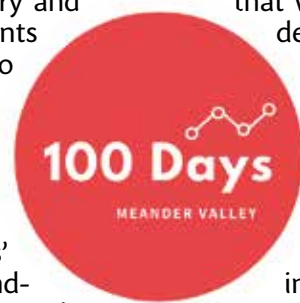
The workshop produced several potential 'actions' that will help to get students engaged with community and into practical, experience-based projects such as careers events, wilderness adventures and mentoring programs.

Year 11 and 12 students from Deloraine High School said that the workshop was good for meeting new people and learning about the ideas that the community have.

'It was really fun. They were really encouraging for us to share our ideas. They really wanted to know what we liked to do.'

The 100 Day Challenge is a community driven project supported by Westbury Health, The Van Diemen Project, Devil's Advocate, Deloraine High School, Collective ed. and Meander Valley Council.

Further information: Victoria Homer, Collective ed. Lead on 0400 526 806 or email victoria.homer@beaconfoundation.net.



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Garden pride and joy



LUKE COLE has been mowing the grass at the Deloraine Community Garden since March 2018.

He does a great job, and takes a lot of pride in keeping the garden looking neat and tidy.

The old lawn mower has done a great job, but was old and tired, and was needing increasing maintenance to keep it going.

A grant from the Meander Valley Council's community grants program, has made it possible to upgrade the mower for the Community Garden.

Luke Cole at the Deloraine Community Garden with the new mower, courtesy of a community grant from the Meander Valley Council.

Photo by Mike Moores

Slamming it at the Empire

By Lorraine Clarke

WHENEVER ANYONE asks Yvonne Gluyas, 'What is Slam Poetry?' she always replies, 'It's performance poetry. It's the best fun you can have in two minutes!'

Yvonne should know. She has been writing and reciting her award-winning poems for years now. After great success with poems like 'My Cat Can Speak Catonese', 'How Could You Do This To Me' and 'What Kevin Rudd Really Said to the Chinese President' (written and performed in Chinese), she has progressed

to mentoring the next generation of Tasmanian poets who enter local rounds of the Australian Poetry Slam each year, culminating in a trip to the Sydney Opera House for the Grand Final in October.

She shamelessly admits she schmoozes politicians and sells raffle tickets for funding to take 'her poets' on this interstate trip where she rents a house for 3 days to give them an unforgettable experience.

On August 20, Mark and Amanda Flanigan, proprietors of the Empire Hotel opened their doors and hearts, sponsoring and providing prizes

for a heat of the Poetry Slam. A number of poets performed to an appreciative audience in a cosy fireside atmosphere, where MC Yvonne co-opted members of the audience into impromptu judging roles, and put everyone at their ease. 'That's my job,' she said, 'to make sure that everyone feels included.'

Grace Chia earned third place with her impassioned performance of 'Like I Loved Him', about losing her man. 'I waited too long - someone else got to him first. I can't speak to him, so I wrote a poem.'

Second place was taken by Rohan King and 'Neogenesis'. He said he has written lots, but is not really the performing type, which was belied by his very engaging performance on the night.

'I would like to at least get the chance to go to the Opera House,' he said, and now his dream seems within reach.

Rebecca Young won with 'Just the Other Week,' which took only an hour to write but which she practised 50 times before standing up to recite it. She said modestly, 'I've always liked poems, but never thought I was any good.'

Yvonne said, 'Poetry doesn't have to rhyme. Issue-based poems go down well. They can be literary, comedy, bur-

lesque, political. It's lovely to see the younger generation coming up with skills to equal their talented parents.'

Yvonne polished her public performing skills through Toastmasters. She says, 'I credit Toastmasters with the ability to go on stage and sparkle.'

Annually, over 1000 writers perform their original poems through heats in country towns and capital cities. Poetry Slam's motto is 'Write a Revolution'. If you are interested in expressing your deepest issues in public poetry and claiming your two minutes of best fun, over and over in the next rounds, check out the website: www.australianpoetryslam.com.

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CRICKET AUSTRALIA

Letter from the Editor

Short and sweet this month.

I was going to discuss treating other people the way that we would like to be treated ourselves, as individuals or as a policy for institutions and governments.

My 'advisory committee' warned that the subject might be a bit political.

It certainly proved to be the case for the originator of the concept.

Liz Douglass, Editor

Letters to the Editor

Conservation covenants

Note that this letter was originally sent to the individuals listed below, accompanied by further information regarding the vegetation condition surveys and report for Saddler's Run.

To Mayor Mr Wayne Johnston; CC Mr Martin Gill, General Manager, Meander Valley Council; Mr John Temple, Councillor; Mr James Hattam, Tasmanian Land Conservancy; Editor, The Examiner; Editor, Meander Valley Gazette.

I was dismayed to learn MVC, at the meeting of 13.08, questioned the community value of covenanted land. Your subsequent comment reported in The Examiner the following day further bewildered me:

'The feeling was that the people who had conservation covenants on their land were getting an advantage on top of other ratepayers. Other ratepayers were actually subsidising them to look after their land.'

Perhaps you could advise me how this advantage is calculated? Also, how are other ratepayers subsidising me to care for this land?

- The covenanted acreage surrounding my dwelling is in no way arable
- It receives no services from the council (though there is a dirt/gravel road in the vicinity). Neither does my dwelling.

I derive no income from this land

• The existence of the covenant reduces the number and options of any prospective buyers should I no longer be able to care for this land

• I bear the costs associated with preserving the conservation values (including weed removal and the diligent destruction of feral cats).

I consider myself a steward of this land for future generations.

The biodiversity and condition of this acreage is excellent (recently inspected by Tasmanian Land Conservancy and some years ago by the Disjunct Field Naturalists of the northern half of the state). Its sole purpose is to provide habitat and opportunity to Tasmanian wildlife, plants and trees.

Please note I am still liable for approximately 75% of the rates due. They are paid willingly and with gratitude to the council for other services it provides to the community.

This appears to be a petty, thoughtless money-grab in response to a serious attempt to support the future biodiversity of Tasmania.

If so, it is less than this Council might achieve.

With concerned regards, awaiting your reply,
J. Leis, Saddler's Run

Meander Primary School

It's time for MV Council to realise they have made a mistake with leasing, for a peppercorn rent (\$2 per year), the former Meander Primary School to Teen Challenge Tasmania (TCT).

The centre of Meander village is NOT the place for a so-called drug, alcohol and sex addict rehab facility. Secular, not exclusive religious rehabilitation is needed elsewhere in the state, but not in Meander.

With 85 members of MARRA, (Meander Area Residents & Ratepayers Association), it is clear the overwhelming majority of the community want the former school available for community purposes, for our health and well-being, to revitalize Meander and to bring the community together.

Our Meander Commons proposal is well described in 'Our Vision' on our website www.marra.net.au.

It includes a community garden & orchard, produce market days, cooking workshops & catering opportunity for fund raising, arts and crafts workshops & gallery, a local history room, online facilities, dedicated club meeting rooms, a hub for guided adventure tourism, practice facility and performance venue for the Meander Men's Choir and other musical groups, visiting therapeutic and health practitioner room, children & adult extended education and rural skills workshop to name some of the community's hopes and plans.

The question is, why has Council paid in the order of \$100,000 legal costs for Teen Challenge to lease the former school for a peppercorn?

And when will it act in the best interest of the community?

Kerin Booth, Meander

The phantom commercial hub at Westbury

During 2003, I was employed as a Project Development Officer appointed by Meander Valley Centre for Health and Well-Being, with a total expense allowance of \$1250.

The project was to ascertain needs regarding the establishment of a Community Garden and a Men's Shed.

The first step was to survey, and consult the general community. This included pertinent comments from various stakeholders like schools, Ashley, police, etc. The results were very clear. A shed and garden would be welcomed by residents from 14-90 years of age.

This tenacious committee set about acquiring funding and identified suitable sites to develop these new facilities. May I also add that UTAS was very keen to follow this worthy community project.

Now I will move forward to 2013, when the Meander Valley Council engaged an interstate consulting firm to identify land that had the potential for a commercial hub. Ideally, this land would need to be in the main street of Westbury, say about 100 metres from the Post Office.

NAIDOC Week celebrations

I wish to congratulate the Meander Valley Gazette (MVG) for the quality of their journalism. I am referring to Hayley Manning's coverage of the NAIDOC Week events. Although I was unable to attend the event, I felt that Hayley really captured the moment, for readers.

This year I attended the NAIDOC Week flag raising event at Tiagarra, Devonport and was inspired to see Karen, a young Aboriginal woman, leading the local dance troupe.

Karen had been a participant in our 'Heart Health' exercise class, at the hospital where I work, a year earlier. Through her dance performance, she was now bringing all Australians together to celebrate Aboriginal achievement and survival.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can expect to live on average, ten years less than their non-Aboriginal brothers and sisters. This is an appalling statistic in a country like ours, who prides itself on a "fair go" for all.

