



TRADITIONAL TWIST

Chudleigh Show, Chudleigh style!

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GREEN HANDS ON COMMON

Visitors lend a hand with environmental weeding

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RUNNING WITH SCISSORS

Senator and Mayor cutting the ribbon

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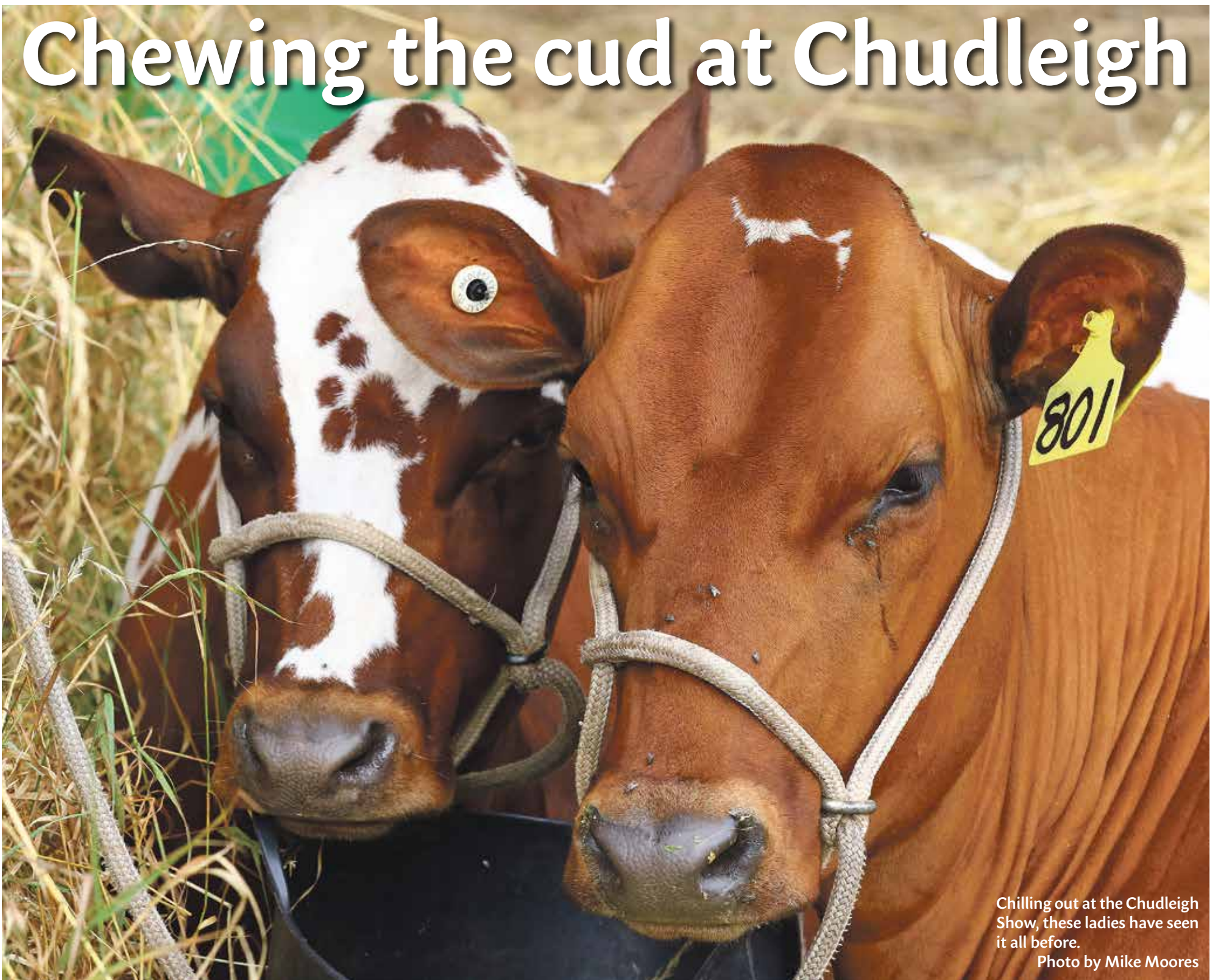
Meander Valley Gazette

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March 2020

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper

Chewing the cud at Chudleigh



Chilling out at the Chudleigh Show, these ladies have seen it all before.

Photo by Mike Moores

Challenges and wish-list for Premier in Westbury

By Sharon Webb

THE NEW Premier of Tasmania, Peter Gutwein, showed no sign of backing off on his government's plan for the new \$270m Northern Regional Prison at Westbury when he visited the town with Corrections Minister Elise Archer last month.

'Today is my first opportunity as Premier to see the site and meet people here to try to understand the issue,' Mr Gutwein said.

'From speaking to people in Westbury I think the response to the prison is positive but I understand some in the community aren't happy with the idea.'

Mr Gutwein visited the proposed site on Birrale Road then spoke to people around town.

'I went to the toilet at the Westbury Recreation Centre and as I came out I spoke to a family who were very happy about a prison,' he enthused.

'When I went for a coffee a group of men in the shop also thought it was a great idea.'

On Westbury's pretty village green, as Mr Gutwein gave a media conference and spoke to prison objector Emma Hamilton and her family, a police car cruised by to check on the small crowd.

Resident Phil Giles told the Premier he'd moved to Westbury in March last year but was on his way to a job

interview. 'If this prison goes ahead my family will move out of Westbury,' he said.

The bonhomie continued in a 'very friendly' 45-minute meeting between Mr Gutwein and 11 prison supporters, also attended by Ms Archer and Lyons MHA Mark Shelton.

(continued on page 2)

Premier's visit to Westbury

(continued from page 1)

Westbury resident Grace Rock said Mr Gutwein told the group everyone he'd met said, 'just build it'.

Ms Rock's group told the premier about their wish-list of new facilities for Westbury, should the prison be built.

'We mentioned the need for a new police station, an ambulance station, work and training opportunities for our young people, a retirement village, a swimming pool and perhaps a PCYC for the younger generation,' she said.

'We were very pleased to hear Mr Gutwein's statement that the prison will be built.'

Nine anti-prison residents, including WRAP president Linda Poulton, met Mr Gutwein later in the day.

'He listened – the first government minister we've met who actually listened and engaged,' Ms Poulton said.

'But he had a pre-conceived argument for everything we said. He was leaning towards the prison, not taking a middle line. He challenged a fair bit of what we said and tried to downplay sentiment against the prison in the town.'

In the meeting Ms Poulton told Mr Gutwein it was ludicrous that no-one could build a house on an industrial estate – but the government planned to house hundreds of prisoners in the Valley Central zone.

'We told him we will litigate against the prison on planning grounds. We will challenge and delay the process until we're heading into the state election and then we'll run an independent candidate.'

'He asked me if that was a threat and I said, "No, it's a reality. If you're not listening to us now, the Westbury booths won't be as good for you in the next election".'



Premier Peter Gutwein and Corrections Minister Elise Archer heard arguments both for and against the prison development when they arrived in Westbury for a media conference and meetings with opposing groups. Photo by Mike Moores

Wait for prison socio-economic report drags on

By Sharon Webb

WESTBURY AND the State Government will wait even longer for a socio-economic report on the impact of the proposed Northern Regional Prison at Westbury.

In December Corrections Minister Elise Archer told a public meeting she expected to see the report by SGS Economics in February but last week she told ABC Radio it would now be early April.

Even that date seems optimistic considering that at the time of writing, postal surveys of the Meander Valley Municipality have not been sent out, although a phone survey of 300 homes in the 7303 postcode area is complete.

But as with the phone survey, it seems that the postal survey will produce a result far from definitive of public opinion.

Phone surveyors asked to speak to only one person in the household – the youngest. The reason for choosing that age group is not known.

The postal survey will also consist of a form to be filled in by one member of the household only.

According to Minister Archer, other adults in the household who are keen to give their opinion on the prison site will need to ask for more forms.

Anti-prison group Westbury Region Against the Prison has described the phone survey as 'shambolic'.

'Some people were called multiple times,' WRAP president Linda Poulton said.

'And we're not confident 300 households were called. We asked our 200-plus members to let us know if they'd been phoned and only 15 contacted us.'

'We'd like to know who is standing behind the integrity of these surveys. The fact that people can ask for multiple

copies of the postal survey is open to corruption.'

Westbury prison supporter Grace Rock said she believed the phone survey was clear and fair.

'I was asked to rate my support level from 1-5 and given the opportunity to contact the Department of Justice for more information,' she said.

'I think they wanted to speak to young adults because it's a challenge for them to find a job.'

WRAP has called for the Interim Social Economic Report to be released immediately.

Ms Poulton said, 'The government needs to be open with those who participated in the survey.'

'If the outcomes of the phone survey via the Interim Social Economic Report are not released until April, this will add to the impression that the State Government intends to keep the residents of Westbury on tenterhooks about its decision.'

'It also means that by May the people of Westbury will have waited eight to nine months for the government to make up its mind on this.'

