



BRINGING JOY TO THE SEASON

Carols by the river are a highlight of December

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A SUMMER OF SPORTING HIGHS

Westbury and Mowbray get in the swing

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CITIZENS HAVE THEIR SAY

Westbury residents air their concerns

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Meander Valley Gazette

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January 2020

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper

Minister Archer in their sights



Minister for Corrections, the Hon Elise Archer MP, returned to Westbury to attend a public meeting to discuss the State Government decision to place the new Northern Regional Prison on a site close to the town. Hostility and cynicism dominated the meeting, which was attended by many local residents who are opposed to the State Government's plans or angry that the decision was made without consulting the community beforehand. Photo by Mike Moores

By Sharon Webb

THE STATE Government will survey all Meander Valley residents on the electoral roll about Westbury as the site for a second Tasmanian prison, Minister for Corrections Elise Archer told a rowdy public meeting in December.

The mailout and phone survey will be part of the government's social and economic impact report being prepared by SGS Economics.

The public meeting attended by around 300 people gave

Minister Archer the opportunity to emphasise again that no final decision on the prison location had yet been made – and that any prison run by the Hodgman government would not be privatised.

But in a Westbury Town Hall visually dominated by signs saying 'Dept of Joke' and 'Still no meaningful consultation, just spin', hostility and cynicism were palpable.

People directed hostility not just at the State Government but at Meander Valley councillors (many of whom attended),

and former mayor (now MHA) Mark Shelton. Many of the residents believe the council and Mark Shelton supplied information about the site through the government's expression of interest process, contrary to residents' interests. One resident held a sign saying 'Council has sacrificed Westbury'.

When a woman questioned the impact on Brand Tasmania of a prison 'smack in the middle of the route to the Western Tiers', the minister replied that the site had been submitted to government – to one man's

shout of 'Hang your heads', directed at the Meander Valley councillors.

And when Minister Archer sheltered Mark Shelton from answering a question about his views on the prison, several people yelled 'Shame on Shelton'.

Common themes among locals questioning Minister Archer were around residents' security, the effect on tourism and the area's economy and possible alternative sites.

Lesley Pedley said her son, a prison warden in Derby WA,

had his car smashed up and three home break-ins.

'He told me, "Mum, if you get a prison there it will be the sorriest day of your life. It's not the inmates you need to worry about, it's the outsiders coming into the town,"' she said.

Another resident mentioned recent damage from Ashley Detention Centre inmates' demonstrating, asking if the government couldn't control children, would they be able to control adult prisoners.

(continued on page 2)



As part of a nationwide community donation program, CommBank Deloraine employees have donated \$500 to Deloraine Community House. Photo contributed

CommBank Deloraine community donations

COMMONWEALTH BANK Deloraine branch employees have donated \$500 to Deloraine Community House as part of a nationwide community donation program.

Over the next few months, the Commonwealth Bank has pledged to donate \$500,000 nationally to recognise organisations that make a difference in the communities in which they live and work.

Each Commonwealth Bank branch and customer-facing team has been allocated \$500 to donate to causes important to their local community.

The Commonwealth Bank's Deloraine branch team voted

to support the great work of Deloraine Community House.

'With the festive season approaching, it's a timely opportunity for us to show our support for Deloraine Community House,' said Kassie Denmen, Branch Manager of the Commonwealth Bank in Deloraine.

'In particular, we are proud that Deloraine Community House supports our local community with the grant funds to be used for work on the community garden vegetable beds and pantry to enable access to fresh produce after hours, so it's great to be able to give back and support this work.'

Hostility and cynicism dominate meeting

(continued from page 1)

The Minister dismissed his comment as irrelevant because Ashley is run by the Department of Health and Human Services, not the Department of Justice.

In reply to a question about potential jobs and investment loss if the prison stripped Valley Central of its current five businesses, the Minister replied that she had spoken with them.

'I accept that it's relevant and will take it into account. Independent assessors are looking at it,' she said.

Concerns about property values emerged, with one woman describing Westbury residents as 70 per cent owner-occupiers. Another commented on the low property values of the Victorian prison location, Broadmeadows.

Phil Giles told Minister Archer that if a prison was built on the Birralee Rd site, he would leave Westbury, followed by others.

'Towns taking on prisons get an initial economic spike but when the prison is in place the economic benefits level out and people begin to leave,' he said.

Robert Bryant asked why Westbury was the preferred site when there were 'good options'.

'The reason we don't want it is the element it will bring to Westbury,' he said.

To loud jeers, Elise Archer replied that any potential sites next to a neighbourhood were therefore zoned residential.

Harvey Gee commented: 'There is oodles of crown land in Tasmania, out of sight of tourist routes.'

'When I asked you about this your answer was that the Greens have it all locked up.'

'I put it to you, it's only locked up when it suits the government!'

But although lone questioner Leigh Watts supported the prison, the meeting's main attitude seemed to be that consultation with residents was fake, entirely focused on the government being able to say it had been done.

Frances Shaw said she and her husband Glen, born and bred in Westbury, working in Launceston, found it impossible to get an allocated time to talk to the Minister and needed

to leave work early for the public meeting.

'Why, when the public are so obviously against it, is all the rhetoric about consultation – but you're going to go ahead?' she asked.

The first questioner of the meeting threw doubt on individual consultation, asking why those meetings had not been recorded. Others said that the prison site was a done deal.

When one woman said residents were not being respected because the consultation was 'around the wrong way', the Minister said she was sorry.

Many people in the room agreed with her. 'It doesn't feel right over here. We want to know who we can trust.'

After the meeting many people remained, standing in clumps, talking.

Minister Archer left immediately, escorted by Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation CEO Mark Baker and the director of Prisons, Ian Thomas, both of whom were silent throughout the meeting.

(to read more on this topic – go to pages 6 & 7)

Climate emergency? Just a publicity stunt say local councillors

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY councillors have refused to join 76 other Australian councils in declaring a climate emergency, labelling it 'a publicity stunt' and 'just words'.

Putting the motion at the December meeting, Cllr John Temple said that as a wilderness photographer for many years he had noticed many changes in the Meander Valley environment. This was the fundamental reason he put forward the motion.

'By engaging in this discussion we are not adopting any formal process – we'll be moving forward on our own terms,' he said.

But Cllr Tanya King then poo-pooed the motion, saying it was a matter of semantics.

'Declaring a climate emergency with no proposed action is little more than a publicity stunt. Let us focus on strategic, sensible and sustainable projects,' she said.

While Cllr Rodney Synfield commented that the motion was just the start of a conversation, Cllr Cameron labelled the motion 'a distraction from council business'.

'Debating this will do little for the people of the Meander Valley; it's just words,' she said.

Over the past three council meetings Western Creek resident Helen Hutchinson has asked questions to provoke councillors' thoughts on climate change.

In November she commented on the deferral of work costing \$625,000 on Prospect Vale Park, asking acting general manager Jonathan Harmey, 'Is there any

reason why these funds could not be transferred to a council budget line item that prepared for climate emergencies such as either out of season flooding or very severe bushfires?'

Mr Harmey replied, 'Any decision to approve a new budget for an external business to complete work on "out of season flooding" or "very severe bushfires" would require a decision by council.'

'Each year council balances the services it will be providing to the community and the cost of providing those services in our annual budget estimates.'

'Council is not in a position to fund every request from the community and the State Government or Federal Government may be better placed to provide the services listed in the question.'

Other comments by the councillors on the climate emergency motion included:

Cllr Bower: 'I agree with Cllrs King and Cameron.'

Cllr Kelly: 'This is an over-reaction. It's not climate change; it's mismanagement. The hysteria that comes with the words – I won't support the motion.'

Cllr Johnston: 'Emergency is too strong a word for this. We have our change with the strategic plan coming up next year.'

Cllr Sherriff: 'What qualification do any of us have to call it a climate emergency? Is Meander Valley Council declaring a climate emergency going to stop people rubbishing our planet?'

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The sounds of Christmas



Above: Deloraine Carols by the River was a pleasant way to relax and enjoy the Christmas season. Right: Meander Valley Uke3A Strummers and Drummers entertain visitors to Westbury Market with a seasonal medley of music. Photos by Mike Moores



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FROM THE EDITOR Happy New Year, if not decade – it all depends on how you count the years. It seems to me that we begin again, exactly as we finished 2019, allowing division to cause lasting harm to our communities and failing to come together to tackle the most important issue on the planet. *Liz Douglass*

Letters to the Editor

1,246 JURISDICTIONS in 26 countries have declared a climate emergency. Populations covered by jurisdictions that have declared a climate emergency amount to 798 million citizens, with 55 million of these living in the United Kingdom. This means in Britain now over 80 per cent of the population lives in areas that have declared a climate emergency, almost 400 councils all together. In New Zealand, the percentage is nearly as high: 74 per cent of the population.

And the majority of Meander Valley councillors (the ones present at December meeting) are arrogant, selfish, and narrow minded enough to think that they know better than the ones above and not be bothered to work together (funny that) to stand up for their citizens and declare that they accept that climate change is now a crisis, an emergency.

Short sightedness, narrow thinking, not able to see a world picture, head in the sand. How many terms do I need to write?

There is only one planet and believe it or not Meander Valley is a part of it. The planet is also round (believe it or not).

When I heard the outcome of the motion on Tuesday last I hung my head in shame.

It is not enough 'To believe in climate change' – easy words but I see no actions for positive change, only negative. Tree clearing with no plans to

MARRA MEMBERSHIPS' ongoing concern has been with the lack of process that led to the school being leased to Teen Challenge Tasmania for \$1/year. The Expressions of Interest process that led to this was grossly inadequate and served to manipulate the success of the proponents. The proposed drug rehabilitation centre is not like the old school; it will be a closed facility and inmates will not be allowed out to 'mingle' as they wish – as Mr Boxhall suggests (Letter to the editor, Nov 19). Nor will the public have access to the school.

The school site is also highly inappropriate for any drug rehabilitation centre, as it is in the middle of the town and opposite the hall and recreation ground. We also have concerns about the nature of the Teen Challenge's drug rehabilitation program, which is unregulated, not best practice and is faith-based not medically-based. Their training material includes material citing homosexuality

re-plant, the closure of the environment committee, atrocious behaviour towards Westbury Town Common. Little action on bushfire management, cancellation or cessation of the rate rebate for people who have wildlife covenants; hypocrisy when you give rate rebates to businesses that take up in the Westbury Industrial Estate. The list goes on.

When will you wake up and realise it is your children's or grandchildren's future? Not yours!

*Absolutely disgusted,
Sean Manners*

A YOUNG friend attended the recent Council meeting which rejected the motion to declare a Climate Emergency. She is very disappointed in those Councillors she calls 'denosaurs' because they either claimed there was no such emergency, or who don't see any value in leadership or inspiration, argued that declaring a Climate Emergency was all just empty words.

Words do have power. Have they never been moved in life or guided by words written or spoken? Is it any wonder the Council has lost her respect? But please remember it is those we elected last time who are failing her generation. Also spare a thought for those Council staff who like me are also disappointed at being 'led' by those Councillors.

Lisa Yeates

as a problem that can be prayed away, as can drug, alcohol and sex addiction. This type of program may be suitable for some but anyone who doesn't 'abide by their Christian values' isn't accepted into the program. We support well-regulated, inclusive rehabilitation programs that are medically-based and located in suitable environments. We believe the State Government should be doing more in this area and not shirk their responsibility by supporting a program such as Teen Challenge offers.

