



JUST HORSING AROUND

Four legs or two wheels at the Deloraine Show?

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I'M A GOOD BOY, WANNA SHARE?

Westbury Show – it's a dog's life!

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MUSIC BOX WITH A DIFFERENCE

Cigar box guitars at the Craft Fair

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Meander Valley Gazette

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December 2019

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper



Blue or grey sky, still riding high

Chris Bayles of Launceston tackles some big logs at the Deloraine Show.

Photo by Mike Moores

Shelton in political firing line over prison site

By Sharon Webb

ANTI-PRISON GROUP Westbury Region Against the Prison (WRAP) has signalled that it will target senior sitting Liberal Mark Shelton in the next State election if Tasmania's new prison is built on the proposed Birrallee Road, Westbury site.

WRAP president Linda Poulton said the group intends to place every obstacle in the way of the prison going ahead there.

'If it does get the green light despite our efforts, we will continue to protest this appalling decision, potentially by throwing our support behind a candidate in the election.'

Senior Liberals Mark Shelton and Guy Barnett have everything to lose in the next election in about three years.

If the Liberal government's Northern Regional Prison plans are on target, then by the time of the election, the prison building on Birrallee Road, two kilometres from the centre of Westbury, will be a very vis-

ible reminder of what many Westbury residents currently appear to be repudiating.

At the last election, Mark Shelton topped the first preference vote not only in the Westbury booth with 315 votes, but also in Hagley (118 votes), Chudleigh (75), Elizabeth Town (98), Carrick (184) and Meander (77).

In nearby Deloraine he was close behind Guy Barnett with 402 votes and also in Mole Creek (68).

Further away from Westbury, Mark Shelton also topped the poll in Cressy, Longford, Glengarry, Frankford and Bracknell.

(continued on page 2)

Historic oak tree is dying in Deloraine

By Sharon Webb

A MAJESTIC oak tree in Deloraine has been poisoned and Meander Valley Council is furious about it.

The first of 14 huge oak trees lining West Goderich Street between Tower Hill Street and West Parade, it was probably planted in the 1950s, said council acting general manager Jonathan Harmey.

'Council Officers have found that the tree has been drilled into and attempted to be destroyed with a combination of petrol and poison. This is a particularly disappointing result,' he said.

The council has screwed two large signs to the tree, labelling the poisoning of the tree as the

'unacceptable vandalism of a public asset'.

One resident who has lived in the street for 60 years said the tree had been there since she moved in.

Another neighbour said vandalism was rife in the area. A 100kg garden statue had been pushed over, expensive rose bushes ripped out and the fingers of the Holy Redeemer Catholic Church's marble statue of Jesus broken off by vandals wielding supermarket trolleys.

Anyone who knows who poisoned the tree should contact Meander Valley Council on 63935300 or email the address below.

sharon.webb@meandervalleygazette.com



The poisoned tree in West Goderich Street, opposite Holy Redeemer Church. Photo by Mike Moores

Shelton in political firing line over prison site

(continued from page 1)

In most of these booths, the Liberals were markedly ahead of Labor leader Rebecca White, with candidates Jen Butler and Janet Lambert trailing well behind.

Jen Butler's recent presence in Westbury and alignment with WRAP indicates she may have found an issue to boost her visibility.

Ms Poulton said WRAP members, currently more than 100, believe Mark Shelton was behind the choice of the Birralee Road site, citing a deed of agreement signed by him as Meander Valley Council mayor in 2009.

Then the council was establishing Valley Central industrial zone on land on both sides of Birralee Road. Three landowners, including proposed prison site landowner Glen Avon Farms, agreed that the council would establish service infrastructure on the land in return for future payment.

That gamble has not worked out for Glen Avon Farms. The industrial zone progressed slowly and no industry has been established on the farm's land. Glen Avon's debt to the council, which WRAP maintains in a letter to the council is \$680,000, is due in January 2022.

It is believed that debt was an important reason why, in November 2018, former Meander Valley Council general manager Martin Gill submitted an expression of interest to the State Government for the prison site to be on Birralee Rd, on behalf of Glen Avon Farms.

Ms Poulton said, 'Mark Shelton had knowledge of the site and the debt owed to the council, as he signed Glen Avon Farms up to that debt. He has been very vocal in his support for this site,' Ms Poulton said.

Both Mark Shelton and Guy Barnett deny involvement in the choice of prison site. 'The shortlisting and assessment of sites including the preferred site at Birralee Road for the \$270 million Northern Regional Prison was made by a specially formed siting panel with expert members from across government agencies. Neither of us was involved in that process.'

The government announced Birralee Road as the preferred site in September this year.

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Building sale by Council

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY Council will sell buildings in Deloraine and Prospect which are no longer needed. Having had no response from the public on alternative uses for the two buildings, the council will put them on the market.

Moving the motion to sell, Cllr Tanya King said, 'There is no point in hanging on to properties we don't have a planned use for.'

The Deloraine building at 6-8 Emu Bay Rd currently is rented to Service Tasmania and the Education Department's Library Literacy Office.

It also contains former Legislative Councillor Greg Hall's now unused office and was the location of the old Deloraine Council before council amalgamation.

The building at 333 Westbury Road in Prospect is a residence, bought by the council in 2014 as part of the Westbury Road-Vale Street intersection roundabout project. The property is currently leased through Bushby Real Estate.

The Department of Communities has expressed interest in buying this property to help deliver affordable housing to the area.

The Office of the Valuer General has valued the two properties to be sold at \$315,000 and \$330,000 respectively but the council will obtain commercial valuations before selling them.

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Councillor's creative solution to sticky rates situation

By Sharon Webb

A FAMILY running a honey business in Chudleigh is in court again for non-payment of rates, even after the Meander Valley Council sold their Mole Creek home in 2017 for their refusal to pay rates.

Local councillor John Temple is proposing a creative response should the issue come before the full council again for a decision.

Alida Beerepoot was in the Devonport Magistrates Court on 7 November for the non-payment of rates on two properties.

The case was heard by Magistrate Leanne Topfer who reserved her decision. The outcome date is unknown.

According to Meander Valley Council's acting general manager, Jonathan Harmey, the Beerepoot family is among 'a small number' of rates

non-payment cases that have progressed to court.

'One of those property owners [the Beerepoots] lodged a defence to state that they do not consider they have any responsibility to pay property rates. This is the reason the court proceedings are currently in progress,' he said.

The Chudleigh properties, run by Alida Beerepoot and her adult children Remmo and Fanny, consist of a farm and the Melita Honey shop, both in Chudleigh.

In 2017, accrued rates on these properties were paid by an un-named benefactor, who apparently stated he or she would do this only once.

But the benefactor did not pay rates on the Beerepoots' 250 square meter home on 2.5 hectares, Blue Wren Hideaway, and Meander Valley Council auctioned it for \$120,000 to recoup \$3,500 in rates. The family would not pay the rates because they believed the land was 'owned by God'.

After the council deducted around \$15,000 for rates and auction costs, it returned around \$105,000 to the Beerepoot family, which they promptly gave back, viewing

the auction as a hostile sale with which they wouldn't colude.

Blue Wren Hideaway has since been sold again.

Cllr Temple believes a better way to handle the situation would be to accept the Beerepoots' religious grounds for not paying the rates – but to charge compound interest on the amount owing, with the council being the first to be paid out whenever the properties are sold.

Doing that, the council would make a profit on the money owed.

'This family has a different view on the world,' Cllr Temple said, emphasising the solution was his personal view.

'I think that long term, the community would not be disadvantaged if the situation were handled differently.

'Another example would be an elderly pensioner couple wanting to live out their days in their home who can't afford the rates.

'I wouldn't like the whole community not to pay their rates but sometimes people need saving from themselves.'

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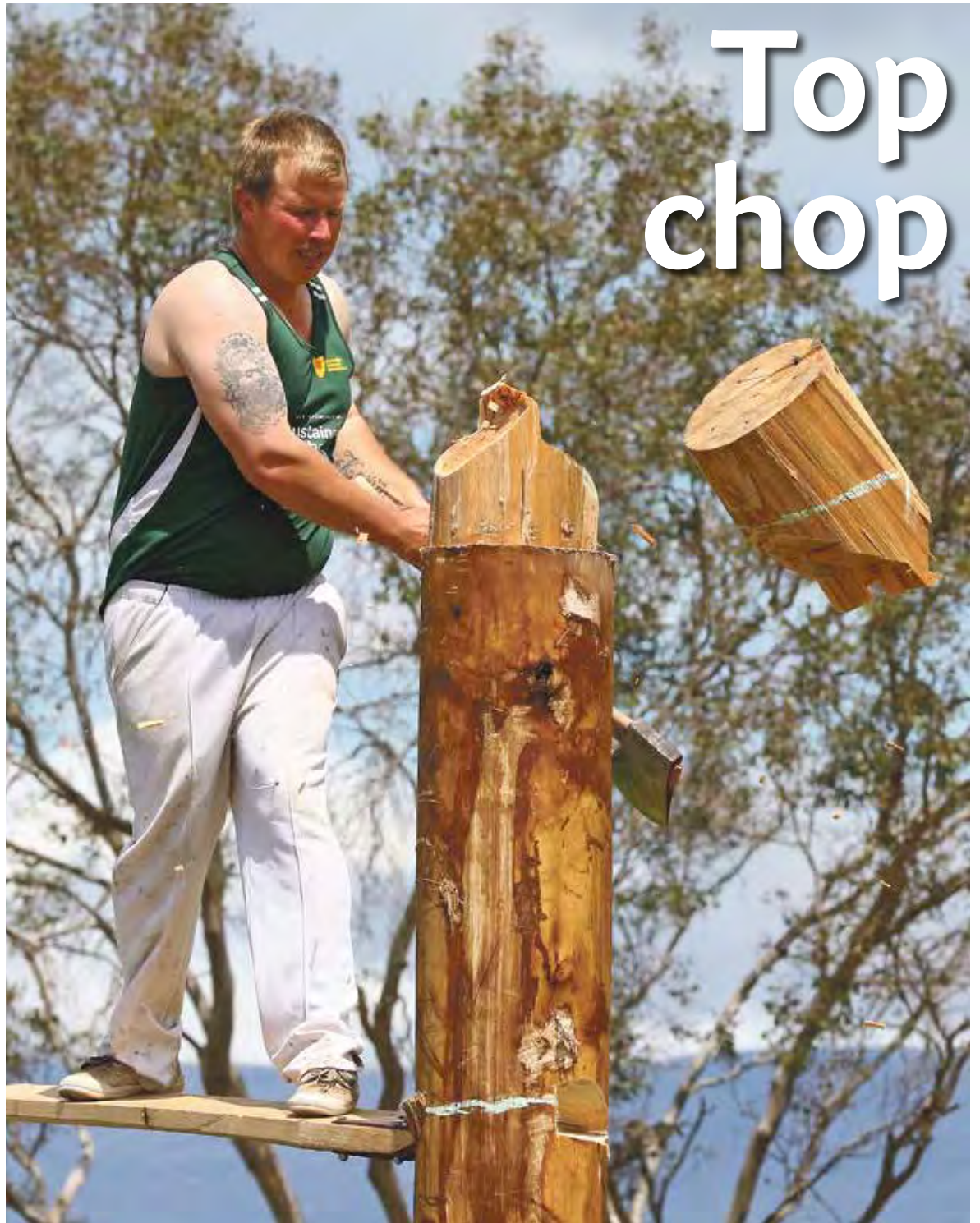
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Joan Loone, of the Aged Care Deloraine Auxiliary and Simon Rootes from the Deloraine and Districts Bendigo Bank cut the ribbon on the new Christmas tree. Photo by Mike Moores



Maureen Hosken, President of Aged Care Deloraine Auxiliary (standing) with Kanangra resident Fay Woods (left) and Pauline Grey, Auxiliary volunteer with some of the Christmas garlands made for residents. Photo by Hayley Manning



Danny Arnold of Launceston up on high at the Deloraine Show

Photo by Mike Moores

The spirit of giving at Christmas

By Hayley Manning

CAPTURING THE true spirit of Christmas, Kanangra and Grenoch residents have been at it again, pooling their creative talents to make decorative Christmas gifts that are sure to bring joy to others.