'If they take this course, it shows that they clearly don't care about the toll this is taking on us as a community.'

WRAP has criticised the survey for being directed to the youngest person in the household and that the first question asked people if they knew about the prison proposed for the Valley Central industrial site.

'It appears the government doesn't want to hear from older members of the community who are more likely to be concerned about the impact of a prison,' Ms Poulton said.

'In addition, most people wouldn't know the location of Valley Central.'

Labor Member for Lyons Jen Butler said the late report was another example of the mismanagement of the prison project by the Liberals.

'We have heard the Westbury community loud and clear – they do not want a maximum security prison built in their backyard,' Ms Butler said.

'It's time for the government to admit they have botched this process and go back to the drawing board.'

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Jen Butler MP
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jen.butler@parliament.tas.gov.au

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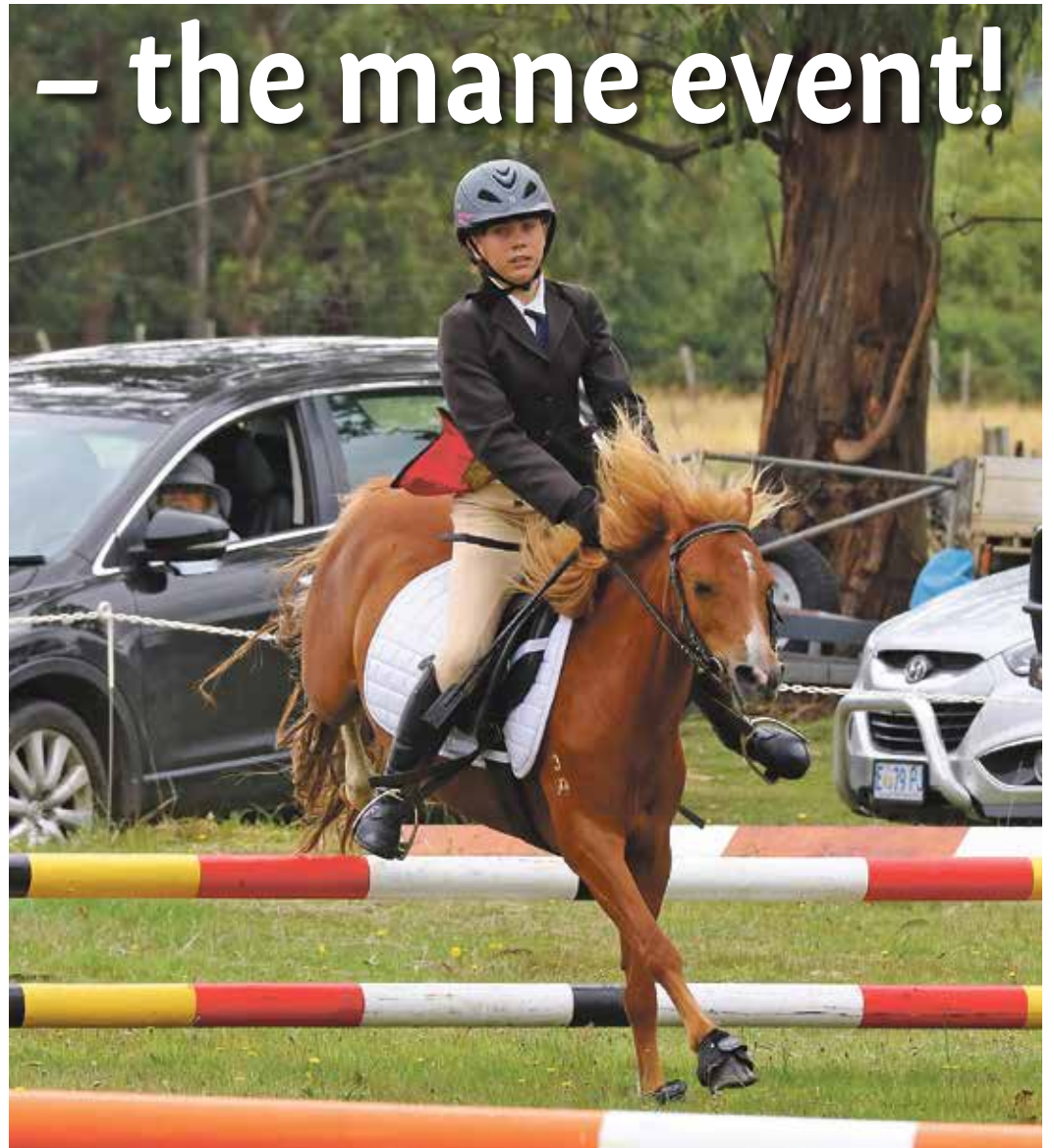
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Chudleigh Show – the mane event!



Above: Phoebe Calvert, age 9, from Yolla with a Guernsey calf. Above right: Charlie-Anne Bennett and Reggis of Golden Valley – a very small horse with big hair! Below right: Champion Tasmanian woodchopper, Daniel Gurr, at the 250mm standing block – demolishing his opponent with a final swing.
Photos by Mike Moores



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Letter from the Editor

MOST WRITERS this month have strong opinions about the proposed Northern Regional Prison and have obviously chosen the Gazette as a suitable way to express their views.

Other people prefer to use social media to share their

opinions, some make placards and stage protests, despite this last activity becoming increasingly frowned upon by those in authority.

Please continue to write letters to us. Diverse opinions will always be welcome.

Letters to the Editor

DON'T YOU hate it when ex-politicians put words in your mouth? To say that those who are anti-Westbury prison are anti-everything is false.

On 25.01.2020 Greg Hall had a letter published in *The Examiner*. In this letter he accused those opposed to the Westbury Prison as being anti-everything.

Not long ago a well-known chocolate factory wanted to establish in Meander Valley, bringing jobs, a guaranteed and stable income for the local dairy industry and flow on economic benefits for the whole Meander Valley.

Red tape and bureaucracy caused this investor to leave Tasmania and go interstate. Who was anti-everything then? Not us.

Government stopped an appropriate development that fitted with the ethos and way of life of the Meander Valley.

A large correctional centre close to a small historic village isn't a chocolate factory. It's a place of incarceration for the worst of people. Not a sweet enterprise that the community will delight in.

Yes, I am anti-prison but I am not anti-everything.

Perhaps Mr Hall should come and sit down with us and talk and find out our concerns rather than putting words in our mouths.

In the words of my grandfather who was also a member

of the Legislative Council and a champion of rural Tasmania for over 40 years, all I hear is a lot of 'blabbering' and not much fact coming from the pro-prison lobby.

I particularly wonder why ex-politicians are having so much to say on this issue, particularly when they have no skin in the game, or do they?
Anne-Marie Loader, Westbury

I HAVE no opinion either way about the prison, as I live well away from the town. However, there is one matter that seems to have been ignored by those who oppose its placement in Westbury.

In the same issue of our Northern daily which reported the objections of residents, I read a story about the mother of a Risdon inmate who set out from Burnie to visit her son only to hear, when she was approaching the South, that there was a prison lock down, and she had to turn around and go back to Burnie. I understand how much prisoners value visits from relatives, so the establishment of a prison in Northern Tasmania is a matter of compassion.

Prisoners escaping would be unlikely to hang around in the locality, but residents would be in danger of losing their cars if they were not housed in locked sheds.
Nell Carr, Dunorlan

even day-time activities outside the home will be soured by the anti-social behaviour experienced.

Unfortunately, it has become a difficult situation to discuss, but it is imperative at this critical stage, that these problems need to be openly aired.

Some locals are so fixated on the belief of manna from the consequences of crime and punishment (somewhat creatively called an 'industry', by government and supporters pushing for the new prison), that they just can't accept the harsh reality.

Other locals already have a family member in prison. When the planned new prison creates questions about crime and anti-social behaviour due to a minority of visiting or relocating families of prisoners, the locals feel they are being slighted.

I HAVE followed with some interest, the debate on the subject of the proposed prison in the Westbury area.

It may be said that I am not a Westbury resident and therefore have no right to an opinion on such an important matter.

If one were to draw a parallel with Deloraine's nearby Ashley Detention Centre, one could only conclude that such an institution brings benefits to the area.

Furthermore, as one who has had close links with tourists over the years, I never met one who doubted the wisdom of visiting Deloraine on the basis that a Detention Centre operated nearby.

In addition to the numbers of local people employed on the staff there, Deloraine has facilities unlikely to have been provided if Ashley was not in our area.

Well done, Gazette, for at last presenting the viewpoints of those who see merit in the development.

Graeme R Davis, Deloraine

WELL SAID Sean Manners and Deborah White. Maybe MVC could hold a public forum along the lines of the recent 100 day challenge and let the community decide if a Climate Emergency is warranted or in the very least implement a Climate Action plan for our lovely valley.
Yvonne Marett

MAKE NO mistake – Prospect, Hadspen, Carrick, Hagley, Westbury, Exton, Birralee, and Deloraine all deserve to benefit from the expansion of the Launceston Airport and the Cradle Mountain development project, but to situate a mega-prison along the pathway to the Great Western Tiers, with a remand centre in Prospect, will completely destroy the economic benefits not only for Westbury but all for our 'scenic route' towns!