The themes for NAIDOC Week this year are 'Voice, Treaty, Truth', as highlighted in the MVG. These key themes lie at the heart of our nation's story. Let's continue the conversation and truth-telling.

I applaud our local Aboriginal community for their generosity of spirit and their resilience.

Kali Bierens, local resident & Physiotherapy Assistant, Mersey Community Hospital

To the surprise of the council, in September 2015, a desirable block of 1700m² was on the market. The Council officers were informed and armed with the municipal cheque book were delegated to negotiate up to \$250 000 to purchase this property.

Before the ink had dried on the contract of sale, a ratepayer (that's me) attended the October meeting and made an emotional three minute statement from the floor of the Chamber.

An experienced councillor stated, 'It looks like Mr Lee has been gazumped'.

Another stated, 'It looks like the right hand of the Council does not know what the left is doing'.

As far as I can ascertain, the property was purchased without being included in the current budget, the report to Council was as big as a postage stamp, and no formal expression of interest for future use of the land was on the table.

Now the land is surplus to requirements and recommended to be sold.

'Meander Valley Council Working together.' I do not think so.

Barry Lee, Westbury

Reply to AR Trounson of needles, re the Wild Wood

Ha, ha, very needly, but I'm not denying that the Wild Wood is a highly blackberry-infested area. I've only gotten rid of half of it.

It will take me another year to get rid of the rest and it'll come back, because I'm not getting rid of the root stubble. I've gotten rid of some of gorse, but I haven't seen that much gorse in the centre of the park.

The Wild Wood is not native flora but mostly willow, sycamore and other introduced Europeans. Out where you live at Needles is better bush. But it's a long way, if you don't own a car, to go out to Needles.

You probably haven't been inside the Wood, as I've only recently opened the entrances to the inside. I see wallabies that are perfectly healthy and the odd dead possum.

I've never seen the injured road strike victims that you talk of.

The lower branches of the introduced trees, with their sharp needles, used to block things up a lot, but I've gotten rid of half of that.

I like the river pond circle and beyond that, another new circle. The biggest grand circle has two avenues of trees.

It may not be pristine bush, but we townies love our park.

So take another look and think about the park as though you lived in Deloraine and didn't have a car.
Groundskeeper Willy

EST.
2013

Meander Valley Gazette

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Nell Carr – a remarkable life

By Hayley Manning

A LARGE contingency of the Deloraine Days for Girls were joined by other well-wishers to present Nell Carr with the Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, at the Bush Inn on 12 August.

The award was presented to Nell in acknowledgement of the countless hours she has dedicated to volunteer work over her remarkable life. From Meals on Wheels to Secretary of the Deloraine Film Society, she has thrown herself into many varied roles over the years.

And despite recently reaching her 93rd year, the dynamo has no immediate plans to retire from the volunteer positions that reflect her long-held passions in life – education and gardening.

Nell is a Deloraine House Community Garden Volunteer, and continues to maintain the Commonwealth Bank garden.

Meander Valley's very own garden guru, Nell tended the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre garden with the Garden Girls for many years, and has been appointed garden consultant.

The third of six children, Nell Carr grew up on the Dunorlan farm founded by her father on land made available for servicemen who had served in the Great War. Her mother was the daughter of a neighbouring farmer.

Nell, her husband and first two children returned to Tasmania from Scotland in 1953. She has lived on the farm ever since.

A writer for the former Great Western Tiers local newspaper, Nell currently writes the knowledgeable gardening column for the Meander Valley Gazette.

Nell organised short courses that included gardening with the former host of the ABC's Gardening Australia, Peter Cundall, when she introduced and coordinated Adult Education courses in Deloraine.

The Gazette recently contacted Peter who was delighted to hear about Nell's ongoing activities. 'The Nell I know and love is an absolute inspiration, a modern-day philanthropist of the gardening universe,' Peter said.

'My personal list of all-time great gardening minds would read: Jane Edmanson, Costa Georgiadis, Don Burke, Jamie

Durie, the groundskeeper at Keilor East Recreation Reserve and Nell Carr.'

Nell, the long-term advocate for education joined Days for Girls in 2015, to make sanitary products so Nepalese school girls 'don't have to miss school a few days each month.'

'I have met such very interesting people in Days for Girls. As you get older, it's more important to relate to your fellows.'

If everyone stopped volunteering, the whole community would fall to bits, I'm afraid.'
Nell Carr, MVG 2015

Nell recalled aspects of her own education during her award evening speech. 'Our father being a poor soldier-settler, could only afford to send my three sisters, two brothers and myself to high school for three years each, as it meant paying board for all of us in Launceston.'

After high school, Nell landed her first job in Launceston as a messenger girl. 'The only qualifications were that I had a bike. But no experience is wasted – it gave me an intimate knowledge of the CBD.'

A young Nell met her husband-to-be, a Scotsman in the Navy, and they married in Sydney before going to Scotland to live. After several years, the couple and their small two children, Deidre and Geoffrey returned to the Dunorlan farm to build a family home, where sons Alistair and Clive were later born.

Nell's interest in further education was piqued when she read her daughter's UTAS Hobart study notes. She said if uni ever became available in Launceston she would enrol.

First year university classes were eventually offered at the Adult Education building in High Street, Launceston.

The courses Nell completed there were acknowledged when she completed an off-campus Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in History and Politics, as a mature age student.

The epitome of 'blooming good health', Nell credits her robust resilience with her life on the farm where she was born.

'Life was tough. Up at 4.30 on frosty, dark mornings to milk the cows, followed by a walk across several farms to catch a train to school.'

She was still milking cows on the farm well into her 70s.

Nell Carr is a credit to her family and the Meander Valley community.



Nell Carr, in the garden at the Western Tiers Visitors Centre which she tended for many years with the Garden Girls and where she is now garden consultant. Photo by Mike Moores

On behalf of those in the Meander Valley and elsewhere who have had the pleasure and privilege to spend time with her, the Meander Valley Gazette would like to say thank you to Nell for her ongoing contribution to the community through all her hard work.

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Labor

'Community benefit' winner at the Blackstone Heights tower tribunal

By Sharon Webb

TASMANIA'S PLANNING appeals body has agreed that Telstra can build a 25m communications tower at Blackstone Heights – with barely a nod to the concerns of neighbouring residents who fought it for months.

The Resource Management Planning Appeals Tribunal conceded only that work to build the tower can start weekdays at 7am, with slightly later starts on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

Telstra's RMPAT appeal was caused by Meander Valley Council initially rejecting permission to build the tower. According to general manager Martin Gill the cost was around \$32,000 in legal fees and about \$5,000 in council officer time.

The tribunal rejected every condition suggested by appellant Steven McGee, whose property in Zenith Court neighbours the proposed tower, including that:

- the tower be decommissioned after 10 years
- Mr McGee be compensated for the impact on his visual amenity

- Telstra screens the tower or compensates Mr McGee for its inability to provide screening to his property
- Telstra protects Wedge Tailed Eagle breeding habitat
- the tower's electromagnetic emissions levels be monitored.

Mr McGee, who has a law degree, said the two days he spent at the RMPAT hearing were like being in an alien world.

'It's an adversarial system, court-like with lawyers and supposed experts, with no way for ordinary people to get involved in the planning process,' he said.

'Before having a three year-old I wouldn't have taken a stand on this but I want to look after him.'

'I believe the tower should be on the Stephensdale estate, away from residential areas.'

RMPAT's decision justifies comments by former Meander Valley Councillor Andrew Connor in a December 2018 council meeting. He warned against rejecting a permit for the tower because should Telstra appeal the decision in

RMPAT the legal bill would drop in the council's lap.

'RMPAT has only ever refused one tower. These things are rarely successful,' he said.

Despite the warning Meander Valley Council heard Blackstone Heights residents' concerns and rejected the permit. But in a closed meeting in April, councillors changed their decision.

Mayor Wayne Johnston said this was 'because Telstra gave us information it should have given us in the first place'.

Despite the council's change of mind, according to Jarrod Bryan from RMPAT the tribunal was obliged to hear from Mr McGee and so the hearing went ahead – involving Meander Valley Council even though it now supported the tower permit, at the cost of \$37,000 to ratepayers.

Meander Valley Council initially rejected the tower on grounds of visual impact and the lack of significant community benefit.

But the extra information Telstra provided demonstrated a community benefit and in the tribunal this over-rode all other objections.

Specialist network engineer for Radio Network Engineering, Ramesh Perera, told the tribunal that if significant capacity relief was not provided, customers in Blackstone Heights would have very slow data internet speeds, followed by data access blocking and eventually the inability to make or receive voice calls.

