



BIRTHDAY BASH FOR WESTBURY!

180th celebrated with music and cake!

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BLESS THEIR HEARTS

St Andrews on the Green welcomes our pets.

▶ PAGE 3



SINGING ON THE GREEN

Doggone good music for a doggy day out.

▶ PAGE 5

Meander Valley Gazette

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November 2019

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper



Westbury rallies against the prison site

From left, Anne-Marie Loader and Sally Day, with Toby and Tilly Booth, at the Saturday 26 October Town Hall meeting. Since the announcement of the Northern Regional Prison site on the Birralea Road outside Westbury, many local residents are angry about the lack of consultation by the State Government and are deeply concerned about the effect that the prison will have on their small community. More stories can be found on pages 7 and 8. Photo by Mike Moores

Council led search for Westbury prison site

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY Council's former general manager Martin Gill led the process of supplying the municipality's land options to the State Government for Tasmania's new northern prison.

Councillors have known about it since at least November 2018, although they did not know the exact locations.

The director of the company owning the Westbury site, Neville Pope, said he was approached by Meander Valley Council for consent to submit

an expression of interest in selling land to the State Government for the prison.

Mr Pope said his company, Glen Avon Farms, initiated nothing. Meander Valley Council had approached him for permission and had then submitted the expression of

interest with no involvement from his company.

Mr Gill, manager of Victoria's Queenscliffe Council since early October 2019, has confirmed 'approaching five land owners and supporting two land owners in preparing EOI submissions'.

'One of my key responsibilities in my position description ... was to identify and pursue economic development opportunities that will benefit the council and community,' Mr Gill said.

(continued on page 2)

Celebrating 180 years with a song



Patrick Gambles and students in mid-performance. Photo by Mike Moores

ON OCTOBER 25, Westbury Primary School celebrated 180 years of history.

Starting off on a musical note, Westbury singer and songwriter Patrick Gambles and school students performed a song created for the occasion.

Meander Valley Mayor Wayne Johnston was on hand

to unveil a commemorative plaque and student art installation before cutting the birthday cake.

Exhibitions of art and the school's history were on show and the Maypole Dancers then launched the fair which continued after school hours.

Stalls provided a variety of goods and treats, includ-

ing delicious local icecream, which helped fill stomachs and pass the time until the pizza ovens and the pizza makers began to produce their wares.

Congratulations to Westbury Primary School, past and present, students and teachers – looking forward to their next 180 years!

Council led search for Westbury prison site

(continued from page 1)

'The proposed investment and job creation associated with the northern prison is a significant economic development opportunity for Meander Valley. I was pursuing this opportunity.'

Mr Gill said the current council was briefed about the EOI process during induction after the October 2018 elections and subsequently through briefing reports.

'They were made aware that I was working with land owners to prepare EOI submissions. They were not aware of the location of those properties or who the landowners were.'

Mayor Wayne Johnston said he and the eight Meander Valley Council councillors knew Mr Gill had supplied the State Government with potential prison locations because they were briefed about it by email in November 2018.

'The expressions of interest were submitted last year before I was elected to the council,' Cllr Johnston said.

The closing date for EOI submissions was 22 October 2018. Local government postal voting was held 8–30 October.

Mr Pope said, 'We were approached by Meander Valley Council who were contacting a number of land owners for consent to submit an EOI for in our case, part of our land as a possible site, on the basis the

council felt this would be good for the area.

'From that point on we have had nothing to do with and were not involved in the process other than some site inspections and preliminary contract negotiations, until we were advised that we were the preferred site.

'We only became aware of this shortly before the Minister's announcement.'

Glen Avon Farms Pty Ltd has three directors listed at addresses in the UK and a fourth in Longford.

It occupies almost 401 hectares and is valued at \$2.4m, with two dwellings, farm buildings and a dam on the property.

Glen Avon's sister company, Selborne Biological Services, uses the site in its operations supplying animal blood products worldwide. Mr Pope is also a director of SBS.

Selborne Biological Services is located on the historic Mountford property at Pateena Road, Longford.

sharon.webb@meandervalleygazette.com

ADVERTISMENT

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Rebecca White MP

Labor Member for Lyons

6212 2225
rebecca.white@parliament.tas.gov.au

Authorised by REBECCA WHITE, 33 COLE ST, SORELL

TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIP

The Rotary Club of Deloraine invites those students commencing Tertiary Education from the Deloraine and Westbury districts, to submit applications for a Tertiary Scholarship being offered by the Club, to the value of \$3000.

Written applications outlining academic record, intended study programme, and other relevant information to be forward to Andrew Johnston by Monday 13th January 2020.

Interviews of short listed applications will be held late January, early February 2020.

Please post applications to
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Attention Andrew Johnston
P.O. Box 85,
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More information can be made available by contacting Andrew Johnston 0418 131 218





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Blessed in show



Bryce Camino and Alf Ronson with Gordon Russell-Sausage at the blessing of the Pets service at St Andrews Church on the Westbury Village Green. Gordon then went on to win the straightest tail competition and a race at the inaugural Paws on the Green, held the same day. A big day out for a little dog.
Photo by Mike Moore

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Marinus Link and North West Transmission Upgrades

Supporting the transition to a clean energy future

North West Tasmania's electricity network will need to be upgraded to support continued supply of low-cost, reliable and clean energy to Tasmania and the National Electricity Market.

Upgraded electricity corridors are being considered between Burnie, Hampshire, Sheffield and Palmerston (near Cressy). New infrastructure also includes Marinus Link, a proposed 1500 megawatt capacity undersea and underground electricity connection that will link North West Tasmania to Victoria.

TasNetworks is currently assessing proposed transmission upgrades, including potential new transmission routes. As part of this assessment, we are consulting interested community members, businesses and landowners.

How can I get involved?

Look out for our 'pop-up' **information booths** near you:

- Burnie: 9am – 12pm, Saturday, 9 November, Burnie Plaza
- Sheffield: 2pm – 5pm, Saturday, 9 November, Post Office Square Park
- Ulverstone: 9am – 12pm, Saturday, 16 November, Coles entrance plaza
- Deloraine: 2pm – 5pm, Saturday, 16 November, Woolworths carpark

To learn more about this project, share your ideas and to find out about upcoming community engagement events:

visit: tasnetworks.com.au email: team@marinuslink.com.au call: 1300 765 275



Letters to the Editor

Meander Valley Community Radio Station

The Meander Valley Community Radio is progressing at full steam – new equipment, new studio layout, new programs, new plans, new members and sponsors, a sound financial position and a highly committed, unified committee.

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the radio station, the following people were elected to the committee: President, John Phelps; Vice President, John Kenzey; Treasurer, Tim Biggs; committee members, Julie Hansen, Linda Irwin and Nick Weare (Music Director). At present, we are seeking to fill the position of Secretary.

Aged, not caged

Aged Care Deloraine homes, Kanangra and Grenoch, offer residents a supported environment into which they enter by choice, either personally or through their representatives, so we can assist them with their daily living tasks.

The focus of Aged Care Deloraine is on giving our residents the freedom to choose how to spend their time wherever possible. We endeavour to ensure that our residents retain the dignity of independence, and those who are well enough to sign in and out of our homes, are free to walk or drive to the shops, get some sunshine, fresh air and exercise, or simply have a change of scenery and catch up with friends.

For those residents who choose to get out and about, it is our responsibility to ensure they have walking aids if they need them and we encourage them to be suitably dressed for their outing (although this can be a challenge with 4 seasons in one day).

Some readers may have noticed people who live with us

Westbury Prison

I am bemused by the protests against the proposed siting of the northern prison at Westbury.

If the protests solely concern the process of consultation and decision-making, then perhaps the matter could have been handled more sensitively. I'm not in a position to comment.

However, if the protests are in opposition to the fact of a prison close to Westbury (NIMBY), then I would like to offer a comment based on personal experience.

For 18 years, prior to settling here, I lived in Castlemaine in central Victoria, a town with a celebrated 1850s gold rush history, and a current magnet for tree changers, and a reputation as a cultural and artistic centre.

If you would like to be involved with the station as presenter, technical officer, office worker, website coordinator or in any other role, please get in touch – phone 6362 4969 or email webmaster@mvfm.com.au

Mr John Kenzey has been appointed as Station Manager and usually may be found at the station from 10 am to 2 pm each weekday or by appointment.

There is an air of excitement about the station and we look forward to continuing to support our community and to be 'Your Voice in the Valley'.

*Dr John Phelps,
President MVCR*

getting out and about - exercising their right to exercise - and socialise in their community.

It can be very isolating being elderly and infirm, and we would love to see our community embrace those residents with a friendly word or smile, stopping to say good day and have a chat, rather than wondering why they have been 'let out'. This is likely to make their day.

Also, whilst we're thinking about our elders, Aged Care Deloraine would welcome with open arms people from our community who are able to spare some time to visit our homes as a volunteer.

Volunteering can be as easy as passing the time of day reading the paper or chatting with someone, playing draughts, having a game of cards or helping with a jigsaw puzzle.

That community touch makes all the difference. Could you make a difference?

Our phone number is 63628300.

*Dawn Vallance, Board Chair
Aged Care Deloraine*

Since 1990 it has also been home to the Loddon prison, a 400 prisoner medium-security facility, located on the fringe of the town.

Loddon prison is the largest employer in the region, providing not only employment for many old and new residents, but a large demand for housing, retail, education, health and other services for them and their families.

Local farmers, processing businesses, tradespeople, retailers, and health professionals also supply goods and services to the prison.

Where appropriate, prisoners carry out conservation and maintenance projects in the town and its surrounds.

In my time in the town there were no major incidents involving the prison, and the

Proposed Northern Regional Prison

The community of Westbury is being told that our town will benefit economically should the proposed Northern Regional Prison, Birralee Road Westbury, become a reality.