Aged Care Deloraine Auxiliary volunteers and residents gathered around a table jumbled high with all the assort-

ed bits and pieces needed to make a door garland for each of the 100 residents at the Kanangra and Grenoch Aged Care facilities.

Garland materials are purchased by the Auxiliary who raise funds throughout the year for projects and equipment as required.

'The staff and residents always let us know what is needed. They have a wish list,'

said Pauline Grey, Aged Care board member and volunteer.

Grenoch residents were also treated to the presentation of their new Christmas tree.

In July this year, Aged Care Deloraine's Christmas Joy project received \$3,300 from the Deloraine and Districts Bendigo Bank Community Grant Program to purchase a new Christmas tree to brighten up Christmas for the residents.

Going to Uni or TAFE for the first time in 2020?

Scholarship now open.

Applications are invited from eligible students in the local district attending university or TAFE for the first time in 2020.

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Letters to the Editor

Prison phone survey

After receiving the latest marketing, automated phone survey at 7.30 on the evening of 5.11.2019, I'm forwarding my response, lodged with the three main newspapers.

The state government has hit a new low in their determination to have the proposed Maximum Security Prison accepted by residents of Westbury by their latest ploy, a 'Push Marketing' exercise in the form of an automated telephone survey. The 'survey' is being conducted by yet another consultancy that demonstrates an astounding lack of subtlety in the skewed responses allowed, with yet another bill for 'consultants' being generated. But then, it's only tax money!

This company, on behalf of our elected government, is asking questions along the lines of 'How do you feel about \$135 million being injected into the local economy by having a prison in your locality?' Where

do they get the \$135 million figure from? Who wouldn't want the services that would pay for?

They also ask about our feelings in relation to the 250 permanent jobs that the prison would provide. Jobs for whom? It will be a multinational company that builds the prison. Would the prison management positions at any level be offered to the people on Newstart? Where will the trained prison officers appear from?

This 'Push Marketing' exercise is pathetic in its design and delivery and insulting in its perception that we are too dumb to understand what it is attempting to do.

How much is this unsophisticated survey costing? No doubt just a few more tens of thousands of tax dollars that this government is all too comfortable in ripping out of its 'piggy bank' – AKA Health and Education.

Peter Wileman, Westbury

Support for the proposed northern prison site

I am writing this letter in support of the proposed northern prison site near Westbury.

I believe the site makes sense because of its location in the central north within a half hour's drive of Launceston, close to the Bass Highway.

It should be seen by the residents of the area as another industry to support future population and business growth, predominantly in Westbury itself.

Even if most of the construction work for the new prison is undertaken by State Government contractors, there is scope for local Westbury suppliers and contractors to also benefit.

In the longer term it would be expected that, at the minimum, ten percent of the permanent prison workforce would be Westbury residents.

Don't lose sight of the multiplier effect, meaning that each worker has a larger positive economic impact on the area than just the individual.

More jobs are created in the service area, for example, shop staff and council workers, to supply the requirements of an increased population.

The area needs more industry to sustain the town and its residents into the future. Tourism is never going to be the mainstay some would like, as it is too seasonal.

A lot of the negativity towards the proposed prison seems to have been brought about by the way the State Government went about the EOI process.

Of course it could have been done better, but the community needs to move on.

Fear of the unknown has led to talk of a possible drop in real estate values. The facts suggest otherwise, as other prisons in similar locations in other states show. I have visited Juneee, which has a prison in close proximity to the town and weren't even aware the prison was there.

I've also visited Woodford, which has a large prison in the immediate vicinity, and attended the annual Woodford Folk Festival, which attracts tens of thousands of visitors to the town every New Year. There doesn't seem to be any negative impact on that community, or its visitors.

Finally, I have two acquaintances who have experienced prison life, one who I work with often. Both made mistakes, were tried and convicted, served their time and now are making a positive contribution to their communities. They are average people who were caught out when they broke the law and have paid the price. The vast majority of prisoners, I believe, fit these criteria.

I've lived in a community in another state that benefits still from work release programs where low risk detainees close to parole are allowed out in groups to work on community benefit projects. I met plenty of them. They were just keen to finish their jail time and get back to living normal lives.

Tim Stevenson, Westbury resident for 9 years who won't be moving because of a prison close to the town

Proposed Westbury Prison

Regarding the August meeting with representatives of the State Government, Mayor Wayne Johnston is quoted (page 8, *Meander Valley Gazette*, November 2019) as saying, 'What could I do? I was invited to the meeting but I couldn't sit in the room without signing a confidentiality agreement'. A confidentiality agreement requires the signatory not to reveal commercial in confidence data. Nothing prevented Mr Johnston informing the community of the politically important fact that government were considering locating a prison at Westbury.

Elsie Archer (Letters to the Editor, page 6, *Meander Valley Gazette*, November 2019) says that locating the proposed prison next to the Ashley Youth Detention Centre would be 'entirely inappropriate', and she quotes Article 37(c) of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* which, in part, provides that, 'every child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child's best interests not to do so'.

Does Ms Archer really mean to say that locating the proposed prison next to the Youth Detention Centre would give adult prisoners access to the children detained there? If so, what does that say about the security of the proposed prison and, in particular, the danger to Westbury residents of locating the prison within the town of Westbury?

As to the question of confidentiality Ms Archer says that, 'all submissions made via the EOI process were subject to commercial in confidence assessment and negotiations, and as such, confidentiality

had to be maintained'. Quite so! Commercially sensitive data cannot be prematurely released. However, nothing prevents government informing the community that (commercially sensitive) submissions are to be invited and / or are under consideration. That government withheld this information from the community, even to the point where, 'negotiations', had been entered into, strongly suggests that no genuine consultation with the community was ever envisaged.

Ms Archer more or less confirms that later in her letter to the *Gazette*. She says, 'Once a preferred site that met all criteria was identified, the community consultation began ...'.

Yes, the community were informed once a (non-negotiable) decision as to the site had already been made. Later she says, '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'.

Yes, to *learn, question and be heard*. But not to consult, inform, negotiate or contribute to the making of a decision.

It would seem that, so far as local and state government are concerned the location of the prison is a *fait accompli* decided entirely on commercial grounds (if not to benefit perceived commercial interests). It is a fine example of high-handed and politically irresponsible action.

Sandra John, Western Creek

Police and ambulance problems

All of us should be very disturbed about the proposal by the current government to build a \$270 million maximum security prison in Westbury instead of fixing some other very serious problems.

We've all read that the Launceston Police Department has been faced with an increase in crime and is currently understaffed. In 2020, however, the entire policing department of Tasmania is to have its budget cut. How can we residents of Tasmania feel safe when the police force is already over-stretched? There are only 1,254 police officers in all of Tasmania and that is not enough!

The government seem to think that Tasmanians are unaware of the crisis in the health service, too. Insufficient numbers of ambulance drivers/paramedics in the south mean that paramedics from

Launceston are being recruited to Hobart. This department, too, is over-stretched. Are we supposed to feel comfortable with inadequate police numbers and an over-stretched ambulance service?

Does a maximum security prison solve these problems? No way.

Just speak with any ER doctor or staff member to learn how serious this problem is. Patients are regularly sent out from Launceston to Deloraine and further afield after waiting endless hours to be seen. Ambulances are ramped. Doctors are very upset and say, 'We need more money for health and we need it now'.

Surely it is wiser to use the \$270 million to fix these problems?

We the public, residents, students and tourists — need to demand that we are treated better than criminals!
Tessa and Frank Schiff, Westbury

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No matter what the weather...



Maddie Kellow of Hobart was prepared for everything the weather could bring when she visited Entally House Gardenfest in November.

Photo by Mike Moores

Sandra Atkins, Golden Girl

By Lorraine Clarke



Sandra's latest clutch of gold medals.

Photo by Mike Moores

VERY FEW of Meander Valley's residents have earned a gold medal in sport, but Deloraine Online Access Centre's own Sandra Atkins can't seem to help but accumulate them!

Sandra is a well known local rider with a passion for re-training thoroughbred horses for new careers after the track. She has hunted for many seasons, and nearing 80 years, is still active in showjumping, eventing and dressage.

After recovering from 3 hip and 2 knee replacements, Sandra started riding again in January 2017, with the goal of competing in showjumping in the October Masters Games in Ulverstone. Forty-five different sports are contested by athletes aged from 35 to 90 plus, in 5 year age groups.

'Being of Scottish ancestry, doing two sports for my \$99 membership was better than one,' Sandra said.

'I looked at the list of sports available, and the only one I was capable of doing was Indoor Rowing. I didn't know it was a competitive sport. I thought it was just a gym exercise.'

Sandra came home from Ulverstone with 2 gold and 2 silver medals, and this year was keen to compete again at the 17th Masters Games in Adelaide.

'I needed a holiday. Why not go? My husband came for the week as well.'

'The competition was held at Adelaide Convention Centre, with 10 brand new rowing machines lined up. There was a big screen up front with a little boat for everybody to show

their progress. There were heaps of people from 35 up to 92 years.

'In the 1000m I found it really hard to keep up the rhythm, but rowed 3 seconds faster than in preparation. A personal best, so I was really happy with that. That afternoon I went well in the 500m, 2.5 seconds faster than ever before.'

'The next morning at 8.30 in the 2000m, I just pinged. I rowed a personal best, 23.5 seconds faster. In the 100m, I needed only 20 pulls with the lever on 10, and took out 4 gold medals.'

Sandra is enthusiastic about the experience of competing in the Masters Games.

'The atmosphere is marvelous. Everybody was so encouraging.'

'Getting fit with rowing has helped improve my riding.'



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More letters to the Editor

Home of Hope Rehabilitation Centre and the Northern Regional Prison

In the discussions around the proposed Home of Hope rehabilitation centre in Meander and the Northern Regional Prison on the outskirts of Westbury there appears to be an understanding that both are much needed in Tasmania, somewhere.

We are blessed to live in the Meander Valley district, even by comparison with other areas in our own state and whether we are wealthy or not, for the better part, we are able to enjoy a decent lifestyle here.

This however is not the case for many in our state. They may have fallen short of the law or in a moment of time

taken a pill with the promise this will take away your troubles. I don't know about you, but I know I have done some things in my life I regret or I shouldn't have done. I don't believe this should stop you or I from being given an opportunity by those willing to help us get our lives back in order.

In my understanding, Home of Hope is to be managed by Teen Challenge, from what I have seen and read, a very professional group committed to successfully rebuilding the drug affected lives of hundreds of people. This facility will be directed at women with young children needing someone to help.

And there is the prison for those needing to be housed to protect the community.

Why does Tasmania need another prison? Should we not be asking the question not where but why do we need another prison for a population of 500,000?