We want to see the school site undergo a rigorous and honest Expressions of Interest process that will ensure the use of the school that will benefit the whole community. MARRA has a proposal 'Meander Commons' that would see the site open for community use and development. This and more is explained on our website marra.net.au.

Bodhi McSweeney, Meander Residents and Ratepayers Association (MARRA)

Business closure of J & C Flowers Autos

To our wonderful customers of 37 years, thank you for your patronage for all those years.

We would like to advise that this business has now closed as of November 2019, due to injury and ill health.

On behalf of Darren John and Carrol, thank you again.
John Flower, J & C Flower Autos, 128 Emu Bay Road Deloraine

BEVAN BOXHALL or his ventriloquist (MVG Nov 2019 letter to the editor) raises issues that highlight the dangers posed to our community by so-called Teen Challenge aka Home of Hope.

The facts:

1 Just like the Westbury prison debacle, where a maximum security prison is to be foisted on the community without consultation, Meander has been shafted by the Council handing over our school, without proper process, to a religious cult for \$1 per year, run by people with no connection to the area. Nor will the inmates have any connection or interest in the area.

2 This is a dangerous experiment, where the proponents (Tanya Cavanagh interview, ABC talk back 14 August 2019 with Leon Compton) intend to lump a dozen or more sex, gambling or drug addicts and their children together. Given the shocking revelations from the Royal Commission into child sexual abuse, one wonders how it is even legal to mix sex addicts, drug addicts and their children together in a residential facility run by people with no recognised professional qualifications and staffed by volunteers! What qualifications do Bevan Boxhall and his

WITH RESPECT to my neighbour Bevan Boxhall, it is inaccurate to conflate the resistance to the siting of Giant Steps in Deloraine with the proposal by Teen Challenge to establish a drug rehabilitation centre in Meander. Giant Steps is a recognised and credentialed organisation of long standing with proper medical, sociological and psychological expertise.

Teen Challenge has no such credentials but relies on volunteers associated with their faith-based program. However well intentioned such volunteers may be, they have no business caring for vulnerable people.

As a 'religious' organisation, they don't have to adhere to the Working with Vulnerable People requirement for which anyone else in the community is required to apply in similar circumstances.

I SEE the Anglican Bishop of Tasmania continues to purge homosexuals from Anglican churches and schools. Yet another example of the evil inherent in dogmatic religions. He must be as dumb as George Pell, who thinks Darwin

volunteers have in rehabilitating sex addicts? Drug addicts? Gambling addicts?

3 The overwhelming majority of Meander residents (Meander Area Residents and ratepayers Association has over 85 members) want our school buildings to be available for the community, not for the exclusive use of a cult. They also see the dangers posed to the community by attracting drug and sex addicts and violent partners to our town.

4 Contrary to Bevan Boxhall's assertion, Teen Challenge has NO other facilities housing children and adult criminals together. I repeat, this is a dangerous experiment.

5 As a past President of Meander Parents and Friends Association, long term resident of Meander and parent to three children who had a wonderful education at the Meander School, I share the serious concerns of the majority of the residents, old and new, who are united in their view that the facilities should be there for all to use into the future. This underhand dishonest arrangement needs to be called for what it is, just like Westbury Prison, a betrayal of our community which must be reversed.

Kim Booth, Meander

With respect to Stuart Lester's attempt to lump Teen Challenge's 'Home of Hope' and the proposed Westbury Prison into the same brain bubble, all those two issues have in common is the total lack of consultation with the members of the public likely to be affected by council's decisions. Councils typically hold a public meeting so they can tick the box 'Consulted With The Community' whereas the real purpose of the meeting is to inform the peasantry of what has already been decided and to instruct them to sit back down and take it on the chin. It's rude, insulting and condescending. What intelligent person could endure a tenth part of such treatment by government without speaking out against the injustice of it?

Ed Tuleja, Meander resident for 25 years

said we are descended from Neanderthals. Homosexuality occurs throughout the animal kingdom [ie 10% in sheep]. It is natural. Get over it. Move on.

Time to worry will be if it becomes compulsory.
Peter Anderson, Western Creek

EST.
2013

Meander Valley Gazette

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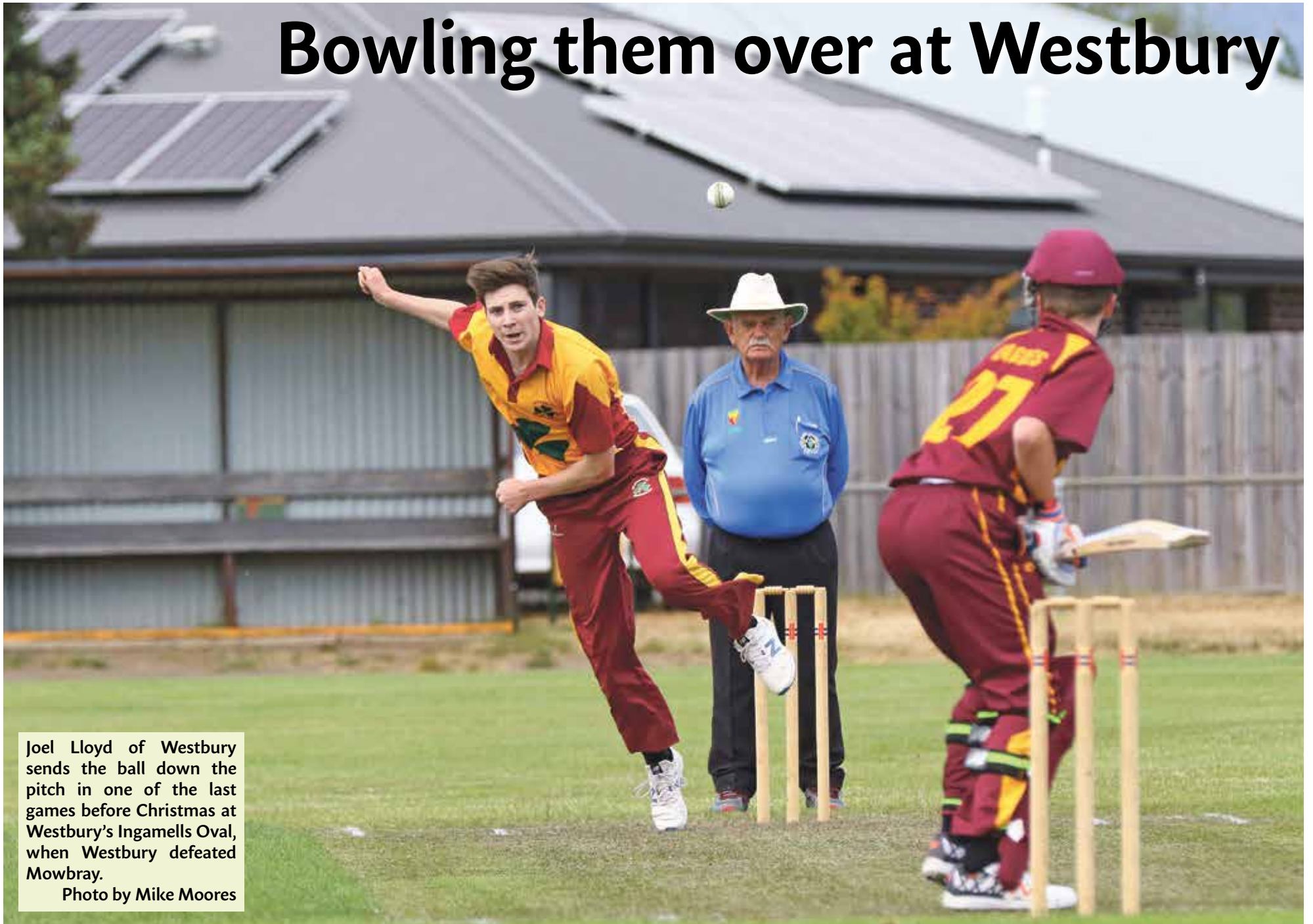
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Bowling them over at Westbury



Joel Lloyd of Westbury sends the ball down the pitch in one of the last games before Christmas at Westbury's Ingamells Oval, when Westbury defeated Mowbray.

Photo by Mike Moores

Hadspen women levelling the field

By David Claridge

THERE IS a strong female following at the Hadspen Cricket Club this season as they have fielded two teams, the only club to do so in the TCL.

Both teams are fighting hard to climb the Female T20 Boom ladder, after round seven both have taken around 20 wickets and have scored almost 600 runs each.

Club President, Corey Martin has praised the clubs' eight teams this season – all making

finals contention at the point of printing.

'We've got lots of new players. The club is continuing on with its inclusive trend to provide a platform for most players,' he said.

'There is also a lot happening in the background. Off-field we achieved a 'levelling the playing field' grant to create another changeroom and storage facilities to help us with the growing numbers.'

Corey spoke about one of the highlight matches of the

season, the 2018–19 grand final rematch against Longford in round 3.

'We also finished runner up to Longford in the T20 final in Premier league. We were disappointed to lose it, but we took a lot out of it. Losing by 28 runs, and being reigning 40-overs premiers, we want to retain our title come March.'

Hadspen Cricket Club has fielded two female teams this season.

Photo contributed



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Tensions are rising over prison debate in council meeting

By Sharon Webb

TENSIONS OVER the proposed new prison site are rising among Meander Valley councillors, with one yelling and swearing in the December meeting and the mayor signalling that he is fed up with anti-prison residents taking up valuable time in council meetings.

After extending council question time in October and November, a grim-faced Mayor Wayne Johnston indicated that council meeting rules would now be enforced, limiting questions to the usual 30 minutes.

'We've had enough in the last two meetings,' he said.

'Council understands that residents have questions about this project, however, council's ordinary meetings must be conducted in line with local government regulations.

'These meetings are not a forum to debate matters. There are many items on the agenda that must be dealt with in accordance with the Local Government Act. This limits time for questions from the public.'

In return, Westbury residents spurned the usual acting general manager's answers to their prison questions, directing them instead to individual councillors.

Peter Wileman asked Cllr Andrew Sherriff whether he believed previous general manager Martin Gill's touting for possible prison sites in the municipality was a reasonable process, Cllr Sherriff blew up.

'The process is ___!

'I'm not impressed with the process at all. Councillors were not aware of the proposal any more than you guys. I found out the location when you found out.'

When Mr Wileman asked when ratepayers could expect action over this, Cllr Sherriff turned the tables, implying his hard work was unappreciated.

'I'm here for you guys! I'm on this table to listen to your concerns. We have no information on this proposal. We've got no application. We know as much as you guys do.

'We have a difficult role at this table and I'll let you know I've lost a lot of respect in this community because of the way you guys have acted. We didn't start this. I joined council after all this was in the pipeline.

'You put yourselves in our position as elected members, being chastised, emailed four times a day asking for information we have no idea about!

'People on this table live in Westbury the same as you. Do they have concerns? Yes they do. Do we know the information? No we don't.

'Give us a break!'

In contrast to previous meetings, members of Westbury Residents Against the Prison (WRAP) seemed to set out to be provocative and take charge of the meeting.

Earlier, Westbury resident Anne-Marie Loader asked whether she could video the proceedings because she believed council minutes were not an accurate reflection of events.