We have desperately sought, expected and need this economic benefit for our 'scenic route' towns! All of us are mindful that tourists DO NOT STOP anywhere near a maximum security prison!

The Liberal party proponents of the proposed new Northern Regional Prison in Westbury

SO THE Bob Brown Foundation is a business, the Regulator is apolitical, and Ministers weren't involved. Yeah, right.

Another step in Tasmania's inexorable evolution into an intellectually barren wasteland in a wilderness raped to death.

This is a police state where successive governments mindlessly trash the environment, and dissent is banned on threat of bankruptcy or imprisonment – a place China will easily recognise when its takeover is complete.

Apology

Last month, our front page featured a photo of three local volunteer firefighters who were deployed to the mainland to assist other communities during the bushfire crisis.

More volunteers were listed in the story, but we failed to mention two volunteers from Mole Creek: **Anna Philpott** and **Rhys Mills**.

We apologise to any other firefighters who should have been mentioned and also for not checking that the list was complete.

Fire service volunteers do not do their job for the publicity, but the Meander Valley community is extremely proud of them and our oversight was immediately brought to our attention.

WESTBURY IS the heart of the Meander Valley. It holds the Council buildings and the Town Hall.

Our community is trying desperately to protect Westbury from becoming a prison town, but many of our councillors appear prepared to sacrifice Westbury, and to risk Meander Valley becoming a prison municipality.

Heather and Chris Donaldson, Westbury residents for over 40 years

keep banging on about 'economic and social benefits' for the region. I wonder what makes them think that there will be any such benefits? You can look anywhere you like, all around the world, and nowhere will you find a small peaceful town like Westbury happily coexisting with a large maximum security prison.

The truth is – wherever you find a large prison in close proximity to a village or small town in a rural area, that area is run-down, neglected and ridden with crime. None of us should believe the web of disinformation being spun around us by those who have something to gain at our expense. The whole of Meander Valley needs to be wary of their relentless propaganda. It's time to wake up!
Scott Grisman, Deloraine

Nowhere else are heritage resources such as ancient trees deemed noxious species so dangerous that parliament mandates annual harvesting targets, irrespective of concomitant forest destruction and endless public financial losses.

A tourism equivalent would be to pay all visitors' expenses, plus top-up going home grants. You couldn't make this stuff up.

Tasmania's government vandalism is Australia's disgrace.
Peter Anderson, Western Creek

EST.
2013

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Phone: 6286 8212 (Please leave a message, as it will send an email.)

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Green hands make light work on the Common



By Di Robinson and Liz Douglass

WEEDING IS a back-breaking job so for an area the size of the 52 acre Westbury Town Common, you need all the help you can get.

Three Young Greens from Hobart – Jasper Lees, Inala Swart and Millie Knott – drove three hours here and back again, to spend five hours weeding with Di Robinson of the Town Common Landcare Group.

Joining Rebecca Gottschalk from Launceston and Brontë Temple from Devonport, their efforts collected six extra-large bags of weeds.

Hand weeding is the only environmentally friendly way of removing weeds and preventing them spreading.

On the Common, the large population of seven frog species, including the threatened Green and Gold Frog (*Litoria raniformis*), means that toxic

chemical sprays should not be used.

Green weeds dug out and bagged for removal included various thistles, wild turnip, ivy, cape weed, asparagus and teasel. Conifer, prunus and hawthorn seedlings are removed as well.

Dry seeded weeds are cut above ground level and the stalks dabbed with a woody weed solution – no impact on any of the resident threatened species.

The corridors of native grass on the Common are a vital habitat for resident fauna including both the southern brown and eastern barred bandicoot, a variety of lizards and all seven species of frog.

For autumn and winter, the flattened grasses become a blanket of protective corridors for all the small animals.

Nocturnal bandicoots sleep deeply through the day and are especially vulnerable.

These blanket corridors are integral to their daytime safety – providing pantries, pathways and bedrooms – so should be left undisturbed by walkers, dogs and slashers.

During the day, the weeding team were delighted to hear many Common Froglets celebrating the onset of rain and to see Green and Gold Frogs basking in the sun.

For the past 10 years, the Town Common Landcare Group has taken great pleasure in sharing their outdoor living classroom, the Common, with many preschool, primary and special needs students.

The Young Greens are all planning on returning in the near future and inviting other members to volunteer for the next environmental working bee on the Town.

Lunch was supplied by Verde of Westbury, kindly donated by Cassie O'Connor of the Tasmanian Greens.



Top, Jasper Lees, Rebecca Gottschalk and Inala Swart bagging weeds. Bottom, Millie Knott and Brontë Temple cutting dry seeded weeds and dabbing the stalks with weed solution.

Photos supplied



Thane Bardenhagen

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Tasmanian forestry sector treads lightly



Brian Mitchell with Victor Violante of AFPA. Photo supplied

Letter to the editor continued from page 4

That's unfortunate, because as law-abiding community members, they too will be at risk from some visiting or relocating family members of prisoners.

Others well-intentioned, mention past offenders who have entered prison, and become rehabilitated. They too, will not be the cause of serious problems that Westbury inherits along with a maximum security prison.

The main problems will arrive via members of families who have well-entrenched, inter-generational and intra-familial records of crime and anti-social behaviour. What police and criminologists call 'criminal families' or 'career criminals'. Some studies have shown that as few as 10% of such families have accounted for more than 60% of convictions.

According to Tasmanian Police, the range of offences includes firearms and drug offences, shoplifting, aggravated burglary, and even car jacking.

Strangely, quite a few Westbury locals, have countered by saying the village already has

some crime, and that is true, as it would be for any Australian village, town or city.

Several local businesses, have had multiple break and enter thefts in recent years. More alarmingly, a few years back, some friends, around 80 years old, woke in the early hours of the morning, to find burglars in their home. A terrifying situation regardless of what age you might be. As it turned out, the burglars fled, but it could have ended with a far more adverse outcome.

Various outsiders, who have worked in prisons, or lived near prisons, have been very dismissive of the risks for Westbury people, but I believe that is in part due to a lack of understanding of the unique mix of factors involved in locating a prison in Westbury.

We are not facing a Chicago or New York scale crime wave in Westbury.

But would anyone really be happy with a doubling or tripling of home invasions, aggravated burglary, car theft and gun crimes?

Would anyone really want that for their themselves, family, friends or businesses? Does anyone want threats and abuse

By Brian Mitchell MP,
Federal Member for Lyons

TASMANIA'S FORESTRY industry treads widely and lightly. Unfortunately, that's not the picture that protesters paint.

In the north-west coupe that is the centre of protest action right now, just 60 trees from 25,000 are being selected for harvesting. That's like selecting people from one street out of the municipality of Meander Valley, plus the nearby towns of Longford and Perth.

It's hardly the wanton destruction that organisations like the Bob Brown Foundation would have us believe.

Furthermore, the harvested timber will be used in high-value products – just the sort of industry the protesters have previously told us they support.

from anti-social behaviour, when they are simply socialising or shopping.

Surely, even just one more home invasion in anyone's lifetime would be one too many in our lovely village as payment for accepting a high security prison?

Especially not when it can be easily avoided, by the government not sentencing Westbury to such a future.

I have explained these real issues to The Attorney-General, Ministers Barnett and Shelton, former Mayor Craig Perkins, NTDC Chair, and MVC Councillors. I'd like to discuss this with former Mayor and MLC Greg Hall, but can't seem to locate him.

Peter Mackenzie has been a social, safety and infrastructure development researcher for decades; a former Youth Development Officer in rural local government; Youth Worker with Ravenswood Walk Tall; Crime and Safety Project Officer for Launceston City; Consultation Project Officer for Council on The Ageing (COTA, NSW); Outreach Worker for older people and people with disabilities in insecure accommodation.

Unfortunately, they keep changing the goalposts of what they consider acceptable.

From Tasmanian forestry we get beautiful crafts and products, structural timbers and veneers, paper and fuel. Harvested timber is a carbon sink, as are the replacement trees to be harvested in years to come.

Sustainable forestry is a climate change action ally, not enemy.

Tasmanian forestry can and should also be a tourism drawcard, just as our hydro-electric scheme, dairy, distilling, fishing and berry industries have proven to be. Forestry and tourism can and should be complementary.

The other major benefit of a well-resourced timber industry is its ability to fight bushfires. Whether by fuel reduction, the creation of well-maintained tracks that act as firebreaks and access trails, or employment of expert personnel and equipment, foresters are renowned worldwide for their firefighting ability.

Did you know the 2019 bushfires in Tasmania, impacting 200,000 hectares including 40,000 ha of timber production land, were our state's biggest since 1967? Despite our best efforts we haven't figured out a way to stop dry lightning strikes – there were more than 2500 in January last year, but the preparation, planning and hard work of responding fire agencies and volunteers resulted in there being no fatalities. It was a marvellous effort.