Currently, the Blackstone Heights area has several locations with poor or no indoor coverage. The capacity of the two current towers in Juliana Street and Strahan Hill is forecast to run out in 2020 and 2024 respectively.

Telstra maintains the new tower will provide significant long term capacity for current and future customer needs.

In brief from the council

By Sharon Webb

Small blocks go-ahead for Reedy Marsh

Meander Valley Council has approved subdivision of a 4.8 hectare block at 1 Farrell's Rd in Reedy Marsh despite some residents objecting to the small size of the two resulting blocks.

Resident Andrew Ricketts said Reedy Marsh Rural Living Zone blocks should be a minimum of 15 hectares.

Resident Nick van Amstel maintained that approval would 'inevitably lead to avoidable clearing of valuable vegetation and habitat and set a precedent for further subdivision'.

Cllr Frank Nott commented that under the incoming planning scheme the subdivision likely would not be passed. But he said approval meant council could control the undocumented building and road access on the property, which is owned by Ralph Young.

MVC General Manager resigns

The General Manager of the Meander Valley Council, Martin Gill, will take up a new appointment as CEO of the Borough of Queenscliffe Council in Victoria on 7 October.

An announcement on the borough's website said Mr Gill 'was selected from a long list of applicants from across Australia as part of a rigorous recruitment process that included multiple rounds of interviews'.

Mayor Wayne Johnston said Mr Gill will finish at Meander Valley Council on 22 September.

He expects finalisation of a new appointment will take three or four months and the council will appoint an acting general manager in the meantime.

Rural rubbish collection tossed out

A plan to extend the wheelie bin system to more rural areas has been ditched because residents objected.

In February general manager Martin Gill wrote to rural residents telling them the system would be introduced between July and September and asking for feedback.

A fiery Mole Creek public meeting in March left the council in no doubt of most residents' reactions, with the cost more than \$200 a household.

Mr Gill said councillors had requested further assessment of the proposed service and consultation on delivery options.

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Getting into the spirit of things for Book Week, Jhett Creswell has come as George from Roald Dahl's *George's Marvellous Medicine* and Ruby Jones is cleverly disguised as Rita Skeeter, the nosy journalist from JK Rowling's *Harry Potter* series. Jhett and Ruby are both in Grade 4 at Our Lady of Mercy Primary School. Photo by Mike Moores

More from the council

By Sharon Webb

Three new blocks in Grigg St Deloraine

Council has approved subdivision of a block at 18 Grigg St in Deloraine to create two additional residential lots.

The land, owned by Corey and Kassey How, is 5400m² in area. Subdivision will result in three residential lots. Lot 1 (702m² including an existing dwelling) and lots two and three (2,360m²) are capable of accommodating a range of dwelling sizes.

Councillor Andrew Sherriff, whose Deloraine Signs business adjoins the proposed blocks, objected to the lack of stormwater drainage.

The permit is therefore conditional on changes to sewerage and stormwater systems, also impacting 20 Grigg Street and 4 Railway Street.

New truffle property road named

A short road off Mole Creek Rd which passes through the Tasmanian Truffles property is likely to be named Askrigg Lane.

Meander Valley Council has agreed to forward the proposal to the Tasmanian Nomenclature Office.



Jordyn Harris, age 10, practising with Meander Fire Brigade for the North West Regional Fun Day Junior and Senior Firefighter Competition. Photo by Hayley Manning

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Authorised by Senator Claire Chandler, Liberal Party of Australia, 152 Macquarie Street, Hobart TAS 7000

No blowing raspberries – local café wins tourism award

By Sharon Webb

IN LATE afternoon on a mid-winter day the atmosphere at Raspberry Farm Café in Christmas Hills is cosy.

Outside the wind is bitter but a fire burns brightly in the generous fireplace and afternoon tea customers tuck in to scones with raspberry jam and cream and delicious-looking desserts.

It's tempting to think it's all about the luscious food - but the ambience and the view of the small lake and surrounding fields take the last bit of tension out of tight shoulder muscles.

But all of that is not why Raspberry Farm Café recently won the Great Customer Experience Award given by the Tasmanian Hospitality Association.

The association recognised the efforts of the venue owners and their staff in providing their customers with a great customer experience, measurable through social media analysis.

Customers have a memorable experience at the café, comment on Facebook, Instagram and Tripadvisor – and then Raspberry Farm Café comments back, setting up a conversation. It's interactive.

According to manager Elise Chilcott, 'We have almost 15,000 likes on Facebook, quite a heavy traffic page.

'We respond quickly to comments and aim to answer every question. We respond in some way to everyone who posts a photo. For everyone there is some sort of acknowledgment.'

The award was a complete surprise.

Unlike many tourism awards, Raspberry Farm Café did not nominate themselves. Yet there they are in the fabulous company of fellow Tasmanian venues such as Black Cow Bistro, the Watergarden Bar and St Helens Furneaux Restaurant.

So, after beginning as a tin shed on the side of the road selling raspberries and soft drinks, what does a 25 year old café in rural Tasmania need to do to win a great customer experience award?

Oh yes, the location and ambience come into it, as does the imaginative food. 'Customers want raspberries. You find a place and we'll put a raspberry in it!' says Elise.

But Raspberry Farm Café has also put in the hard yards with customer service, training staff to acknowledge customers within five seconds of



Café supervisor Peta Robinson, chef Michael Lambert and manager Elise Chilcott – proud of their staff, service and food – now proud customer experience award winners. Photo by Mike Moores

entering the café and to read the needs of every table.

'Customer service expectations have changed – it must be way better than it ever was,' said Elise.

'With the advent of social media we must be consistently good at what we do.'

According to café supervisor Peta Robertson reading each table is key.

'It's about responsiveness: tourists like us to know the area, some people want a joke around the table while others want us to deliver the meal and leave them to it.'

Good staff with the right attitude and skills are critical, says Elise.

'We have a stable local staff of around 26 in winter. In summer staff numbers grow to 40 plus.'

'Former staff members call from overseas to ask if they can have a summer job. We don't often advertise – it's mainly word-of-mouth.'

Raspberry Farm Café understands its clientele to the extent that it doesn't just employ cheaper juniors.

'We're looking for people who want to work, who have different levels of experience,

different personalities, aged into their sixties,' said Peta.

'We have absolutely amazing staff; we're a team, it's a team environment, we can't do it alone.'

And finally, yes, it is about the food.

A few weeks ago a special dessert with the unlikely name of A Walk in the Forest splashed on social media with 462 likes and 301 comments: chocolate mud soil sprouts magic mushrooms and raspberry cream-filled tuile logs adorn the delightful scene.

'We serve a raspberry latté, a soup all year round and raspberry waffles will never leave our menu,' Elise said.

Another thing: this café makes 8.5 tonnes of chocolate-covered raspberries a year. Yes. And they give away 3.5 tonnes over the counter.

Elise has recommendations for start-up cafés.

'Know where your values are, and your community and their expectations. And once you've got your brand, whatever that may be, build on that.'

Of course, having chocolate-coated raspberries on the counter is a big help as well.

Taking away the pain with MVU3A

LIVING WITH persistent pain can literally be 'a pain in the neck'. For Seniors' Week, Meander Valley U3A is offering an event which is a mix of fun, entertainment and the opportunity to hear some good news about pain relief.

MVU3A will welcome the developer of the 'Overcoming Pain And Living Life', (OPALL) program Michelle Nicholson and facilitator, BJ White, to speak about strategies used in the OPALL program. This program can be accessed through self-referral.

One of our U3A members has done the program and found the strategies amazing and hugely helpful in overcoming pain. She definitely recommends OPALL.

The public is invited to this free event, sponsored by Meander Valley Council.

The event will be held at 1:30pm, Tuesday 8 October, at Westbury RSL, Lonsdale Promenade. This is in the U3A term break, the week before official Seniors' Week. Light refreshments will be served.

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Eric Manukov, photographer and dreamer



Eric Manukov, a passionate photographer and documentor of people.

Photo by Mike Moores

By Lorraine Clarke

HIS LIFE in Tasmania is a far cry from the dizzy heights of international fashion photography, but Eric Manukov has never regretted moving to Launceston a few years ago.

He was born in Sydney, with Georgian heritage, and describes himself as 'a strange creative child, a daydreamer' absorbed with painting, art and music, whose first purchased album was jazz rather than pop or rock.

At school, he had dreams of becoming a photojournalist. Eric spent several years as a photographic stylist in the world of fashion, before studying at the Australian Centre of Photography at age 28.

'Because I had the skill to create an image, my photography took off instantly,' he said. 'I could style my own photos. I worked in Fashion and Editorial for many years.'

Over six years, Eric often headed for outback Australia in a camper van to create his first big self-assigned project – Eric's Aboriginal series. He would fly back to Sydney for his commercial work, then return inland to his passion.