By definition, another proposed prison means the current system is not working.

The money would be better spent on mentors, education and job training, housing and giving hope to break the crime prison cycle.

No politician has provided alternatives or studied European prison systems.

Chris Gregory, Western Creek

I would hope if I or a single mum on drugs or a young bloke who stuffed up in a season of his life needed a place to go to get our lives back on track, this community would want to help.

The question is not do we want a rehabilitation centre in Meander or a prison in Westbury. The question is, can we say to the next generation – 'If you make a mistake you're still welcome here, that's why the prison, and the rehabilitation centre are here, because the lives of people in this area and our state are more valuable to us than any minor discomfort we might experience'.

As a community we have an opportunity to support those who need it, showing compassion and decency. This may not be easy or completely comfortable. But I believe it is one we could be proud of.

Stuart Lester, Westbury

Meander School re-purposed

As a lifetime resident of Meander, with four generations of my family being past pupils of the Meander School, I support Teen Challenge in their plan to set up a rehabilitation facility at the School. It is great to know the buildings could again be used for educating people.

The program run by Teen Challenge will educate mothers and children to a better lifestyle, and turn their lives around. Teen challenge has facilities around Australia and is having amazing success with their programs.

In Meander, most social and voluntary activities are supported by dedicated locals, with many of these people looking forward to helping Teen Challenge in their endeavours. Residents are keen to help these victims integrate into our community, and a number of people living in close proximity to the school support Teen Challenge, and would like to help.

The group of objectors say it is not appropriate to have this facility in the middle of the town. If it was the perfect place for a primary school with parents and children mingling with the community, why wouldn't it be the perfect place for this facility, with parents and children again participating in the wider community?

After the school closed, many residents supported Teen Challenge, gathering information about their highly successful facilities in five Australian states, and their tireless work in schools and sporting clubs, a view validated when the Meander Valley Council chose to lease the site to Teen Challenge.

While there are valid concerns about a change in use of a facility that has been part of our town's activities for over 100 years, we find the alarmist claims, accusations and campaigning by a group of people, some not even living near the school, extremely disappointing.

I am reminded of the community backlash when Giant Steps wanted to set up their learning facility in Deloraine.

I remember vividly some of the arguments, people with concerns of intellectually disabled children being run over in the street, wandering into people's homes, and property prices falling.

What a wonderful asset Giant Steps has become, with people moving from around the world to enrol their children. We hope that given the same chance, the Teen Challenge facility will be just as great an asset to disadvantaged people as Giant Steps is.

Bevan Boxhall, Meander

I would like to ask whether Meander Valley Council will follow the lead of other progressive councils around the country in declaring a climate emergency?

This would be communicated to both our state and federal governments and our own council could work towards a zero carbon budget.

Deborah Lynch

Letter writers please note. If you can keep a letter to 200 words or less, then it is more likely to be selected for future publication. The Gazette does not edit letters to fit, so longer letters may need to be left out. For the past two months, there has been a considerable increase in the number and length of letters submitted, so we are asking future correspondents to keep it short and sweet.

Letter from the Editor

So this is Christmas ...

This December, readers will have seen letters from our readers overflow onto a second page once more.

Photographs and stories have also kept pouring in, so the decision was made to trial a 24 page Gazette this month to fit everything in. Not exactly a Christmas bumper edition, but at least the budgie gets something to line their tray.

Hopefully this Christmas season will bring something for everyone, whether it be lots of presents and good things to eat and drink, or just a chance to sit back and enjoy the company of families and friends.

This past year has seen a lot of changes at the Gazette.

We have said goodbye to some long standing members of the team and welcomed a few new ones.

Despite the changes, the Gazette continues to flourish and we are all looking forward to the new year and what it might bring.

If it brings a cold, cloudy summer with no chance of bushfires, then that would be enough for me.

... to all of the Gazette's readers, contributors, workers, advertisers and everyone else, let's hope it's a good one.



Red for climate extinction

ON SUNDAY 3 November, Craft Fair patrons were asked to stop on an unusual 'red' signal. In addition to Rotary officials directing Fair traffic on the eastern side of the bridge, the performance art group, the Red Rebel Brigade stopped traffic on the western side of the bridge for short periods.

The performance on the riverbank was much less hazardous than amongst the traffic on the bridge.

The Red Rebels silently focused the attention of onlookers onto the current climate emergency and portrayed the grief for those species and habitats already lost.



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Come rain or shine ...



Grey skies and showers didn't stop the fun at Westbury Show. Above: Rob Wilkinson (Ragnar), a Wayfarer of Midgard from Great Lakes, suitably dressed for all weather. Below: Breanna Mitchell and Ava, aged 3, get to grips with eating icecream under an umbrella. Photos by Mike Moores



SATURDAY 9 November saw another successful year for the Westbury Show, Tasmania's family show. Despite midday showers, entry numbers were on par with last year.

The free kid's corner, in particular laser tag, was popular with families and children. Hagley Rural Youth's dog high jump was a highlight with two dogs tying for first place with a 2.3 metre jump.

Viking group, the Wayfarers of Midgard enthralled show-goers with their archery and axe throwing skills. The new alpaca display was both informative and popular.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service's CEO Mr John Kirwan opened the show and received a raffle donation by the Westbury Agricultural Society for \$3,297.

full steam ahead!



Pearn's Steam World annual Steam Up earlier in November was also beset by gloomy skies. Dale Fitch of Westbury sticks to his post as engine driver of the miniature train, despite the rain.

Photo by Mike Moores

The friendly and welcoming Show committee is seeking a secretary.

For more information please contact Westbury Show President, Kevin Lattin on 0417 104 520 or email klattin@bigpond.net.au.

Planning has already started for the 2020 Westbury Show.

For further information please contact Stacey Tweedale, Communications Manager, Westbury Show at stac-eytweedale@gmail.com or on 0413 453 567.

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Rebecca White MP

Labor Member for Lyons

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Authorised by REBECCA WHITE, 33 COLE ST, SORELL

Labor

Welcome to Westbury

Westbury presents itself to tourists as a classic Georgian village, surrounded by country roads lined with hawthorn hedges and bursting with old English charm.

Set in the midst of prime farming country, with a Town Common on its western fringe and a Village Green at its heart, the streets, houses, inns, churches and businesses of Westbury display their historic credentials to visitors from around the world.

But will a prison to be built 2 kilometres away from its centre deter the tourists?

Gazette reporter Sharon Webb spoke to six local businesses doing their best to welcome tourists to their town.



**Amanda Taylor,
Westbury Gingerbread
Cottages, Westbury**

A RANGE of people stay in our cottages: mostly tourists but also visiting workers and families.

I hope I'm not being naive but I'd like to think we can overcome the 'prison' label if we focus on Westbury's history and the community feel of the town.

I'd like to think having a prison here will benefit our business and the rest of the town.

But I can understand where people who oppose it are coming from. The fear of the unknown is always hard.

We have security concerns; we have two children. But I think a maximum security prison would be security-tight.

We're just celebrating 180 years of education in Westbury and in a few years we'll be celebrating the centenary of the village. I believe it's important to focus on the positives because this is a really good community.

THERE MAY well be a benefit from the prison as more people call in to Pearn's Steam World.

Other businesses, such as service stations and cafés, may also benefit.

I believe most tourists won't know about the prison.

The negative publicity and Ashley Detention Centre doesn't detract from Deloraine, which is a beautiful town. And the negative publicity about the opiate industry hasn't affected tourist numbers in Westbury.

Tourists will just glide past the prison or be brought off the main highway by tourism routes.

**Robert Hill,
Pearn's
Steam World,
Westbury**

Martin Hamilton, The Devil's Own Icecreamery, Westbury

WE SUBMITTED a construction application to the Meander Valley Council for our icecreamery in William St two days before the prison site was announced.

If we'd known about the prison, we would have looked at another location.

We still have a plan to open our shop but in the long term we will probably have to relocate.

I've lived in prison towns. I've seen what it does to young people and businesses.

Look at business safety measures in Risdon Vale: roller doors locked up behind barriers. That's not what we want to be.

A lot of effort has been put into this historic, quaint town. Tourism plays a massive role in the life of Westbury.

Some people have called it the most English town in Australia.

I'm concerned the prison will impact tourism. It may have a far longer reach than people might think.

If the tourist trail link of Westbury dies, it will affect tourism businesses in Christmas Hills, Ashgrove Cheese Farm at Elizabeth Town, the Cherry Shed in Latrobe.

From my experience in tourism and hospitality I know tourists won't come to a prison town because of the stigma.



And realistically, prisoner families travelling to the prison on buses won't stop in the village centre. Why would they, when they've had a coffee and muffin in the prison with their family member?

The Devil's Own Icecreamery is striving to be a family-friendly business. That doesn't fit with boarding up the windows and locking doors. In Westbury some people don't even lock their cars.

A prison will sever that community bond – that old world charm and love and trust. That's something no amount of government funding will fix.



Prison blight or tourist bloom? What local businesses think ...

WE HAVE been working hard for six years to build a business that ticks all the boxes government wanted by extracting more value at the farm gate through premium value-adding and agri-tourism.

And then they go and plonk a maximum security prison here and suggest that's going to give us more customers!

We've just completed our next five-year plan based on the local area building its capacity in tourism and attracting visitors for overnight stays. With the announcement of the prison in Westbury, I'm not sure if growing the farm gate value is the best way forward for us.

If others in the tourism space feel the same, it could be devastating for the community.

Rural businesses rely on tourism to boost their sales in summer in order to stay open in winter. Without this boost

they may become unviable and we will lose services, not gain them.

Even the prison consultants admitted Westbury will not benefit from new families living in the town, or Westbury residents working at the prison.

Christie McLeod, Hazelbrae Hazelnuts, Hagley

Had the government come to the community and said, 'Hey, we think this would work for us, how can we make it work for you?' maybe there could have been a conversation.

But no, all we've been given is spin, mistruths and secrecy, and every effort has been made to keep us feeling isolated and fearful. Not even our councillors – our representatives – can talk to us.



Hayley Brazendale, Green Door Café, Westbury

We're a boutique-style café restaurant. We prepare all our meals in-house and in 18 months we've done wonderful things for Westbury by attracting 1,000 customers a week.

People are attracted to the Green Door by word-of-mouth and Facebook recommendations. Around 80 per cent of our clientele are tourists. We rely heavily on them.

Westbury is a picturesque, historic village. We have plans for growth over the next five years but having a prison thrown into the mix is not ideal.

A PRISON in Westbury will not be a boost for tourism. It's really not a good thing for us.

I can't tell what the effect on tourism will be but I do believe property prices will drop and that's not ideal.

I'm an optimist. I hope our business will survive but I have to be realistic. The type of people visiting a prison are not people who will be attracted to our business.



Eve Robson, Once Upon a Time Collectables, Westbury

WE'VE LIVED in Westbury and run our business here for 18 months.

But we definitely wouldn't have come if we'd known a prison would be located here.

We're originally from Sydney and chose Westbury for our business after many holidays in Tasmania because of its history and because it's a beautiful place to be in.

We have had the support of the Westbury community from the time we opened.

We don't advertise but people have come to Once Upon a Time Collectables from all over the north of the state through word-of-mouth.

For us it's been an idyllic lifestyle – and the prison announcement has turned people's lives upside down. No-one saw it coming. They are all so passionate about this village.

In NSW, areas where prisons have been built have changed. A high rate of unemployment,

a greater crime rate and lower property prices than in other areas of the state.