However, as we've seen with the mainland we must prepare for the reality of a hotter and drier and more extreme climate: more than 30 people dead, a staggering 11 million hectares burned to a cinder – equivalent to nearly 100 years' of Tasmanian timber production – and an horrendous, incalculable loss of wildlife and livestock.

Facts and figures often fly about in the forestry debate, but here are some to remember:

- Tasmania's land mass is about 6.8 million hectares, of which 3.4 million is forest;
- 52% of Tasmania's 3.4 million hectares of forest is protected in reserves, including 85% of Tasmania's old growth;
- more than 90% of Tasmania's forest is native forest, with the balance in plantations;
- Tasmania's plantation forest is mostly in private ownership and comprises 76% hardwood and 24% softwood;
- the Tasmanian Parliament has set aside 812,000 hectares of public land as Permanent Timber Production Zone Land, with another 1 million ha of forest on private land potentially available for harvest;
- Sustainable Timbers Tasmania is legally required by the Tasmanian Parliament to make available from Permanent Production Zone land at least 137,000 cubic metres of high-quality eucalypt sawlogs and veneer logs every year in order to fulfil contractual obligations;
- forestry supports 3000 well-paid jobs (82% full time) in regional Tasmania and contributes \$1.3 billion to the state economy.

So, Tasmania's forestry industry is permanently locked out of half the state and where it does operate, it employs world's best practice. In fact, harvested coupes are regrown to such a high standard that protestors demand they be regarded as high-conservation value!

Tasmania's forestry sector is certainly miles ahead of Asia and South America, where football fields of forest are being bulldozed and burned every hour to make way for palm oil plantations and cattle grazing.

Overseas is where the real fight for forest conservation and biodiversity is, but instead we see constant protests in Tasmania, including in coupes that have been negotiated with conservationists as production areas. Tasmanians are quite rightly sick of it.

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WESTBURY'S NEW Recreation Ground Function Centre has had a chequered history, beginning in 2013 with plans to renovate the old buildings. But in 2018, after Meander Valley Council presented designs to which many Westbury residents objected, a public meeting sent the council back to the drawing board.

Officially opened on February 21 by Senator Claire Chandler and Mayor Wayne Johnston, the new building is the result of successful council/community consultation. Here's what some users and local residents think of the new facility:

Michael Claxton, president Westbury Shamrocks Cricket Club:

It's unbelievable compared with the way it was a year ago. The centre is fantastic for the community as well as for teams like ours. It's a 2020 modern style with a kitchen, bar, more showers and showers for women – and it's bigger and cleaner.

Rob Shaw, secretary Meander Valley Suns Football Club:

We're stoked to have new facilities. Before it was disgusting and horrible – the club didn't have much of a future the way

it was. We're looking forward to the football season for a chance to enjoy it.

Sean Manners, Westbury resident:

Meander Valley Council listened more closely to the users this time around and I think it's going to fit. They've done a much better design job, re-using an existing asset as change rooms. The mint green and grey colours are ... interesting!

Kieran Hulme, junior development officer, Westbury Shamrocks Cricket Club:

I can't describe how much of an improvement it is! We had a function recently to celebrate 70 years as a club and we fitted in 150 people. It's an inviting place and most opposition teams have commented that it's a vast improvement on what we had before.

Pam Swain, owner Fitzpatrick's Inn, Westbury:

The centre is a fantastic facility for the community and it's great that it's been built. I congratulate the former general manager of the Meander Valley Council, Martin Gill, and his staff on working with the sports clubs to achieve this excellent result.

Big score for local sport



Above, from left: Mayor Wayne Johnston, Leigh Watts (Meander Valley Suns Football Club representative) and Kevin Pitt (President, Westbury Recreation Ground Management Committee) enjoy the view from the scorers' box at the new Function Centre (below). Photos by Mike Moores



Former GM told MV councillors: No need for 'formal endorsement' of a prison site search

By Sharon Webb

THE FORMER general manager of the Meander Valley Council told councillors there was no need to put his search for prison sites to a full council meeting – and they took his word for it.

Two emails from former general manager Martin Gill gained under the Right to Information Act reveal that State Government officers nominated two possible prison sites in the Meander Valley and Mr Gill did the legwork to put forward expressions of interest.

The 2018 emails show that at least three current Meander

Valley councillors, who will be on the planning authority examining possible rezoning of the proposed 135 Birralee Road Westbury site for a prison, knew about the whole process and accepted Mr Gill's advice not to reveal it publicly in an open council meeting.

In his 26 September 2018 email Mr Gill discounted the need for the full Meander Valley Council to endorse his actions searching for prison sites. He claimed, 'If our role is simply to facilitate ... landowners making an EOI submission we probably don't need formal endorsement of council'.

Because no council meeting discussed Meander Valley

sites being considered, the municipality's residents were blindsided a year later by Corrections Minister Elise Archer's announcement of Westbury being the favoured site. Residents had no way of knowing any site other than Ashley Youth Detention Centre was being contemplated.

Councillors Michael Kelly, Tanya King and John Temple, all councillors before the October 2018 local government election, received emails dated 26 and 27 September 2018 from former general manager Martin Gill describing the search for sites and his communications with the State Government.

Former mayor Craig Perkins who recently stated he 'can't recall' any discussions on prison sites, also received the emails, as well as former councillors Deb White and Ian Mackenzie. Several names on the emails were redacted.

Councillor Kelly refused to answer questions on the matter, saying he was 'away' and there was 'not a chance' he could answer questions.

Cllr King defended her actions. 'There really was no decision to make, as there simply wasn't enough detail. To this day, there has still been no proposal or submission in order for council to make a decision on,' she said.

'It is normal for a GM or delegated officer to pursue investment and projects within the municipality. I believe he was simply doing his job.'

Cllr King's recollection of Mr Gill's involvement was vague – 'that the GM at the time expressed a view that there was a possibility that some private land owners were wishing to pursue the project. He did not provide details of the landowners, or the proposed locations.'

Cllr Temple said he thought the emails solely related to the Ashley site – which the council had supported as a prison site.

'Obviously I didn't get the right nuance from these emails. I was surprised when the Minister made the announcement.

'With the benefit of hindsight I would have tackled this differently. This thing wasn't talked about among councillors and

it happened during the election process.

'In my years as councillor I've found councillors compared notes on important issues. I'm amazed it didn't happen in this case.'

The September 2018 emails, gained through RTI by the anti-prison group WRAP, reveal Mr Gill told councillors he had discussed two sites 'in some detail' with the director of prisons, Ian Thomas.

He also had discussions with the government's project manager and her predecessor 'about a couple of sites in the Meander Valley which they had some early interest in'.

These were both private landholdings, he said, commenting, 'Because of this I need to work with the landowners to discuss their support to nominate their land in the EOI process.'

On 27 September Mr Gill added, 'At a strategic level, a site along, or with easy access to the Bass Highway west of Launceston, fits the underpinning criteria and suits the objective to service the courts in the north as well as address the issue of family and community access.'

'A facility cannot be built on the same land as Ashley. There is a UN convention that prevents this occurring.'

'The prison will be built behind a solid wall.'

'There is a possibility that two facilities will be built in separate locations. The second facility would be a transport hub to service prison and court transport.'

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Facelift on the Village Green

RESTORATION OF the exterior of the Westbury RSL building on Lonsdale Promenade has begun.

The work is part of an extensive program requiring heritage and specialist input.

Located on the historic Village Green, the building is of great importance to the history of Westbury.

Convict-built circa 1832, the building has been a court house, gaol, police station and council building before being purchased last century by the Westbury RSL Sub Branch.

Councillors say unique Westbury is being whittled away by subdivision

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY councillors have rejected the subdivision of land in Westbury, risking an appeal to the state's planning authority.

Council officers recommended approval of subdivision of the block, zoned low density residential, at 87 Five Acre Row into four lots.

But most councillors agreed with the one objector to the

plan, Karen Murray, who lives at 24 Five Acre Row.

At the February council meeting, Ms Murray outlined the history of the original allocation of blocks in that area to soldier settlers after the war.

'In the past 18 months there have been numerous planning applications to subdivide these unique five-acre blocks which I, along with other neighbours and residents, have objected to,' she said.

'This is because these blocks were never to be subdivided. This has been passed down through the ages.

'I, along with others, believe that by allowing these types of subdivisions to occur, the unique lifestyle, character, heritage and ambience of the area will be forever lost.'

Ms Murray said it was clear that most subdivision applications in the area had been submitted and approved by people who were not locals – 'people who have no regard for the historic values and are so hell-bent on destroying the unique lifestyle these five-acre blocks allow.'

Cllr Rodney Synfield called on councillors to reject the application. 'Little by little we're changing the peripheral area of Westbury into something different from what it was,' he said.