A brief literature search puts this suggestion into question. Studies over the last 20 years in the US give evidence that in fact there is no measurable economic growth to rural towns where prisons are built. The US had a boom with prison building about 20 years ago; many small rural towns saw the addition of a prison as a way to get out of economic decline and provide jobs for townspeople. Initially the towns saw some employment open during the construction stage of the prison. After the prison was built, however, jobs within the prison were sourced out of town due to a lack of qualifications and suitable skills in the town population.

One paper studied seven small rural towns with a new prison and seven small rural towns without a prison. The study found that there was no direct economic benefit to the towns with prisons. All 14 towns were subject to the prevailing economic conditions of the times.

The other issue of note is that Westbury is being told that some mainland Australian towns have benefited economically from the building of a prison. There wasn't a town with a similar population to Westbury or similar close proximity to a major city (Launceston) or another major rural centre (Deloraine, Longford). There wasn't an Aus-

Ambulance volunteers

Ambulance volunteers are calling for a review into potential plans to make Deloraine a double branch station (MVG, October 2019).

Labor Leader Rebecca White said, 'Already this year the Deloraine ambulance has been sent to cover jobs in Launceston and Devonport on multiple occasions'. Which has been the case for years.

Tell us something we don't know, Ms White. No wonder your government didn't win the last election.

Ms White added, 'each time this happens, the Deloraine community is left without a local ambulance response'.

majority of the population would be hardly aware of its existence.

Far from having a negative impact on property values, Castlemaine has enjoyed a property boom in recent years, with new housing developments and rapidly rising prices, partly attributed to the economic and social confidence

tralian mainland town where the prison was built within the town boundary. The prisons were between 10 to 13kms from the town CBD.

Information about the staffing of these Australian examples was similar to the conclusion of the US studies. There was initial employment during construction but subsequently workers were sourced from out of town due to the specialist skills required to staff a maximum security prison.

Westbury is being told that economic growth will ensue once the go ahead is given for the construction of the prison within the Westbury town boundary. This economic growth concept is not evidence based, it is wishful thinking and based on hope rather than fact.

The social impact on a town where a large proportion of residents do not want the new prison has not been fully measured. The proposal going public is eight days old today. Already the social impact is negative. It is causing social isolation, disharmony, mistrust of Council and State Government and the list goes on. People are upset and hurting.

I respectfully ask for the Meander Valley Council to commission a full economic / social impact study to ascertain empirically what the effect of building a prison will be on the residents and businesses of Westbury.

The current evidence out of the US does not correlate with what Elise Archer, Minister for Justice, is telling Westbury.
*Anne-Marie Loader,
Westbury*

Ms White would do well to focus on the Liberal Government's 'life-threatening policies and protocols', which include the terminally-ill being forced to use the 'only local ambulance for pain relief' and the utter stupidity of them being transported from Deloraine to the Launceston General Hospital Emergency Department, then being sent straight back home again in a fully-funded taxi, 'all at the taxpayer's expense.'

It's only a matter of time and such stupidity will cost a 'preventable death'. Let's hear Ms White's alternative to the above nonsense.

AR Trounson, Needles

which the prison provides to the district.

Thus there is a mutually beneficial synergy between the historic town and the modern prison.

All I can say to the residents of Westbury, hesitant at the prospect of a nearby prison is – bring it on!

Richard Mack, Deloraine

EST.
2013

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(Leave a message, it will send an email.) The editorial closing date for the December 2019 issue is 22 November.

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Blackstone Heights – a community with heart

SINCE BEING established in October 2017, the Blackstone Heights Community News Association has been working hard to make Blackstone Heights a better place to live.

Comprising thirteen members, this volunteer group has already achieved some great outcomes for the area:

- working with Council to assist with the upgrade of the Blackstone Park area and its new equipment including a half-basketball court, flying fox with all-abilities seat, swings, seating and more
- the installation and upkeep of a noticeboard located at the park entrance
- providing more rubbish bins and dog bags for the area and, most recently, the addition of wildlife traffic signs along the roads
- working with Neighbourhood Watch to make the area a safer place to live, including publishing crime reports on the Blackstone Community News Facebook page along with other information and events.

The Association distributes a quarterly newsletter and holds regular meetings on the first Wednesday of each month to discuss current and new projects to bring the community together and try to solve issues such as the revitalization of walking tracks in the area or installation of bus shelters.

This year the Association held their first free Easter egg

Paws for reflection



Philip Leith and Ginger, in her very convincing thylacine disguise, bask in the glory of first prize in the fancy dress competition at Paws on the Green 19.
Photo by Mike Moores

hunt and barbecue for local families which proved to be a great success.

They are currently planning the annual Christmas Market which is now in its 3rd year and proven to be a great day out for families.

This year the market will be held on Saturday 30 November in the Blackstone Park off Kelsey Road from 9am to 2pm.

There will be entertainment, a chocolate wheel, raffle, stalls, food and drink including Diggers BBQ, Devil Coffee, Afgani

Balini, Tas Sweet and Sour and Lebanese food.

Entertainment will include zorb balls, a jumping castle, swing cars, St Andrews Caledonian Pipe Band, Bonorong Wildlife, Miss B Singers, pony rides, facepainting and more.

For more information about the Blackstone Heights Community News Association or its events email blackstonecommunitynews2@gmail.com or visit and like the Blackstone Community News Facebook page.



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Letter from the Minister of Corrections

The following 22 October media release from Elise Archer, the Minister for Corrections is printed in full for the benefit of those residents in the wider Meander Valley who have not yet received any printed information from the State Government about the selected prison site outside Westbury.

Details of the public forums listed in the last paragraph will be out of date by the time this edition of the Gazette has been distributed.

Northern Regional Prison facts

Following the recent announcement of the preferred site for the \$270 million Northern Regional Prison, there has been considerable discussion about the Government's choice of location and unfortunate fearmongering by some elected representatives and commentators.

We recognise that people, naturally, can feel concerned about large new projects in

their backyard, particularly a correctional centre. However, it has been disappointing that a small number individuals, most notably representatives of the Labor Party, have sought to run an immediate scare campaign which is devoid of any facts or foundation.

As the Minister for Corrections, I want to set the record straight and ensure the north and north-west regions that community safety is this Gov-

ernment's number one priority in building the new facility.

The new prison will be a maximum security facility, but will also accommodate within it all classifications of sentenced prisoners including medium and minimum, as well as those on remand. The Risdon Prison Complex will maintain its status as a maximum and medium security prison in addition to the Ron Barwick minimum security prison which is located on the same southern site. Any suggestion that all maximum prisoners will be sent north when the new prison is built is completely false and only seeks to scare the community.

Importantly, no prisoner has ever escaped the Maximum / Medium Security Risdon Prison Complex since it was constructed in 2006.

Claims that visitors to the new prison will cause crime rates to increase in and around Westbury are also incorrect. Studies undertaken in New South Wales do not support this. The majority of visitors to correction centres are law abiding citizens. For example, analysis of crime statistics during the eight years after the opening of the Lithgow Correction Centre in NSW, demonstrated that crime decreased in Lithgow by 5%, while it increased by 25% across all of NSW during the same period.

Following initial consultation, there have been concerns about the new prison attaching a certain stigma to Westbury. Research in other jurisdictions has showed that, following the establishment of a prison facility, there has not been a negative impact on the image of the region and surrounding areas. In fact, research shows that a facility of this type has led to a more positive image of the town amongst its residents as a result of the direct and indirect employment opportunities and economic development.

Additionally, the approximate prison footprint will be around 13 hectares, while the entire preferred site is approximately 41 hectares. The extra land and zoning provides a significant buffer from any adjoining properties. The site will be landscaped, and the facility designed in a way to ensure it is aesthetically pleasing and compatible with its surroundings in terms of colour and structure.

In relation to property prices, past experience regarding new prisons built recently in other parts of Australia has shown that property prices in the surrounding areas actually experienced an increase in value. Prices reflect a range of factors, including the quality of housing stock, access to jobs and services, and broader mar-

ket conditions. The increase of employees, service providers and others coming to work, provide services or visit in the region may have a positive impact on property prices if they decide to live near their workplace.

Further, the project is expected to create hundreds of jobs during construction and will employ around 250 people permanently once in full operation. It is also the Government's expectation that eligible people from the north and north-west region will have priority for employment opportunities within the new facility.

The Government will support the local economy through the use of local contractors, suppliers and staff wherever possible. Many local businesses such as cafes, the supermarket, petrol stations and other service-based businesses are also expected to be enormous beneficiaries.

There have been claims that the Government could have selected the Ashley Youth Detention Centre site. It would be entirely inappropriate to co-locate a youth justice facility next to an adult prison. Such a practice is in contravention of international human rights conventions. Article 37(c) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child provides, in part, that "every child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child's best interest not to do so".

Importantly, as to the consultation timeframe, I wish to assure the community that it began at the earliest time possible. All submissions made via the EOI process were subject to commercial in confidence assessment and negotiations, and as such, confidentiality had to be maintained. This type of agreement is common practice in dealing with property negotiations, both private and commercial, and has long been standard practice of all Governments. Once a preferred site that met all criteria was identified, the community consultation began with residents in and around the surrounding area.

Upon announcing the preferred site on 30 September 2019, the Government immediately commenced its extensive planned community consultation program. I encourage all interested residents and community members to attend the next community drop-in scheduled for Thursday 31 October from 2pm-6pm at the Fitzpatrick Inn. These sessions are an opportunity for the community to learn more about the proposed Northern Regional Prison, ask questions and have their concerns heard.

Elise Archer,
Minister for Corrections

Letter from the Editor

As a declaration of interest, the Editor of the Meander Valley Gazette has lived in Westbury for five years.

The following opinions are her own and in no way reflect the opinions of any other employees and associates at the Gazette or at Meander Valley Connect Inc.

THIS EDITORIAL has been written and rewritten several times over the past month.