If Westbury has a prison, I think it won't do well. I strongly believe tourism will suffer because its image will be damaged.

No town wants a prison but a prison can be absorbed in a city or a larger town more easily than it can be in a village of just over 2,000 people.

Yellow brick road to Prospect High



Prospect High School students find the Emerald City in their successful production of *The Wizard of Oz*, staged at the Earl Arts Centre in Launceston, this November. Photo supplied

Corrections Minister to try again on prison consultation

By Sharon Webb

THE TASMANIAN Government again will attempt to convince reluctant Westbury residents of the virtues of the new preferred prison site on Birralee Road.

Minister for Corrections, Elise Archer, has announced that she will hold one-on-one discussions on Sunday 8 December, 1pm–5pm, Sunday 15 December, 1pm–4pm and Monday 16 December, 10am–12pm at Fitzpatrick's Inn in Westbury.

Ms Archer will also attend a public meeting on Monday 16 February at 5.30pm in the Westbury Town Hall.

Ms Archer maintains the government has 'listened extensively to the Westbury community', thanked those who have given feedback and described consultation to this point as 'rigorous'.

She also reminded the community it was important to remember a final decision on the new Northern Regional Prison location has not yet been made.

The announcement comes a few days after Meander Val-

ley Council called for more consultation on the prison location. Mayor Wayne Johnston said more information sessions, an online feedback portal and a constant physical presence in the community were needed urgently.

'It is not unreasonable to expect that after almost six weeks since the (prison) announcement we would, at the very least, have greater clarity around the government's planned consultation process.'

'Based on feedback the council is receiving from residents, this does not appear to be the case,' he said.

'The community understandably has a lot of questions and there are a lot of views, with some people for it, some against and some unsure,' he said.

Cllr Johnston reiterated that the proposed prison was a State Government project with the council's role to represent community views and act as a planning authority.

'But that does not restrict our ability to request additional community support services from the State Government

and to ask questions about their consultation process.'

The northern prison project dominated the council meeting question time for a second month.

Cllr Johnston said when the State Government announced its preferred site, around 70 per cent of people who contacted him were in favour of the project.

'However we have received a substantial amount of feedback opposing the project at the council's October and November meetings,' he said.

A government spokesman said it is unlikely Liberal Lyons MHAs Mark Shelton and Guy Barnett would be involved in the consultation sessions 'as they are doing their own consultation along the way'.

The two politicians heard local residents' opinions a few weeks ago at Fitzpatrick's Inn and Mr Shelton spoke at October's anti-prison rally, where he was booed as he walked to the front of the hall to address the audience with fellow Lyons MHA John Tucker.

Neither Mr Shelton nor Mr Barnett was at the September announcement of the preferred prison site, leaving it to Ms Archer and Mr Tucker.

sharon.webb@meandervalleygazette.com

PROSPECT HIGH School students have followed the yellow brick road to school this year, to find the Emerald City in their latest drama production.

The Wizard of Oz was staged in November at the Earl Arts Centre where audiences were treated to a rendition that students made their very own.

'The show was inspired by many different versions of the original story,' teacher Genevieve Viney explained.

'We really drew on the interests and special skills of our performers. We included the songs we all love, whole class dancing and singing, physical comedy and straight acting, plus two contemporary dance pieces.'

'It also involved many different technical elements including visual projection display, audio, lighting, the creation and sourcing of costumes, set and props.'

An important element in the production was the inclusion of a live band led by teacher Marie Delamore.

The production was the result of many hours of work. As Tahlia McGrath who played the Lion describes it, 'People came together and worked extremely hard'.

Nikayla Binns, who played numerous roles, asserted that the amount of dedication made it amazing to be in.

The production was a great learning opportunity for the students who also enjoyed working in the theatre space.

Spencer Passmore who helped to develop the set and props and who worked as a stage-hand on the production, stressed, 'The theatre was awesome. I loved working in the space. It was a whole new experience and it was also very cool seeing how everything worked'.

Abbie Colgrave who operated the sound effects for the show elaborated, highlighting how it was good to work in such a professional environment.

Ruby Dean who played Dorothy described how the space seemed welcoming and enjoyed how the actors and audience could interact. Grade 7 student Caitlin Farrell who watched the dress rehearsal agreed. 'It was really good how they included the audience and asked us questions.'

Most of all, Ruby explained, 'I really enjoyed seeing how much hard work really paid off and that we were able to produce an amazing show. I loved seeing everyone connect and build confidence and support within friendships'.

The performance received resounding reviews on the Prospect High School Facebook page.

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.

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Thane Bardenhagen

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We have 3 locations: 90 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine · 17 King Street, Scottsdale · 41 York Street, Launceston

Glen Avon transformation

from idyllic childhood home to prison site

Then

GLEN AVON Farm was the idyllic realm of my childhood and youth. I loved living there.

I have a strong connection with the property, even though it's nearly 11 years since I lived there.

It wasn't my choice to leave the farm and I still miss it deeply. My father sold it because the government made farming more difficult by imposing regulations, and my brother decided not to go into farming.

Our father asked how we would feel if he sold the farm. I was not happy but said that he must do what he felt was best for him.

Before the sale I stood to inherit half the farm, the northern half including Rifle Range Paddock and the Meander River frontage. It would have given me great joy to live there, and I would have created an eco-haven with accommodation for nature retreats, art and music camps so others could also enjoy and benefit from it.

I owe my creativity to my upbringing on Glen Avon Farm, with its beautiful mountain views across the fields and peaceful environment, plus the culture of my family. It instilled in me a love of nature and the Tasmanian landscape. This environment was conducive for creativity and nurtured my artistic skills. I learnt to appreciate the beauty and significance of the little things while I also learnt to draw and paint them with great detail.

My grandfather Robert (Bob) Mitchelson and his brother Lindsay bought the farm in 1916 and began clearing land for agriculture with draught horses, and then with metal wheeled tractors.

Originally the property included the whole block down to the Meander River. My grandfather donated the riverside land for access to the Egmont swimming site to the community. He also bought out Lindsay when he retired.

Our intrepid ancestors emigrated from Canada, and before that, Scotland. My grandfather chose the farm's Scottish name. Scottish people, we know, have a long history of taking a stand for their land, and I have plenty of their DNA in me.

The 13th site the Tasmanian Government proposes for the prison is known in my family as Rifle Range and Big Flats Paddocks. Rifle Range Paddock was indeed a rifle range for an outdoor shooting club.

My grandfather was once part of the club and provided land for use on weekends. They put up red flags when the range was in use so people knew to keep clear and wait to be signalled through. When no one was shooting I sometimes would look behind the targets and walk on the mounds where they shot from.

I used to love riding the farm four-wheeler bike up Rifle Range Road with my dog beside me or seeing the water birds on the nearby dam. A beautiful white gum there was one of my favourites. I used to pick the leaves and make music with them like the boy on the TV program Skippy.

Sometimes I rode my horse across there to bring in the dairy cows for Grandpa when they were grazed in the Rifle Range Paddock or Big Flats. We grazed sheep there too.

I also remember my grandfather speeding full tilt down the Rifle Range road towards home in the old Commer truck, with my brother Brian, Pepper the Kelpie and myself clinging to the back, bouncing on any bumps in the road. Poor Pepper looked very startled! We were half in fear and half amused. Something hadn't gone right with the sheep and it had made Grandpa angry. He didn't often get angry so we weren't used to that.

Another time Dad (Rob Mitchelson) got me to roll a freshly drilled crop of pea seeds with the tractor and roller. He forgot to teach me how to put the clutch out to change gears or stop the tractor, so I just sat there and diligently steered it all afternoon, up and down, up and down. With sunburnt hands



Artist and musician, Joanne Mitchelson, shares memories of her childhood on Glen Avon Farm and her thoughts about the future of her home town. Photos by Mike Moores

I kept going until I had finished the whole paddock. Then I just turned off the key, let it roll to a stop and walked home.

I knew and loved every inch of that farm. Wandering among the wattle and eucalyptus trees on the hill behind the Rifle Range and Big Flats Paddocks I discovered a great view towards Ben Lomond. On a clear day you can see St Patrick's Head near St Mary's. It was a favourite haven.

My grandfather named all the paddocks. Land has agricultural value – probably not the best of Glen Avon's soils but it did quite well. In winter these paddocks can become very wet because all the water runs off the hill.

Now

WHEN I decided in January this year to paint a pair of maps of Glen Avon Farm to enter in the Glover Art Prize, it may have been a premonition that something would happen to this land.

Ten years since I left the farm, these detailed maps of the farm I knew from the 1970s to the early 90s were inspired by one I made in childhood. I found it emotional creating them, as in my mind I could see all these places as clearly as if it were yesterday.

I'm being sentimental but I can tell you it's still difficult for me not to stop the car and do a runner across the paddocks and revisit my favourite places, to just sit and meld my being with it again.

Maybe only the Indigenous people and others who have had to part with a beloved farm will understand how I feel, and understand my deep connection to this place?

I still refer to it as 'our' farm, and in my head it always will be. It comes frequently into my dreams and sometimes I wake in distress.

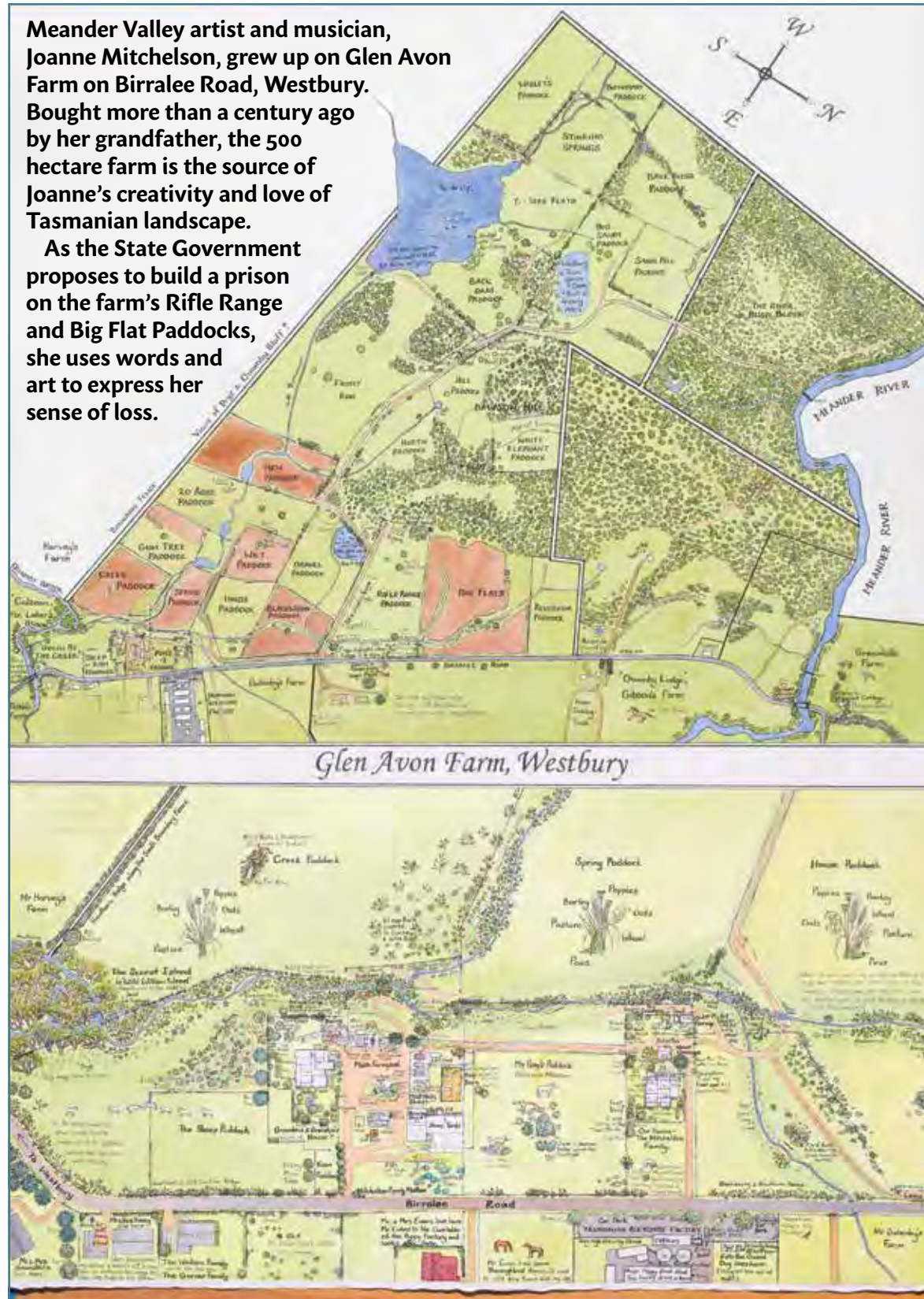
A prison could boost our local economy in some ways but undermine it in others. Our tourism industry possibly could suffer if Westbury acquires a negative stigma from having the prison nearby.