'There is a belief that you can subdivide and get a tick as long as you can show a distinction between the low-density area and the general residential area.

'This needs to be tested. We have a good case. At least then we would clearly know the situation.'

Cllr Frank Nott said it was important that the history, character and amenity of the area were kept.

'The grid design of Westbury is unique. Battleaxe blocks cannot be accommodated. In this case there could be three lots rather than four and all would be over 5,000 square metres in size.

'The unique pattern of this area is gradually being whittled away. We have to stand up and make a statement and there's a good chance the tribunal [Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal] will support us.'

Rejecting the application could be risky for the council. In August 2018 it refused planning approval to subdivide 61 Veterans Row in Westbury, but through a subsequent appeal and mediation process, the decision was overturned.

The council's major risk in appeals to RMPAT is the high costs of legal fees, paid with residents' rates.

A motion rejecting the subdivision was put by Cllr Synfield, seconded by Cllr Nott. The reasons given were that subdivision would not satisfy the interim planning scheme and would adversely impact the amenity and character of the low-density area, therefore not furthering the desired future character of the area.



A fresh new exterior for Westbury RSL, business as usual inside.

Photo by Mike Moores

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Information Regarding Northern Regional Prison Preferred Site Mail-Out Survey

Residents and ratepayers of the Meander Valley Local Government Area will soon receive a community survey regarding the preferred site for the Northern Regional Prison.

Why is this survey being conducted?

- This independently conducted survey is another opportunity for the community to provide feedback on the Northern Regional Prison's preferred site, in addition to the phone survey conducted in the 7303 postcode area in February 2020 as well as extensive community consultation conducted by the Government.

Who is conducting the survey?

- SGS Economics and Planning is independently undertaking the survey as part of its task to complete a Social and Economic Impact Study for the preferred site.

How will the survey be undertaken?

- The survey will be mailed out and addressed to householders. It will contain a questionnaire with a prepaid return envelope. The survey will be mailed to each identified household within the Meander Valley Local Government Area.

When will it happen?

- Surveys will be received from 16 March 2020 and responses will be due by 30 March 2020.

Will my survey be private?

- All surveys are confidential. It is not possible for SGS Economics and Planning to individually identify survey responses.

What do I do if I haven't received a survey?

- Issues can happen with mail. Therefore if you are a resident or ratepayer of the Meander Valley and haven't received a survey, you can contact the email address or phone number below and arrangements will be made for you to receive one.

Email: northern.prison@justice.tas.gov.au

Phone: (03) 6165 6782



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A Deloraine family story

For who can bear to feel himself forgotten?
W H Auden, 1936

By Roberta Shaw

WHEN DOREEN Elizabeth Clarke posed for a photograph of herself standing in a Launceston street she never thought she'd have to wait so long to see her father again.

Her mother, Zetta Florence Clarke, posted the card off to her husband, Doreen's father, on Doreen's fourth birthday not knowing whether he would receive it or whether, indeed, he would even recognise his little girl.

Doreen celebrated her fourth birthday on May 4th 1941, and was, if the blonde rag-curls are anything to go by, quite the Shirley Temple of Tasmania.

Doreen's father, Private Leslie Thomas Clarke, had enlisted as a soldier in the Australian Imperial Force.

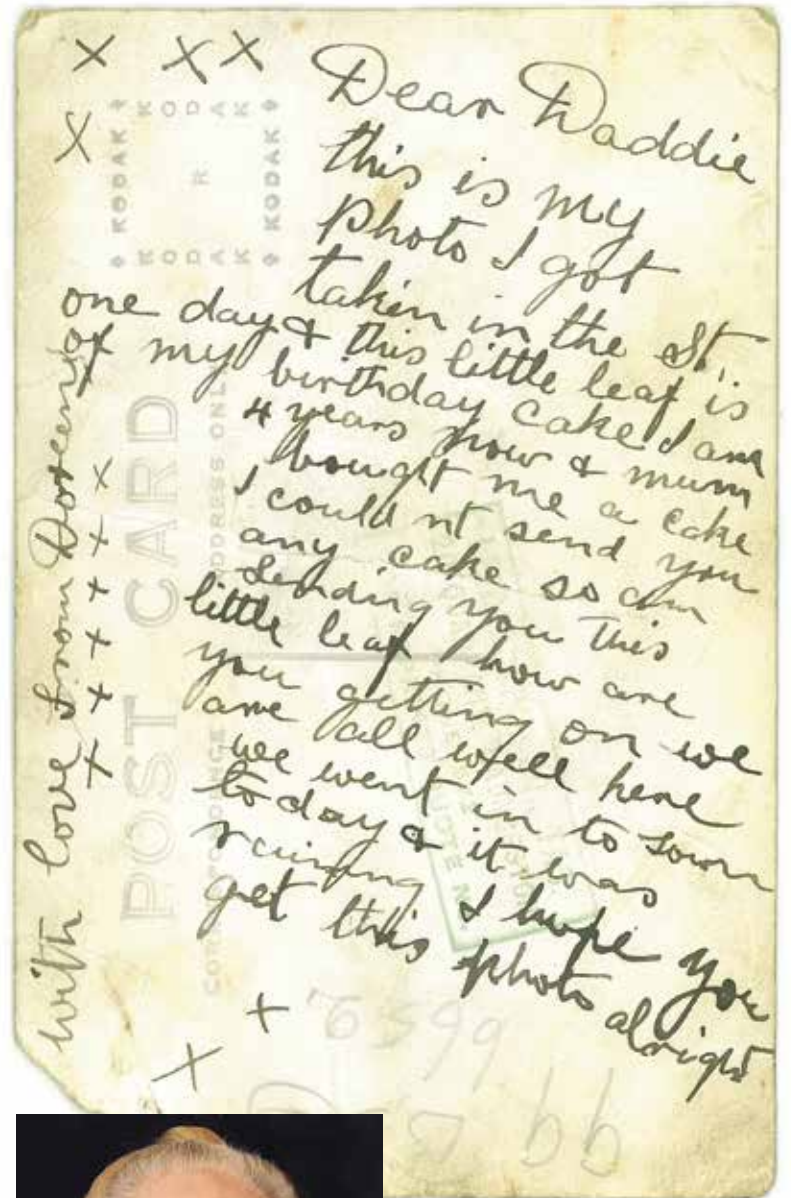
He embarked for Liverpool in the UK in December 1939 when Doreen was only two-and-a-half years old.

Leslie received the postcard in the north-eastern Egyptian town of El Qantara, a hospital centre during World War II, where he was convalescing from a broken leg.

The postcard arrived in good time for his onward journey to serve in other parts of the Middle East.



Private Leslie Clarke carried the postcard on his travels, serving in the Middle East from May 1940 to August 1942. The inscription on the back of the photo-postcard was written by Doreen's mother, Zetta Florence Clarke. All photos supplied by family



Doreen Elizabeth Shaw (nee Clarke) marks 79 years since she mailed her postcard to her father.

Doreen lived in Deloraine until age 16 when she left for Melbourne. She married her husband, the late Gordon Arnold Shaw, in 1958 and returned to Tasmania in the mid-1980s.

Doreen now lives in Deviot on the banks of the Tamar but fondly remembers making toast by the roadside on an open fire, while chilling ginger-beer in the cool waters of the Meander River.

School walks with her sister, Elaine, in the early 1950s, are the highlight of her memories of life in Deloraine.

Looking nostalgically at the photograph of her four-year-old self, Doreen concedes that she was never forgotten – not for a minute – during those long years when her father was away.

Doreen turns 83 in May.



An older, but no less vigorous Leslie, son Colin, aged about 19, and sheepdog, Nell at their Reedy Marsh farm, Fern Hill, circa 1948.

Leslie was granted recreation leave from the army in June of 1944. He returned home for two weeks and to his wife's delight, a new baby arrived in April the following year. Elaine was a welcome surprise for all – Zetta being aged 41 at the time.

Doreen had kept a copy of the postcard she had sent her father and waited patiently to reunite it with its mate.

Leslie returned home with the much-travelled and dog-eared postcard safely in his haversack, to find a grown-up little Doreen, now seven-and-a-half.

Doreen greeted her father sceptically. 'Dad asked where the cute little girl from the photograph had gone,' said Doreen, 'but I was still there inside.'

Doreen admits to bewilderment at the prospect of having her father home for good. 'It took some getting used to.'

Leslie Thomas Clarke was born in Exton in 1905. He married 23 year-old widow, Zetta Florence Clarke, in 1927 and became a stepfather to her two daughters, Gladys and Zetta.

The family moved to Melbourne where their son, Colin, was born in 1929. They returned to Exton a couple of years later.

In 1948 the family moved to Reedy Marsh to live on the

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Council News



Above: The recently completed club room and function space redevelopment at the Westbury Recreation Ground



Above: Cr Nott, Cr King, Senator Chandler, Cr Cameron and Mayor Johnston at the official opening of the Westbury Recreation Ground redevelopment.