Cllr Johnston's reply in the negative, because 'the council has no policy on videoing meetings' and his instruction for the public gallery to 'wait until there is a policy', provoked jeers from the public gallery.

Several people continued videoing regardless, in a nod to former Cllr Andrew Connor who several times put forward motions on videoing council meetings, without support from any fellow councillors.

A slap on the wrist for Mayor Johnston over vote for vehicle

By Sharon Webb

THE TASMANIAN Local Government Division has given a slap on the wrist to Meander Valley Council mayor, Wayne Johnston, because he voted to allocate himself a fully maintained council vehicle for his private use.

The Meander Area Residents and Ratepayers Association officially complained to the division after Cllr Johnston voted on the matter in the March 2019 council meeting.

In a reply to MARRA president Bodhi McSweeney, dated 21 November 2019, the Director of Local Government, Alex Tay, wrote that Cllr Johnston 'voted on a matter in which he had a pecuniary interest as defined by section 49 of the Local Government Act ... and further, that he failed to declare a pecuniary interest as required by the act.'

While upholding the complaint, Mr Tay decided it was not in the public interest to take legal action against Cllr Johnston.

He wrote, 'Mayor Johnston was fully cooperative during the investigation and I am confident there is a sufficient deterrence from any further breaches.'

However Cllr Johnston is required to complete training in the area of pecuniary interest by March this year.

Cllr Johnston acknowledged that he'd made a mistake in voting on the car.

'I should have stepped out of the room when the vote was on. I don't know why I didn't. I'll learn from it,' he said.

Last March, Meander Valley councillors unanimously voted Cllr Johnston a car for work and private use, amounting to around \$30,000 for the car and maintenance in the first year of use.

The mayor needed the car, Cllr Frank Nott said at the time, because of the distances and types of functions involved in representing Meander Valley Council, which covers 3,821 square kilometres.

'If we are to uphold the status of mayor we must have a vehicle of standing, something with status. Not a ute,' he said.

The general manager at the time, Martin Gill, said, 'Access to a vehicle reflects the expectation that a mayor's role will include travel, to attend regional meetings, to meet with state government and ministers, and to attend community events throughout the local government area.'

For the past three mayors the council had a policy that only travel mileage would be paid, he said.

Currently, larger neighbouring municipalities Northern Midlands (5130 sq kms), Central Highlands (8010 sq kms) do not provide a car for their mayor; nor does Kentish Council (1187 sq kms) although West Tamar Council (710 sq kms) does.

Meander Valley Council policy now states that the council

is to make a fully maintained mayoral vehicle available to the mayor, when representing council at meetings, functions and other activities.

The policy states, 'The allocated vehicle is for use by the mayor when attending council related activities and may also be used for private purposes.'

In addition to expenses and a car, Meander Valley Council's mayor is paid an allowance of \$37,389, while each councillor gets \$15,137.

Deloraine Hospital will benefit from infrastructure upgrade funding

DELORAINE HOSPITAL has been allocated \$238,000 for infrastructure upgrades from the State Government's \$15m Rural Hospital and Ambulance Station Fund.

The money will pay for a range of upgrades at the hospital, including a new recreation area, physiotherapy space and kitchen improvements.

Close to \$7m of the fund has already been allocated to projects planned to commence shortly or currently under way in district hospitals and health centres in Deloraine, Devonport, Campbell Town, New Norfolk and on the Tasman Peninsula.

The government claims the upgrades will create around 180 jobs.



WRAP members and families travelled south to Hobart to demonstrate their viewpoint to the State Government in Hobart. Photo contributed

A SMALL group of Westbury Residents Against the Prison (WRAP), travelled to Hobart on Thursday 5 December to have a gathering on the Tasmanian Parliament House lawns.

From 12.30 to 1.30, with no speeches and no fuss, the group stood on the parliament house lawns to represent the

750 people who signed a petition against siting the Northern regional Prison at Westbury.

The group displayed 75 helium balloons in the Irish colours of green, white and orange, to remind Tasmanians of Westbury's rich colonial Irish history and the long-running St Patrick's Festival, both of

which enhance the town's value as a tourist destination.

750 people signed the petition, so each balloon represented 10 people.

WRAP had extended an invitation to anyone who chose to come and stand with them on the day or to just come and say hello.

Guy
BARNETT
Liberal for LYONS

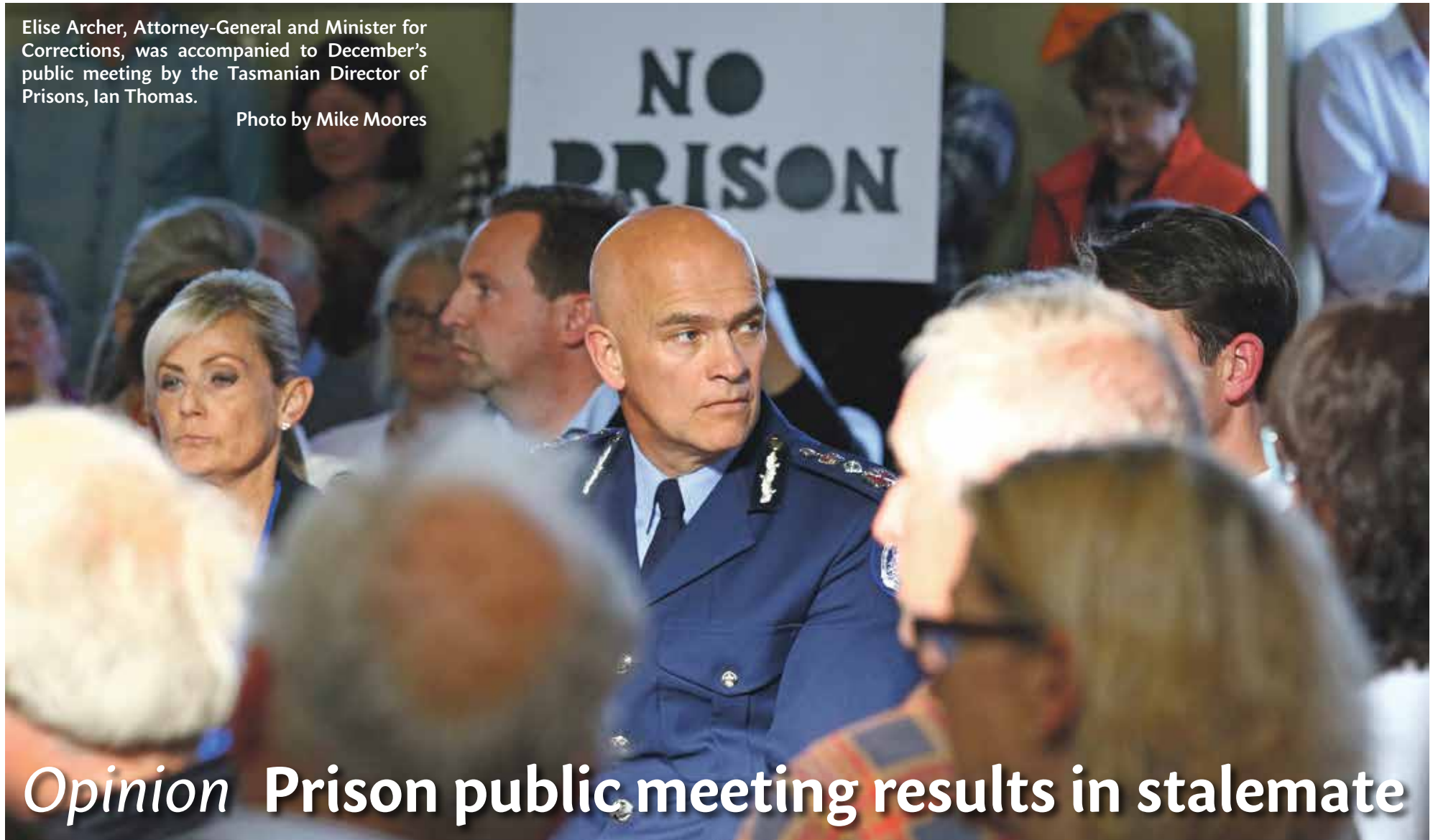
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Elise Archer, Attorney-General and Minister for Corrections, was accompanied to December's public meeting by the Tasmanian Director of Prisons, Ian Thomas.

Photo by Mike Moores



Opinion Prison public meeting results in stalemate

Comment by Sharon Webb

THERE'S A saying dating back centuries: 'Keep your friends close and your enemies closer.'

Corrections Minister Elise Archer should have remembered this when she organised December's public meeting to consult locals at Westbury Town Hall.

According to members of WRAP, Westbury Region Against the Prison, the meeting was initiated on Minister Archer's first visit to Westbury, at the Green Door Café.

'We would only talk to her if she guaranteed she would return to Westbury for a public meeting,' said WRAP president Linda Poulton.

'She said she would, so we sat down to talk.'

WRAP contacted the minister's office many times about a date for the promised meeting,

offering to find a location, book it and set it up.

But eventually, when the date was announced, the Minister spurned WRAP's help.

Management 101 dictates that good leaders maintain control by involving people/followers/employees in decision-making processes.

But Elise Archer, presumably in an effort to maintain control, did not involve her opponents.

She kept WRAP outside the organisation of the meeting, timing it when many people were still at work or travelling from work and limiting the meeting time to one hour only.

Employing Kingston-based consultants Impact Solutions International to run the meeting may also have been a mistake.

Impact Solutions advertise as specialising in transforming conflict. 'People call us

when they don't know who else to call'. It didn't work with Westbury.

People walked into the hall to see chairs organised in the round rather than facing the stage. Ultimately this left Minister Archer in the middle of a circle of hostility.

WRAP members and others against the prison had no investment in the public meeting.

They arrived with aggressively-worded signs and banners, they disrupted with shouting and yelling.

Impact Solutions CEO Mary Dwyer and director Chris Rees as facilitators were ineffectual in keeping order, behaving as if it were the Battery Point School for Seniors.

They were nice but seemed unaware that Westbury residents believed their lifestyles and livelihoods were at stake.

After the meeting, one resident commented that on seeing the circle arrangement, he expected a round of 'Kumbaya'.

This left Elise Archer the opportunity to move into the space vacated by putative chairs Dwyer and Rees.

It wasn't a good switch. And for a woman who has hung out successfully in the female-hostile Tasmanian Liberal Party to become Attorney General and Corrections Minister, it wasn't smart.

Just as it wasn't ideal to walk in to the meeting with Director of Prisons, Ian Thomas.

Fair enough, he could have answered prison questions if called upon, but he wasn't. But this tall, shiny-headed man in full uniform, complete with shiny brass buttons and epaulettes, was intimidating. It looked like the Minister had arrived with the cops.

Elise Archer must know she is inclined to be blunt and brittle on her way to achieving her goals. She isn't the only person with these traits but she needed to appear sympathetic, to get Westbury residents on side.