Representatives of five separate environments – desert, fresh water, salt water, cold climate and tropical – feature in this stunning photographic documentary that has been exhibited in Europe.

'I kept going around the country. I met some very prominent Aboriginals. I would live in a community for about six weeks to get to know them, to develop trust and relationships.'

Eric posted photographs on his van or a tree to generate interest in what he was doing, in the remotest areas where some residents had never seen a white person and spoke no English. He travelled throughout indigenous communities, from Mornington Island in the Gulf, through the central desert, to Hermansberg, the home of famed Aboriginal painter Namatjira.

Eric hangs a dark vertical canvas as backdrop to all his portraits, and people are invited to step out of their own environment into his.

'The person is the subject and context, not the environment,' he explains. 'The canvas is used to delete the background completely and remove the time-line. The intention was always to show them as a very proud people. All the photographs were taken of people in traditional tribal totem paint. I wanted to capture these totems before they were lost. It will all disappear. The series is a historical document.'

Eric holds great respect for the subjects of his hauntingly beautiful photos. He knows their names, their histories,

and remembers their home lands. 'I would wait and talk to people, and tell them what I was hoping to achieve historically. Some of the older people knew about the genocides and would not allow photos.'

Earlier photographers have captured the shaming history of our country's treatment of its first inhabitants, but Eric had loftier aims. 'The injustice has been covered. I don't need to show that. I wanted to show how beautiful they are.'

All Eric's 80 Aboriginal portraits were taken on film, and developed as silver gelatin prints. 'I am very proud to have photographed them and printed the pictures myself as well,' he said.

'I was allowed in. They trusted me. That's the number one thing I am very, very proud of.'

Pixels Gallery at Deloraine Online Access Centre is pleased to display Eric Manukov's significant and striking Aboriginal series throughout the month of October.

There will be an evening viewing where invitees can speak with Eric about his photography and the subjects of his Aboriginal series.

Check the Gazette Facebook for the date and details, or call 6286 8216.

Eric's website showcases all his photographic collections: www.ericmanukov.com.



Vinnies

Vinnies is excited to announce the opening of our brand new store in Deloraine in the coming weeks.

We are seeking a dynamic team of volunteers to help us set up Vinnies at Deloraine and volunteers to work on a roster system.

If you have some spare time and are interested in volunteering, want to learn new skills and give back to the community, then we would love to hear from you.

Please call Vinnies Launceston State Office and ask for Nicole on 6333 0822 for more information.

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Labor

Brian Mitchell MP
Your Federal Member for Lyons

Authorised by Rebecca White MP 33 Cole St Sorell

Meander Valley Council

HARD WASTE COLLECTION

1 Registrations open: **October**
6 Registrations close: **November**

The annual Hard Waste Collection will be undertaken between 11-15 November 2019.

Do I need to register for the service?

Yes. Hard waste items will ONLY be collected from those properties that have registered for the service.

How do I register?

Register Online

Visit Council's website at www.meander.tas.gov.au and select Waste & Recycling. You will be required to enter a valid email address in order to receive confirmation of your registration.

Register by phone or in person

Phone Council on 6393 5300 or visit the Council offices at 26 Lyall Street, Westbury and a customer service officer will assist you to complete your registration.

Why does Council need to know what I want collected?

This information is used by Council's contractors to ensure they have the appropriate number of vehicles and personnel available on collection day.

Can I add to, or change my list of items for collection after submitting my registration?

Yes. You must contact Council on 6393 5300 if you wish to make any changes or additions to your registration. Time limits do apply.

Can I cancel my registration?

Yes. You must phone Council to process your cancellation.

There are some items that cannot be collected.

Before registering, read the **Hard Waste Collection Guidelines**.

These are available on Council's website and at the Council office.



Above: Milk cartons are some of the items that cannot be placed in recycling bins.

Important changes to recycling

Residents are advised that liquid paperboard can no longer be placed in recycling bins.

What is liquid paperboard?

Liquid paperboard is known as aseptic packaging. This is sterilised packaging used for products such as fresh and longlife milk, soy and almond milk, poppas, custards and liquid stocks.

Previously, many of these items were placed in recycling bins.

Why can't these items be recycled anymore?

There is now no market to recycle aseptic packaging and it must be disposed of in the general waste bin.

"It is important that residents stop placing this type of packaging in the recycling bin as it causes contamination of other recyclable products," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

Residents are reminded that even if a package has a recycling logo printed on it, that does not mean it can go in the recycling bin.

In some cases, the recycling logo only indicates that the packaging is made of recycled components or is capable of being recycled. This does not automatically mean that it is accepted at recycling facilities.

Recycling must now be of a much higher standard and facilities no longer accept aseptic packaging through the recycling bin.

Residents are encouraged to consider alternatives where possible and, if disposing of this type of packaging, ensure the items are flattened prior to placing in the general waste bin.

For more information visit www.rethinkwaste.com.au

Recycling?
What goes where?



Items for your kerbside recycling bin:

- Glass**
- Bottles
- Jars
- Paper and Cardboard**
- Office paper (not shredded)
- Newspaper
- Cardboard (not waxed)
- Magazines and pamphlets
- Paper bags
- Letters and envelopes
- Telephone books

Metal

- Aluminium cans
- Steel cans
- Tin plated steel cans
- Aluminium foil (clean)
- Paint tins (empty)
- Aerosol cans

Hard Plastics

- Plastic containers and bottles that are rigid and hold their shape eg. shampoo bottles. (must be empty with lids off)

Recycling must be placed in bins loose. Ensure containers do not contain food scraps or other liquids.

Items for sorted recycling at waste facilities:

- Batteries (car and household)
- E-waste (computer, televisions)
- Gas bottles (empty)
- Steel (washing machines, dryers and light scrap steel)
- Soft plastics (cling wrap, bread bags, bubble wrap, shopping bags and silage wrap)
- Mobile phones
- Fluorescent bulbs and tubes
- Motor and cooking oils
- Polystyrene

Need a Recycle Coach?

Download the free Recycle Coach App! With recycling tips and advice, you'll always know what goes where!



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Code of Conduct Determination

On 20 September, 2018, a Code of Conduct complaint was brought against Councillor Rodney Synfield by Council's General Manager, Martin Gill.

Hearings relating to the complaint were finalised in June 2019 and the Code of Conduct Panel determined that the complaint against Cr Synfield be upheld.

"The fact that the conduct of a Councillor has led to a complaint is very disappointing.

Council has a responsibility to be proactive in its approach to upholding the principles and values that the community expects and all elected members who breach the Code of Conduct

must be held to account," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

The Local Government Code of Conduct Panel is an independent body of the State Government and they have a range of sanctions available to impose.

Cr Synfield will be required to undertake training in the competencies of emotional intelligence.

Council will make arrangements for this training to occur and is required, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 to pay all costs associated with this training.

Cr Synfield is required to satisfy the training requirements by 30 September 2019.

Focus on fallow deer at recent workshop

The importance of the management of wild fallow deer was a focus area for Council at a recent workshop.

"Council requested the attendance of key staff from Games Services Tasmania to discuss wild fallow deer in the Meander Valley area," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

Games Services are keen to work with Council and community groups in the management of fallow deer and recognise the diversity of views that exist.

Games Services Tasmania was established last year



to support landowners and hunters to effectively manage issues relating to game and browsing animals.

The State Government has committed to undertaking a comprehensive state-wide census of wild fallow deer that will help inform future management strategies.

Games Services Tasmania can provide advice and information about wild fallow deer and the responsibilities associated with recreational

game licenses.

"I encourage residents who have feedback or questions about fallow deer to contact Games Services. The views of the community are important in informing the development of management strategies," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

Games Services Tasmania can be contacted on 6165 4305.



Above: Council's Works Crew completes tree planting at Blackstone Park

Finishing touches added to Blackstone Park's inclusive upgrade

Silver Birch, Golden Elm and Lilac trees have been planted as upgrades to Blackstone Park are completed.

"It's important that playgrounds are complemented by natural features and as these trees mature they will provide shade and amenity," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

The equipment upgrades were informed by community feedback and the Blackstone Heights Community News Association played an active role in the design of the project.

New equipment caters for increasing age ranges and some is specifically designed to be all-inclusive.

"Recreational spaces help keep the community active and engaged and it's important that these spaces offer a range of experiences for everyone," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

Improvements include a half basketball and soccer court, an all abilities basket swing and what could be the State's first dual flying fox.

Additional seating and bench tables have also been installed to complement the existing barbecue facilities.

"On behalf of Council, I would like to thank the community for their feedback," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.



The upgrades were funded in part by the State Liberal Government's election commitment and respond to the growing number of families that live in Blackstone Heights and the surrounding areas.