Recreation Ground officially opened in Westbury



MVPAC makes a grand entrance

Work is progressing well on the foyer refurbishment at the Meander Valley Performing Arts Centre. The existing timber cladding has now been removed and is being prepared ahead of re-use at a later stage.

Current focus for the contractors will be on the installation of a new ceiling, heating and electrical components. Work on the entrance to the theatre will follow and the final stage of work will include the re-purposing of the existing costume room to transform the space into a new casual seating area.

Work underway on refurbishment at the Deloraine Football Club

Work is underway on the refurbishment of the wet areas at the Deloraine Football Club, with the umpires room and the home and away shower areas benefiting from refits.

"Due to the age of the existing infrastructure, some challenges have been encountered," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

The building work has revealed a lack of wall symmetry, rotting floorboards and some under-slab issues. This has resulted in variations to the original scope of the work.

"Solutions have been found with the contractors who are doing a fantastic job and are still on track to have the work completed before the start of the football season," Mayor Johnston said.



Time is almost up for outstanding permits

Has any building, plumbing or demolition work been undertaken at your property between November 1994 and November 2012 that had a permit issued?



All building, plumbing and demolition permits that were issued between November 1994 and November 2012 will automatically expire on 1 July this year in accordance with the Building Act 2016. If your property has a permit to carry out any building, plumbing or demolition work during this period and you have not obtained a Certificate of Completion, you must do one of the following:

If the work is complete:

Contact Council to arrange for a Final Inspection so a Certificate of Completion can be issued before your permit expires on 1 July 2020

If the work is not complete:

Contact Council to apply for an extension before your permit expires on 1 July 2020

If you are unsure

If you are not sure if your property had a permit during this period or you do not know if a Certificate of Completion has been issued, please contact Council and we will be able to assist you.

If you allow your permit to expire, any work undertaken beyond 1 July 2020 will be deemed illegal. In order to obtain a Final Inspection, a Certificate of Completion or to finish the work you will need to submit a new application, supporting documentation and pay any associated fees.

If you are unsure of the status of your work, contact Council's Development Services Team on 6393 5320 for assistance and avoid unnecessary fees and application times.

Senator Claire Chandler joined Mayor Johnston, Councillors, club representatives and invited guests to officially open the Westbury Recreation Ground redevelopment on 21 February.

Senator Chandler said local sporting clubs will benefit from the new facilities which also provide improved health and fitness activities for the wider community.

Mayor Johnston said it was difficult to imagine that just under 180 years ago, the site was referred to as "the swamp" and the local Council at the time, received an application from the Westbury Cricket Club, asking permission to fence about six acres of "the swamp" so it could be used for public recreation and a cricket ground.

With a total project cost of \$2.2m, the recently completed redevelopment includes a function space available to all the community, store and medical rooms and unisex home and away change rooms.

"For well over a hundred years, the Westbury Recreation Ground has evolved and adapted in response to the changing community that surrounds it. It is no longer referred to as "the swamp" and this new facility will better cater for the rising profile of women's teams, ensuring that for many, cricket and football are no longer just spectator sports.

"On behalf of Council, I would like to thank our project partners, the Australian and Tasmanian Governments for their valuable contributions. We are proud to have invested in what could be described as the centerpiece of this town and more importantly, the local community," Mayor Johnston said.

Contact us by phone on 6393 5300

Email us at mail@mvc.tas.gov.au or request a service online at www.meander.tas.gov.au

Call in to Council's customer service office located at 26 Lyall Street Westbury, 7303 (8.30am - 5pm, Monday to Friday)





News from MVFM.96.9

IT'S BEEN busy at Meander Valley Community Radio over the last few weeks.

The station now has a new website and a revamped Facebook page. On-line streaming of programs and music has been restored and the new studio is now on air.

Thanks to a Community Broadcasting Foundation grant, brand new equipment – including a desk, broadcast console, computers and transmission gear – has been installed, tested and is now running.

The new desk was built by Deloraine craftsman Michael

Thomson and the equipment was installed by technical consultant Jim Parish, who also maintains several other community stations in Tasmania.

MVFM programs can now be produced and broadcast live, with state of the art equipment.

Former Meander Valley resident Alan Blackmore has created the new website which features information about the station and programs, logos and links for sponsors, a community events calendar, program and presenter details and streaming of the station's output. Details of music and programs can be accessed on computers, tablets or smartphones.

MVFM is always looking for new volunteers to help behind the scenes or present a program. Those interested should call in to the station, located in Deloraine Creative Studios, at 59 Emu Bay Road, or phone 63624969.

To become a member and support the station is \$30 (\$20 concession) per year. Details can be found on the website and at the Deloraine branch of the Bendigo Bank.

The membership rewards program offers 10% off selected goods at sponsors' businesses,

and a fortnightly draw offering great prizes.

Local businesses seeking to sponsor a program, or join our membership rewards offers can contact station manager LJ on 63624969.

The station broadcasts to the entire Meander Valley and beyond including Prospect, Devonport, Sheffield, Latrobe, Longford and Shearwater.

Music programs include Jazz, Country, Reggae, Blues, Americana and more, with easy listening music played throughout the day.

Meander Valley Community radio is on 96.9 FM and streaming on the new website – www.mvfm.com.au. It can also be found on the Tune-in Radio app.

Stringing us along until April

Stringfest 2020, Friday 17 through to Sunday 19 April

QUAMBY BLUFF stands aloof at 1227 metres some 19 kilometres from Deloraine, the region's totem according to the locals. Its sublime permanence provides an apt backdrop to a festival celebrating the finest in Tasmanian timbers, some of the extraordinary makers of finest musical instruments who use those timbers and a few of the musicians who have chosen to play those instruments.

That festival is Stringfest, returning to Deloraine after an absence of five years with an invitation to spend a few days meeting those instrument



makers, seeing their work up close, strumming or plucking some of them, or just kicking back and enjoying hearing them played by some of Australia's finest musicians.

Headlining StringFest is Jeff Lang, along with the Alaskan String Band, violinist Pixie Jenkins and all manner of local artists, groups and buskers performing across Deloraine.

Exhibitions, displays and workshops include a painted ukelele exhibition, local and mainland luthiers, ukulele makers, cigar box makers and timber suppliers, showcasing the extraordinary Tasmanian timbers they utilise.

Exhibitors include the 2019 Australian Craft Fair Premier's Prize winner, guitarist and guitar maker Billy Tarrant and Tasmanian tone-woods supplier Bob MacMillan.

StringFest is a registered not-for-profit community organisation, with all profits going back into the Meander Valley community

StringFest will begin with concerts on Friday 17 April and run until the afternoon of Sunday 19. Tickets available for selected shows on Eventbrite.

Information:

Nick Weare: 0437 195 026
delorainestringfesttasmania@gmail.com
www.stringfest.com.au
Deloraine Stringfest Tasmania on Facebook



Jeff Lang, headlining Stringfest 2020. Photo supplied

Westbury Library rocks!

ROCK ON Janette Mitchelson of the Westbury Library for launching the Westbury Rock Challenge during the school holidays.

Janette said the free initiative can be enjoyed by everyone in the local community including children, families, friends and bike riders.

Participants just need to register at the Library to collect a clue sheet and maps, before they head out to find the numbered rocks that are hidden at strategic locations around the Westbury area.

The two courses are designed to get people out and about

and enjoying the town at a time that suits them, especially on warmer days.

'We have had many fantastic participants enjoying picnics on the shady Village Green.'

Westbury Rock Challenge will finish towards the

end of March, so school groups, scouts or anyone interested in improving their knowledge of the local history and environment, are encouraged to contact the Westbury Library 6701 2189 or email: westbury.library@education.tas.gov.au

Janette would like to thank all the local businesses who donated the weekly prizes.



Keep calm and read a good library book

THE ADDITION of more titles to Libraries Tasmania reference and lending collections, including a jigsaw collection, is giving more choice to the State's readers.

The Minister for Education and Training, Jeremy Rockliff, said more than 700 junior non-fiction books, 1500 books requested by Tasmanians and 200-plus reference books on specific subjects have been added to the State Library collection. 'The Tasmanian Government's \$3m Bringing Back Libraries election commitment is making our libraries more accessible and significantly enhancing the user experience.

'This funding is improving the breadth and quality of library collections.'

Among the library branches benefiting are the Deloraine and Westbury branches of the State Library.

Deloraine Library lent 34,743 items in January to December 2019, with 25,369 in-person visits. Westbury Library lent 15,412 items, with 14,443 in-person visits.

Across the state, expanded and improved library resources and services include:

- more titles added to lending and reference collections
- 135 more games added to the console game collection
- removing fees for book groups and adding over 300 book club items
- expansion of the e-lending service in size, variety and demand

- beginning a roll-out of 33 on-shelf catalogues across the Tasmanian library network
- publishing video tutorials on the Libraries Tasmania website
- purchasing a jigsaw library for community use.

Further improvements for Libraries Tasmania this year will include installing more after-hours return chutes at a range of libraries and exploring ways to expand remote services in rural and regional Tasmania.