Would the lovely small-town, friendly and historic atmosphere which we treasure be lost?

Or would it become known as the proactive town of compassion and successful rehabilitation?

Westbury is a gem. We need to weigh up every aspect and use our foresight intelligently.

Joanne Mitchelson,
Westbury



Meander Valley Council



Above: Mayor Johnston welcomes newly appointed Australian citizens to Meander Valley.

Officially calling Meander Valley home

Mayor Wayne Johnston is often required to undertake a range of official duties and welcoming new citizens is one that is particularly rewarding.

"As Mayor of Meander Valley, I am approved under the Act to administer the pledge of commitment, which is the final step in becoming an Australian citizen," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

Reciting a pledge is a critical part of the citizenship ceremony and signifies a person's commitment to uphold certain rights, loyalty, liberties and Australia's laws.

"Becoming an Australian citizen shows loyalty to Australia and an agreement to the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship. It signals a person's

commitment to being an active member of Australian society, contributing to our future success as a nation and our shared values," Mayor Johnston said.

Welcoming new citizens is a privilege that the Mayor is humbled to be able to perform.

"We can take enormous pride in the knowledge that so many people choose to become a fully participating member of the Meander Valley Community and our municipality benefits from this commitment and through the contributions you will make," Mayor Johnston said.

A total of 25 people became new Australian citizens in the municipality throughout 2019.



Keep your best friend safe this bushfire season

Disasters tend to strike quickly and pet owners often have to evacuate their properties in a hurry, leaving vulnerable pets and animals behind. This causes owners a great deal of anguish.

Here are just three simple things you can do NOW to help keep your pet safe:

1. Make sure your pet is microchipped and that its tags are up to date and securely fastened. These will be its ticket home if it gets lost.
2. Have a current photo of your pet that you can easily access (eg. on your smartphone or tablet).
3. Evacuating your pets and animals early to a safe place offers the best chance of protection. Organise a Pet Pal (friend or relative) who can accommodate them in the short term if you are affected by an emergency event.

More practical ideas on managing your pets during the bushfire season visit www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au and type 'animals and bushfire planning' into the search bar.



Above: The oak tree in West Goderich Street and inset, the drill holes indicating poisoning.

Information sought after irreplaceable street tree poisoned

Council Works crews recently became aware of the deteriorating health of a large oak tree in West Goderich Street, Deloraine, opposite Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Primary School.

A closer inspection revealed that multiple holes had been drilled around the base of the tree and evidence at the site indicated that liquid had been poured into the holes - presumably a poisonous product.

"The alleged poisoning of this tree is totally unacceptable. Trees such as this take a lifetime to establish and are irreplaceable. This action is very concerning and disappointing," Council's Director of Works said. Council has requested the

assistance of Tasmania Police to investigate the incident and also asks anyone who may have seen suspicious activity within the last 6-8 weeks at or near the location of this tree to please contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 33 000 or Meander Valley Council on 6393 5300. The source of any information provided will remain confidential.

"This is an appalling act. These street trees add valuable amenity and Council works hard to maintain these assets," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

Council has pruning work for all the oak trees in West Goderich Street scheduled to occur from 8 January 2020.

Council Hours - Christmas and New Year

Council Offices, 26 Lyall Street, Westbury
 Offices will close from 12pm (midday), Tuesday 24 December 2019 and will re-open on Thursday 2 January 2020.

Department of Works
 Council's Works Department will be operating with a reduced crew from 12pm (midday) Friday 20 December 2019 until 7.30am, Monday 13 January 2020.

Waste Disposal Facilities
 Westbury and Deloraine Waste Disposal Sites and the Mole Creek Waste Transfer Station will be open on their usual days, however, all facilities will be closed on Christmas Day.

Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre
 The Centre will be closed on Christmas Day.

Kerbside Waste and Recycling Collection
 Scheduled collection days will not change. Please ensure your bins are out by 6am on your nominated collection day.

Contact Phone Numbers:
General Enquiries and Animal Control 6393 5300
Emergency Maintenance 0407 706 245

Swimming Pool Now Open

The Deloraine Swimming Pool is now open until 1 March 2020. Operating hours are as follows:

December
 11am to 5pm,
 Tuesday to Sunday

January
 11am to 6pm,
 Tuesday to Sunday

February
 11am to 5pm,
 Tuesday to Sunday

The pool is closed Mondays, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

**FUNCTIONS
 EVENTS
 CONFERENCES
 MEETINGS
 & CELEBRATIONS**

Council has a range of venues for hire that are suitable for functions, events, conferences, meetings and celebrations. Spaces are available for hire 7 days a week.

**For more information
 or bookings phone 6393 5300**

Working towards playspaces that reflect the needs of growing communities

Playspaces are key to health and wellbeing and, as our townships grow, it is vital that these spaces reflect the needs of local communities.

In 2017, Council undertook consultation with the residents of Prospect Vale, Blackstone Heights and Hadspen to develop the Eastern Townships Playspace Strategy.

The Strategy is a review of existing recreational spaces and, in response to the feedback received, aims to better meet the needs of the growing communities on the eastern side of the Municipality.

The Strategy identifies a number of opportunities to provide different equipment to cater for broader age ranges and all abilities;

improve accessibility and pedestrian links; change the location of playspaces to increase street frontage and safety and, implement best practice urban design principles to create destination play areas.

One of the key aspects of the Strategy was to identify playspace catchment areas that are within a five minute walking distance for children - taking terrain and pedestrian path networks into account.

This is a major point of difference from the usual practice of mapping catchment areas by radius alone.

"The Strategy takes things like hills, pathways and the slower walking speed of young children into account. This is a far better measure

that just drawing a 1km radius on a map. If you are having to walk uphill with a toddler, it's going to take you longer," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

Feedback received was a major component in the development of the Strategy.

Consultation revealed that a high percentage of respondents wanted play areas that were more centralised, that they could walk to and had equipment that catered for broader age ranges.

The draft of the Eastern Townships Playspace Strategy will be available for public view and comment from the middle of December, ahead of being presented at Council's workshop in January.



Mount Leslie Road to benefit from upgrade works

Upgrades to Mount Leslie Road between the Westbury Road roundabout and Westminster Way are planned to commence mid-December.

The work, which is expected to be completed by early February 2020, will improve road safety and access to St Patrick's College.

"These upgrades will improve traffic movement and pedestrian access, particularly at peak drop-off and pick-up times," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

In preparation for the work, temporary line marking was completed during the July school holidays.

"Much of the work is being undertaken during the summer school holidays, to minimise disruption and help with traffic management," Mayor Johnston said.

Council has worked with St Patrick's College, Metro Tasmania and Redline Buses during the design phase. Work includes widening the road to incorporate a new

bus turning lane, median islands, pedestrian crossing points and refuges, a wider footpath and defined parking bays.

"We understand that there will be some impacts to traffic flow and, on behalf of Council, I would like to thank residents, parents, students and the College for their patience," Mayor Johnston said.

The traffic management plan includes a partial road closure whilst the work is completed.

Thinking of putting up a pool this summer?

Be aware that enjoying a dip does come with a responsibility to ensure everyone is safe. From the blow-up temporary variety to pre-formed fibreglass, any pool deeper than 300mm requires pool fencing and that includes those pools purchased from your local department store. By law, the minimum

requirement is a certificate of likely compliance from a building surveyor to ensure that the fence complies with the Building Code of Australia and the pool is safe.

Your local swimming pool supplier can advise you on the regulations and many have the relevant contacts

to get your documentation in order. If you choose not to securely fence your pool, even if it's temporary, you run the risk of the unwanted grief associated with an accident. If you're in doubt as to what you need to do, contact Council on 6393 5300

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Electors within the Meander Valley local government area are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting.

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 10 December 2019 at the Council Chambers, Westbury, commencing at 5.30pm.

The Agenda for the meeting will include formal presentation of the 2018-19 Annual Report and discussion of related public submissions.

2018-19 Annual Report

Copies of the 2018-19 Annual Report are now available at the Council Offices, 26 Lyall Street, Westbury, by phoning 6393 5317 or on Council's website at www.meander.tas.gov.au

Council invites the community to submit comments on the Annual Report for discussion at the Annual General Meeting. Written submissions should be addressed to the General Manager, PO Box 102, Westbury, 7303 and must be received by COB, Friday 6 December 2019.

Festival of Small Halls
 COMING TO A SMALL TOWN NEAR YOU

Mole Creek Memorial Hall
Thursday 9 January 2020

Bar and barbecue from 5.30pm, show starts at 7pm
 Tickets are limited & subsidised so book now!
 Adults \$15, Under 12's \$10, Under 5's Free
 Available from Council's Westbury office, phone 6393 5300
 or online at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com

JACK CALLEY (NSW)
 STEPHAN MILLER (VIC)

WOODFORD FOLK FESTIVAL
 ILLAWARRA FOLK FESTIVAL

www.festivalofsmallhalls.com

Future planning for community groups

If you are part of a community group, Council offers a free, practical 2-hour session in organisational planning.

The session is designed to help groups identify their main direction and what they want to achieve.

Organisational planning assists with the practical skills required to guide activities and remain focused on achieving objectives.

For more information or to book a session phone Patrick Gambles on 6393 5334.



General Enquiries
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 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

www.meandervalleycouncil.tas.gov.au

Billy Tarrant scores Premier's Award at Craft Fair

By Lorraine Clarke

VISITORS TO the Rotary Tasmanian Craft Fair this year could follow sweet strains of music in the Community Complex venue to a stand displaying gleaming guitars – acoustic, dreadnought, ukulele, electric, cigar box, lap slide – all hand-crafted with passion by Devonport master luthier Billy Tarrant.

Billy was a Melbourne boy until he married a Tasmanian girl and moved here 8 years ago. He built his first guitar 11 years ago, with help from books and minimal tools.

'I thought it was amazing,' he said. 'But then I met a real guitar maker in Port Douglas who pointed out all the things I had done wrong. So I spent 2 years with him learning how to build real guitars.'