Meanwhile, all the arguments for and against the chosen prison site continue to be thrashed out across the media – print, TV radio and social.

It has been a stressful and busy month for residents of Westbury and surrounds. I have no doubt that this will get worse.

Politicians have visited, rallies have been held, committees have been formed and social media platforms have been created.

All of this activity should produce a reasonable, well-researched and persuasive argument against the chosen prison location. This argument should then be presented to the state government and should be listened to.

But whatever happened to the process of consultation beforehand?

And what is going to happen to the process of planning and appeals?

No one in the state government spoke to the residents of the Westbury area – those who will be most affected by the decision to place a large regional prison so close to their small rural, historical and thriving community.

Local MPs Guy Barnett, Mark Sheldon and John Tucker have lined up behind the Minister for Corrections Elise Archer and the Premier Will Hodgman to form a united group in favour of the prison site at Westbury.

Mr Hodgman has declared that there isn't a town in Tasmania that would want a prison. This implies that a prison at Westbury is not negotiable.

So, if the government believes that the Westbury prison site is inevitable, what hope is there for any future planning process? Or for any meaningful analysis of the impact this project will have on Westbury and the Meander Valley?

Or for consideration being given to 'sweetening the deal'?

North-west Tasmania needs a prison. But it also needs better social and economic strategies to reduce crime, especially as the north-west is already over-represented in the prison population of Tasmania.

Is there a more suitable site close to larger towns in the north-west? Are there other locations, perhaps elsewhere in the Meander Valley, that would welcome, or actually need the proclaimed benefits?

Should we insist on knowing where other potential sites are?

Westbury does not need the prison at all.

Westbury was probably chosen because the site offered up is close to power, water, sewage, transport and a very small town that wasn't expected to put up much of a fight.

This last may not prove to be the case.

If this project does go ahead, it will not just affect Westbury and its residents.

Everyone who lives and works in the Meander Valley would do well to think about how the Northern Regional Prison at Westbury might impact on their homes, families and businesses.

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Press, police and residents gather on the Westbury Village Green to protest the State Government's decision to build the Northern Regional Prison which will be just under 3 kilometres from the unique and historic green space in the heart of the town. Photo by Mike Moores

Prison opposers speak out

By Sharon Webb

CORRECTIONS MINISTER Elise Archer has confirmed 119 people attended consultation sessions to give their opinions on the prison proposed for Westbury.

But there were more than double that number who turned up at a Saturday anti-prison rally at Westbury on October 25, where State Government members for Lyons MHAs Mark Shelton and John Tucker were booed as they walked on-stage.

The two unsuccessfully tried to explain that they were 'just here to listen' as Westbury business owner Liza de Lautour challenged them on the absence of consultation on the prison location.

Since the rally, Ms Archer has said, 'We recognise the an-

nouncement of the preferred site has raised questions in the community and we want to work with them to answer them. The residents and businesses of Meander Valley can be assured we are listening and responding.'

Lyons MHA Guy Barnett was greeted with more respect when he met opponents of the prison at Fitzpatrick's Inn a week before.

Taking notes, he asked people for reasons for their viewpoints and then listened carefully to the answers.

Christine and Steve Gregory told him they would not have bought the Westbury house and 2.5 acres where they have lived since May if they had known about the prison.

Harvey Gee said the prison's location 'next to the largest producer of opioids in the

southern hemisphere' (Tas Alkaloids) was 'totally incongruous', and his wife Julie Gee told Mr Barnett, 'If you cared about the social implications you wouldn't put the prison near any town!'

She rebuked Mr Barnett over how the government could afford to spend \$270m on a prison when the state of funding to health and education was so poor.

Anne Marie Loader told Mr Barnett of her shock at hearing about the prison on the news as she did pilates in her living room.

'Why hasn't the State Government considered putting the prison on crown land out in the bush somewhere?'

People also felt disrespected by the consultants tasked with recording their attitudes to the prison. Ms Loader described

them as being on a fact-finding mission for the Liberal Government and others spoke of 'smirking' consultants ordering them not to be 'emotional'.

The group of about 20 people vehemently rejected to Mr Barnett's suggestion of residents and councillors joining a fact-finding mission to mainland prison towns to find out about the impact of a prison on their communities.

'Don't waste taxpayers' money!' several called out. 'We just don't want the prison.'

Two year Westbury resident Henry Loader described himself as a 'dyed-in-the-wool Liberal supporter' and said he was disappointed with the government's secrecy.

'I believe in open government and freedom of information as much as possible.'

Leo Woods, an AirBnB host in Westbury for three years, questioned the future of tourism businesses in the area.

Throughout the session, Mr Barnett and fellow Lyons MHA Mark Shelton, who arrived late, repeatedly confessed to not knowing answers to questions on why Westbury was chosen, why people had not been consulted and on whether the prison would be privately run.

Finally, asked whether he sat on the fence on the issue, the former Meander Valley mayor Mr Shelton revealed his position: 'A place that employs 250 people can only be good,' he said.

'On the mainland, houses are built up to prison walls and there's no problem.'

sharon.webb@meandervalleygazette.com

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Mayor fends off angry ratepayers

By Sharon Webb

COUNCILLORS AND residents barely kept their tempers in check in October's Meander Valley Council meeting as detail dripped out about how the State Government came to choose Westbury for their prison site.

When Westbury business owner Liza de Lautour said locals had been 'deceived by everyone in the room', Cllr Frank Nott retorted that councillors were being maligned. 'We had no knowledge at all - don't blame the council!

'We were advised there would be community engagement after a shortlist was announced. I've been deceived by the State Government.'

Mayor Wayne Johnston started the meeting by attempting to shrug off council responsibility for the prison. 'The prison is a State proposal and will be on private land not council land,' he said.

But Cllr Johnston's denial of responsibility was in vain as it was revealed that of all the councillors, he alone had known the Government's spe-

cific plans for Westbury - a month before the prison location was formally announced by Corrections Minister, Elise Archer.

Attempting to pin down how long Meander Valley Council had known about the prison location, Westbury resident Chris Donaldson asked, 'Was there an embargo, or other instruction or directive at any time, placed on council by the State Government, to prevent information from being released by council to the community about a prison at Westbury?'

Acting general manager Jonathan Harmey replied, 'There was a meeting with representatives from the State Government at the end of August. There were three council officers and the mayor at that meeting, all of whom were required to sign confidentiality agreements requiring them not to release information discussed.'

As it dawned on residents that the mayor they expected to represent their interests had known about the prison plans for weeks and said nothing,

there were cries of 'Shame!' from the public gallery.

Cllr Johnston said, 'What could I do? I was invited to the meeting but I couldn't sit in the room without signing a confidentiality agreement.'

Resident Di Robinson yelled: 'That's conspiracy to hide information!'

The first bombshell of the meeting was when furious Westbury residents heard Meander Valley Council staff had actually worked to put forward Westbury as a site for the prison.

Cllr Johnston told them former council general manager Martin Gill had helped two local landowners write expressions of interest in selling their land to the government for the prison.

Later in the meeting, there was another revelation.

According to Mr Harmey, 'In September 2018 council's general manager approached five private land owners to make them aware of the EOI process the State Government was undertaking. The EOIs submitted were not council's but private land owners' EOIs.'

Around 70 ratepayers attended the council meeting, with Cllr Johnston allowing an hour for public questions without notice, twice the usual time. Police also attended.

sharon.webb@meandervalleygazette.com

Prison not to be a Project of Regional Significance

By Sharon Webb

THE TASMANIAN Government has refused to consider a strategy which would allow Meander Valley councillors to support Westbury community through the prison process.

Corrections Minister Elise Archer has rejected a suggestion from Tania Rattray MLC that the proposed prison be formally declared a Project of Regional Significance.

'The Government has been very clear from the outset that this project should go through standard council planning (and related consultation) processes and we remain strongly of that view,' Ms Archer said.

Status as a Project of Regional Significance would remove the obligation of Meander Valley Council to act as a planning authority on the prison project. It would also remove local bias from the process, perceived or otherwise.

Projects of Regional Significance are declared to deal with situations where councils don't have the capacity to conduct the rigorous assessment required of higher impact regional projects.

Under Tasmanian legislation declared projects are assessed

by an expert based Development Assessment Panel.

A panel provides for local or regional representation and public participation is built into the process because local people can make submissions and contribute at panel hearings.

The panel makes the final decision on the project and the State Government has no role. It cannot change panel decisions, which are not appealable on planning grounds.

On the prison issue, several Meander Valley councillors believe they cannot fully fulfil their role representing community views because they must remain neutral to fulfil their planning authority role. They cannot publicly support or reject the proposed prison location.

Ms Rattray, the Legislative Council member for McIntyre which includes the Meander Valley, said she will use Parliament to ask the Corrections Minister whether the Project of Regional Significance pathway had been considered.

'If so, why wasn't it progressed? And if not considered, why not?'

'Removing the planning process from council would decrease emotion in a situation where councillors living in the Westbury community must make decisions on the prison.'

'I've seen families completely fall apart because people have differing views. How do we keep people as council members or aspiring members when they have to go through that process?'

Ms Rattray doesn't have a set position on the prison location.

'I'm watching with interest. In my view there is a long way to go and council members will know they've got a big job ahead of them,' she said.

sharon.webb@meandervalleygazette.com

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Shortly after the announcement of the prison site, furious Westbury residents held a rally on the Village Green which ended with a march on the Town Hall. Photo by Mike Moores



Thane Bardenhagen

Sophie Poke



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By Hayley Manning

REALITY TV shows *Married at First Sight* and *The Proposal* are based on the belief that people would be willing to marry a complete stranger in their search for love or fame, but in reality the weddings 'performed' on TV are commitment ceremonies without the legal ties.

Civil Celebrant Dara Saltmarsh of Deloraine says that a Marriage Certificate application in Tasmania has a minimum 30 day processing period once the required identification documents have been cited, which thwarts the possibility of a hasty or non-consensual marriage.