Over the past year, Libraries Tasmania has seen a 10 per cent increase in participation and more than 8000 new members have signed up for its various services.

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Minty prawn and pea arancini

By Wai Lin Coultas

ORIGINATING IN 10th-century Sicily during Santa Lucia's feast when bread and pasta are not eaten, arancini are now popularly served year round as finger food. They can be filled with a meaty ragu and specialties frequently include pistachios or mushrooms, while Romans stuff theirs with cheese.

Paying homage to an abstinence from meat during Easter, this recipe also replaces the traditional deep frying with an easy oven bake, creating arancini delicately encased in extra virgin olive oil and panko breadcrumbs – perfect as a flavour-packed party snack!

Ingredients

For risotto

- 400g raw prawns, shelled & de-veined – shells & heads set aside
- 1.25l boiling water
- 2 cubes vegetable stock
- 4 tbsp softened butter
- 1 cup arborio rice
- 1 stalk celery, finely diced
- 1 onion, peeled & finely diced
- 1 truss tomato, finely diced
- 1 head garlic, peeled & minced
- 1 cup pinot grigio
- 1 cup frozen peas, thawed
- 3 handfuls grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 55g fresh baby spinach leaves
- 1 heaped handful fresh mint leaves, chopped
- 2 eggs, beaten
- extra virgin olive oil

For crumbing

- extra virgin olive oil
- plain flour
- Panko breadcrumbs
- salt
- cracked black pepper

Instructions

- Stir fry prawn heads and shells in oil until slightly toasted and reddened. Set aside.
- Over high heat, poach de-veined prawns in the boiling water till just cooked. Remove and dice to pea-size.
- Add stock cubes, toasted prawn shells and heads to the pot and bring to boil again. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Keep warm.
- Fry celery, onion and garlic in butter till softened, then add tomato.
- Add rice and stir through to coat all grains with butter.
- Add wine and simmer until evaporated. Then stir in prawn stock, one ladle at a time, until rice is al dente.
- Stir through spinach, then prawns and then peas with the last of the stock.
- Stir in cheese before stirring in lemon juice, to taste and mint last of all.
- Once risotto is cool, stir in eggs, cover and refrigerate overnight.
- Roll heaped tablespoons of chilled risotto into balls.
- Preheat oven to 180°C, and get five bowls ready – bowl 1 with seasoned plain flour, bowl 2 with oil, bowl 3 with breadcrumbs, bowl 4 with more oil and finally, bowl 5 with more breadcrumbs.
- Roll each risotto ball in the seasoned flour, then in oil, next in breadcrumbs, then back in oil, and finally in breadcrumbs again.
- Bake crumbed balls on baking paper in oven for 50 to 60 minutes till golden brown. Serve hot.

Makes 40 arancini

BLOOMING FROM mid-summer to early autumn, *Alstroemeria* (Peruvian Lilies), comprise a group of perennials with thick fibrous roots. Their funnel shaped flowers are red, purple or yellow.

They are drought tender, so not a very good plant to have in the garden this very dry summer, and most are frost tender.

The one pictured, hybrid *Alstroemeria* 'Rock and Roll', is planted in a large pot, so that it can be moved into a sheltered position in frosty weather.

A. psittacina is the most intriguing of the species, as its narrow funnel shaped flowers are red with black-striped green throats. As *Psittacus* is a genus of parrots, it must be assumed that its colouring resembles the colours of parrots' feathers.

Although listed as frost tender, the one in this garden at Dunorlan, even although it is growing in an exposed position, has survived the frosts. It is just beginning to flower at time of writing – 20 February.

In the veggie garden

It is somewhat of a paradox that lettuce, the vegetable most associated with summer salads, suffers miserably in the hot days we have been experiencing this year. To prevent their shrivelling up, lettuce need a piece of shade when in very hot sun. They are also drought tender, so need regular watering.

Big-hearted lettuce like Great Lakes have gone out of fashion in favour of loose leaf varieties, such as Red Oak, Red Coral and green and brown Mignonette. These can be picked just a few leaves at a time. As salads are now served with most restaurant meals, either hot or cold, they may be sown throughout the year. A warning – they will bolt to seed in hot dry weather, so shade and moisture are vital in hot weather.



Alstroemeria 'Rock and Roll' in a pot, can be moved to a sheltered position in frosty weather. Photo contributed



Prawns, peas, mint – arancini balls make great finger food!

Photo by Wai Lin Coultas

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Sports rorts 'mud' should not tarnish Meander Valley

By Sharon Webb

WESTBURY'S LAWN bowlers and Deloraine's netball players benefited from the 2018 so-called 'Sports Rorts' grants that claimed the scalp of Nationals deputy leader Senator Bridget McKenzie.

While Senator McKenzie and the Federal Government unsuccessfully tried to fend off accusations of pork-barrelling via \$100,000 in sports grants targeted at Australia's marginal electorates, lawn bowlers in Westbury acquired new clubhouse heating and water systems from their third-round \$235,000 grant.

Currently they are also anticipating the installation of a new synthetic bowling green costing \$189,000.

Meander Valley Council also successfully applied for \$50,000 from the first round of the 2018 Community Sport Infrastructure Grant Program and now Deloraine's netballers are playing happily on two courts, installed in 2019 at the Deloraine Community Complex.

Auditor general Grant Hehir saw no legal grounds for Senator McKenzie's involvement in distribution of the grants, listed on a notorious colour-coded spread-sheet.

He found that funding decisions for each of the three rounds were not informed by clear advice and were inconsistent with the program guidelines. A different approach was adopted for each round.

Underlining the political nature of the grant allocation, in January the ABC reported that Westbury's grant was championed by then Tasmanian Nationals Senator Steve Martin, who announced the funding on 30 April 2019, alongside the

party's Lyons candidate Deanna Hutchinson.

At the time, Senator Martin described Westbury Bowls Club as a valued community asset. 'I took the issue to Canberra and brought the Sports Minister and Deputy Nationals leader [Senator Bridget McKenzie] to Westbury to visit the club.'

The senator was supporting Ms Hutchinson's bid for the federal seat of Lyons, after the spectacular campaign implosion of Liberal candidate Jessica Whelan, caused by her Islamophobic posts on social media.

The serenity of the Westbury Bowls Club and its 65 members has been ruffled by the national controversy over the sports grants.

Member David Toohey, a greenkeeper by trade, said, 'We're sad this has tarnished our club. Mud sticks.'

'This is a brilliant club and we're sure that having a new green will draw new members.'

Deloraine-based club president, David Frost, is also on the defensive.

'All we did was put in an application to Sports Australia and we got it. There were strict criteria for the grant and we were spot-on with our application,' he said.

'We are a small club with not enough money. The water here was so bad that you didn't need to put coffee powder in the cup - it was already brown.'

'The clubhouse was freezing in winter and last year the green was so poor it had to be closed down for a while.'

'The idea with this grant is to make it better for people playing here.'

Bowls club secretary, Gaylene McNab from Latrobe, said the club's water had been bad because the pipes were



corroded. 'We couldn't get funding from anywhere else. We've fundraised \$60,000 ourselves and that will go to the cement surround for the new green.'

By winter this year, Westbury bowlers and visiting teams will be using a new synthetic

green requiring no pesticides, fertilisers, rolling, scarifying or top-dressing labour from the club's members.

The Franklin Street green will be open to community users, including children's sports and the local croquet club.

From left, Westbury Bowls Club members Gaylene McNab (Secretary), David Frost (President) and Leon Archer (Assistant Secretary) are looking forward to greener 'pastures' very soon.

Photo by Mike Moores

Deloraine and Meander to host family dirtbike racing

THE TASMANIAN Endurance Riders Club (TERC) brings family dirtbike racing back to the Meander Valley with two rounds of their Grasstrack Series in April and October.

2020 also marks a return to a one day mixed Senior and Junior format recognising the importance of the club's family roots.

TERC holds Endurance and Grasstrack Series each year, with most members competing in both.

Endurance riders race for several hours on a track up to 25km long, in predominantly bushland. Senior races are longer than Juniors, with an eight hour Enduro being the major test for

the year. Grasstrack races are short tracks under 2km, set out in paddocks using the natural terrain.

In past years TERC used several locations locally for Endurance racing but recently most events have been centred around the North West Coast.

The Deloraine round of the Grasstrack series on 4 April and the Meander round on 10 October mark a return to the area.

An increase in the popularity of side-by-side buggies over quads has led to TERC deciding to trial side-by-side racing at grasstrack events this year. The first appearance of side-by-side racing at the Bakers Beach

fun day in January was a huge success with both competitors and spectators.

A big growth areas for the club is the pee-wee section with a dedicated pee-wee track set up at each event to cater for children as young as four riding 50cc bikes. Riders are placed in a class according to their ability.