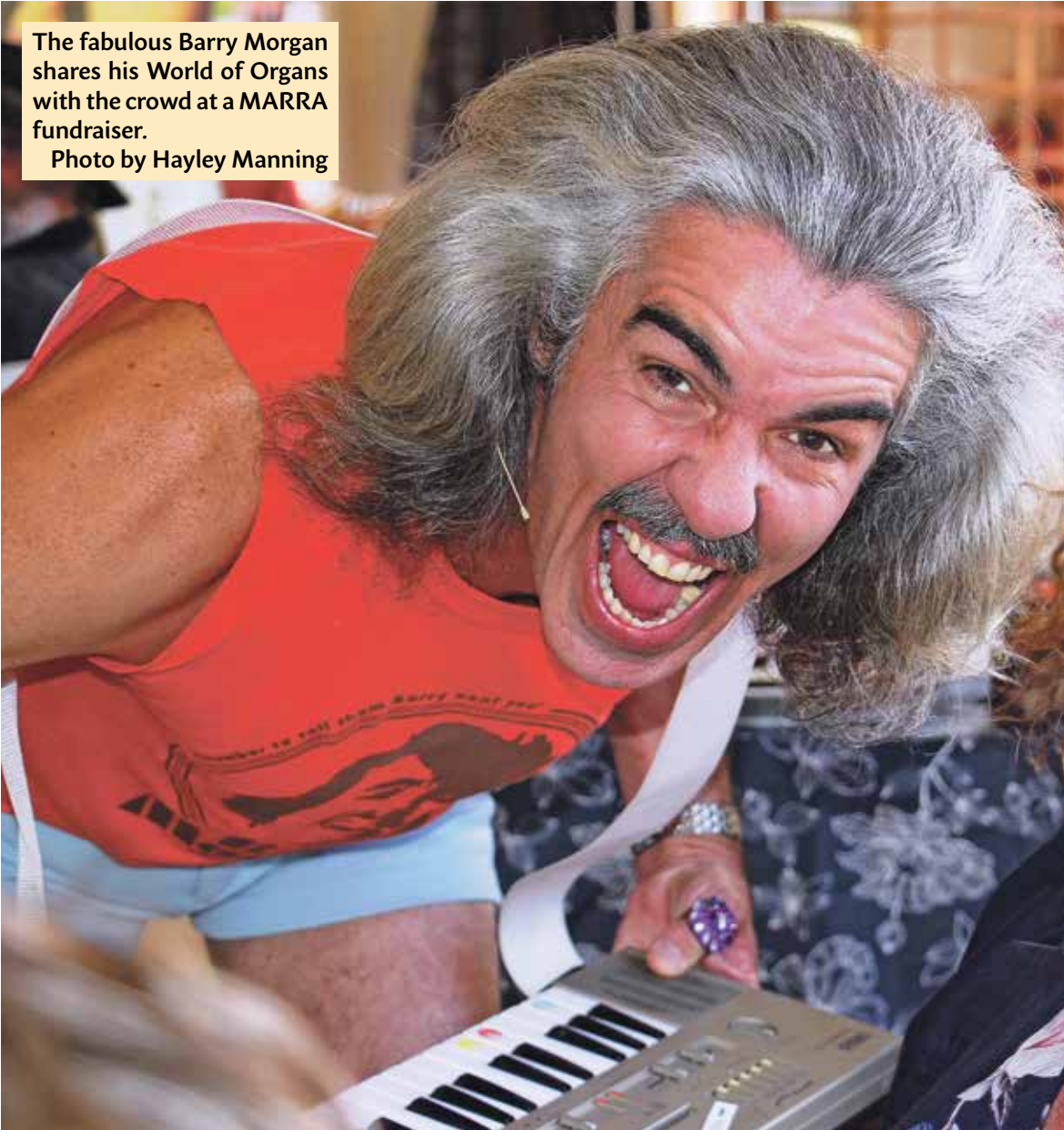
Instead she was defensive, snappy and impatient.

Minister Archer took charge when things were not going as she liked, barking out replies to questions and dismissing people without valid points. It didn't help the hostility issue, it made it worse.

In the end, the Minister left with a computer full of Westbury residents' comments and questions. Nothing she hadn't heard before. Nothing residents hadn't said before.

But with everyone feeling just a bit worse about the whole prison situation. Stalemate. sharon.webb@meandervalleygazette.com

The fabulous Barry Morgan shares his World of Organs with the crowd at a MARRA fundraiser.
Photo by Hayley Manning



Barry Morgan's organ entertains Huntsman

By Hayley Manning

It was a 'pinch me' moment when Australian comedian and musician Stephen Teakle's groovy stage persona Mr Barry Morgan introduced his World of Organs to a full-house MARRA fundraiser at Huntsman.

The fictional organ salesman from Adelaide with a penchant for polyester suits and bouffant hair, decided to perform at the fundraiser event after learning about the plight of the former Meander Primary School.

'I am very proud to be associated with the Meander Area Residents and Ratepayers Association. The MARRA group is trying to save this large, beautiful space in the local town. This is a community space for community activities. This is how communities are strengthened by being able to do activities together.'

MARRA became an incorporated association in September 2016, in response to local resident concerns regarding Council's decision to lease

the Meander Primary School (1891-2014) to Teen Challenge for the purposes of a refuge for women and children at risk and a drug rehabilitation centre.

The charismatic Barry bounced onto the scene to begin his high-octane performance that showcased his off-the-cuff humour and hilarious interactive comedy skits. Barry encouraged everyone to sing along as he played a medley of popular tunes on his cherished 1980s Hammond Aurora Classic organ.

One delighted audience member commented: 'What a wonderful community event. Everyone brought food and it was all very gourmet. I almost didn't go but it was one of the funniest shows I have been to.'

'Barry Morgan' went viral after his dazzling appearance on ABC's Spicks and Specks in July 2010 and a subsequent finale show performance in November 2011. He has since performed sold-out shows across Australia and has appeared at fringe and comedy festivals here and overseas.

Raga Shambala – bridging the Himalayas

AS PART of their current Australian tour, celebrated international trio Tenzin Choegyal (Tibet), Taro Terahara (Japan) and Ayako Ikeda (Japan) will present a series of concerts featuring music from the Himalayas, at Gallery Nine in West Barrack Street, on Saturday 1 February.

While most of us may know a little about the intriguing

land of Tibet we rarely have the opportunity to experience its unique culture first-hand.

Tibetan singer-songwriter Tenzin Choegyal is a master of traditional Tibetan instruments and is well known for his extraordinary vocal ability. He is also an outstanding composer/performer with a great depth of musical knowledge, intuition and inventiveness.

Since his Australian debut in 1997, Tenzin has become a major force on the world music scene, frequently touring Japan and the US (including appearances at Carnegie Hall with Phillip Glass). He was featured artist during the 2013 and 2015 Australian tours by the Dalai Lama and is the creative force behind the annual Brisbane Festival of Tibet.

Tenzin continues to push the boundaries and enjoys experimenting with musical collaborations such as classical string ensembles and African, Indian, indigenous Australian and Mongolian musicians, resulting in many innovative and evocative performances.

Accomplished bansuri master Taro Terahara and tabla player Ayako Ikeda are leaders in the thriving and highly competitive Indian classical music scene in Japan.

Drawn to the music of India, Taro decided to devote himself entirely to the practice of Indian classical music. The bansuri, he explains, beautifully captures the sound of the air, the mountains and the uplifting devotional mood of Krishna.

Likewise, Ayako studied under several Indian masters and now performs regularly throughout Japan. She has featured in several television and radio programs and has accompanied Indian, Tibetan and Afghan musicians both on stage and in the studio.



International trio, Raga Shambala – Ayako Ikeda, Taro Terahara and Tenzin Choegyal
Photo contributed

The sounds of bansuri and tabla blend seamlessly with Tenzin's flute, dranyen and vocal offerings in an interplay that is sensitive and beautifully rendered. The combination of such powerfully expressive performers makes this a unique trio.

With the artists drawing on their rich musical traditions audiences will experience the vastness of space and the beauty of the high Tibetan plateau in the music they create. The result is an unforgettable and moving experience for all ages.

Tickets can be booked at the Alpaca Shoppe and online at www.trybooking.com/529995, or they can be purchased at the door.

Fees for Westbury's new function centre

COUNCIL HAS approved fees for casual use of new function facilities at the Westbury Recreation Ground, applicable from last month.

Based on similar centres in the municipality, the fees are: \$25 an hour for meetings; \$200 per function, including kitchen; \$100 for kitchen hire; \$15 for two hours per change room.

The centre can seat up to 110 people or up to 200 in theatre style, and has facilities such as a big screen television system, audio system, air conditioning, the largest commercial kitchen available in council facilities (no dishwasher) and a bar.



Love doing craft with your child but can't handle the mess?
This fun program is just for you! Structured 1.5 hours involving sensory activities, colour recognition, singing, messy process orientated crafts and lots more!

Deloraine Seventh-day Adventist Church
4445 Meander Valley Road, Deloraine
Tues 10am – commencing Term 1, 2020

Secure your placing now at only \$8.80 per class payable full term
(Limited placings available – book now to reserve your place!)



www.happyhandsart.com.au

Any day sundaes at Dixie Blue Café!

By Lorraine Clarke

MARIA TASSONE used to run projects in corporate business, but escaped from Melbourne to the gentler environment of Deloraine 4 years ago, where she now owns Arcoona Manor Bed & Breakfast.

That was not enough to keep her busy though and when she fell in love with the 1896 former Cameron's building, Maria renovated it completely.

Decorated with a fun super-heroes theme, the café has a great dog-friendly courtyard for passers-by to eat al fresco. Customers can enjoy the gorgeous Meander River view from within or without.

'A lot of people love that I have brought new life to the building,' she said. 'This is stage one. I'm looking to restore the barns in 2020 as well.'

Maria's philosophy guides her business. 'You can't be unhappy when you're eating gelato. We want to put smiles on people's faces. Everyone has grown up with superheroes. It's a feel-good thing.'

The only problem is choosing which of the 18 gelato flavours on display to try first. There are gelato shakes and gelato cakes, and a toothsome range of savoury and sweet café treats for a satisfying meal. Birthday parties are welcome. 'We are catering to the age range of 1 to 101 years,' said Maria.

'Forestberry sorbets are a favourite. We make the usual flavours and also specials like KitKat, cookies and cream, lemon meringue. We welcome new flavour suggestions.

'I make the lemon gelato with juice squeezed from my home grown lemons.'

Maria and her sister Julie try to please everybody. The churning machine is pulled apart after every batch and cleaned thoroughly, and different scoops are used for each flavour, to prevent contamination by nuts or other allergens.

Maria Tassone of Dixie Blue Café expert gelati maker and proprietor, creating sweet treats and a brand new business in Deloraine.

Photo by Mike Moores



'We make salted caramel, mango, about 5 different vegan options. They use coconut cream as a base.'

She explained how Italian gelato is different from commercial ice cream.

'When I went to Italy as a 17 year old, I saw brilliant displays of gelati. It has more natural ingredients and less sugar. It is churned at a slower speed. It just tastes so much better!'

Quality control is important of course, and Maria makes it a rule to taste-test every gelato she churns!

Gelati are churned in-house on a daily basis.

It's all about supporting the local community for Maria. Dixie Blue's staff are all locals. 'The kids have created a really nice little team. It's great to be able to trust them completely. They take the business to the next level.'

Maria sources her ingredients locally, using Ashgrove milk and cream, 41° South salmon, Best's Butchery meat, Sandy's sourdough bread, Meander Valley Fruit and Vegetables, and Forager freeze dried fruits.