Former school teacher Dara studied to become a celebrant while at home with her three children but said it was a surprisingly extensive process governed by strict government regulations. 'The legal requirements for marrying people are very precise. It is not always black and white, so you have to be cautious, particularly with the legal wording that solemnises the marriage.'

Commonwealth Attorney General, Lionel Murphy appointed Lois D'Arcy as Australia's first Civil Celebrant on 19 July 1973. By 2017, 81.7 per cent of marriages in Australia were civil marriages.

Dara gained an 'inside' perspective when she married her partner Danny mid-study. 'The very, very stressful planning put me in good stead by allowing me to look at it, to

Bells will ring, the sun will shine



Wedding celebrant Dara Saltmarsh of Deloraine with Angie McMahon and Nia Walter-Ritchie, at their ceremony near Avalon. Photo by Cassie Sullivan

live it, and put me in a position to help couples experiencing the high pressure of organising a wedding.

'There is a lot of expectation created by the media about how weddings should be, so I am someone the couple can turn to if they need support beyond organising the ceremony itself.'

Yet despite all the planning, anything can happen on the day, and Dara says she has had to learn to think on her feet on occasions. 'A couple of years ago at a wedding set on a local farm, the bride was travelling toward the ceremony flanked by horses and in view of the whole congregation. When I did a final check with a groomsman that he had the rings, his face dropped as he realised the bride's ring was missing. It had fallen from his pocket somewhere in the paddock around them! Thinking quickly, the groom borrowed his mother's ring for the ceremony. With a grimace, he whispered his apologies to his confused bride as he placed the ring on her finger. Luckily the ring was found shortly afterwards, but hearts were certainly racing throughout the ceremony.'

'I have noticed despite our modern world and the freedom to choose individual themes that most couples, including same-sex couples, adhere to the traditional structure of the ring exchange with a kiss at the end. The traditions of marriage are ingrained in all of us.'

Back to Orford Primary

By Fran Read

REMEMBER THE days of the old school yard? The story of Orford School's 150 years is a story of the determination of dedicated parents to provide an education for their children. The residents of Orford did not give up easily!

It's hard to imagine now, but there was once a post office,

two shops, a few cottages and a school all situated along the cliffs near the Prosser's Bay sandstone quarry.

In the 1890s the school was moved to the main part of Orford as it is known today.

The 1919 school building was likened to a cow shed with no ventilation and whenever it rained water ran down the inside of the walls.

In the 1920s, Orford finally gained a brand-new schoolhouse but enrolments fell and the building was taken away.

Sometimes the school would be closed for a year or two. It only took the departure of one family to make a difference! Whooping cough, influenza and fruit-picking also impacted on numbers.

At the first Back to Orford School Day in 1999, hundreds gathered to celebrate.

As part of that celebration, a time capsule was buried, containing a piece of work from every student who attended the school at that time.

On Saturday 30 November at 3pm the time capsule will be dug up and the contents put on display.

There will be an assembly, fun activities, displays, entertainment, refreshments and opportunities to catch up with old friends. Current students



will bury a new time capsule and the day will conclude with a disco for young and old.

Keep the day free for a celebration to remember!

For more information email Fran Read at fread@southcom.com.au.



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Meander Valley Council



Above: Mayor Johnston joins Cr King, Cr Nott and students Gemma, Alfie, Liam, Marli, Lillie and Jorja from Westbury Primary as they test out the new footpath on Dexter Street.

New footpath receives the 'thumbs up' from local students

The walk to school only gets better with the recent completion of a new footpath along Dexter Street in Westbury.

The new footpath is one of a number of pedestrian infrastructure projects that Meander Valley Council has allocated funding for in its Capital Works program.

"Work on improving existing footpaths and the construction of new footpaths in Westbury has been ongoing in recent years and aims to improve amenity and accessibility," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

Most recently Council allocated approximately \$100K to the construction of footpaths in Marriott Street from Meander Valley Road to the Showground's entrance, between King Street and Queen Street; and in Dexter Street between Taylor Street and Marriott Street.

"Footpaths create greater pedestrian connectivity and encourage people to walk, instead of always driving to local destinations," Mayor Johnston said.

Raised by Cr King for consideration as part of Council's Capital Works Program, the footpath in Dexter Street provides good access to the Westbury Primary School for parents and children traveling from the east.

"The new footpath provides a safe place for children to walk or ride their bikes away from traffic. This is particularly important during the busier times of the day in the mornings and afternoons," Mayor Johnston said.

The footpath work included the construction of 1.5m wide concrete pathways, drainage improvements and modification to the traffic islands at the intersection of Dexter Street and Taylor Street.



Until 30 November, Tasmanian children aged 5 to 17 who are listed on a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, or who are in Out of Home Care, are eligible for a voucher of up to \$100 in value to be used towards the cost of club membership at an approved activity provider.

To apply for a voucher or for more information, visit www.communities.tas.gov.au/ticket-to-play or phone 1800 252 476

Council encourages community to share their views on Northern Prison

Meander Valley Council is encouraging the community to provide their feedback to the State Government on the proposed Northern Prison, after a preferred site was announced last month.

The State Government wrote to Council in 2018 requesting assistance to facilitate contact with private land owners by providing them with information about an Expression of Interest (EOI) process being undertaken by the State Government.

Council contacted five private land owners in Meander Valley to make them aware of the State Government's EOI process.

Of the private land owners who were advised, two wished to submit an EOI for their land and accepted the former General Manager's assistance in facilitating the State Government's confidential process.

Council is expected to assist in clarifying and explaining processes that are often seen as complicated and; it is a normal part of a Council Officer's role to provide support to community members where they require assistance in working toward, and through, regulatory

processes. Council continues to support all community members in this manner.

The State Government announced that there were around ten EOI's considered as potential sites.

Mayor Johnston said Council strongly welcomed the fact that the State Government was now consulting with the community on their proposal.

"It is completely understandable that residents have questions and would like more information about this project," said Mayor Wayne Johnston.

"This is a State Government project, so the Council is encouraging everyone with views on this project to contact the State Government to share those views."

Mayor Johnston said the current Council's involvement in the project was limited to two roles: acting as a planning authority and creating awareness about the State Government's consultation process.

"At some point the State Government will come to us with a planning proposal which we will then consider as we would any



other development," he said.

"We encourage the State Government to ensure that that consultation is extensive and gives everyone who wants to have a say an opportunity to have their say.

There are a range of views in our tight-knit community about this project. Some people are for it. Some against. And some are unsure. We welcome a robust debate and the community will have that debate in an open and respectful way, because that's how we do things in our community."

Mayor Johnston said the community could provide feedback or ask questions by attending one of the Community Drop-In Sessions, emailing or phoning the State Government's community liaison.

For more information about future Drop-In Sessions, email northern.prison@justice.tas.gov.au or phone Adrian Smith on 0417 529 826.



Dairy Plains Memorial Hall
283 Dairy Plains Road
7pm - 8.30pm Tuesday
26 November

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

This particular meeting will focus on the communities of Caveside, Chudleigh, Dairy Plains and Western Creek.

For more information phone 6393 5334

HARD WASTE COLLECTION Area Collection Days

Registrations for 2019 have now closed. For residents who have registered for the service, collection days are as follows:

Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 November
Prospect Vale, Blackstone Heights, Hadspen, Rutherglen, Carrick, Bracknell and surrounding areas

Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 November
Westbury, Exton, Hagley and surrounding areas

Thursday 14 and Friday 15 November
Deloraine, Meander, Mole Creek, Chudleigh, Kimberley and surrounding areas

Golden Rules of Kerbside Recycling



1 Look for the label
The Australian Recycling Label is a proven system that tells you which bin each piece of packaging goes into.



2 Put it in loose
Always deposit recyclables loose. Do not place them in plastic bags.



3 If in doubt...
Leave it out. "Wish-cycling" doesn't work. Putting the wrong thing in the wrong bin can ruin your good recycling efforts.



Above: *Where Geology and Weather Interact (Detail)* by Rachel Howell

Art award offers new opportunities

The Great Western Tiers Art Award (GWATAA) is an art exhibition for local artists of all persuasions with works focused on Meander Valley. The Award aims to inspire skills, confidence and friendship through art – encouraging novice and experienced exhibitors alike.

GWATAA was established in 2018 through a partnership between Meander Valley Council and the Launceston Art Society. It has a non-acquisitive main prize of \$1,000 with five additional award categories and no commission on sales.

The theme for 2020 is 'close encounters'.

The GWATAA exhibition will run throughout March 2020 at the Deloraine Creative Studios. Entry forms are available from Council or www.artlas.org.au.

Applications close 1 February 2020 with works being required by 25 February 2020.

GWATAA is kindly supported by Great Western Tiers Tourism Association and Deloraine & Districts Community Bank.

As the days grow longer, so do the hedges!

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

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

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

Current Projects



Footpath Construction
Moriarty Street Deloraine from Stagg Court to Tower Hill Street



Parking Bay Construction
Winifred Jane Crescent, Hadspen



Retaining Wall Extension & Additional Paving
Prospect Vale Park, Prospect Vale



New Storm Water Infrastructure
Meander Valley Road, Westbury



Foyer Upgrade
Meander Valley Performing Arts Centre, Deloraine



Footpath Construction
Blackstone Road, Blackstone Heights



Road Reconstruction
Osmaston Road, Westbury



Sports Pavilion Upgrade
Westbury Recreation Ground, Westbury



Road Shoulder Widening
Pateena Road, Travellers Rest

Scheduled Works

Intersection Improvements
Country Club Avenue and Las Vegas Drive, Prospect Vale

Bridge Reconstruction
Barbers Road, Jackeys Marsh

Roundabout Construction
Westbury Road and Donalds Avenue, Prospect Vale

Kerb, Channel & Drainage
Meander Valley Road, Carrick

Footpath Construction
Kelsey Road, Blackstone Heights

Bridge Reconstruction
Sugarloaf Road, Jackeys Marsh

Pavement Widening
Osmaston Road, Deloraine Golf Club

Drainage Improvements
Church Street, Carrick

Road Safety Improvements
Mt Leslie Road, Prospect Vale

Council's Community Grants Round Closes Soon!