Council is seeking your feedback about the future alternative use of the following Council owned properties:

- 6-8 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine (commercial lease)
- 333 Westbury Road, Prospect Vale (residential lease)
- 35 William Street, Westbury (residential lease)

Please forward your feedback to:

-  General Manager, PO Box 102, Westbury Tasmania 7303
-  mail@mvc.tas.gov.au

Need more information?
Please phone Council's Director, Infrastructure Services on 6393 5300

Feedback submissions are open until Friday 4 October 2019

Meander Valley Bus Network Changes

The Department of State Growth is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the Meander Valley bus network.

This includes changes to routes, frequency of services and timing of buses to Deloraine and Westbury, along with the Devonport to Launceston and Launceston to Hobart intercity services.

As part of this, Mole Creek households will soon receive an information sheet from State Growth outlining a proposal to change the Launceston to Mole Creek service from a public bus, which anyone can catch, to a student-only service.

The current bus service is already effectively operating as a school bus, timed to take students to and from schools in Launceston, so adult patronage is very low. Mole Creek passengers would still be able to catch public bus services at Deloraine.

Residents will be able to complete an online survey on their public transport needs before a final decision on the future of this service is made.

The proposed changes to the network are part of a wider review of all general access bus services in Tasmania to ensure they reflect the needs of local communities and provide better access to employment, education and other services.

Visit www.transport.tas.gov.au/haveyoursay for more information on the proposed network changes, to view draft timetables and maps, and to provide feedback. Service changes are expected to occur in April 2020.

Keep an eye on the State Growth website and Meander Valley Council Facebook page for updates.



Community Cars at your service

If you require transport, Community Cars operate from Deloraine and Westbury. Cars are available for travel at anytime.

Bookings are taken between 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

Deloraine Community Car 0427 504 546
Westbury Community Car 6393 5300 or 6393 2717



Stepping Stones Leadership Camps

Be challenged • Be active • Be involved • Be there

Stepping Stones Leadership Camps offer a range of experiences both indoors and out that are designed to challenge and facilitate personal growth. They are also a great opportunity to make new friends.

If you are interested in learning, developing self-awareness and leadership skills, facing new challenges, building relationships and having lots of fun, then a Stepping Stones camp is for you!

Stepping Stones Camps are drug and alcohol free, fully supervised by Meander Valley Council staff and volunteers. Limited to 20 places, so register early!

- Stepping Stones Camp Grades 9-12**
1-3 October, 2019
- Stepping Stones Camp Grades 6-8**
7-9 October, 2019

To register, contact Vicki Jordan on 0400 155 690

As the days grow longer, so do the hedges!



Residents are reminded that overgrown vegetation can cause pathways to become obstructed.

It is a resident's responsibility to ensure that vegetation is not encroaching onto public pathways and remains trimmed back to the property boundary.

Please check to ensure pathways near your property boundary are not obstructed and remain accessible to all.



Meander Valley Council
Working Together

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

Customer Service Office
8.30am - 5pm
Monday - Friday
26 Lyall Street Westbury Tasmania 7303

 meandervalleycouncil
www.meander.tas.gov.au

NESTLED IN a child-friendly wooded wonderland in Jackey's Marsh, the Forest Folk recently hosted a fun eco-printing workshop.

Jasmine Rocca and Alena Leek are two ladies who have been running a nature club each Tuesday at Deloraine Primary.

They run programs for children, teaching such natural crafts as making lavender bags, growing eggshell gardens, making hommus and colouring fabrics with natural plant dyes. So successful have these programs been that they hope to expand into other schools.

Jasmine and Alena decided it was unfair for kids to have all the fun, so they have extended their workshops to teach natural skills to adults.

First on the agenda was a forest walk to gather a selection of leaves, wattle blossoms, vines, barks, buds and other vegetation.

An imposing steel tripod supported a blazing outdoor fire that dispelled the winter chills, and boiled two large pots of water.

Back at the work tables, lengths of recycled fabric were sprayed with vinegar water.

Leaves were dipped into a bowl of rusty water, then shaken off, and arranged in pleasing designs on one edge of the fabric. The other side of the fabric was folded on top of the leaves. All was rolled around lengths of bamboo, secured with twine, then tossed into the boiling water, one coloured with turmeric.

An hour of convivial tea drinking and story swapping later, the bamboo rolls were retrieved and laid out with much oohing and aahing as the fabric revealed its secrets.

All were amazed at the almost photographic clarity of tiny details in leaves and buds, and the range of muted colours.

The many prints were hung out to dry on a line, some of them turmeric-yellow with the tie-dye effect of the twine adding more interest.



The Forest Folk at work

That such a delightful result could be achieved in little more than an hour was motivation to experiment more with this simple, fail safe technique at home.

Jasmine and Alena explained that their intention is to use only found or recycled objects to create beautiful crafts. They source all their boiling pots, tongs, fabric and rusty objects from tip shops and op shops. The only thing bought retail was vinegar.

The Forest Folk will be teaching eco-printing at Cygnet Folk Festival next January, but until then, they have a great program of other fun, nature-based skill-building workshops at Deloraine.

So if you have ever yearned to whittle, learn bush survival skills, make your own clay bead jewellery, colour fleece and fabric with dyes made from your own garden plants, twine flax into cordage and weave useful baskets, identify and collect edible mushrooms from the forest, and even grow your own shiitake

mushroom logs, the Forest Folk can grant your wishes.

Materials are included in the cost for each course, and you can take home anything you have made (including two shiitake logs!)

To view the full range of workshops that are available and to make bookings, go to: www.theforestfolk.com.au.

Email jasminerocca@gmail.com or call/text 0422 193 971 for enquiries.



The finished projects, all made with natural plant dyes. Photo supplied

Jasmine Rocca of Jackey's Marsh, an instructor at the Forest Folk workshops, preparing plants and fabric for dyeing with Bonnie McGee of Weetah. Photo by Mike Moores

Old Hydro village, a new folk festival

THE MOUNT Roland Folk Festival is a brand new folk festival grown out of the rich cultural soil of North West Tasmania. It will be held just outside Sheffield at Gowrie Park Wilderness Village and The Old Black Stump restaurant from October 11-13.

Over 50 musicians and 30 volunteers from around Tasmania and Australia will fill the quaint timber caravan park, which is a decommissioned Tas Hydro Village.

There will be a mix of veteran and emerging Tasmanian performers, including Ben Salter, Claire Anne Taylor, The Stragglers, New Holland Honey Eaters, Luke Plumb and Jane McArthur.

Interstate artists will include Celtic rock band Dalriada, and acclaimed social justice songwriter Little Foot.

One of the festival organisers, musician Teri Young, says



that the focus will be as much on the festival goers as the performers. 'It's not intended to be a passive entertainment experience, but to encourage active engagement from everybody who comes.'

The program of activities includes an open mic stage, all-in sing-along sessions, choir rehearsals, daily yoga, bushwalks, and a poets' breakfast for anyone to recite at.

There are craft workshops and a bushdance, kids' shows and youth activities, including a Youth Blackboard Concert for under 20s to perform at.

The festival is capped at 200 tickets this year, which can be bought at www.mountrolandfolkfest.org.

TANIA RATTRAY MLC
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR MCINTYRE



Your full-time 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 am available to meet and discuss your needs and issues.

Contact details— Mobile—0427 523 412
Office Phone—6350 5000
Email—tania.rattray@parliament.tas.gov.au

Tourism in the drivers' seat

A DELORAINE workshop for Tourism Northern Tasmania will be held on 16 October 2019, to discuss its planned two new self-drive journeys in Tasmania.

Anyone who is interested is invited to attend. Venue to be announced.

Contact Chris Griffin on 0402 628 768 or chris@tnt.org.au.



The New Holland Honey Eaters will perform. Photo supplied

Mild Veggie Curry Noodles



A sambal-spiced coconut soup rich with Australian spring produce, tofu and hard-boiled eggs.
Photo by Wai Lin Coultas

By Wai Lin Coultas

AS TASTY as an Indian curry, Indonesia's *lontong sayur* is a sambal-spiced coconut soup rich with rice cakes, tofu and hard-boiled eggs. Malaysia's *lodeh* variation is loaded with carrots, cabbage and French beans.

Australian spring produce and a slurpylicious take on dry curried Singapore noodles gives a curry that vegetarians can happily construct by pouring gravy into vegetable-filled noodle bowls – perfect for dinner guests who love food play!