'We're not just here for the tourists. We try to price the best quality ingredients so locals can afford it. It's important for residents to know that

this is part of their community.' Dixie Blue can be contacted by phone on 6362 1137 or 0410 584 258 and by email at dixieblue@bigpond.com.

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Meander Valley Council

Meander Valley Council appoints new General Manager

Following a very competitive recruitment process involving rigorous assessments and interviews, Meander Valley Council has appointed a new General Manager.

Mr John Jordan will commence a four-year term as General Manager at the end of January 2020.

John is currently working with Queensland Health and has extensive management experience in the Queensland public sector as well as with Brisbane City Council. He has demonstrated an ability to manage diverse issues in government and this experience will help lead Meander Valley in the next phase of its development.

John has impressive academic qualifications that include a Master of Environment from Griffith University, a Master of Public Administration from the University of Queensland and a Graduate Certificate in

Public Sector Management from Flinders University.

"It is wonderful that we have attracted a person of John Jordan's calibre. With his extensive experience in government and expertise in public policy management, we can expect he will make a major contribution to our Council and help to advance the interests of the community," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

The recruitment process attracted an impressive field of 21 candidates from Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania and New Zealand.

"We expect John will quickly build a meaningful partnership with Councillors and staff and become a key part of our community. We look forward to working closely with John to continue to deliver excellent services, facilities and outcomes for

Meander Valley," Mayor Johnston said.

John Jordan said, "I am excited by the opportunity Council has given me to lead the organisation into the future and to continue to build on the great work that has been achieved over many years.

I have received much encouragement from the Mayor and Councillors as part of this process and I am grateful for their trust and belief in me.

I am really looking forward to meeting the staff. They have a sound reputation and I am driven to help them achieve their professional goals, aspirations and support their growth. One of my first tasks will be to workshop with Councillors to determine their priorities for the future so we can all work together in building a better and stronger Meander Valley."



Above: Deloraine Swimming Pool now a constant 24 degrees due to the new pumped heating system (inset)

New heating system ensures endless summers at Deloraine Swimming Pool

Thanks to the installation of a new heating system, there is no waiting for summer to arrive at the Deloraine Swimming Pool.

"The previous system relied on consecutive days of sunshine to generate enough heat for the water. This new system is based on pumped heat and ensures the pool remains at a constant 24 degrees," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

Installation was timed to coincide with the start of the pool season, which commenced on 1 December.

"The new system provides more reliable heating, even if the weather is a little unpredictable. Swimmers will not have to brace themselves before dipping their toes in the water, nor will they have to wait a few days for the pool to reach a comfortable temperature," Mayor Johnston said.

This pool season will once again see the Rotary Club of Deloraine run their water safety program in January, for children over the age of 5 years.

"Providing children who cannot swim with the skills they need to save themselves is invaluable and I encourage all parents of younger children to consider enrolling them in a program," Mayor Johnston said.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Deloraine's Learn to Swim and Water Safety program phone Lois on 0411 118 212.

The Deloraine Pool is open from Tuesday through to Sunday from 11am - 5pm in December and February and from 11am until 6pm during January.

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



Draft Eastern Play Spaces Strategy available for public comment

In 2017, Council consulted with the residents of Prospect Vale, Blackstone Heights and Hadspen about play spaces in their local areas. This consultation revealed that a high percentage of respondents wanted play spaces that catered for broader age ranges, were within walking distance and were more centralised.

As a result of this feedback, the Eastern Play Spaces Strategy has been developed. The Strategy reviews existing recreation areas with play spaces and aims to better meet the needs of these communities by identifying opportunities to provide different equipment, improve accessibility and pedestrian links, change the locations of play spaces and create destination play areas.

A draft of the Eastern Play Spaces Strategy is now available for public view and comment.

Where can I view the Strategy and how do I provide my feedback?

The Strategy can be viewed on Council's website at www.meander.tas.gov.au, just click on the link under Latest News on the home page. Feedback can be provided online or by phoning 6393 5300.

Hard copies of the Strategy are also available from Council's office. **Consultation closes 19 January 2020.**

January School Holiday Program
Grades 6-12

14 Jan
Art Workshop • Westbury

19 Jan
Dragon Boating • Deloraine

22 Jan
Orienteering • Trevallyn

28 Jan
Pump Track • Railton

30 Jan
Film Production • Deloraine

Places are limited. To register contact Vicki Jordan 0400 155 690 or email vicki.jordan@mvc.tas.gov.au

Road users benefit from improved street parking project

Parking along Winifred Jane Crescent in Hadspen is easier and safer with the recent completion of an indented parking project.

Six new parking bays have been constructed just beyond the Main Street intersection after the need for improved access to parking was raised by community members.

"The indented bays improve traffic flow and sight lines and maximise the use of lane widths," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.



Above: Recently completed indented parking along Winifred Jane Crescent

Prior to the completion of the project, informal on-street parking arrangements were in place, however, at times this impeded traffic flow.

Winifred Jane Crescent is also utilised as a school bus route.

"This project provides for more formalised parking which is a great improvement," Mayor Johnston said.

Community gets ready to grow with all-inclusive garden

The community of Hadspen can look forward to growing fresh produce with the installation of a new Community Garden.

Located in the Bull Run Reserve, the site is designed with generous proportions and raised beds to ensure all-abilities access.

Hadspen Neighbourhood Watch championed the project, leading community consultation and securing ongoing community support.

The project aspires to provide a space for the community to grow produce, get to know one another and enjoy their local park.



Above: Councillor Frank Nott joins Technical Officer Colin Lockhart and members of Hadspen Neighbourhood Watch at the Community Garden's official opening.

The project was undertaken by a local contractor with support from Council's Infrastructure and Works Departments.

"The garden beds feature a wicking system which keeps the plants watered for an extended period of time," Technical Officer, Colin Lockhart said.

Pathways, plumbing and all six garden beds were completed in December with

additional seating and a new garden shed due to be installed early this year thanks to the support of the Hadspen Lions Club and Hadspen Neighbourhood Watch. There are also plans to establish a garden group to assist with ongoing management.

The garden was funded by the State Government with additional project management support and contributions from Council.

'Respect for all our roles within the legislative process'

Mayor Wayne Johnston has acknowledged the importance of respecting legislative requirements after public question time was again dominated by the State Government's Northern Prison project at Tuesday's Council Meeting.

"Council understands that residents have questions about this project, however, Council's Ordinary Meetings must be conducted in line with Local Government Regulations. These meetings are not a forum to debate matters. There are many items on the agenda that must be dealt with in accordance with the *Local Government Act*. This limits time for questions from the public and our December Council Meeting ran for over three hours," Mayor Johnston said.

As Chairperson, the Mayor is bound by the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* which stipulate how meetings are to be conducted. Elected members are also bound by additional legislation when dealing with planning matters.

"The legislation is clear. Questions cannot be debated during question time at Ordinary Council Meetings and questions can only be

directed to the Chairperson. Councillors are limited in expressing their views on the State Government's Northern Prison project as it is expected to be presented to Council sitting as a Planning Authority in the New Year."

Since the State Government's announcement regarding the Northern Prison site, a number of residents have attended Council Meetings for the first time and many are unaware that these formal meetings run in accordance with legislation and a strict format must be followed.

"Councillors understand that residents can find this frustrating, however, the legislation is not open to interpretation. It specifies our duties, roles, functions and, most importantly, our responsibilities. As elected representatives of the Meander Valley community, we need to be conscious not to compromise our roles and responsibilities under the *Local Government Act*," Mayor Johnston said.

Many of the questions being raised have been asked previously in a number of different ways and through various forums and Public Question Time was extended at the October and November Council Meetings, due to increased numbers of attendees.

"As Councillors, we will be acting as a Planning Authority for the Northern Prison project and that places restrictions on how we are able to become involved. Lobbying for or against the proposal is not something we can do. We are continuing to meet with residents to discuss the project and we will continue to advocate for extensive consultation. The State Government has expanded consultation over the past month and held a public meeting at the Westbury Town Hall on 16 December.

This is a very significant project and I reiterate the importance of ongoing discussion that respects the legislative process and all our roles within that process," Mayor Johnston said.

In a recent survey undertaken by the Local Government Association of Tasmania, sixty percent of elected members indicated they had experienced online bullying and harassment. Elected members are asked on a daily basis to respond to letters, emails and phone calls which places them under a great deal of pressure as they strive to remain active within the community.

"We encourage all discussion to be conducted in a respectful and cooperative manner," Mayor Johnston said.

Meander Valley Council



Community members are invited to Meander Valley Council's Australia Day celebrations.
6pm, Friday 24 January, 2020
Country Club Tasmania, Prospect Vale.

Enjoy an evening of entertainment with music by Meander Valley U3A Strummers & Drummers followed by light refreshments.

Join us in recognising our volunteers and for the presentation of Australia Day Awards for Citizen of the Year, Community Event of the Year and the Sports Award.

This is a free event, but seating is limited.

If you would like to attend please RSVP to Merrilyn on 6393 5317 by Monday 20 January 2020



Meander Valley Council is asking dog owners for feedback about off-leash dog exercise areas.

Meander Valley currently has four off-leash dog exercise areas located at:

- Blackstone Heights** (Pitcher Parade)
- Westbury** (Town Common, south of King Street)
- Hadspen** (Lions Park between Browne and Foote Streets)
- Deloraine** (Alveston Drive)

Council would like to know how often you and your dog enjoy these areas and if you are happy with the various locations. We would also like to know if there are other locations where you would like to see designated off-leash exercise areas for dogs.

How do I leave my feedback?

Visit www.meander.tas.gov.au and click on the link under Latest News on the home page.

Consultation closes 30 January 2020

For more information phone 6393 5300 or email mail@mvc.tas.gov.au

General Enquiries

Phone 6393 5300
Email mail@mvc.tas.gov.au

Customer Service Office

8.30am - 5pm, Monday - Friday
26 Lyall Street Westbury
Tasmania 7303



Meander Valley Council
Working Together

www.meander.tas.gov.au

By Lorraine Clarke

SOME PEOPLE get the cream of all jobs. Judges of the annual Australian Grand Dairy Awards get to taste hundreds of gold medal winning products in the grand final, including milk, cream, butter, cheese, yoghurt, ice cream and dairy gelato.

Ashgrove Farms at Elizabeth Town puts Meander Valley on the dairy lovers' map with its gold medal milk, produced by 2,500 of 'the happiest cows on the planet', with all milking, bottling and manufacturing done on the farm. The simple motto expresses it all – 'Grass. Cow. You'.

Ashgrove produces homogenised Full Cream milk, 1% Farm Lite, non-homogenised Green Milk, and 2% Barista milk – the perfect density for foam art.

Anne Bennett, Marketing and Communications Manager, is passionate about the milk produced by the family farm business. She is responsible for exhibiting Ashgrove products at state and national dairy industry shows, with astonishing success.

'The essence of everything we do is milk. Our benchmark is to have the best quality milk that we can transform into the best cheeses. The AGD Award tells customers that our product has been made from the best milk in Australia.'

Ashgrove Tasmanian Farm Full Cream Milk qualified for the 2020 Australian Grand Dairy Awards by winning gold at the 2019 Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards. AGDA judges liquid milk on shelf testing, appearance, taste, aroma, texture and presentation.

'It is like the Logies for us. Everyone who works here is so thrilled when they know there's a competition on. We have over 100 great locals here. We employ cheesemakers, milkers, graphic designers.'