The next round of Meander Valley Council's Community Grants closes on 10 December. Grants of 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. Information and application forms are available from the Westbury Council Offices and on Council's website. Applications from new applicants are particularly welcome.

For more information phone Patrick Gambles on 6393 5334 or email patrick.gambles@mvc.tas.gov.au

Recognise the contributions made by our community members



In January, Council will recognise the exceptional contributions of its community members with the presentation of Australia Day Awards. Awards are presented in the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year
- Sports Award

Volunteer Service Recognition Awards

If you know someone who deserves such an award, complete the nomination form available at www.meander.tas.gov.au

Nominations should be received by Friday 22 November 2019

For more information contact Merrilyn Young on 6393 5317



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Festival of Small Halls
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WOODFORD VILLAGE, TASMANIA

Mole Creek Memorial Hall
Thursday 9 January 2020
Bar and barbecue from 5.30pm, show starts at 7pm
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Available from Council's Westbury office, phone 6393 5300 or online at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com

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STOURTON MILLER (2019)

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ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL

Proudly supported by Meander Valley Council

By Lorraine Clarke

FOR THE Tubbs, it was the chickens that came first when they moved to their 145 acre farm 5 years ago, wanting to give a good home to a few laying hens.

Love for their feathered friends soon grew into a small commercial enterprise, where happy hens live a long productive life in expansive green pastures shared with a small herd of Murray Gray cows and a flock of pure-bred Suffolk sheep.

Dan was once a diesel mechanic, then a workplace health and safety consultant in the NSW mining industry, before cutting loose to the good life in Tasmania.

'The work is much harder and the pay is much less, but it is so much better here,' said Dan. 'I get to work outside with chicks, lambs and calves in the rain and snow.'

Nan and Dan's towering son Dane was a Townsville truckie, who is now happy to have his feet planted on the farm.

He is followed everywhere by several bottle fed lambs, and shows his softer side as he holds some fluffy new chicks destined to join the laying flock in a few months.

'I just love the smell of them,' he said.

The motto of the Happy Chook Farm is to treat all their animals with respect. 'Be kind to them and they'll be kind to you,' said Nan. 'The hens all have their own personalities. We use nothing artificial at all.'

'No chemical treatments. We don't trim their beaks. We don't use artificial lighting in winter to force them to lay.'



Nan's chooks are happy campers

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? It's the age-old question, pondered by Dan, Dane and Nan Tubb of the Happy Chook Farm at Mole Creek. Photo supplied

'We allow them to moult naturally.'

Hen housing on the farm is re-purposed, insulated caravans and coaches, rotated around the pastures. There is sawdust on the floors for the hens' comfort, and to keep the eggs clean.

The Tubbs buy day-old Ginger Ham chicks, chosen for superior laying qualities, from

a Victorian hatchery. 500 new arrivals live in a 49-seater coach retrofitted with heat lamps. This bus is their lifetime home, with wooden perches and privacy-curtained nesting boxes installed for when they begin to lay.

Hens lay for two years, after which they are donated to the Trowunna wildlife park to perform the final service of feed-

ing the quolls and Tasmanian Devils.

'Nothing is wasted here,' said Dan. 'We are bowerbirds. We don't throw much away.'

Every morning the hens descend ladders to roam pasture and bushland, free to peck, scratch and forage all day.

A few roosters have been introduced for predator control. When eagles or crows fly over,

the roosters sound an alarm that sends the hens scurrying for safety under their vans.

Happy Chook Farm eggs can be found at several outlets from Mole Creek to Deloraine and Launceston Harvest Market, where Dane loves to share the oversized 'dinosaur eggs' with town children who never had the chance to see a double yolker.



Oh yeast!

ALTHOUGH YEAST is the smallest ingredient in brewing, it does the most work and is the real unsung hero in the beer-making process.

So it's up to us brewers to make sure the conditions are conducive to give yeast every chance of giving the best possible ferment.

Yeast is a little single-celled organism responsible for the fermentation process. One of the least complex forms of plant life, yeast consumes simple sugars like glucose and maltose to produce carbon dioxide and alcohol.

Yeast can also take credit for the classification of beer styles.

Brewers pick a yeast according to the recipe or the style of beer they want to make.

Beer yeast is identified as either ale or lager yeast.

An ale yeast is a top-fermenting strain, working best at warm temperatures.

Lager yeast, in contrast, is a bottom-fermenting strain, performing best at cooler temperatures.

Because of the temperature differential, each yeast strain produces vastly different flavour and aroma characteristics that in turn will create different beer styles.

Yeast in combination with different fermentation processes and ingredients can also contribute fruitiness and other flavour characteristics to the beer.

Also, unfortunately for home brewers, it can also contribute to the 'off' flavours if introduced to the wrong environment, or in insufficient quantities, or at incorrect fermentation temperatures.

So how do we create the right environment?

A sanitary fermenter to start with, along with plenty of fermentable wort, cooled down to the right temperatures and an acceptable number of yeast cells to ferment the volume of wort you have ready.

So how much do we need for an average 23 litre batch?

Most well-known brewers now recommend 2-11 gram packs of dry yeast. So if you only have access to the yeast underneath the lid of your tin, this falls well short, as most of those packs are about 5-7 grams at best.

Store-bought specialty yeast will yield best results.

I do realise this is an added expense, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. Yeast is a living organism and it can be cultured, washed, rinsed and/or re-used.

The simplest way is to pitch a fresh beer on an existing 'yeast cake'. Take a sanitised cup, scoop out at least 300 ml of trub from your last brew, wash and sanitise your FV

and pitch the cup into your next beer.

If you cannot brew until a couple of days, put the cup in the fridge with some sanitised cling wrap covering it.

All yeast keeps better in the fridge, whether store-bought liquid or dry, or your own culture. Brew by You at Invermay keep all their yeasts and hops refrigerated

Fermentis is probably the industry world wide leader of dry yeast.

The two most popular are US-05 for ales and 34/70 for lagers, but there are literally hundreds of dry and liquid yeasts to choose from.

Instead of having to pitch two packs, you can make a 'starter'. Simply dissolve 100 grams of light dried malt into a litre of water in a sanitised vessel and cool down.

Then pitch your yeast into this and cover it.

Do this on the day before you brew, if possible, and the yeast will increase in volume enough for you to pitch the whole starter.

How this works is that when you first introduce your yeast into your beer it breeds sufficient numbers to consume the sugar. This is also how you culture and breed it.

I use Erlenmeyer flasks and stir plates and breed up larger quantities to have some on hand for future brews.

Good liquid yeasts cost upwards of \$12, so culturing our own yeast for re-use is a big saving for us brewers.

Home brewers can also start building up their own yeast bank with different strains and cultures

There are lots of Youtube videos out there to show how to culture, rinse, wash and re-use yeasts. LittleJohns Channel has quite a few good, in-depth demonstrations.

A simple pale ale or draught extract tin with 500g LDM and 500g of dextrose fermented at 20°C with some US-05 yeast will make a great and vastly improved beer for your Christmas holidays.

Until next time – good brewing!

Sake teriyaki salmon

Japanese style salmon served with a medley of greens.
Photo by Wai Lin Coultas

By Wai Lin Coultas

WHILE WHIPPING up teriyaki sauce from scratch is easy, starting with it as a base and enhancing its layers yields a beautifully seared new Japanese style salmon rich in umami – perfectly served with refreshing medley of greens, without sauce or rice!

Ingredients

- 2 fillets salmon, skins on
- 20 stalks asparagus, fibrous ends snapped off
- 20 green beans, deveined and stalks removed
- 2 tbsp orange juice
- 5 tbsp butter
- cracked black pepper

Marinade

- 2 tbsp hazelnut oil
- 3 1/2 tbsp teriyaki sauce
- 2 1/2 tbsp cooking sake
- 2 tbsp sushi vinegar
- 1 1/2 tbsp maple infused syrup
- 1 tsp ground galangal
- pinches of cayenne pepper, to taste
- iodised salt, to taste

Garnish

- 1/4 cup pine nuts, dry toasted
- 8g dried vermicelli, cut into 5mm pieces and dry toasted until crisp
- 3 sprigs fresh flat leaf parsley, leaves chopped
- 1 lemon, zested
- 1 1/2 sprigs fresh spring onions, leaves julienned to curl