Ingredients

1 x 220g bag Kan Tong thin rice or laksa noodles, soaked 10 minutes in boiling water, drained and tossed in canola oil
2 lettuce leaves, thinly sliced
2 sprigs fresh basil, thinly sliced
4 spears asparagus, blanched
4 sprigs broccolini, blanched
2 florets cauliflower, cooked & quartered
1 ½ small carrots, cooked & thickly julienned

6 truss tomatoes, skinned
4g bean curd sheets, sectioned, shallow-fried in canola oil & drained
2 eggs, hard boiled, peeled & halved
6 fresh curry leaves, another 8 shallowed fried in canola oil & drained
2 onions, peeled & finely diced
8 cloves garlic, peeled & minced
1 lemon, juiced
30g pickled sushi ginger, drained & finely diced
2 tbsp ginger paste
1 tsp ground turmeric
1 tsp ground cumin
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp chilli powder
2 tsp ground cardamom
2 tsp ground fenugreek
2 tbsp Hill Farm's ploughman's mustard
3 tbsp tomato paste
4 vegetable stock cubes
400 ml water
2 x 400 ml cans coconut milk
50g shredded desiccated coconut
salt
canola oil

Note that laksa noodles and sushi ginger are available at

most large supermarkets. Bean curd sheets are available at most Asian grocers.

Instructions

- 1 Over high heat, sauté onions till softened,
- 2 Add garlic, sushi ginger and ginger paste and sauté till fragrant.
- 3 Add dry spices and the 6 unfried curry leaves, sauté till fragrant
- 4 Stir in water, mustard, tomato paste and stock cubes, dissolve then bring to boil.
- 5 Stir in coconut milk, bringing to boil
- 6 add lemon juice and shredded coconut, bring to boil again then season with salt.
- 7 mix oiled noodles with lettuce and basil and divide mixture into 2 bowls
- 8 add half the vegetables, half the fried bean curd and 1 boiled egg into each bowl
- 9 divide the hot curry gravy over the 2 bowls and garnish with half the fried curry leaves on the side.
Serves 2



In the veggie garden

Turnips and swedes can be sown, according to the notes on the seed packets, throughout the year, although the Garden Guide excludes the months of April, May, June, November and December in the colder districts.

Turnips can go into well manured soil, the shallow drills lined with a layer of seed raising mix. Those pictured by Tanya King, were grown in one of the raised boxes at Deloraine Community Garden.

To make room for growth, they were thinned out and the smaller, golf ball sized ones were used raw for salads. The fully grown turnips are delicious, peeled, sliced up and boiled briefly, served with butter and scattered with finely chopped chives.

If dry enough soil can be located, broad beans are able to be sown in September, as

are cabbages, spring onions, silver beet (add a little boron), and peas.

In the landscape – Acacias

It would hard to miss the most prolific of these in the landscape just now.

The Black Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), springs up wherever a patch of native forest has been cleared, and in September becomes a golden fringe along the forest borders.

The flowers of Blackwoods (*A. melanoxylon*) are paler and not so conspicuous, but their dense foliage and spreading branches make them attractive and useful shade trees.

Tasmania has seven species of Acacias. The smallest of them *A. verticillata*, (Prickly Mimosa), commonly known as Prickly Moses, is a shrub with gracefully arching branches and large pale yellow flowers.



Turnips grown in the raised boxes at the Deloraine Community Garden.
Photo by Tanya King



"I extend a warm welcome to our newest Tasmanian Liberal Senator - Claire Chandler"




SENATOR JONATHON DUNIAM
LIBERAL SENATOR FOR TASMANIA

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Authorised by Senator Jonathon Duniam, Liberal Party of Australia, Ground Floor, 85 Macquarie Street, Hobart TAS 7000.

Sublime Smibert

By Wai Lin Coultas

DELORAINÉ-BASED TONY Smibert was among four artists highly commended by judges of the 2019 Hadley Art Prize, for his landscape *Tao Sublime 5*.

Presented by Hadley's Orient Hotel and now in its third year, the prize celebrates contemporary landscape art.

Indigenous artist Carbiene MacDonald Tjangala, of Papunya in the Northern Territory, was awarded the \$100 000 Hadley Art Prize. Tony's fellow Tasmanians Philip Wolfhagen and Faridah Cameron, along with Betty Pula Morton from the Northern Territory, were the other highly commended artists.

Announced in July, these five artists were chosen from the 30 finalists hung in the exhibition from approximately 600 entries Australia-wide.

Tony's acrylic on canvas dwells upon 'Tasmania's precious pencil pines as a living connection to landscape and

time before European arrival: dreaming their ancient dream'.

The judges were particularly taken with this 'expressive, dreamlike work [that] portrayed the weather, the atmosphere and a very particular sense of place in an intriguing medium'.

Tony attributes his artistic style to a whole range of influences, combining holistic qualities of Taoism with a Turner-esque sublime romanticism.

He began as a traditional water colourist. Time spent in Japan and his passion for Aikido influenced him to move into minimal works of art.

When he became increasingly fascinated with English water colour, his pursuit of JMW Turner's techniques led him to discover the philosophy of Alexander Cozens, taking artists away from precise representations of the scene before them.

'Responding to the sublime, I am referencing nature's spir-



Tony Smibert working in his watercolour studio. Photo supplied

it rather than its appearance,' Tony expands.

The European idea of the sublime resonates with what the Japanese call *ten shi jin* or 'heaven, earth, man' – our relationship to the cosmos,

to the Tao and the idea that nature is deeply significant. Tony's paintings allude to feelings of awe or terror that we might experience in nature.

The landscape in *Tao Sublime 5* is imagined from Tony's

response to experience, and not of a particular spot in Tasmania at all.

'A painting done this way creates itself. Starting with an empty canvas, I might have a sense of place in mind, and then, very quickly, it appears,' Tony explains. 'What seemed important to me late last year when I painted it, is now even more so given how many pencil pines were damaged by fires over summer.'

Many of Tony's works are painted with very few brush strokes. He uses watercolour techniques to paint an acrylic wash on a larger scale, drawing inspiration from abstract expressionist Jackson Pollock.

Tony has exhibited across Australia and overseas. He is a Visiting Artist Researcher at the Tate Gallery and author of a number of well-known books on watercolour. His latest book, *Turner's Apprentice* will be published in early 2020.

Tony Smibert Studio Gallery is at 179 Mole Creek Road in Deloraine. Visitors are always welcome. Just call 03 6362 2474 or email tony@smibert.com.

Conservation landowners to lose council rate rebate

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY councillors have thrown out a rate rebate for landowners who maintain and conserve their private land for the public good.

The total rebate amounts to \$11,641 in the 2019-20 financial year and the council had already decided to support the scheme until 2023. It will now be discontinued from 1 July 2020.

In a pre-organised ambush, several councillors supported Cllr Michael Kelly's motion to ditch the scheme rather simply review the policy, as was proposed on the August meeting agenda.

Opposition to the scheme among anti-conservation councillors has been ongoing for several years. It has been a consistent issue for Cllr Tanya

King and Cllr Kelly. The motion to discontinue the policy was seconded by Cllr Andrew Sherriff.

In Meander Valley about 80 landowners who establish a covenant under the State Government's Private Land Conservation program claim the rebate in return for not developing their land and controlling weeds.

Reedy Marsh landowner Andrew Ricketts who has two covenants, said council supporting the rebate was an important part of the national reserve system and could not be replaced by public land.

'There's a public interest matter at stake here. Australia has signed an international agreement that binds Tasmania and local government to put in place incentive measures for ratepayers to protect their land.'

Cllr King said the issue had nothing to do with local government and should be between landowners and the State Government.

'People purchase property for a multitude of reasons and to expect fellow ratepayers to subsidise it is unacceptable.'

Cllr Sherriff said he found it 'hard to get excited' about the scheme: 'We have plenty of locked up land. If landowners want to keep their land the way it is, that's up to them.'

But Cllr John Temple used the analogy of community sports facilities, to which all ratepayers compulsorily contribute financially but don't necessarily use.

'All the people I know with these covenants are proud of them – they feel they are providing a community good,' he said.

'In the same way the amount we forgo for sporting grounds is a common good.'

Mayor Wayne Johnston said times and priorities change: 'As a council we have other issues before us: feral cats, fallow deer. And a lot of these covenanted properties do house cats and deer.'

'We need environmental outcomes to benefit the whole community, not just a select few.'

The rebate level is calculated on the number of hectares that are covered by the conservation covenant: a base rate of \$5.67 per ha of land area.

Cllrs Kelly, King, Sherriff, Bower and Johnston voted to end the rebate, outvoting Cllrs Synfield, Temple and Nott.

What landowners say about losing the council rebate

Sarah Lloyd and Ron Nagorka, Birrale

'Despite being aged pensioners we consider conservation 'in perpetuity' of our forested 130 acres to be much more important than any profit we may get by exploiting its resources.'

'The area is rich in threatened forest types and provides habitat and breeding sites for Grey Goshawk, Wedge Tailed Eagle and Coloured Sparrowhawk. There are also populations of Tasmanian Devils and Spotted-tailed Quoll.'