Danielle Taylor, milker and calf rearer, said that working at Ashgrove is her dream job. 'I just want to work outside.'

Ashgrove is justifiably proud of the high standards of cow



Marketing and Communications Manager Anne Bennett and milker Danielle Taylor proudly display their award-winning Ashgrove Full Cream Milk, produced at the Elizabeth Town farm and available at many retail outlets across Tasmania. Photo contributed

husbandry on the farm. No cows have tails docked, and polled bulls are used to avoid the stress of dehorning. Male calves are not culled at birth, but raised to maturity for the local beef market.

The Ashgrove herd is a blend of Friesian, Jersey and Swiss Brown cows, averaging about 18 litres of milk each per day. The emphasis here is on quality rather than quantity and the milk naturally contains 3.5% protein and 3.8% butterfat.

'Milk is a very local product. Our Full Cream milk has nothing added or removed. No permeates, milk solids or diluents. We think it's perfect just the way it is.'

Ashgrove welcomes visitors at 6173 Bass Highway, Elizabeth Town. Their online store is found at www.ashgrovecheese.com.au.

The mess stays with them!

HAPPY HANDS Art is a community art program focusing on letting kids develop their fun and creative side and a new branch is about to open in Deloraine.

Carolyn Schmitz is the founder and director of Happy Hands. She says, 'Happy Hands is a place where parents can bring their children to experience messy crafts, fun and sensory play. They are all the things that parents are not too keen doing at home because, let's face it, it leaves a big mess right?'

Happy Hands is true to their motto: 'The mess stays with us!' Which is exactly what every parent needs to hear.

In 2011 the first branch of Happy Hands opened in Nunawading, Victoria where it was established as a non-profit community program. Children aged 1-5 years and parents can interact together and get creative in a comfortable vibrant space where.

Happy Hands has since spread across Victoria, NSW and Queensland and is excited to expand into Tasmania this coming term.

Happy Hands is a practical hands-on program designed to build self-confidence in children by exploring new things.

The sessions run for 1.5 hours and they are very structured, understanding that children this age have a short attention span and respond well to structure.

'We live in a technology world and you often see children with their iPads or with their iPhones being out of touch with things around them. We are really intentional about creating these environments where children are encouraged to experience, feel, create, paint and glue,' says Carolyn.

This program encourages and proves that children can have fun without technology.

There are a lot of benefits for parents attending Happy Hands as well, with plenty of opportunity to meet other parents, make friendships and be part of a supportive community.

'We are creating a space where mums can meet other mums, where there is a community feel, a space where people can feel that they belong, but also a place where parents can spend special bonding time with their child each week.'

Happy Hands teams are run by volunteers, which means the program is affordable for any family. Children enjoy a whole 1.5 creative hours for \$8.80, including morning tea.

The Happy Hands team are committed to making their program accessible to anyone. Check out their website and register at www.happyhands-art.com.au.



Messy kids are happy and creative kids

Photo contributed

Advertisement

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Cheesy bacon waffles with banana, strawberry coulis and ice cream

By Wai Lin Coultas

SWEDES LOVE topping waffles with berry jams and vanilla ice cream or with salmon – roe or smoked – while Norwegians are partial to cheesy flavours, be it whey or blue. But why wrestle with whether to go sweet or savoury? Tantalise love ones by serving both in one decadent waffle dish – perfect for any kid’s birthday party!

Ingredients

- 1 1/2–2 litres vanilla ice cream
- 2–3 ripe bananas, peeled and diagonally sliced
- 8 sprigs fresh mint, thinly sliced and tips set aside

For waffles

- 1 cup plain flour
- 1/2 cup caster sugar
- 1 tsp iodised salt
- 1/2 tbsp baking powder
- 2 eggs, separated
- 3/4 cup milk
- 45g butter, melted
- 8 strips streaky bacon, cooked till crisp, drained and crumbled

- 100g vintage cheddar, grated
- 15g fresh chives, chopped
- black pepper, cracked

For coulis

- 800g fresh strawberries, topped and quartered
- 8 tbsp caster sugar
- 1 lime, zested and juiced

Instructions

For waffles

Preheat waffle iron and pre-heat oven to 90°C.

Combine flour, sugar, salt and baking powder in a large bowl. Season with pepper.

Whisk egg yolks, milk and butter in a second bowl.

Add yolk mix into dry ingredients, mixing till combined, then fold bacon, cheese and chives into the mixture.

Whip egg whites to soft peaks in a third bowl, then

gently fold into mix to make a batter. Add portions of batter to waffle iron and cook for approximately 5 minutes till golden brown.

Halve each finished waffle and place on a wire rack in the heated oven to let steam escape till all waffles are made.

For coulis

Heat strawberries and sugar in saucepan over medium flame, stirring till juices are released and sugar has dissolved.

Add lime juice and continue to stir till coulis forms.

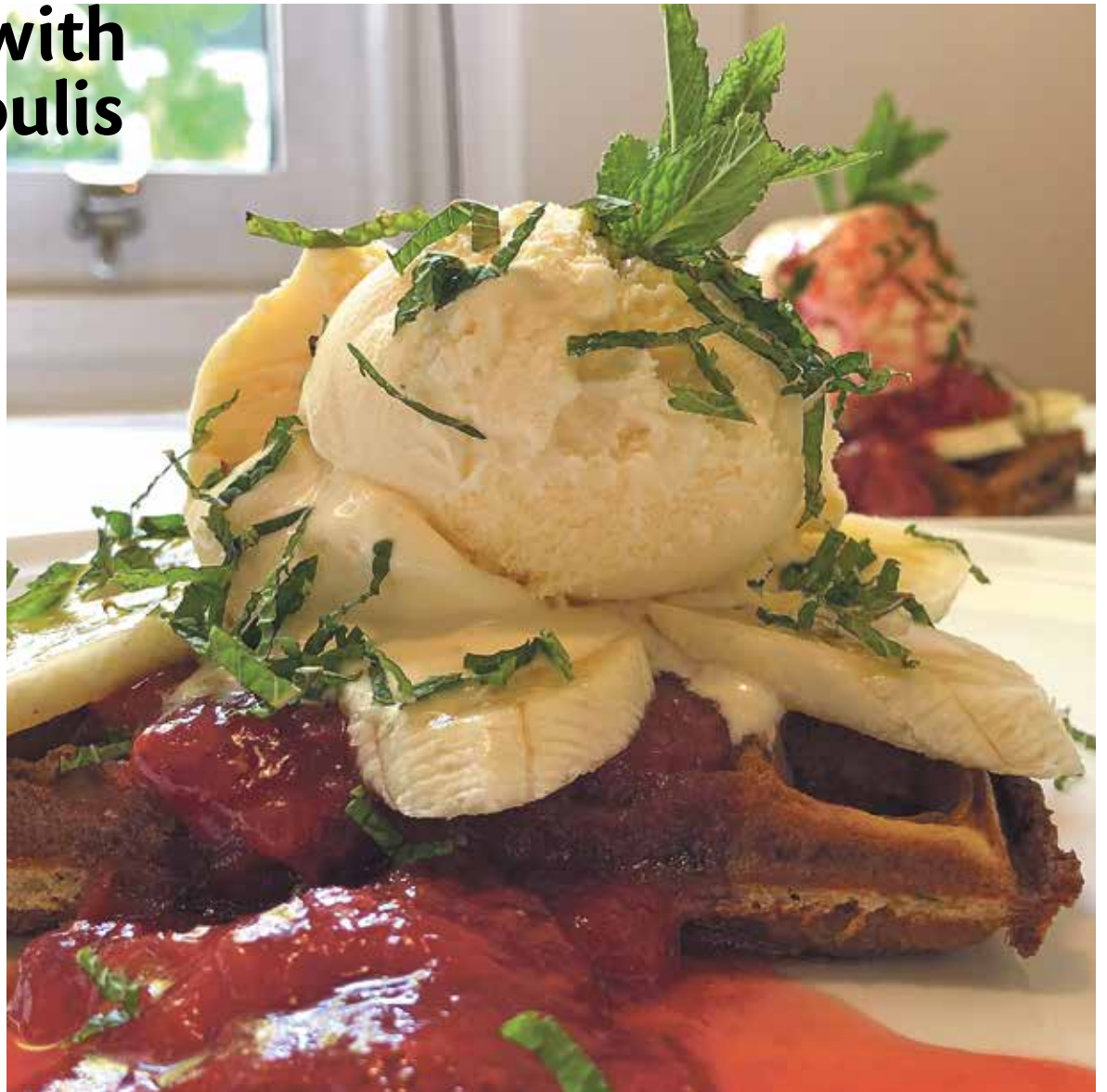
Continue to reduce coulis until slightly thickened before stirring in lime zest.

Set aside to cool.

To plate 1 serve, scoop coulis over half a waffle before arranging 6 banana slices on top.

Add one scoop of ice cream, garnish with mint leaf slices and one sprig tip.

Serves 8 with one half of a waffle each.



Savoury waffles with sweet toppings – perfect for any party!

Photo by Wai Lin Coultas

AMONG THE more prolific species of native Australian shrubs is *Callistemon*, or Bottlebrush. The gardening dictionary lists 28 different varieties. They belong to the same family as the Eucalypts — the *Myrtaceae*.

Tasmania can boast only one endemic species, *C. viridiflorus*, which as its name suggests, has bottle brushes of a greenish yellow. It is listed as drought tender, but once established, appears to tolerate very dry summers like the current one.

C. pallidus is a native of Tasmania and Victoria. It can grow very straggly and rangy unless it is trimmed regularly. The one pictured in the Deloraine Community Garden was trimmed to give more light to the street beds to the south – a fortuitous move, as it has

become a neat, dense bush with abundant flowers. These attract the bees in their hundreds – a pollination service for the other plants in the garden.

Callistemons from interstate can boast much brighter flowers than do the local varieties. *C. citrinus*, the Lemon-scented Bottlebrush bears its bright red flowers through the year, but as it is drought tender, flowers are few and far between this summer.

In the vegie garden

January is the last month for sowing frost tender dwarf beans. All of the Brassicas – cauliflower, cabbage and broccoli – may be sown, but it is better to leave them until the end of summer, to avoid damage to the seedlings from cabbage butterfly larvae.



Callistemon in Deloraine Community Garden. Photo contributed



Thane Bardenhagen

Sophie Poke



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Westbury fly fisherman braves wild weather at world championships

By Sharon Webb

IN 10 years of fly-fishing, Westbury's Josh Flowers has surpassed the achievements of his dad and fishing teacher, Grant Flowers from Montana.

Last month's World Fly Fishing Championships on the lakes and rivers of the Western Tiers was his second 'worlds' after Trentino in northern Italy last year. Next year he will head for Kuusamo in Finland and to Spain the year after that.

Josh began practising fishing around the age of 14 on the dam at home. 'I caught my first wild fish on my first trip and I've been hooked ever since.'

He'd always done salt-water fishing at St Helens and Swansea but it wasn't until Grant competed in the Australian and Oceania championships that Josh thought he'd give fly-fishing a go.

But even after competing with the world's best fly fishermen overseas, the Tassie worlds have been a memorable landmark for Josh.

Not only were the conditions wet and cold and wild, so were the fish – in comparison with those in the stocked waters of other countries.