Instructions

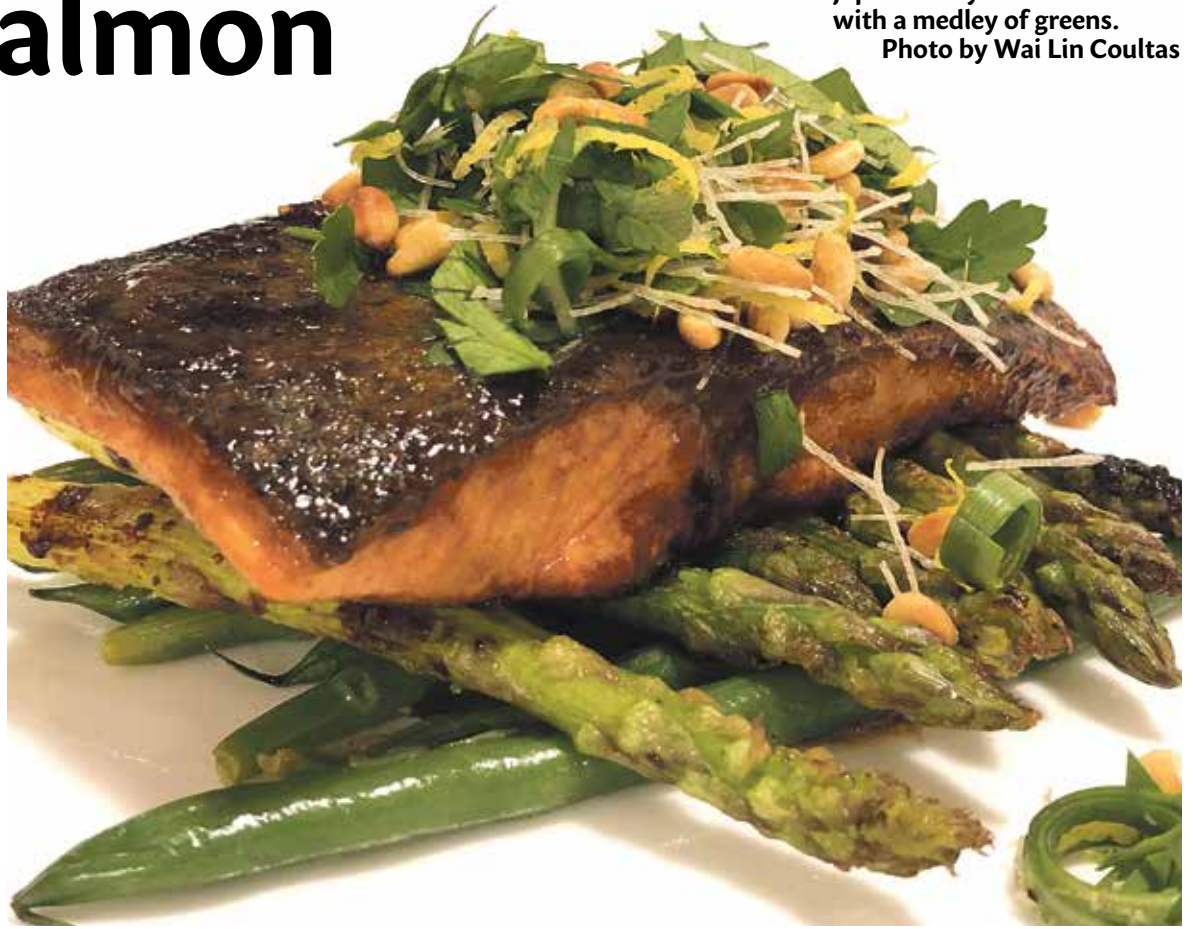
With knife, make multiple piercings through salmon skins and flesh.

Place salmon in marinade 30 minutes each side, basting occasionally.

Sauté asparagus and green beans in melted butter and orange juice till tender and slightly charred. Season with pepper and set aside covered.

Place marinated salmon, skins side down, in same frying pan over medium high heat, for 3 minutes till skin is crisp, basting twice with marinade.

Sear salmon's other side 1 1/2 to 2 minutes till opaque, basting once with marinade.



To plate one serve, lay half the asparagus over half the green beans. Top with salmon and garnish with nuts, vermicelli, herbs and lemon zest.
Serves 2



Oxylobium ellipticum (Golden Shaggypea)

Photo supplied



THE BUSH in our rural districts is richly adorned with wild flowers in bloom in October and November. Even cleared land growing *Eucalyptus nitens* for wood chips rapidly recovers once the trees have been removed.

The native bush on Cox's Road was cleared in the 1980s, and sprayed with the dangerous herbicide Atrazine to kill off the bracken fern. Even this treatment was no deterrent to the resurgent flowering shrubs and plants. Members of the *Fabaceae* family – that is, pod bearing plants – seem to predominate. The yellow flowering *Pultenaea juniperina* prolif-

erates on the edges of tracks. The common name of Prickly Beauty is apt, as anyone who has stepped out of the car into one well knows.

Oxylobium ellipticum (Golden Shaggypea), pictured above, grows in hedge-like rows along the banks. Another yellow bush plant which spreads along the ground is *Hibbertia procumbens* (Spreading Guineaflower).

The white flowering shrub *Olearia lirata* (Forest Daisybush) grows to 5m and is just now adorning the edges of the forests in our district.

The delightful scent of *Leprotomeria drupacea* (Erect Cur-

rantbush) is noticeable from many metres distance, but is quite an insignificant plant which proliferates along hilly pathways at Birrale and on Cox's Road.

Unfortunately this is the only one of these native plants which is impossible to propagate, according to Sally at Habitat Plants, Liffey.

Vegetables

It would be easier to list the veggies which cannot be sown in November.

Tomato plants are on sale in their hundreds in local shops. However it would be wise to keep these under cover until late November.

It would not be the first time that frost tender plants have been wiped out by a late frost in November.

Clifford Craig FOUNDATION

The Launceston Friends of Clifford Craig invite you to join us at our Annual *Garden Fete* at the home of John and Sandra Fardon 2 Sinclair Street, Perth

Sunday 24 November, 10am – 4pm

This year we are delighted to have the opportunity to hold our Annual Garden Fete in the gardens of the home of Mr John and Mrs Sandra Fardon. Just a short drive from Launceston and easy to find when you get to Perth, this environmentally friendly garden has been designed with sustainability and low water usage in mind.

Refreshments: Devonshire teas, sandwiches and sausage sizzle

Attractions: Wide variety of stalls and entertainment for all ages

Entry: \$5.00 per person – children under 16 free

How to get there...

Sit back and enjoy a cuppa on the deck while enjoying the beautiful views or take a stroll around the unusual Japanese garden.

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



Native hens nest in Deloraine fountain

By Sharon Webb

DELORAINE'S PREVIOUSLY unadorned fountain has been graced with a family of bronze native hens, courtesy of Meander Valley Council.

Just in time for the influx of visitors for the Tasmanian Craft Fair, the council has cleaned and repaired the fountain – then the tiny family moved onto its nest!

Golden Valley sculptor John Parish created the gleaming spindly-legged birds, mimicking the real-life native hens that can be seen cavorting along the town's riverbank.

'These birds say this is home; this is where we belong,' he said.

Bronze native hens created by Golden Valley sculptor John Parish splash in the Deloraine fountain on Emu Bay Road.
Photo by Mike Moores

Acting council manager Jonathan Harmey said the sculpture was funded from a budget for services in parks and reserves.

'The function of the existing fountain top was poor and had deteriorated to a point that it needed replacement,' Mr Harmey said.

'Council could have pursued a standard off-the-shelf replacement, however the fountain is a feature in Emu Bay Road.

'We thought the community would be best served by a sculptured top that complements other sculptures in Emu Bay Road and the Deloraine township.'

The fountain in Deloraine's main street next to the library was originally established by Deloraine Rotary and is a popular place.

sharon.webb@meandervalleygazette.com

CARRICK PARK Pacing Club is a success story of harness racing in Tasmania.

The Club has been operating for over 170 years and its longevity is no surprise as the Club puts on a great day of entertainment and racing with something for every member of the family.

In the 2019–20 season the Club will hold three race meetings to be run on 1 and 29 December. The Carrick Inn Carrick Cup meeting will be held on Saturday 15 February.

The first meeting will feature a Christmas theme with Santa attending with giveaways for the children as well as pony trots in Christmas dress up.

There will be free jumping castle, face painting, Bee Bop Dancers as well as a full race program.

There will be a wide range of food available and a well-stocked bar.



Carrick sets the pace for Christmas

Action will start around 4pm but check local papers or contact the club closer to the date.

The Club is also offering a very generous membership. \$20 for the season will admit two to all three meetings, plus a stubby of beer or soft drink at each event.

If interested please contact Sandra on 0400 635 070 or email sandratmca@dodo.com.au for full details.

Legal Literacy

What is it?
How can we help you get it?



Legal Literacy is the ability to know and understand when the law may impact on your life and to be able to deal with it when it does.

This could be as important an event as purchasing a house or as simple as completing an application for a Centrelink payment.

We all need help at different times, and this is where the legal literacy program comes in ...

Who would **YOU** ask to help you fill in forms requesting personal information?

- The Bank?
- The Post Office?
- A friend or neighbour?
- Centrelink?

We think there's a better way!

Our Legal Literacy Volunteers work to provide early safe confidential access for those times when people are just not sure how to go about completing a form or who to ask for help.

They have access to and the back-up of the solicitors at Launceston Community Legal Centre (LCLC).

Beylara Ra, Legal Literacy Program Coordinator, will start the training program for potential new volunteers in the Meander Valley at Deloraine Neighbourhood House on Thursday 28 November 2019.

This training is being offered free of charge to anyone interested in assisting other members of their community.

Training will run over the following 4 weeks (one day a week).

Successful volunteers will work from both Deloraine House and Westbury Community Health Centre.

Anyone interested in attending the training or finding out more about what Legal Literacy Volunteers do is welcome to ring Beylara or Emma at LCLC on 6334 1577 for more information and/or to register for the training.

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Small halls Big day out at Deloraine

THE FESTIVAL of Small Halls, Australia's largest regionally-dedicated music tour, today announces the 2020 Summer Tour, featuring one of Scotland's foremost singers Siobhan Miller and critically-acclaimed Australian songwriter Jack Carty.

The wide-ranging regional music tour rekindles the time-old tradition of gathering in the local small hall for special nights of live music, storytelling and community connection.

Starting on 1 January at Woodford Folk Festival, the tour moves to Tasmania, beginning with Southport Community Centre on January 4. Mole Creek Memorial Hall will play host on January 9.

A full list of Tasmanian dates and venues, with tickets on sale, can be found at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com.

Proudly presented by Woodfordia Inc. in partnership with Woodford Folk Festival, Cygnet Folk Festival and Illawarra Folk Festival, the Festival of Small Halls Summer Tour 2020 is supported by the Australia Council for the Arts.

THE DELORAINE & Districts Community Bank Deloraine Show will be held on Saturday, 23 November.