Billy uses more than 50% of Tasmanian timbers in his guitars, but loves to incorporate exotic woods for their specific qualities, such as Indian rosewood, West African ebony, spruce and maple from Canada and Alaska. Bling is added with pawa shell and reconstituted gemstones, crushed to powder and combined with resin.

'Some people are purists about using only traditional timbers, but the world is looking at alternative timbers now. Each species has its own characteristics and tonal qualities. East coast blackwood is different from west coast blackwood. Blackwood blunts all tools, but it is very strong and gives amazing tone. It is great for the parts that are under tension.'

Billy now has a workshop, once the cat pavilion at Devonport Showgrounds. Here, he spends all day creating masterpieces for people who want versions of famous guitars, to combine the features of three guitars into one, or just want the journey of having a guitar specially made.

Some clients need a guitar that will stand up to a schedule of five gigs a week.

A tribute guitar enclosed a father's ashes inside the neck so that his son could always sit and play the guitar with his dad.

'It gets quite personal,' said Billy. 'My heart is still with acoustic guitars. That's what I was trained to do. I never thought there was a market for electric guitars, but in the last 2 years, they have become 80% of my work.'

He loves the challenge of making outside-of-the-box instruments. Big Willy's Cigar Box Guitars are based on those originally made by Negro slaves from throwaway materials such as wooden cigar or shoe boxes attached to a broom handle with one or two catgut strings.

'These are my over-engineered version,' said Billy of his beautiful electric pick-up creations.

The crowning glory of Billy's range is a hollow neck lap slide guitar, based on Henry Weissenborn's 1920s model. Its superb craftsmanship, mellow tone and unique looks so impressed Craft Fair judges that

Billy Tarrant Guitars was the deserving winner of this year's prestigious \$10,000 Premier's Award.

In addition to building new instruments, Billy also repairs guitars, and runs guitar building tuition courses.

<http://www.facebook.com/Tarrantguitars>
tarrantguitars@gmail.com

Kutcha Edwards – a magic hour

By Margaret Tabor

WELL, IT was for far more than an hour that Aboriginal singer/songwriter Kutcha Edwards enthralled his audience of forty people at Gallery 9 on 19 October.

Prior to his performance, Kutcha was impressed by our beautiful river bank as he joined locals, indigenous and non-indigenous alike, for a 'welcome to country' led by Hank Horton, around a fire at the Yarning Circle.

This proud aboriginal man's pure singing voice, musical performance and magnetic stage personality captivated us all as he related his story of being one of the many of the Stolen Generation.

Regarding himself as a songman, Kutcha took the audience along on a journey as he drew on his profound sense of those who have gone before him on this land.

As a performer, Kutcha believes that he has the responsibility to engage with communities beyond his normal performances. He likes to 'get to know the mob' rather than simply perform his shows and



apparently, he was very impressed by the quality of the voices that joined him with gusto and also with the dancing which continued afterwards.

Kutcha was supported by two very accomplished musicians and an overhead visual rolling display.

Kutcha's wife, Fiona, was also a great contributor to the presentation – it was she who looked after the visuals and all the supporting needs of the performance.

Arts Deloraine Committee members all agreed that Kutcha had brought a greater understanding of connection to culture and promotion of cultural understanding and that the 'hour' was an important experience for our community.

The Kutcha Edwards Hour was presented by Arts Deloraine.



Local businessman proposes Westbury whisky distillery

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY Council has given the green light for a whisky distillery in Westbury next to Pearn's Steam World.

The distillery, to be established by the managing director of Westbury industrial zone's Kolmark Pty Ltd, Mark Kolodziej, would produce boutique spirits for cellar door sale and include tours of the facility and a café.

Documents supporting the application to council say the distillery will employ three people and operate 7am-5pm Monday to Friday. The café will open from 8am to 5pm seven days a week.

Mr Kolodziej said, 'I would like to see Western Tiers Distillery become an icon in that location on Meander Valley Road.' But he also maintained he won't count his chickens

too early because using the location for that purpose requires an amendment to the Meander Valley Interim Planning Scheme 2013.

A motion put to the council by Cllr Tanya King and seconded by Cllr Andrew Sherriff approved the zoning change for the distillery but the final decision is made by the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

'We're waiting on a definitive answer from the commission before pushing the serious buttons,' Mr Kolodziej said.

Nevertheless, Mr Kolodziej has posted distillery mock-up illustrations on a Western Tiers Distillery Facebook page.

Owned by Mr Kolodziej since 2001, the site at 67 Meander Valley Rd previously was used for steel fabrication and currently is used for fishing lure manufacturing.

The proposed development recycles the existing buildings and includes minor extensions and modernising to provide café access/service and covered outdoor seating.

A council officer's report stated that Westbury currently does not have boutique distillery establishments. 'The proposed distillery and ancillary sales diversifies the current commercial product and will act as additional tourist drawcard,' it stated.

'As has been experienced in other rural locations in Tasmania, the specialised nature of boutique distilling as a premium product, raises the profile of not only Tasmanian produce and beverage craft in the retail market, but also the profile of tourism in the locality as a demonstrated attractor.'

sharon.webb@meandervalleygazette.com

Guy Barnett MP Liberals
 Liberal Member for Lyons

Merry Christmas and happy New Year

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Authorised by: Guy Barnett, 76 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine Tas 7304

Don't worry, bee happy!

THE STATE Government has committed \$750,000 over 3 years to Tasmania's honey and pollination industries, recognising the importance of bees in producing Tasmanian honeys.

Bee pollination of Tasmania's valuable fruit, vegetable and cereal crops is of critical importance, with an even higher economic value than honey production. The 2017-18 farm-gate value for honey and beeswax was in excess of \$8 million, with exports worth \$2.4 million.

The Tasmanian Beekeepers Association, Australian Honey Bee Industry Council and Sustainable Timber Tasmania have signed an agreement to ensure that Tasmania's forests landscape continues to sustain the apiary industry, providing access to important apiary resources such as Manuka and Leatherwood.



Photo by Mike Moores

West-Bee best honey

By Lorraine Clarke

WESTBURY'S DAVID Gibson of West-Bee Honey is a plumber with a difference. Four days a week he is on the tools, but the other three days, or more in the busiest season, he works his 280 beehives.

'It's a passion,' said David. 'It used to be a hobby with 20 hives, but when you get stung by the bug, it all happens.'

Honey production involves much more than just letting the bees do what comes naturally.

In the springtime, David must constantly check the hives to ensure that new queens are mated and laying, that workers have enough stores to feed the rapidly expanding population, and to pre-empt swarming. He must transport hives to the many bush and mountain sites when trees are flowering.

David breeds his own queens, including the striking Queensland 'Red Kelpie' breed. This entails grafting tiny eggs into plastic queen cell cups. Dozens of these are replaced in hives where the young larvae are fed a special diet of royal jelly that ensures they develop into queen bees rather than just workers.

Each new queen must be first transferred with her entourage of attendants into a

tiny nucleus hive, from where she will make her first flight and mate with up to 50 drones in a once in a lifetime experience, before settling down to lay up to 2,000 eggs per day for the next two years of her life.

This year's cold spring, following last year's bushfires which destroyed so many Leatherwood stands, has been a testing time for bees and bee-keepers.

'2018 was one of the worst seasons in 50 years,' said David.

Much of Tasmania's honey production depends on unique species such as Leatherwood. David also uses his bees for commercial crop pollination. Much of Tasmania's food production also depends on successful pollination by honeybees.

David relocates his hives around the Meander Valley to pollinate cherries and blueberries, and also seed crops of clover, chicory and buckwheat.

Wendy Gibson is allergic to bee stings, and inspects David closely for tiny passengers, from inside the glass door before allowing him into the house. Her forté is marketing, and she sells their varietal honeys each week at the Launceston Harvest Market. They also sell from home, and have a stall at Agfest.

They have named their hon-

ey to reflect the area and species of origin. Manuka honey from our native leptospermum or ti tree, is regularly tested for high levels of the natural medicinal qualities for which it is famous.

Prickly Box is the delicious product of that spiny native shrub. 'Devil's Gullet' honey combines Waratah, Leatherwood and other species from this isolated bush site and 'Cradle Spice' captures the strong wild essence of Cradle Mountain. Armony honey is their pride and joy, a multi-floral perfumed boutique honey from the Arm River.

At this year's Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards, Wendy and David won gold medals for Devil's Gullet and Cradle Spice, and a silver medal for their Armony honey. 'We are so very, very proud to have achieved this from just three entries,' said Wendy. They have also won medals at the Australian Food Awards in Melbourne.

They are thrilled to have successfully exhibited their Tasmanian honey this year in world competition in Canada at Apimondia, where they were awarded a bronze medal for their Leatherwood honey.

'We're just quiet achievers,' said David.

westbeehoney@bigpond.com
0448 000 599
www.westbeehoney.com.au



David and Wendy Gibson of West-Bee Honey in Westbury, are producers of award-winning honey

Photo supplied

Jen Butler MP
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Hearts and heads full of history

By Hayley Manning

THE DELORAINE and Districts Folk Museum volunteers are thrilled to announce they have secured a permanent display of six hand-made convict bonnets from Tasmanian artist Christina Henri's *Roses from the Heart* project.

Christina Henri started the project in 2007, with the help of volunteers and ancestors across the globe. The creators of the bonnets followed a set pattern to help make the required target of 25,566 bonnets – the total number of female convicts sentenced to transportation to Australia between 1788 and 1853.

Each and every bonnet features the name of a female convict, the ship she arrived on and the year of transport, to symbolise her endurance and contribution to life in an unknown country.

More than half of the female convicts transported from Ireland and England came to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania), to be processed at a female factory – the Cascades Factory in Hobart Town was the largest – before being assigned to various posts throughout Tasmania.

The Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre selected the six bonnets based on the convict women's close connection to the Meander Valley area through their work assignments at Calstock, Exton House and Bengeo Estate near Deloraine, and their subsequent descendants that reside locally.

An information sheet provides details about each of the six women, but in many cases their lives became undocumented once they got married. For example, Mary Thompson (Convict 6376), was hired by

Lieutenant Pearson Foote of Calstock, Deloraine on 23 July 1844.

She then married Andrew, a painter, but as there is currently no further information regarding a surname, it is uncertain what became of Mary after her marriage. Mary spent time in both the Cascades and the Launceston Female Factories.

The burial places of the six women are listed as unknown, with the exception of Louisa Pointon (nee Wright, Convict 5699), who is thought to be buried in the cemetery of St Mark's Anglican Church, Deloraine. Confirmation of her burial is still pending.

Six of the hand-made convict bonnets with a connection to the Meander Valley are now on permanent display at the Deloraine and Districts Folk Museum

Photo by Mike Moores



English Leicesters are large-framed longwool sheep, with curly, silky and lustrous fleece – a joy to spin. Photos supplied



Fabulous fleece and fibre

By Lorraine Clarke

SHEARING DAY at Jen and Tim Eddington's Selbourne farm Ross Dhu is rather different from most. Here, coloured sheep of many hues are the rule rather than the exception. Lambs bleat loudly for mothers they can hear but not 'see' after they have been shorn of their long locks.

Jen specialises in maintaining rare breeds and producing fleece that appeals to hand-spinners and fibre artists – sheep whose characteristics are shunned by the commercial world enamoured of superfine yarns, superwash treatment and artificial dyes.