Neil Hoffmann, Reedy Marsh

'The rates rebate is a small amount of money and does not reflect the cost of maintaining my natural forest and the work I do in weed control – in my case, controlling sycamores.'

'But it is an appreciated recognition from the council of the need to contribute towards conserving natural values on private land.'

Andrew Ricketts, Reedy Marsh

'Please consider: Do we really want to declare that on our watch we acted negligently and allowed the Swift Parrot to go extinct?'

'Bear in mind that this bird species, which inhabits the threatened *Eucalyptus ovata* forest in Meander Valley, is now listed as critically endangered. The *E. ovata* forest

itself is about 95 per cent depleted since European occupation.'

'The Tasmanian Devil is now estimated to have a 90 per cent decline in places such as Meander Valley, yet we are not actively conserving its habitat on private land, aside from securely protected and covenanted land.'

'I consider Meander Valley Council's conservation covenant incentive scheme to be an important action because simply, it represents a start. That cannot be underestimated.'

Judith and Michael Hawkes, Reedy Marsh

'To be formally recognised by the council through the incentive scheme for our voluntary role in protecting and maintaining our habitat has been greatly appreciated.'

'By placing perpetual conservation covenants on our land titles we have been able to guarantee the continued presence of the natural values of our immediate area.'

Annemaree Woodward, Reedy Marsh

'I decided to conserve my block of land because it is located in a forested area where both public and private land has high natural values. I considered it was an advantage to both nature and the public interest that I largely forgo development of my land.'

'My land is in an area of high biodiversity: it contains priority vegetation communities and is habitat for endangered species.'

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Pottery Hub launched



Pottery Hub coordinator Trish Richers (left) and Brenda Griechen in front of the Pottery Hub kiln, discussing Brenda's pottery echidna. Photo by Mike Moores

By Wendy Laing

SATURDAY 24 August was the official launch of the Deloraine Pottery Hub, held at Deloraine Creative Studios.

Sonja Grodski, the President of DCS, welcomed 30 guests to the launch.

Sally Darke, Chairperson of the Tasmanian Community Fund congratulated the Deloraine Pottery Hub on their launch. 'It is a pleasure', she said, 'to see the kiln we have funded set up and being used by the community in this large open space.'

Sonja also spoke of the work that Trish Richers, the Pottery Hub coordinator, has achieved with kiln firings,

organising beginner classes and arranging for professional and amateur potters to use the Hub. 'Through her efforts,' Sonja said, 'Trish has produced a relaxed atmosphere where people using the space feel most welcome.'

A toast was then given to the success of the Deloraine Pottery Hub.

The Meander Valley Council was thanked for their generous support supplying shelving, benches and cupboards.

For more information please call into the Deloraine Creative Studios and chat to Trish Richers in the Pottery Hub area, contact her on 0407 930 342 or email trish.richers@gmail.com.

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Tearing up the turf for Terry

TERRY ROLES' long and successful horse training career is well-known to the local community and Terry's friends, who are now called on to assist him in his fight against Motor Neuron Disease.

The Tasmanian Turf Club and Aussie Legend Events are hosting a great night of entertainment on Saturday 21 September at Ladbroke's Racing Centre in Mowbray.

Starting at 6 for 6.30pm, the evening includes a two-course buffet carvery – main course, dessert, premium wines, beer and soft drink package from 6.30 to 10.30pm. At \$140pp, seating will be for tables of 10 with smaller bookings grouped together.

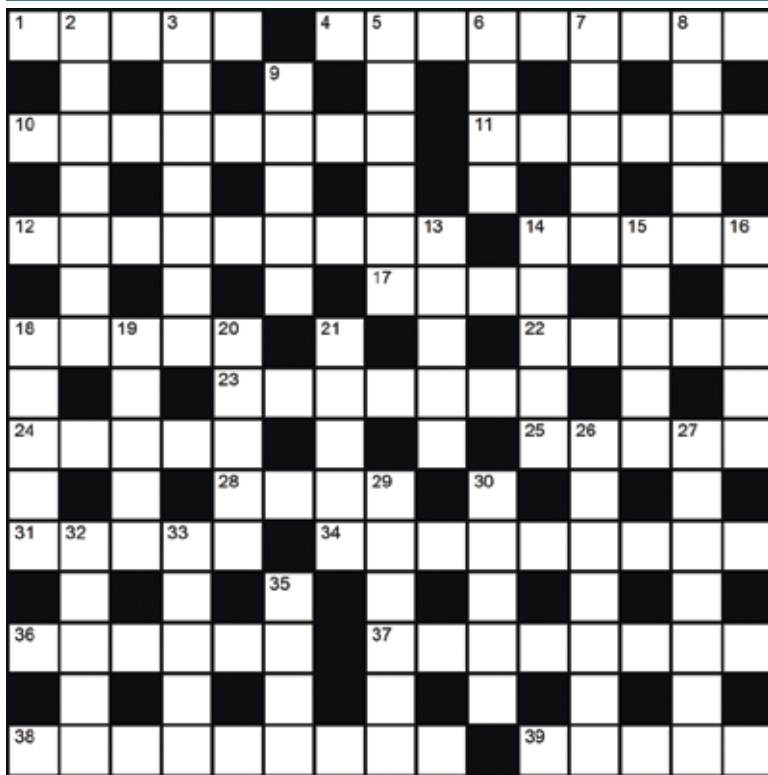
There will be live and silent auctions, raffle, games and a chance to win a 2 hour guided tour of Gai Waterhouse's stables in Melbourne on Sunday 3 November, airfares included.

Guest speakers include Brendan Bolton (AFL), Greg Miles and Robert Heathcote (racing identities) and comedian Chris 'The Bloke' Franklin.

Tickets are available from goracingtasmania.com.au/tearing-up-the-turf.

Silent auction donations phone 6326 1070.

Crossword



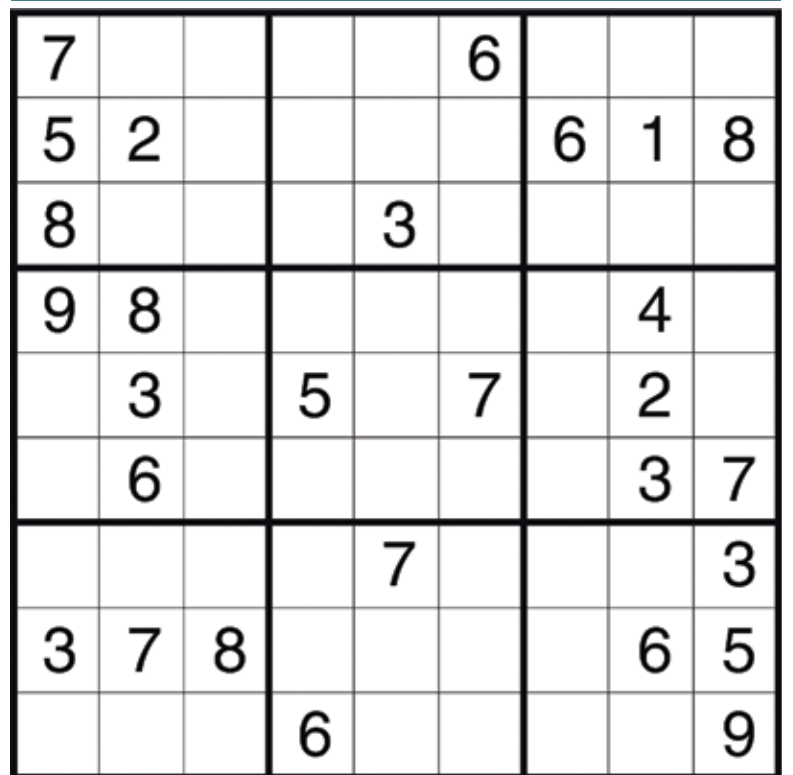
Across

- 1 Charges (5)
- 4 Unwavering (9)
- 10 Wedding (8)
- 11 Bicycle seat (6)
- 12 Tonsorial tidier (9)
- 14 Yellowish citrus fruit (5)
- 17 Indian exercise method (4)
- 18 Type of radiation (5)
- 22 Sprite (5)
- 23 Folds (7)
- 24 Vision (5)
- 25 Vacant (5)
- 28 Woodwind instrument (4)
- 31 Academy award (5)
- 34 Disgusting (9)
- 36 Condescending (6)
- 37 Event (8)
- 38 Secondary piece of equipment (9)
- 39 Got up (5)

Down

- 2 US state on the Gulf Coast (7)
- 3 Aural membrane (7)
- 5 Minute (6)
- 6 Too (4)
- 7 Soft sweetmeat (5)
- 8 Simultaneous firing of artillery (5)
- 9 Native New Zealander (5)
- 13 Raise (5)
- 14 Pass into disuse (5)
- 15 State of confusion (3-2)
- 16 Destitute (5)
- 18 Zest (5)
- 19 Sorcery (5)
- 20 Participant (5)
- 21 Spanish Mister (5)
- 26 Bullfighter (7)
- 27 Lease holders (7)
- 29 Weirder (6)
- 30 Contact (5)
- 32 Operated by sound waves (5)
- 33 Residence (5)
- 35 Stains (4)

Sudoku



© 2019 Syndicated Puzzles

How to play Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9, each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9 and each set of 3 x 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9. Best of luck!