For 73 years the Deloraine show has provided a great day out with a winning formula for families looking for a fun, diverse & safe atmosphere.

A draw card this year will be cooking demonstrations from Deloraine's local 'Four Roses ladies', Lexie Young, Jan Atkins and Sandra Atkins who will be sharing their baking secrets and tips.

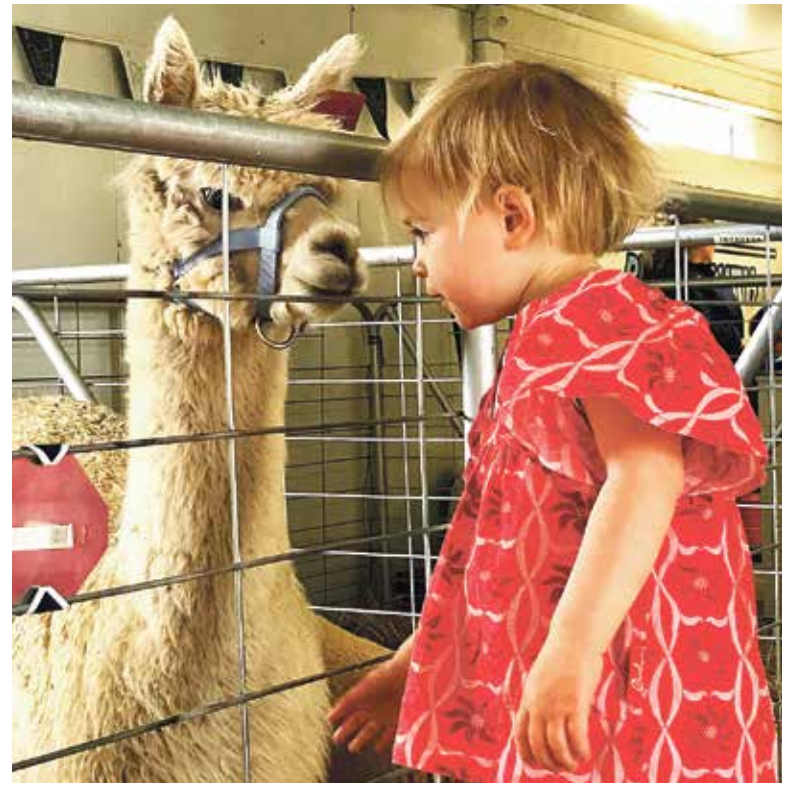
Fresh from the 2019 Australian Natural Terrain Moto Trial Championship, Chris Bayles will wow the crowd with his hair raising motor bike stunt demonstrations.

Another new attraction is Crazy Bikes, providing hours of fun as patrons attempt to ride variously modified bikes, ranging from easy to almost impossible.

The Pet Parade is a crowd favourite for children, families and their pets, with loads of prizes to be won. Details can be found at local schools or on the Deloraine Show Society Facebook page or website (deloraineshow.com.au).

New this year will be a Lego tent run by the St Marks Deloraine Lego Club, hosting several Lego building competitions throughout the day.

Chilli FM Children's Fun Tent will provide activities for little ones.



Josie Folder and an enigmatic alpaca at the Deloraine Show Animal Nursery, 2018. Photo by Sophie Folder



The mechanical bull is back by popular demand and Eddie Freeman will demonstrate his skilled chainsaw carving.

Entertainment promises a lively atmosphere with music from Matt Wood, the Deloraine Junior band, Deloraine High School musicians and dancing demonstrations from Dance Connections.

Traditional exhibitions and competitions – Wood-chopping, Livestock, Heavy Horse and Home Industries – will be big crowd pullers along with the equestrian events in the Main Arena.

There will be plenty of parking and gates open at 9am. Entry for adults is \$12, children \$5 & under 5 year olds are free.

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CHRISTMAS DINNER

MEANDER VALLEY residents are invited to share Christmas Day Dinner, so no one needs to be alone on this special day. The churches of the Meander Valley are hosting their 16th Christmas dinner from 11.30 am on Wednesday 25 December.

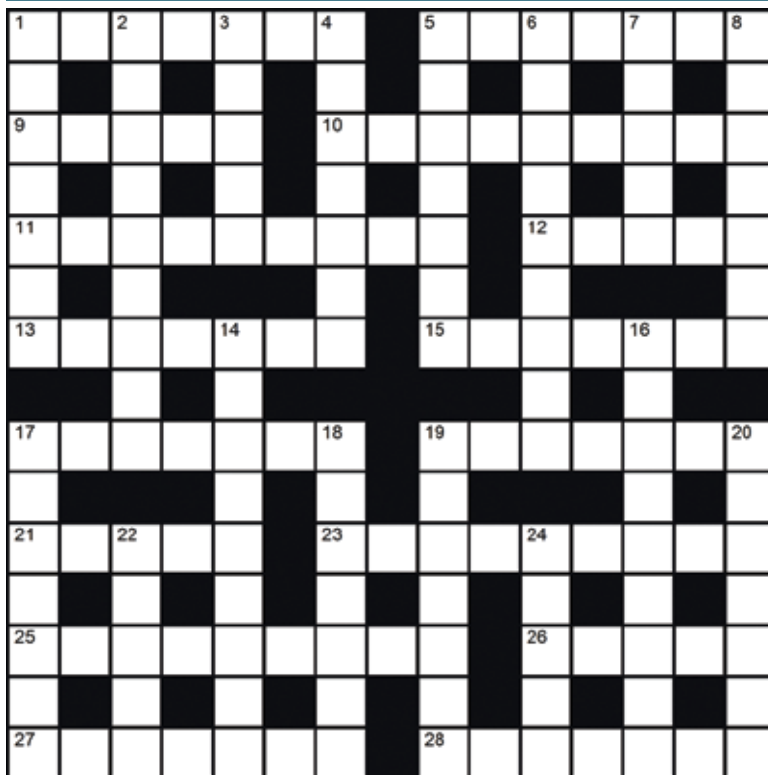
Held in the Mennonite Hall in West Barrack Street, Deloraine, everyone is welcome. It will be a time of music, fun and, of course, a magnificent traditional Christmas dinner. The event is free, thanks to generous individuals and businesses in the Meander Valley. Thanks must also go to volunteers who come along on the day, as well as beforehand, to make everything work.

This is the eighth, and sadly, the last time Judy and Graham McKenzie will organise the dinner. Last year, they received an Australia Day Special Award from Meander Valley Council, for their incredible service over nearly a decade.

Anyone who would like to attend, volunteer help, provide entertainment or make a donation should contact Judy or Graham on 0434 846 697 or email at christmas@internode.on.net

To allow the organisers to plan the catering, replies should be no later than Friday, 20 December.

Crossword



Across

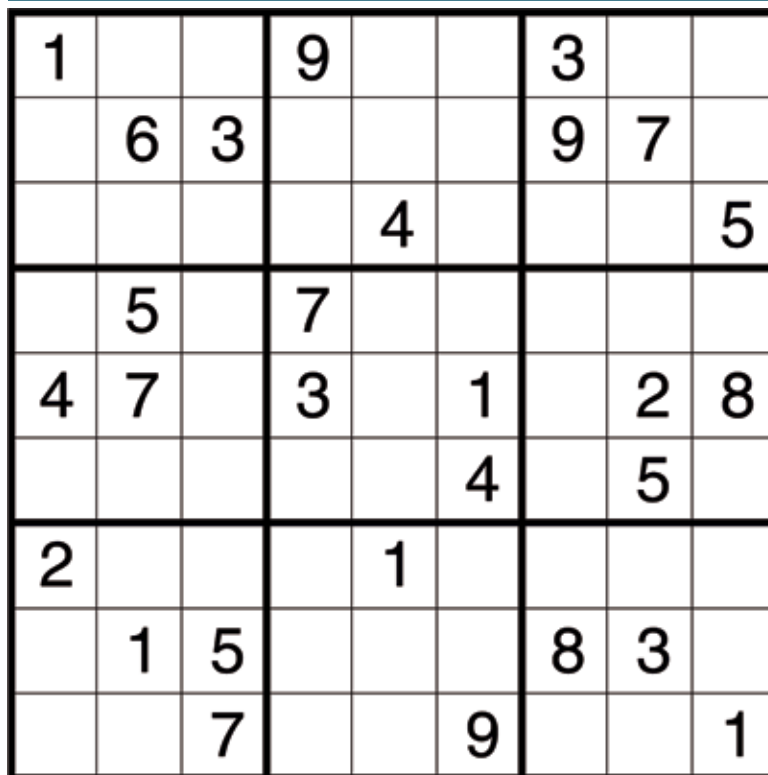
- 1 Cavalry soldier (7)
- 5 Sawbones (7)
- 9 Middle Eastern bread (5)
- 10 Game show player (9)
- 11 How bidding goes in bridge (9)
- 12 Topic (5)
- 13 Unintended discharge of a fluid (7)
- 15 Green-eyed (7)
- 17 Live together (7)
- 19 Offensive (7)
- 21 Money bag (5)
- 23 Where dolly mixture can be bought (5,4)
- 25 e.g. the DUKW (9)

Down

- 26 Harvests (5)
- 27 Convent (7)
- 28 Packed (7)
- 1 Average (7)
- 2 Bone manipulator (9)
- 3 Long flat piece of timber (5)
- 4 Contemptible person (7)
- 5 Genuine (7)
- 6 Kinsfolk (9)
- 7 Best of a group (5)
- 8 Chats (7)
- 14 Lake Windermere town (9)
- 16 Picked up accidentally (9)
- 17 Skipper (7)
- 18 Bear witness (7)
- 19 Maritime (7)
- 20 Laid open to view (7)
- 22 Mature (5)
- 24 Trunk of the human body (5)

Please note that because of food safety regulations, dogs will not be allowed in the hall.