Tim runs his 'proper sheep' flock on a separate farm, and they are shorn in a different shed to prevent contamination of their white fleece with coloured fibres from Jen's sheep.

The Elliotdale, a Tasmanian carpetwool sheep bred to supply the now-defunct Tascot Templeton Carpet factory, is being preserved here. It grows about 30cm of strong, coarse wool annually.

Finnsheep, unique for early maturity and having litters of up to seven viable lambs rather than the usual single, twins or occasional triplets, also grows a long fleece with a soft handle, a moderate crimp and high lustre.

English Leicesters are large-framed longwool sheep, draped in long black, silver or white ringlets before shearing, and glistening in the sunshine afterwards. Their curly fleece is silky and lustrous, a joy to spin.

'Finn wool felts beautifully,' said Jen, 'but felt from English Leicesters is more for furnishing fabrics than clothing. Curly Leicester locks can be added to the surface of felt for texture.'

Moorit Merinos bring variety to the flock, with soft fleece in fawn and brown shades. Fleece is sold locally, interstate and overseas to a ready market of hand-spinners, weavers and textile artists.

'The flock has been developed to help save rare breeds, and they are selected for the qualities that spinners like.'

Jen has traced her ancestry back to the Isle of Lewis in

the Scottish Hebrides, where a Gaelic-speaking 16 year old Angus McKay was convicted of being in possession of two sheep which did not belong to him, and deported to the colony of Van Diemen's Land. He lived a long life here as a shepherd, and Jen credits him with her love of sheep.

Jen is an accomplished weaver and spinner. She also dyes her fleece, yarns and fabrics in striking strong colours or the gentle natural shades of eco-printing. She and a friend have a studio in Launceston, Artisan Ram, where they display their work and run courses to teach these crafts.

Recently, Jen commented on her Facebook page that they would be hosting a venue for the World Wide Knit in Public Day. 'Well! It was like the United Nations!' said Jen. They were overwhelmed with the response as knitters from all over gathered to share in this convivial activity that was until quite recently an essential part of keeping the family warm with the incomparable cosiness of natural woollen garments.

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Roasted chicken drumlets with raita and Chinese spiced sauce

By Wai Lin Coultas

A FUSS-FREE delicious finger food to go swimmingly well with a wide range of celebratory cocktails splashed out over Christmas.

This chicken recipe delivers another layer of yuletide entertainment as guests dunk succulent roasted drumlets into warm Chinese spiced sauce and chilled minty raita – to tickle the most discerning of taste buds!

Ingredients

13 chicken drumlets
1 lettuce heart, leaves only
sprigs of fresh dill
iodised salt

Marinade/sauce

4 sprigs fresh thyme, leaves only
2 sprigs chopped fresh rosemary
2 tsp Chinese five spice
2/3 tsp chilli flakes
3 tbsp thickened cream
3 tsp tomato paste
2 tbsp dry gin
3 tbsp white wine vinegar
6 tsp iron bark honey

Raita

1/2 cucumber, grated and liquid squeezed out
8 sprigs fresh mint, leaves finely chopped, 1 sprig tip retained
4 tbsp Greek yoghurt

Instructions

Mix marinade ingredients, season with salt. Marinate chicken drumlets for 1/2 day in fridge, covered.

Combine raita ingredients, chill in fridge, covered.

Roast marinated drumlets on baking paper in oven pre-heated to fan forced 200°C for 25 to 30 minutes till lightly charred.

Meanwhile, lightly reduce left-over marinade on low heat to consistency of sauce. Keep hot.

Lightly coat roasted drumlets in hot juices on baking paper.

Serve coated drumlets hot on a bed of lettuce leaves and dill sprigs.

Garnish chilled raita with mint sprig and garnish hot Chinese spiced sauce with chopped dill.



A fuss-free delicious finger food for Christmas.

Photo by Wai Lin Coultas



The December garden

There can be few flowering plants that are more forgiving than the drought and frost hardy lupins *Lupinus polyphyllus*.

Their root nodules fix nitrogen in the soil, and so the smaller varieties are grown and dug in for many agriculture crops.

Their pods, if not removed after flowering, will spread seed for new plants to grow and fill the bed. New seedlings transplant readily to establish new beds.

They are just one flowering plant among many thousands that flower in November and December.

The photo shows lupins growing alongside magenta coloured *Cistus incanus* (Mediterranean Rose), *C. villosus* and the prolific white daisy bush, *Chrysanthemum ptarmiciflorum* (Canary Island Pyrethrum).

In the vegie garden

December is the best month for sowing frost tender dwarf and climbing beans, and in well-manured soil, seedlings of cucumbers, pumpkins and zucchinis.

Zucchinis should be harvested when small, and when pickled, make delicious ingredients for summer salads and sandwiches.

In case of bad weather, the event will move to the Rotary Pavilion in Alveston Drive, Deloraine.

So, come along and join in the singing of those much-loved carols such as 'Silent Night', 'Away in a Manger' and, of course, 'O come, all ye faithful'.



Drought and frost hardy lupins, Mediterranean Rose and Canary Island Pyrethrum on display. Photo supplied



Carols by the River

Singing carols by the river in 2018. Photo by Mike Moores

ONCE AGAIN, the sound of traditional Christmas carols will be wafting along the banks of the Meander River in Deloraine as the annual Carols by the River unfolds. The event will be held at the rotunda, near the bridge on Saturday, 14 December.

The Meander Men will be there singing rollicking songs such as Lord of the Dance and Good King Wenceslas.

There will be songs and music from school choirs and other performers.

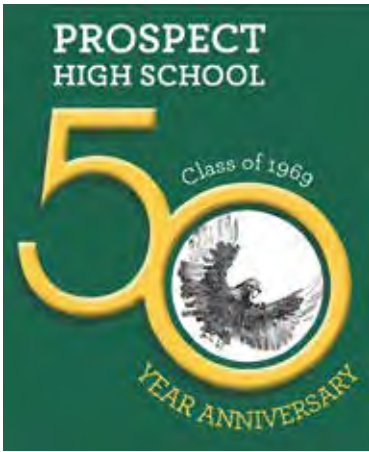
The Community Christmas Choir, with instruments, will perform and lead the commu-

nity singing where everybody gets a chance to sing all the well-known carols. Josh Skeat will play his part and Tony Parsons will be the MC.

Starting with a sausage sizzle from 6.30pm, the program will get under way at 7pm and is expected to finish at about 8.30pm.

Candles will be available for sale. Apart from the candles, the event is free but donations would be appreciated.

As for the past 31 years, the Combined Churches of Deloraine have organised the evening as a Christmas present for the community.



Prospect 50 year reunion

By David Claridge

SCHOOL REUNIONS usually happen every ten years or so and are a chance for people to reunite and reflect on their time at school.

Recently, a 50-year class reunion for former Prospect High School students had even more significance, as they were the first students to attend the newly built school back in 1966.

Former student, Jennifer Crosswell remembers the first time she attended at Prospect High when it was a brand-new building on top of a hill.

'It was full of clay, no bushes, no trees, it was just a shell, but we had all the bells and whistles of the day – we had floor heating, nice pink walls, it was a great school,' Jennifer said.

'The classes were much bigger those days. There were over 500 students across three year levels on day one.

'We broke so many new grounds back then. We had the first school tour, over the holidays, open to boys and girls. Prior to that, only boys could go.'

Jennifer reflected on the 50-year reunion experience, that brought them all back to where it all started.



Front row L-R: Cynthia Harris, Kaye Dargan, Virginia Shipp, Jan Burnie, Sylvia Brinkhoff, Denise Anderson, Jan Knox, Christina Jezewski. 2nd row L-R Christeen Wells, Marlene Harvey, Rena Taylor, Vicki Blackwood, Jennifer Crosswell, Louise Hill, Marilyn Dazeley, Jean Pearn, Sue Fisher, Sandra Matthews. 3rd row L-R: Jenny Fitzpatrick, Sally Lambert, Colin Davis, John Heron, Lynden Rogers, Adrienne Curwen, Lyn Kelly, Rosalie Jessup, Susanne Goodyer, Vicki Ross, Pauline Older, Pam Dean, Carmel O'Brien, Vicki Fulton, Rosemary Hay, Martin Pryor, Robin Hills, Alister Strickland, Felicity Mathers, Andrew Vial, Merril Gough, Robert Polley, Mark Fisher, Jan Groom, Tony Martin, Tony Quill, Tony Matthews, Wayne Harris, Karolyn Davidson, Andrew Torok. Back row L-R: Peter Jetson, Greg Giffin, Peter Chadwick, Paul Cook, Dale Stephens, Peter Davey, Ian Hunt, Laurie Harris, Peter Cross, Andrew Merry, Peter Davidson, Robert Holmes, Colin Clements, Barbara McCulloch. Absent: Peter Brumby, Laurie Pearce, Randall Langdon, David Robertson. Photo supplied

'We had the best reunion you could ever imagine. We all got together, and it felt rather strange. Whether it was because it had been 50 years since we were all together, or that our group had a special bond because we were around for the founding of the school, I am not sure. It was a very special day.'

When the group met at the school, they were given a tour of the current facilities. Many of the original students were surprised to see how much the school had changed over fifty years and described the school as unrecognisable.

Jennifer's conclusion – 'The most interesting thing was the 3D printer. It made us all realise how far technology has come since the days of the Fordigraph printer.'

A Fordigraph, also known as a Roneo printer, was a forerunner of the photocopier. Those who attended school during the 1960s and 1970s would remember the distinctive smell of the alcohol-based ink on the printed or 'roneoed' pages that were handed out to students.

Meander Fire Brigade milestones

By Hayley Manning

THE BUSHFIRE season has arrived but never fear, the Meander Fire Brigade are here!

More energised than ever, they can reflect on history-making dual milestones and a particularly successful bushfire campaign earlier this year.

Chief Grant Flowers (2011–), and the dedicated crew of 35 seniors, juniors and cadets, are commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Meander Fire Station and holding their 25th Christmas barbecue.

Not a bad feat considering the official Meander Fire Brigade was only formed in 1972, when their first Chief Reg Dixon and around 10 of the original members would head off to the Caveside Fire Station 'dressed as they were' to borrow the shared Willy Jeep.

Things improved in 1973, when the Tasmanian Fire Service supplied the brigade with a new '73 Land Cruiser – that was housed locally at second chief Neil Johnston's place – and a small tin shed fitted with an 'air raid' siren on the roof to summon the volunteers.

Today, all senior fire fighters across Tasmania carry a pager for a prompt multi-brigade response to all incidents.

When Wayne Johnston became chief in the early 1990s, the Tasmanian Fire Service, impressed by new recruits and the brigade's responsible approach to training, provided funding to build the first brick fire station for volunteer fire fighters in Tasmania. It was officially opened in 1999.

During their terms as brigade chief, Wayne Johnston, Jason Chilcott and Grant Flowers cultivated an unorthodox approach to training which



From left, current Chief Grant Flowers, original member Neil Johnston, current member Anthony Berne and original member Noel Ritter. Photo by Hayley Manning

involved providing the crew with practical skills by fighting genuine fire incidents that happened on their own properties. Fifth chief Ricky Lehman managed to avoid any fire events at home.

The 'extra' training paid off for the Meander brigade when they attended a bushfire at Reynolds Neck in the Central Plateau in February this year. Tamar District Officer, Brett Fazackerley, said the emergency alert had been activated for the community and initial attempts to stop the spread of the rapidly moving fire by air had failed. The Meander volunteer brigade arrived at a critical time and proceeded to an area that was to be the first to be impacted and began saving structures.