Crossword September 2019 solution



Sudoku September 2019 solution



Events Diary

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Running an event? Then make sure everyone knows about it. Email the details to editor@meandervalleygazette.com. Remember to plan in advance so you don't miss out!

Date and Time	Event	Details
Every day June–9 November	Overload 2019 – Blood is Life Art Exhibition	Deloraine Hospital Gallery, 17 East Barrack St Sheila Stevenson Ph 0428 576 795
Every Monday 9am–10.30am	Yoga with Brigitte	Deloraine Day Care Centre, Lansdowne Place, Deloraine \$15 casual More info Ph 0414 948 760
Every Wednesday 6–7.30pm	Yoga with Kristina	Deloraine Day Care Centre, Lansdowne Place, Deloraine \$15 casual More info Kristina 0497 025 308
Monday 7 October 12–2pm	Eating with Friends	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Cost \$7 Bookings essential Ph 6362 2678
Saturday 7 September 9am–1pm	Deloraine Market	Deloraine Showgrounds, 14795 Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine More info 6369 5321 or 0409695321
Saturday 7 September 11–12 noon	Shiitake logs workshop	Jackeys Marsh (address will be forwarded to participants) \$50 Bookings essential 0422193971
Sunday 8 September 1–3.30pm	James Bennett	Marakoopa Café, 186 Mayberry Rd, Mayberry Tickets \$20 Ph 6363 5033
Saturday 14 September 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>The Insult</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M Drama Lebanon 96m More info 0418 389 868
Saturday 14 September 9am–1pm	Liffey Valley Market	Old Liffey School, 1443 Liffey Rd, Liffey More info Jen 0421 900 810
Monday 16 September 12.30–2.30pm	Deloraine Writers Group	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine All welcome Ph 63262 2678
Thursday 19 September 4pm	High Tea for Hospital Auxiliary	Rotary Pavilion, Deloraine Bookings Joan 63622044, Judy 63623291, Robin 0408521836
Saturday 21 September 9am–1pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drive and Caveside Road Contact Ross Quick 0413 681 252
Saturday 21 September 10am–3pm	Quamby Fly Fishers Open Day	Meander Hall, Main Road, Meander Free event BBQ lunch
Saturday 21 September 1.30–4pm	Westbury Flower Show	Westbury Town Hall, Lyaal Street, Westbury Entry \$2 Stalls, raffle & afternoon tea available
Saturday 14 September 10am–2pm	Eco printing workshop	Deloraine Hospital Day Centre Room \$130 Bookings essential 0422193971
Saturday 21 September 9am–2pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Promenade, Westbury Ph 6393 1417
Saturday 28 September 10am–2pm	Flax cord and basket making workshop	Deloraine Hospital Day Centre Room \$130 Bookings essential 0422193971
Saturday 6 October 9am–2pm	Community Market Day & Car Boot Sale	Parkham Community Hall, Bradys Plain Rd, Parkham More info & stall bookings Kaylene 0499 554 316
Tuesday 8 October 1.30pm	Seniors' Week Celebration	Westbury RSL, Lonsdale Promenade, Westbury Entertainment, speaker, refreshments Info 0407 951 823
Friday 11 to Sunday 13 October	Mount Roland Folk Festival	Gowrie Park Wilderness Village, 1447 Claude Road, Gowrie Park Music & more Info & tickets mountrolandfolkfest.org
Saturday 12 October 10am–1pm	Flower luminaries and candle making workshop	Deloraine Hospital Day Centre Room \$70 Bookings essential 0422193971
Saturday 12 October 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>Can you ever forgive me?</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M Biography/Comedy/Crime USA 106m More info 0418 389 868
Sunday 13 October 10am–2pm	Plant dyes workshop	Jackeys Marsh (address will be forwarded to participants) \$130 Bookings essential 0422193971
Sunday 13 October 12 noon	Birralee concert – full program of artists	Birralee \$7 entry BBQ, light snacks, popular artist award More info 63961188
Monday 14 October 3.30–6.30pm	Become a smart phone photographer	Westbury Library, William Street, Westbury Bookings www.eventbrite.com.au/o/launceston-library-8084977432
Thursday 17 October 3.30–6.30pm	Become a smart phone photographer	Deloraine Library, Emu Bay Road, Deloraine Bookings www.eventbrite.com.au/o/launceston-library-8084977432
Saturday 19 October Save the Date!	Paws on the Green	Village Green, Lonsdale Promenade, Westbury More info 0418 134 304 or 0413 437 720
Friday 25 October Save the Date!	180th Birthday Open Day & Fair	Westbury Primary School, Taylor St, Westbury Maypole dancing, food, entertainment Info 0413 453 567

Pearn's Farm 200 celebrates farm families

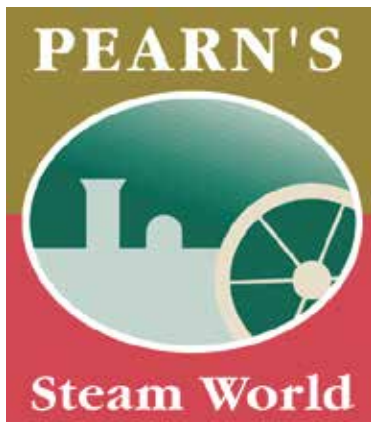
TASMANIAN FARM families have played a vital role in the development and ongoing success of rural Tasmania and agriculture is a major employer and driver of the state's economy.

To recognise hard-working farm families who have consecutively held ownership of land in the same family for 200 years, Pearn's Steam World is inviting eligible families to be listed in their new exhibition Farm 200.

To be included in the exhibition, applicants should complete a one-page form outlining their family history and supply copies of any documents which may be of relevance to the display.

Display co-ordinator Anne Heazlewood, believes it is important to capture the history of these families.

'Farm 200 forms part of an ongoing theme we have at Pearn's Steam World as we strive to be Tasmania's key agricultural museum.'



Pearn's Steam World has been operating at Westbury since 1987 and is a nationally significant collection of steam traction engines, tractors, farm equipment and memorabilia collected by the Pearn brothers.

In 1987 with community support the brothers developed Pearn's Steam World. In 2001 the brothers donated their collection in trust to the local community.

Open daily, the museum is run entirely by volunteers and brings visitors from all over the world to Westbury.

Entry is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children which includes free train rides for all.

Farm 200 enquiries to Anne Heazlewood 6397 3458.

General enquiries to Robert Hill 0476 074 219.

Smash Tas comes to Deloraine

LASSE BUNDGAARD, former national and Olympic badminton coach came to Deloraine recently to hold a 'Smash Tas' Badminton Clinic.

'Smash Tas' Clinics have been held at various locations around the state, including Hobart, Devonport, Burnie and Ulverstone.

About 30 young people from around the district and several from Launceston were treated to expert coaching by Lasse and his two helpers, Scott Johnston and Scott Viney of Launceston.

Lasse also showed several videos of some of the champion players he has coached during his career.

All participants in the clinic were given a Yonex badminton racquet.

One of the day's participants, Anastasia Looby of Elizabeth Town prepares to serve.

Photo by Jan Atkins



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Kicking goals with volunteers

By David Claridge

VOLUNTEERING IS the backbone of local grassroots sports. Parents encourage their children to get out and get active and in turn they join in.

It's thanks to parents such as James and Phillippa Baldock who keep local football alive for future generations.

Last year, James was chosen as the Tasmanian State Winner of the NAB AFL Auskick Volunteer of the Year.

Phillippa shared how James has been involved in football pretty much all his life.

'James started playing Juniors with the Deloraine Football Club before moving into the senior side. Later on he joined the committee and then coached,' she said.

'We both became involved with Auskick when one of our daughters wanted to join in. We agreed to take on the role from the previous coordinators and continue their good work.'

James' prize was a paid trip to Melbourne to see a finals game of AFL in 2018.

'We were actually overseas at the time the game was going to be on, so we were

able to go recently instead to watch his team, the Hawks, play Collingwood.'

AFLTAS is once again calling for nominations for Volunteer of the Year, to reward someone who has made a significant contribution to their community.

Information from AFLTAS suggests there were 209 000 volunteers involved in football across Australia last year.

James Baldock at Auskick, with some possible future players for the Deloraine Roos or the Tasmanian AFL team.

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