Sudoku



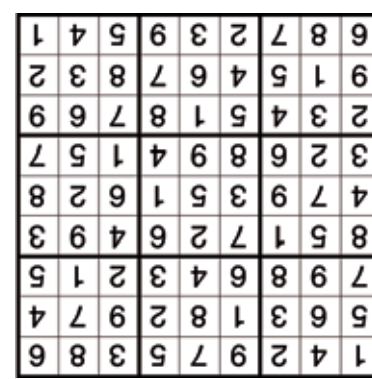
© 2019 Syndicated Puzzles

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 November 2019 solution



Sudoku November 2019 solution



Events Diary

Proudly sponsored by **GREAT WESTERN TIERS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE**

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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 Monday 9-10.30am	Yoga with Brigitte	Deloraine Day Care Centre, Lansdowne Place, Deloraine \$15 casual More info Ph 0414 948 760
Every Monday 10-10.30pm	Story time for preschoolers 0-4	Deloraine Library, 2-4 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine During school terms Ph 6701 2100
Every Monday 1-1.30pm	Story time for preschoolers 0-4	Westbury Library, 33 William St, Westbury During school terms Ph 6393 1439
Every Wednesday 6-7.30pm	Yoga with Kristina	Deloraine Day Care Centre, Lansdowne Place, Deloraine \$15 casual More info Kristina 0497 025 308
Every Wednesday 1.30-3pm	Memoir Writing Group	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Write and share stories Everyone welcome
Every Thursday 10-11am	Physiotherapy & exercise classes	Westbury Community Health Centre, 89 Meander Valley Road, Westbury
Saturday 9 November 9am-1pm	Liffey Valley Market	Old Liffey School, 1443 Liffey Rd, Liffey More info Jen 0421 900 810
Saturday 9 November 9am	Westbury Agricultural Show	Lyttleton Street, Westbury
Saturday 9 November 5pm door 6pm music	Celtic Caim with Jesse McCormack	Marakoopa Café, 186 Mayberry Rd, Mayberry Tickets \$20 www.marakoopacafe.com or call 63635033
Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 November 10am-4pm	Gardenfest at Entally	Entally House, 782 Meander Valley Rd, Hadspen 70 stalls \$5 site entry, \$2 house entry
Saturday 9 November 7.30pm sharp	WTFS <i>The Favourite</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine MA15+ Biography/Drama UK 119m More info 0418 389 868
Wednesday 13 November 7-8pm	Celebrating Reading	Hagley Farm Primary School Community forum Free event
Thursday 14 November 9.30-10.30am	How to be Confident	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine The Van Diemen Project Free workshop
Saturday 16 November 9am-1pm	Mole Creek Market Day	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drv and Caveside Rd Contact Ross Quick 0413 681 252
Saturday 16 November 9am-2pm	Westbury Market	St Andrews Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Pde, Westbury Hot food, vegetables, plants & much more More info 0417 931 619
Saturday 16 November 1-4pm	Asian-inspired Varoma Class	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Use your Varoma to its full potential \$45 www.eventbrite.com.au
Sunday 17 November 1pm door 2pm music	The Little Lord Street Band	Marakoopa Café, 186 Mayberry Rd, Mayberry Tickets \$17.50 www.marakoopacafe.com
Saturday 23 November 9am gates	Deloraine Show	Highland Lakes Road, Deloraine Entry Adults \$12, Children \$5, under 5 year olds free Contact Sophie Folder 0439 247 172
Saturday 23 November 7.30pm sharp	WTFS <i>Capernaum</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M Drama Lebanon 126m More info 0418 389 868
Saturday 24 November 8-11am	Carrick Kids Car Boot Sale	Carrick Inn Hotel carpark stall set up at 7am \$2 donation Book before November 17 at carricksocialgroup@gmail.com
Sunday 24 November 10am-4pm	Clifford Craig Foundation Fete	2 Sinclair Street, Perth the home of John & Sandra Fardon, stalls, trash & treasure, refreshments \$5, under 16 free
Thursday 28 November 10am	Be a Foster Carer	Westbury Community Health Centre, 89 Meander Valley Rd, Westbury Free information session
Saturday 30 November 9am-2pm	Blackstone Heights Market	Blackstone Park Dve, Blackstone Heights Crafts, food, drink, entertainment blackstonecommunitynews2@gmail.com
Saturday 30 November-8 December	World Fly Fishing Championships	Central Plateau Lakes www.wffc2019.com 04417519415 or email wffc2019register@gmail.com
Sunday 1 December 12 noon door 1-6pm music	Celebrate Summer	Marakoopa Café, 186 Mayberry Rd, Mayberry Assorted artists Tickets \$40 www.marakoopacafe.com or call 63635033
Saturday 7 December 9am-1pm	Deloraine Market	Deloraine Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine
Sat 7 & Sun 8 December 9.30am gates 11am start	Deloraine Apex Club Tractor Pull	Red Hills Memorial Park Modified and vintage tractors, kids' entertainment, food vans, bar Danny Saltmarsh 0409965712
Wednesday 25 December 11.30am	Christmas Day Dinner	Mennonite Hall, West Barrack St, Deloraine free Contact Judy or Graham 0434 846 697 or christmas@internode.on.net



Howzat! \$65 000 grant for Hadspen Cricket

By Sharon Webb

WOMEN PLAYERS at Hadspen Cricket Club are winners after being granted \$65 000 for new change rooms at the Hadspen Memorial Centre.

The Levelling the Playing Fields Grant comes as the club's female player numbers are booming.

Club secretary Brad Eames said this year the club has two senior women's sides in the Tasmanian Cricket League – the first club to achieve that after starting a women's programme two years ago.

'We were granted all the funds requested so it's pretty exciting,' he said.

'It will give us new women's change rooms and a storage facility.

'Currently the women are using a shared facility. This grant will allow more privacy for players and let them feel more comfortable.'

Mr Eames said the next step is to finalise the change rooms plan and submit them to Meander Valley Council.

Under the Levelling the Playing Field Grants Programme, the Tasmanian Government is investing \$10 million over two years to upgrade sports facilities to support girls and women participating in sport across the state.

The \$5.34 million allocated statewide this year will help sporting organisations build new facilities and upgrade existing facilities to ensure safe and comfortable environments.

It believes the funding will help improve the attraction and retention of female members in sporting codes across the state.

Organisations are required to match the funding dollar for dollar.

sharon.webb@meandervalleygazette.com

Hadspen Cricket Club's inaugural women's Boom side will enjoy a new change rooms after the club received a \$65 000 grant from the State Government.
Photo supplied

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To allow us to cater for you, please RSVP to Graham & Judy 6441 5241, no later than Friday 20th December

To volunteer or make a donation towards the festivities, please contact Judy on 0434 846 697 or email christmas@internode.on.net

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Deloraine Bean Counter looking after all your business accounts, MYOB, payroll and training needs. Call Zsuzsanna on 0427 362 058, delorainebeancounter@gmail.com. Central office located at Room 4, 62-64 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Tas 7304

JACQUELINE STACEY specialising in muscle release work using Bowen, Emmett and Trigger Point therapies. Phone: 6362 4335

COMPUTER REPAIRS

For computer repairs, upgrades, accessories & internet phone installation. Call Alistair Carr. Mobile: 0438 681 290. Email: alicarr47@carrpar.biz

Walters CONTRACTING

NO JOB TOO BIG OR SMALL

- Driveways, Roads & Laneways
- Earthworks Excavation & Dam Building
- Bulldozer, Truck, Float, Roller & Grader Hire
- Road Bases & Materials

JOEY 0467 361 626 CHRIS 0418 370 646



SERVICING THE MEANDER VALLEY COMMUNITY FOR OVER 50 YEARS

MIGHTY SKIPS
Locally Owned & Operated

Skip Bin HIRE for Rubbish Removal

Tim Dawkins
Phone: 0400 087 854

4WD TRACTOR & 4WD TIP TRUCK HIRE

Mowing, slashing, trees trimmed & cut up, shrubs & stumps cleared, rubbish removed, driveways gravelled & graded, ripping hard ground & laying polypipe, weeds wiped. Also have chipper & hotwater pressure cleaner. Call George on 0419 000 947, gcallcas@bigpond.net.au

FOR SALE

PLANTS

Tomato plants – 16 varieties. Red & brown onion plants. Red gauntlet strawberry plants. Seed potatoes: Pink eyes, Dutch Cream, Bismarks, King Edwards, Brownells. Allan & Edna Richardson 10 Jones Street, Westbury, 0409 931 491.

NIGEL'S PUMPING SERVICE
Regularly servicing your area

Locally owned and operated



Avoid expensive plumbing bills - Have your septic tank pumped every 2 years

We offer:

- Septic tank and grease trap pumping
- Sludge removal
- Portaloos

For prompt and reliable service please call Nigel's today on

0419 154 475

SHERRIFF'S PLUMBING
PTY. LTD.

SERVICING MEANDER VALLEY FOR OVER 40 YEARS

- All Plumbing and Drainage
- Sewer Jet Drain Cleaning
- Drainage Camera
- Cable and Drain Locations
- Solar Hot Water
- Backflow Prevention
- Concrete Cutting and Coring
- Filtered Water Systems



David 0417 104 467 - Simon 0408 622 279

SEE A PHOTO THAT YOU LIKE?

Many of the photographs in the Gazette can be purchased.

It's a great way to keep memories of friends, family or places that you love.

For prices and further information, please phone 6286 8212.

Calling a service or retail business advertising in these pages? Let them know you found them in the Meander Valley Gazette ... and thank you for supporting local businesses!

Harcourts Meander Valley

FOR SALE



Daryl has returned after a well-deserved break and some long service leave.

If you would like an honest approach and an experienced agent when selling Daryl is happy to discuss your real estate needs.

CALL
YOUR TRUSTED AND
EXPERIENCED
SALES EXPERTS



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0419622552

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