'Their bravery and commitment in the face of not only the fire front but the ember storm it created is to be commended ... This action undoubtedly helped save a number of homes and possibly lives, as well, as at this stage, some residents had refused to leave,' Mr Fazackerley said.

'It was a joint effort from Meander and other brigades who all worked together. It was a most special save,' Grant Flowers said.

The community can join their local fire fighting volunteers at the 25th community Christmas BBQ to be held at the Meander Fire Station, Main Road, Meander from 12pm on 15 December. Santa will be there with lollies and balloons for the kids.

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Swimming safely

THE FREE annual Learn to Swim and Water Safety Program will again be offered through the fundraising efforts of the Rotary Club of Deloraine and the support of the Meander Valley Council.

Registration Day will be held from 10am-4pm on Thursday 2 January at the Deloraine Pool, 25 West Parade. The program will run from Monday 6 January to Friday 17 January.

For more than 35 years, the Rotary Club of Deloraine has continued to support the Meander Valley community by offering fully funded, free swimming and water safety classes for young people, with aims to reduce deaths by drowning.

Rotary's efforts were formally recognised this year, when the club received the Community Event of the Year Award for the program.

The Learn to Swim and Water Safety Program aims to develop the children's awareness of safety in and around water. Each lesson begins with a water safety talk, where participants learn to identify dangers associated with different

aquatic environments and adopt strategies to keep themselves and others safe.

The Royal Life Saving Society of Australia (RLSSA) believes that all Australian children have the right to a comprehensive swimming and water safety education.

As explained by the RLSSA: 'The skills of swimming, survival swimming and basic rescue are all lifesavers, yet we know that there are many barriers including cost, distance, awareness and access in communities most at risk of drowning. Drowning remains one of the leading causes of preventable death in children and reducing childhood drowning remains a worldwide challenge.'

Kali Bierens has been teaching for the program for fifteen years. During this period, over 1,370 children have been taught swimming and water safety.

'The Rotary Club's long term investment in this project has fostered healthy intergenerational relationships', said Kali.

This became evident to Kali, on meeting a King Island



Collecting the award on behalf of the Rotary Club at the 2019 Australia Day Awards ceremony were (from left): Marea Matanle, Past President; Gayle Gerrard, former co-ordinator; Lois Catchlove, current program co-ordinator; Kali Bierens, Margaret Armour and Brenda Moore (Austswim teachers). Photo by Karen Lehman Photography

mother enrolling her 5 year old daughter. For several years, the girl travelled with her mother from King Island to stay with her grandmother in Meander during the summer holidays, to attend the program. Her mother spoke with Kali on enrolment day and mentioned that she had also attended the

program as a child. She was very appreciative of the service provided by Rotary.

Kali feels very fortunate to have had some very experienced senior teachers working alongside her, as mentors. Her parents Pam and John Ward both taught swimming for more than 50 years.

Other senior teachers such as Margaret Armour and Brenda Moore have more than 30 years of swimming teaching experience behind them.

For more information on the program, contact the Learn to Swim and Water Safety Co-ordinator, Lois Catchlove on 0411 118 212.

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Invitation to local eat & greet

at the Westbury Community dinner, first Friday night every month

Everyone is invited to the monthly social tea and family get together at 6.30pm in the Westbus Depot shed at 63 Meander Valley Road, Westbury.

Join other members of the Westbury community in a social and informal 'old fashioned' evening of food, entertainment, conversation and friendship.

For the following months, the dates of the community dinners are:

- 6th December 2019
- 3rd January 2020
- 7th February 2020
- 6th March 2020

Please bring some food to share with everyone and enjoy a pleasant evening with new and old friends.

Feel free to bring along games or a musical instrument if you would like to contribute to the evening's entertainment.

For more information, contact Grant & Jan Bingley on 0408 134 057.

Crossword

- | | |
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| <p>Across</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Hang loosely (6) 5 Church songbook (7) 10 Under an assumed name (9) 12 Ogle (4) 13 Not merely local (8) 16 Efflux (7) 17 Stevedore (6) 18 Period of history (3) 20 Bother (6) 22 Not this one and not that one (7) 25 Supporter of a monarch (8) 26 Fijian capital (4) 29 Between (5) 30 Take turns (9) 31 Phantom (7) 32 Pedlar (6) | <p>Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Aged (7) 3 Jokes (4) 4 Send forth (4) 5 Fuel (10) 6 Constituent of vinegar (6, 4) 7 Learner (7) 8 Child's toy (6) 9 Crest (7) 14 Torch (10) 15 Lottery (10) 19 Unrealistic person (7) 21 From now on (3, 4) 23 Transport charge (7) 24 Keyboard instruments (6) 27 Where many land speed records have been attempted (4) 28 Fill out (4) |
|--|--|



Sudoku

	2		6				4	
6				8				5
9			4		1			
		4		9		3		8
1		2		3		7		
			3		6			4
4				7				2
	8				5		9	

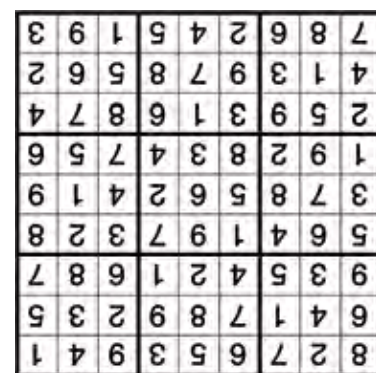
© 2019 Syndicated Puzzles

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 December 2019 solution



Sudoku December 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 except Thursday 7pm	Platypus tour	Meander River, Deloraine Look for platypus, walking along river Free Meet at Empire Hotel
Every Sunday 2-4pm	Memoir Writing Group	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Write and share stories Everyone welcome
Every Monday 9-10.30am	Yoga with Brigette	Deloraine Day Care Centre, Lansdowne Place, Deloraine \$15 casual More info 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 10am-1pm	Mah Jong	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine \$5 Ph 6362 2678
Every Wednesday 6-7.30pm	Yoga with Kristina	Deloraine Day Care Centre, Lansdowne Place, Deloraine \$15 casual More info Kristina 0497 025 308
Every Thursday 10-11am	Physiotherapy & exercise classes	Westbury Community Health Centre, 89 Meander Valley Road, Westbury
Friday 13 December	Twilight Christmas Market	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Santa & carollers Book a stall on 63 6222 638 or community@delorainehouse.com.au
Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 December	Jumping Tasmania 2019 State Titles	Westbury Showgrounds, Lyttleton St, Westbury Championship and Speed Classes, Trade Expo Free entry
Saturday 14 December 9am-1pm	Mole Creek Market Day	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drv and Caveside Contact Ross Quick 0413 681 252 Rd
Saturday 14 December 9am-1pm	Liffey Valley Market	More info Jen 0421 Old Liffey School, 1443 Liffey Rd, Liffey 900 810
Saturday 14 December 10am	Off the track racehorse retraining	Showjumping Fernbank Rd, Osmaston Call Sandra to book on 0429 946 554
Saturday 14 December 6pm	Nathan Seeckts & Tristen Bird	Marakooopa Café, 186 Mayberry Rd, Mayberry 5pm door 6pm music Tickets \$17.50 www.marakooopacafe.com or call 63635033
Saturday 14 December 7pm	Carols by the River	Deloraine riverbank rotunda, near the bridge Sausage sizzle 6.30pm Free Bad weather - Rotary Pavilion, Alveston Drive
Saturday 14 December 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>Shoplifters</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M Drama Japan 121m More info 0418 389 868 or westerntiersfilmsociety@gmail.com
Sunday 15 December from 12 noon	Community Christmas BBQ	Meander Fire Station, Main Rd, Meander Santa will be there with lollies and balloons for the kids
Sunday 15 December 7pm	Westbury Carols on the Green	Village Green, Lonsdale Pde, Westbury Brass band, community carols, guest artists, Santa Claus Free
Monday 16 December 12.30-2.30pm	Deloraine Writers Group	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Tea and coffee available, please bring your lunch All welcome Ph 63262 2678
Saturday 21 December 9am-1pm	Deloraine Market	Deloraine Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine Fresh produce, hot food, plants, fruit trees, books, craft, bric a brac
Saturday 21 December 9am-2pm	Westbury Market	St Andrews Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Pde, Westbury Hot food, vegetables, plants & much more More info 0417 931 619
Wednesday 25 December 11.30am	Christmas Day Dinner	Contact Judy free Mennonite Hall, West Barrack St, Deloraine or Graham 0434 846 697 or christmas@internode.on.net
Thursday 2 January 10am-4pm	Learn to Swim & Water Safety Program	Registration Day Deloraine Pool, West Pde, Deloraine Program will run from Monday 6 January to Friday 17 January
Friday 3 January 2020 6.30pm	Eat and greet Westbury	Westbus Depot, 63 Meander Valley Rd, Westbury Bring food to share and games Ph 0403 134 057 or jan@merseylink.com.au
Wednesday 8 to Friday 10 January	Deloraine Pony Club Camp	Contact Justine Hartnam, DDPC Information and bookings 0419 378 046
Thursday 9 January 7pm	Festival of Small Halls	Mole Creek Memorial Hall 5pm bar & BBQ 7pm show Tickets \$15A, \$10u/12, u/5 free Book 6393 5300 or festivalofsmallhalls.com
Saturday 11 January 9am-1pm	Liffey Valley Market	More info Jen 0421 Old Liffey School, 1443 Liffey Rd, Liffey 900 810
1 to 31 March 2020	Great Western Tiers Art Award	Deloraine Creative Studios, 59-61 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Entry forms available now Entries close Saturday 1 February 2020

SHOWJUMPING IS a great spectator sport with lots of action packed riding!

The Buckby Ram Motors Jumping Tasmania 2019 State Titles are being held at Westbury Showgrounds on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 December 2019.

There will be two show-jumping rings with riders of various ages and ability levels competing in two classes.

Championship class riders strive to complete the course within a set time, without knocking any poles down or having any refusals at fences, over two rounds. Riders who manage this successfully then go into a third round, which is a jump-off against the clock.

Speed class riders must complete the course in the quickest time without any poles down or refusals at the fences.

The event will also feature a Trade Expo, for local and interstate businesses to display their products with information, goodies and great deals. Food and coffee vans will also be on site.

Jumping Tasmania North is fortunate to have many local businesses and services supporting this event, which could not be held otherwise.

The event is run by Jumping Tasmania North and special thanks go to the hard-working committee that oversees the event along with the help and guidance of experienced, local volunteers. Jumping Tasmania North is also lucky to have services such as Jess Honan Photography attending the event and offering their skills.

At last year's State Titles, Elsie Lindsay (nee Richards) of Cressy won the prestigious 1.30m Open Championship event on Yardah Cairo. Jo Geard of Westbury won the 1.15m Open Speed Championships on her mount Ambervale Smudge.

Other Meander Valley riders who performed well and placed were Chloe McFarlane on Spy Rebellion, Danielle Whatley on VP Cisco, Claire Walker on Wentworth Isabella, Georgia Elias on Tonash Mondo and Lucie Riley on Mio Cavallo.

Showjumping is an adrenaline pumping sport. Come along and watch the state's best show jumpers take on some tricky courses and catch a bargain at the Trade Expo.

All spectators are welcome and encouraged – entry is free of charge!



Claire Walker on Wentworth Isabella at the 2018 State Titles. Photo by Jess Honan Photography

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