'On the lakes it was cold and windy,' he said. 'In the four-hour competitions from boats on Little Pine and Penstock Lagoons and Woods Lake, it was difficult to keep in touch with the flies.'

'The better-feeding fish are in clean waters but as the lakes got dirtier it was hard to catch them. We needed to change techniques.'

'The wind was a major factor in how the anglers fished. But

they enjoyed their time here, even though the fish weren't so plentiful. The quality of the fish was good. They caught wild, strong fish in the practice weeks leading up to the championships.'

While anglers have caught 10,000 fish in other championships, they caught only 2000 in Tasmania.

'But the river fishing on the Meander and the Mersey improved through the competition,' Josh said.

'The wind reduced in the last couple of days, allowing anglers to be more in touch. Fish started to look up and feed off the surface. That made it more enjoyable.'

'We had long beats on the rivers to give anglers a lot of opportunities to catch fish.'

The weather took its toll too on the fishermen themselves. Many became ill, says Josh, after struggling with the elements.

But the best are always the best.

'We Tasmanians were prepared for the cold weather; we knew how many layers of clothes to wear. It's easy to say the weather is likely to be cold but the wind chill factor was pretty cold here. But these guys from other countries are the best in the world. After day one they developed a plan. They watched others and then executed their plan well.'

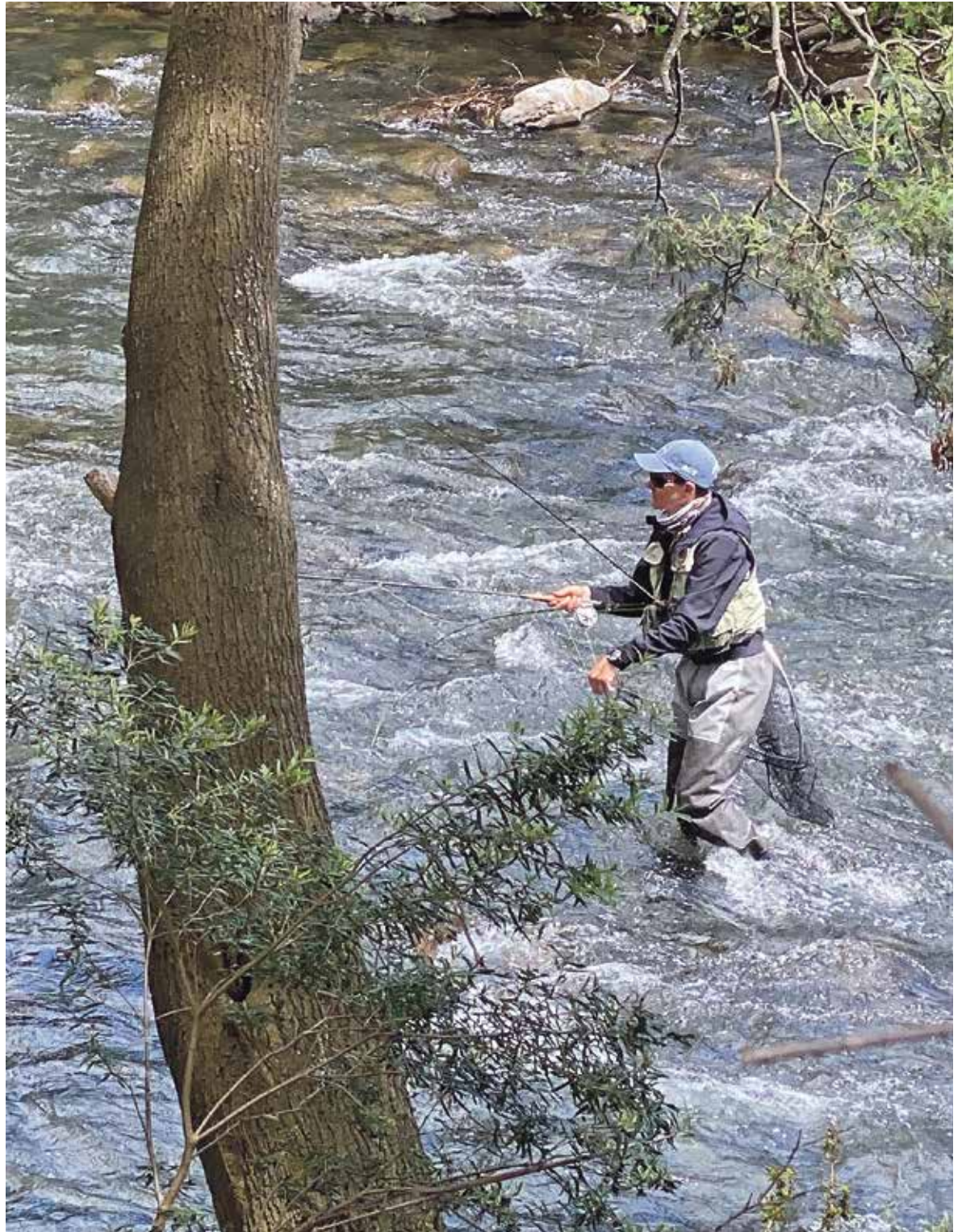
The closest world championships were reflected in the results: only one point between first and second placegetters, France and the Czech Republic.

Australia finished seventh out of 23 countries while Josh finished 28th out of 120 anglers.

Right: Westbury's Josh Flowers competed in Tasmania as a member of the Australian fly-fishing team and will represent Australia in Finland in 2020.

Below: Josh demonstrates his fly-fishing technique on the Meander River at the World Fly Fishing Championships.

Photos contributed



Laymen would consider the ability to wait patiently the main characteristic needed by fly fishers. But Josh disagrees.

'Patience generally doesn't play a big part,' he said. 'It comes down to confidence in your technique and your own ability to catch a fish.'

According to Josh, competitors have the ability to read the water and understand fish behaviour. They expect to catch fish – and they do.

'You've got to have the drive. I do it as a sport, not recreation, because I compete.'

Josh Flowers needed to come down to earth fast after weeks of swapping wild fishing days in the Western Tiers with socialising nights at the championships base, Launceston's Grand Chancellor Hotel.

Already he's back at his job at Petuna Aquaculture's Atlantic Salmon hatchery at Cressy, where as a hatchery technician he grows fish to 150g before they are transported to marine grow-out locations at Macquarie Harbour on Tasmania's west coast or Rowella on the Tamar River.

Until the next world championships Josh will be honing his technique in the 'awesome' dry fly-fishing locations of northern Tasmania – some of the best trout fisheries in the world, he reckons.

So where are the top spots? 'My favourite is the Meander River. If I've got a spare couple of hours I'll head out there.'

'And Little Pine and Woods are fantastic lakes. You can fish using a lot of different techniques on those lakes and consistently catch fish throughout the year.'

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Council makes unhappy campers

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY councillors backed down fast on motions for free camping in Westbury and Bracknell at their December meeting as residents accused them of treating ratepayers with contempt.

Free camping at Deloraine's Racecourse Drive survived, but councillors rejected the council's own motions to allow free camping for RVs on Westbury Recreation Ground and Bracknell Riverside Reserve.

Brad Hapner from Bracknell said, 'Local people shouldn't be disadvantaged. They did the work on the campground with their own hands and feel the council wants to oust them just so a few RVs can be parked there.'

'If this goes ahead councillors may find themselves not supported by the Bracknell community.'

Westbury residents living on Jones Street, adjacent to the recreation ground proposed for RVs, were furious.

Julie Summers told councillors that residents had to tolerate RVs and camper behaviour 'from when we get up until we go to bed.'

'I challenge any one of you to have 15-20 campervans in your backyard for six months and not have it impact on you,' she said.

David Pitman from Westbury said he didn't want to have to subsidise 'the lifestyle of grey nomads, driving around in motor homes worth more than my house'.

'I can only begin to fathom how upset and angry the residents of Jones Street must feel, who bought a home opposite a beautiful park, and who were entitled to reasonably believe that it would stay that way. Only to see council effectively turn it into a private asset - a caravan park for the use of non-ratepayers, so every morning when they look out their front windows at a dog's breakfast of a camping ground they have the added insult of knowing that they're paying for it!' he said.

'In essence the proposal involves using ratepayers'

money and assets to produce a service, which is then consumed by non-ratepayers at a price of \$0. The effect is to transfer a subsidy from ratepayers to non-ratepayers.'

Westbury and Bracknell businesses who make money from goods bought by campers have lobbied councillors to keep free camping. But residents have complained about noise, public urination and excessive alcohol consumption from campers.

Westbury resident Denise Swain told current councillors they had lost her vote.

'Experience clearly shows campers often don't do the right thing. Signage doesn't work. I've reported campers drinking in public in the presence of children to the council but they appear to condone it by doing nothing,' she said.

Owners of Hagley RV Farmstay, Stephen and Annette Camino, said they established their business as a direct result of the council's original closure of free Westbury camping, charging \$10 a night per van.

'Barely two months after opening our gate we are here facing a council intent on re-establishing free camping at the Westbury Recreation Ground in direct competition

to our business less than 5km away,' Ms Camino said.

'How can we successfully compete with the recreation ground's fully rate-payer subsidised facilities? Council has deliberately set us up to fail.'

Mr Camino said, 'We last met with Meander Valley Council general manager Jonathon Harmey and (director of community and development services) Lynette While in November where we were again advised to put our concerns in writing for presentation to the councillors at their workshop on 26 November.'

'We extended an open invitation to all councillors to contact us. Not one of our elected representatives bothered to reply. Meander Valley Council slogan 'Working Together' - the irony.'

Bracknell residents' objections were for a different reason. Traditionally, local families take their kids to the reserve for their first camping experience, teaching them how to swim and fish, Mr Hapner said.

Having camping open to RVs only would shut out locals - without consultation, he said.

Part of the problem is the incapacity of the Bracknell toilet. Ms While confirmed a limit of 10 flushes a day.



Westbury Recreation Ground has upgraded facilities, but will not be available for free camping. Photo by Mike Moores

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From January 2 until March 31, the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre in Deloraine has changed its opening hours.

The Visitor Centre team – Jen, Jade, Julie and Vicki will open the Centre from 8am to 6pm on weekdays.

Weekends and public holidays, the Centre will be open from 9am to 5pm.



The statue of famous racehorse Malua is in the forecourt of the Visitor Centre in Deloraine.

Photo by Mike Moores

Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8				9		
10					11	
12				13		
14		15			16	17
18	19		20		21	22
23				24		
25					26	

Across

- 8 Most intimate (6)
- 9 Former St George Dragons pro rugby hooker and national captain (3, 5)
- 10 'Iron Gloves', Test wicketkeeper (3, 5)
- 11 Sort of (2, 1, 3)
- 12 Gun butts (6)
- 13 What you usually see in a mirror (8)
- 14 Rare Queensland spider-eating flying mammal (6-6, 3)
- 18 Patriotic (4, 4)
- 21 Refuse to accept (6)
- 23 Deadeye Annie (6)
- 24 For the few (8)
- 25 Ghastly (8)
- 26 SA leader, ____ Marshall (6)

Down

- 1 Not too many (3, 2, 3)
- 2 Vast (6)
- 3 Gets cracking (6, 2)
- 4 Long NW Australian coastal strip (6, 4, 5)
- 5 Instead (2, 4)
- 6 Worried (8)
- 7 East Mediterranean democracy (6)
- 15 Inhabitants (8)
- 16 Playful dolphin relative (8)
- 17 Place for old documents (8)
- 19 Grounds (6)
- 20 Give the pink slip (3, 3)
- 22 Bullying seabird (6)

Sudoku

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

© 2020 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 January 2020 solution



Sudoku January 2020 solution

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

Events Diary

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

We're not just about tourists. We can help you with Spirit bookings, tours, statewide and national accommodation. Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre, 100 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine. Phone 6362 5280



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
Saturday 11 January 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>The Australian Dream</i>	Little Theatre, Deloraine MA15+ doc/drama Aus 105m 0418 389 868, westerntiersfilmsociety@gmail.com
Friday 17–Monday 20 January	Marakoopa Cafe Singing & Songwriting Retreat	The Belle Miners 'Learn to Love Your Voice' \$450 includes tuition, camping, food— www.marakoopacafe.com/events
Saturday 18 January 9am–2pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom, Westbury Ph 6393 1417
Saturday 18 January 9am–1pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Dve and Caveside Road Contact Ross Quick 0413 681 252
Sundays January to March 3–6pm	Little Laneway Summer Sessions	Little Laneway between The Empire Hotel and Seppenfeldts 19 Jan, 26 Jan, 2 Feb, 9 Feb, 23 Feb and 1 March
Tuesday 21 Jan, 4 Feb 10am–3pm	Tuesday Spinners resume at Deloraine House.	\$3 rent for room Tea and coffee free New spinners, weavers, learners welcome Spare spinning wheels available for loan
Tuesday 28 January 10am–12 noon	Meander Valley U3A 2020 enrolments.	Westbury RSL, cnr Lonsdale Prom & Lyall St Info meandervalleyu3a@gmail.com , 0407 951 823, 0414 891 793 or 6397 3169
Saturday 1 February 9am–1pm	Deloraine Market	Deloraine Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd Bodhi McSweeney 0409 695 321
Monday 3 February 12–2pm	Eating With Friends	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine \$7 Bookings essential Ph 6362 2678
Tuesday 4 February 1.30pm	Meander Valley Diabetes Support Group	Community Health Centre 89 Meander Valley Rd, Westbury Small plate afternoon tea +\$1 More info 0428 576 795
Thursday 6 February 10am	Deloraine Ladies Probus	Rotary Events Centre, Alveston Dve, Deloraine Annual fee \$25 Meeting fee \$10 including morning tea
Friday 7 February from 6.30pm	Eat & Greet Westbury Community Tea	63 Meander Valley Rd, Westbury (Westbus shed) All welcome Bring food to share More info 0408 134 057
Friday 7 February 7–9pm	Circle Dance	Weegen Hall
Saturday 8 February 2020 1:30–4pm	Westbury Flower Show	Westbury Town Hall, Lyall St, Westbury Entry \$2.00 Stalls, raffle & afternoon tea available
Saturday 8 February 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>Green Book</i>	Little Theatre, Deloraine M bio/comedy/drama USA 130m More info 0418 389 868
Monday 10 February	Meander Valley U3A term 1 classes commence	Info meandervalleyu3a@gmail.com or call 0407 951 823, 0414 891 793 or 6397 3169
Saturday 15 February	Carrick Harness Racing	East St, Carrick Free entertainment including fashions on the field, live music, jumping castle & face painting.
Every evening except Thursday 7pm	Platypus tour	Meander River, Deloraine Look for platypus, walk along river Free Meet at Empire Hotel
Every Mon, Tues & Wed 9am–4pm	Deloraine Community Shed	Alveston Dve, Deloraine For men & women to enjoy woodworking Fully equipped workshop Ph 6362 4522
Every Tuesday 10.30am–2pm	Emergency Financial Help	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Call 6362 2678 to book appointment
Every Tuesday & Thursday 9am	Heart Foundation Walking Group	Meet at Deloraine House just before 9am for an hour walk Walk at own pace NB new time
Every Wednesday	Community Garden Westbury	For information Fiona Thowe 6701 2154
Every Wednesday 6:30–8pm	Choir practice (in 4 parts)	Uniting Church Hall, cnr William St & Dexter St, Westbury New members welcome More info 0418 741 162
Every Thursday 10–11am	Physiotherapy & exercise classes	63 Meander Valley Rd, Westbury (Westbus shed) All welcome Bring food to share More info 0408 134 057
Every Friday 6.30–7.30pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Debbie 0439 695 081
Every Saturday 9–10.30am	Radiant Light Yoga	Deloraine Primary School Hall \$15 casual, beginners to advanced– All welcome thehealingyogini.com or Kat 0406430833
Every Saturday 11am–12 noon	Produce swap	Deloraine fountain (near the library)
Every Saturday evening	Computer games	Deloraine Online Access Centre 4–6pm ages 8–15 rated G From 6pm for ages 16+ Ph 6362 3537

Woolworths Deloraine butcher gets the chop

By Sharon Webb

WOOLWORTHS HAS axed the butcher in its Deloraine store and all meat is being shipped, ready-packaged, into the store.

But it will not say whether the Prospect store will retain its butcher.

In addition, the Woolworths meat is no longer individually priced at Deloraine but has a small tag on the shelf, making it difficult for sight-challenged people to read the total price and the price per kilogram.

A Deloraine store employee confirmed the butcher position was axed three to four months ago and Woolworths' media spokesperson said the change was not specific to the Deloraine store.

'We announced in June changes nationally to our store operating model to better meet the changing needs of our customers. This happened nationally in all stores,' she said.

Deloraine's store manager said many customers had complained about the packaging on

the shipped meat, which makes red meat look an unappetising shade of purple. She said she was powerless to do anything about it.

'Lindsay', a spokesman at the online Woolworths Customer Hub, said the new shipped meat packaging is 'Sealed Fresh' packaging, a form of vacuum packaging with no oxygen.

'Meat is naturally a darker colour (a burgundy type colour) but changes to the bright red you are used to when exposed to oxygen.

'As Sealed Fresh Packaging is completely sealed to keep out oxygen and keep meat fresh, the meat colour stays the natural dark colour.

'This is not due to any chemical addition or treatment but is the natural colour of the meat.'

Lindsay said prices had been removed from some set weight products to 'reduce complexity in-store'.

'This allows stores to quickly reduce the price or put products on promotion without the risk of stock being incorrectly

labelled. Each shelf will have the prices clearly displayed for our customers,' he said.

Woolworths says the Sealed Fresh packaging is widely used as it seals in freshness for improved quality.

'Meat packaged in Sealed Fresh is more tender and tastier than other packaging methods. This product also lasts longer, allowing customers to be more flexible with how and when they use the product and helping to reduce food waste,' Lindsay said.

Woolworths media office would not confirm the origin of Deloraine's meat. 'We continue to work closely with local producers to source meat where possible from within the state, with the majority of our beef sold in stores sourced locally from Tasmanian producers.'



Sorry time in Deloraine's Catholic Church finalised

By Sharon Webb

THREE CATHOLIC parishioners from Deloraine have agreed not to approach their former church leader for six months as part of a case resolution in the Launceston Magistrates Court.

Gerald, Maureen and Richard Bennett pleaded not guilty to the alleged assault of Father Nicholas Rynne, 38, and Ann Henry, 77, at Deloraine's Holy Redeemer Church on 30 March 2019.

While the three defendants were not required to attend court, their lawyer told magistrate Ken Stanton that the agreement was arrived at after negotiations with Tasmania Police.

The defendants signed the written agreement and the case was adjourned.

One defendant commented, 'As far as we're concerned it's at an end.'

Father Rynne was ordained a priest in 2013.

Photo by Sharon Webb

Tasmania Police were called to attend the minor disturbance in the sacristy of the church after Father Rynne's final service there.

Father Rynne and Ms Henry were allegedly pushed and grabbed during a minor altercation. No one was injured.

The court case is the final event in an unhappy time for the Catholic congregations of Deloraine and Westbury, following Father Rynne's appointment to the parish early last year.

Only six weeks into the appointment he had sacked the local board of the Deloraine and Westbury congregations and decreed Mass at Westbury would be in Latin. Parishioners voted with their feet and congregation numbers halved.

Following a visit in March by a retired Melbourne bishop to hear distressed parishioners' complaints, ultra-conservative Father Rynne was removed from the parish.

It is believed he is now an assistant priest in Sydney.

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CALLING ALL MEANDER VALLEY TO BACK EACH OTHER SUPPORT EACH TOWN TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FUTURE



Tourists, homebuyers and anyone thinking of opening a business in Westbury who search online for 'Westbury' currently read websites hailing Westbury as a 'charming heritage village'. But the proposed prison site has a Westbury address, so online news about riots or staff/inmate conditions will start linking Westbury to a prison. Government **cannot guarantee** this won't **harm tourism and business**. Sites away from towns avoid these risks while maintaining any benefits.

"Prison suburbs are notoriously unpopular on realestate.com.au." (Chief Economist REA Group, Australian Property Market Report, Apr 2019). Government **cannot guarantee that there'll be no impact on house and business prices**. A site outside towns avoids these risks to a town's businesses, homes and families.

Westbury Region Against the Prison Inc. (WRAP) **supports prisoners' families**. Some WRAP members **are also families of prisoners**. WRAP is **just calling for a prison to be sited outside small tourist towns**.

Economic benefits: Studies of rural prisons show that most jobs go to contractors in the bigger centres, **not** to small rural towns.¹ But if there are economic benefits, **they'll still be there** if a prison site is away from small towns. That way, **no-one loses: it's win-win**. Note that the proposed Westbury site is a high-grade industrial site: a prison at the site would reduce the opportunities for other industries to be based there.

Westbury is saying that no large prison should be FORCED on their village – or on any Meander Valley town that doesn't want it.

Some politicians are now **trying to use other Meander Valley towns against Westbury**. They're planning to ask, via their consultants, if other Valley towns are happy to force a prison on Westbury. *(They probably won't mention the bit about it being forced on Westbury² or mention that a prison site away from small towns is a fair, win-win option.)*

Meander Valley, let's stick together. Let's email the polities and tell their consultants:

- 1 Let Westbury decide. Not politicians. No-one else. Just the families who live there.**
- 2 Every small community should get to say what happens in their home town.**
- 3 Start respecting our rural towns. Find a site outside our towns: there's plenty of land.**
- 4 Politicians - stop using Meander Valley towns against each other for your own ends. It won't work. When fighting for respect and choice for our towns, we've got each other's backs.**

Let's support each other, Meander Valley. Ask for respect for *all* our towns, together. Government - find a site away from our small towns. Win-win!

For more details about the risks of the prison development and information on Westbury's heritage value, the WRAP website will be available soon at: www.westburyregionagainstthepison.org/
To support Westbury, please visit: [GoFundMe: Save Historic Westbury](https://www.gofundme.com/c/save-historic-westbury)

¹ Besser TL and Hanson MM (2004), 'The Development of Last Resort: The Impact of New State Prisons on Small Town Economies', *Journal of the Community Development Society*, 25: 1-16.
² Over 80% of Westbury adults don't want a prison in their village. Remainder split between 'unsure' and 'yes'. (Survey taken in December 2019; designed/analysed by independent university team (JCU); results given to Ministers.) **None of the 28 local businesses surveyed thought a prison at Westbury would be good for their business.**
We have a solution: let's find a site outside our small towns.