TERC is a club of friendly enthusiasts who share a passion for off-road motorcycles. New members will be warmly welcomed in any class - Pee-Wee, Expert, Over-45s or Quads. Entries in the local events are encouraged. Day memberships and entry fees apply. Bikes and helmets need to pass scrutineering. Further information is available on the club website, on Facebook, or phone club president Jamie Young on 0407263064.



The start of the 85cc class, grasstrack race in 2019.

Photo supplied

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Local Lions Clubs' Bale Drive

By Paul Kilroy

YET ANOTHER semi-trailer load of hay has made its way to struggling farmers in eastern Tasmania thanks to the combined efforts of the Westbury, Kings Meadows and Glamorgan Lions Clubs. The hay has come from farmers in the Meander Valley.

Bale Drive organizer, Chris Kilby of Westbury Lions Club, paid tribute to local farmers and contractors, who have donated hay and time to the project.

'This load of thirty four round bales is our third shipment to eastern Tasmania farmers and, thanks to the generosity of farmers and haulage contractor

Marcus Hingston, I'm confident we'll be able to organize more loads', he said.

Lions Zone Chairman Darrell Atkinson said the Bale Drive project was a good example of clubs working cooperatively for a deserving cause.

'Kings Meadows Lions Club has donated \$2,500 towards the Bale Drive. This is an incredibly generous gesture and means we can continue to source more bales.

'I would encourage potential donors to contact Westbury Lions on 0414 891 793 or Kings Meadows Lions on 0438 812 996.'

With a semi-trailer full of Meander Valley hay, loader driver Adam Viney looks on from his cab as the President of the Kings Meadows Lions Club, Dennis Mann, presents a cheque for \$2,500 to Chris Kilby of Westbury Lions to assist the Bale Drive initiative. Also present are (from left) Lions Zone Chairman Darrell Atkinson, and Lions Geoff Harvey, June Pearton, Phil Robinson and Judi Gorham.

Photo supplied



Deloraine Kangaroos jump into the 2020 season launch

THE DELORAINE Football Club is inviting members of the Deloraine community to their 2020 season launch on 10 March.

With thanks to Elders, the club is looking forward to welcoming players from the North Melbourne Football Club, who will be running a clinic for juniors from 4pm, followed by a small meet and greet. The evening will include a barbecue, refreshments and Senior training.

Season 2020 will then be launched with Senior Squad jumper presentations, introductions to new players and valued sponsors, and an 'on the couch' session with special guest, North Melbourne Senior Assistant Coach Jade Rawlings.

Jade had a 12 year AFL career with Hawthorn, the Western Bulldogs and North Melbourne, coaching at Richmond, Brisbane and Melbourne, before becoming North Melbourne's Assistant Senior Coach at the end of 2019.

He is a member of the AFL Tas Hall of Fame, originally playing for Devonport in the TSL. A well-known guest speaker, Jade should be an interesting guest for the clubs' launch.



The club would love to see the community support their event as they head into the new season of football. All are very welcome to attend and see what the Club has in store for 2020.

The Club is also pleased and proud to announce that the Deloraine & Districts Community Bank Branch will be the Premier Sponsor of the Deloraine Football Club for the next four seasons.

Simon Rootes and the team at the Deloraine branch are great supporters of the Deloraine Football Club and the club encourages the community to support the bank in turn. Deloraine & Districts Community Bank Branch has contributed over 1.8 million dollars back into the wider Deloraine community.

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Crop Maze

The Crop Maze will be open from 10am to 4pm (last entry) on the following weekends:

Weekend 1

Saturday 29 February 2020
Sunday 1 March 2020

Weekend 2 (long weekend)

Saturday 7 March 2020
Sunday 8 March 2020
Monday 9 March 2020

Weekend 3

Saturday 14 March 2020
Dogs (on leads) allowed from 2pm-4pm
Sunday 15 March 2020

Weekend 4

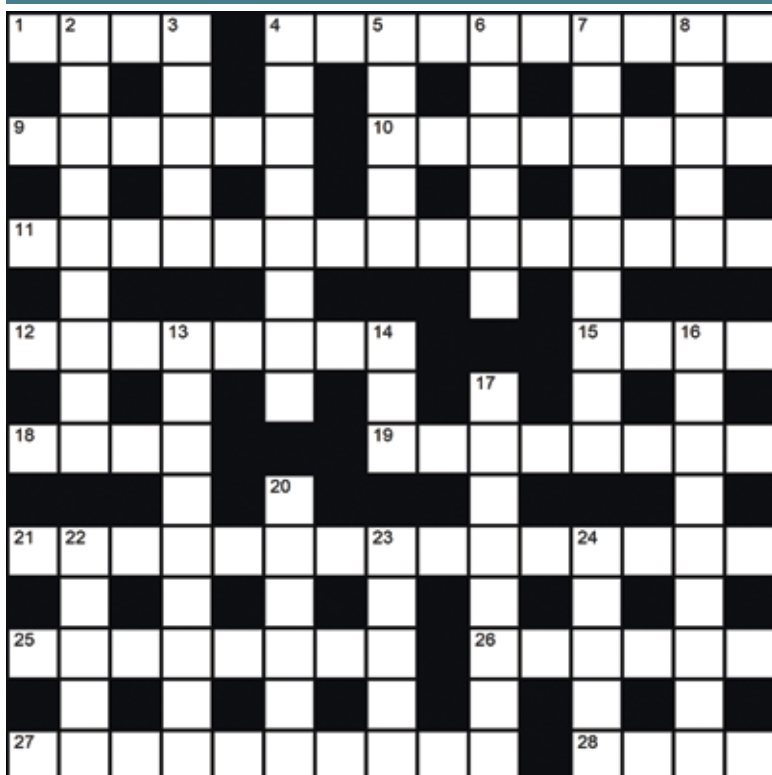
Saturday 21 March 2020
Sunday 22 March 2020

Weekend 5

Saturday 28 March 2020
Dogs (on leads) allowed from 2pm-4pm
Sunday 29 March 2020

Please note, farm gates shut at 5.30pm.

Crossword



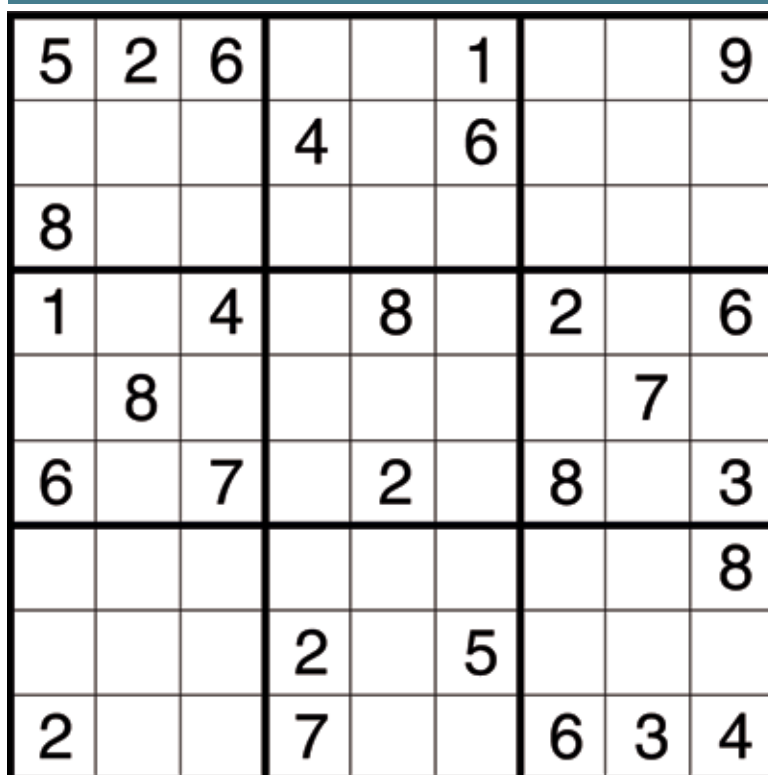
Across

- 1 Hire (4)
- 4 Tourist spot south of Denmark (5, 5)
- 9 Establishes (4, 2)
- 10 Dinner site (8)
- 11 Atherton Tableland pine (10, 5)
- 12 'Know thyself' philosopher (8)
- 15 Profane expression (4)
- 18 Spot (4)
- 19 Lineage (8)
- 21 Rat only found way up North (4, 4, 7)
- 25 Desert runner ____ Gash (8)
- 26 Bread (6)
- 27 Abandoned (4, 6)
- 28 Barbie staples (4)

Down

- 2 They obey one's will (9)
- 3 Preference (5)
- 4 Pope is to upset another performer (8)
- 5 Beyond what is usual (5)
- 6 Unimportant person (6)
- 7 They're uplifting (9)
- 8 Church singers (5)
- 13 Former Richmond centre half-forward (5, 4)
- 14 Vast amount (3)
- 16 Rugby's 'The Back-up man' (5, 4)
- 17 Yelled (8)
- 20 Footwarmer (6)
- 22 Up (5)
- 23 Dull yellowish brown (5)
- 24 Scent (5)

Sudoku



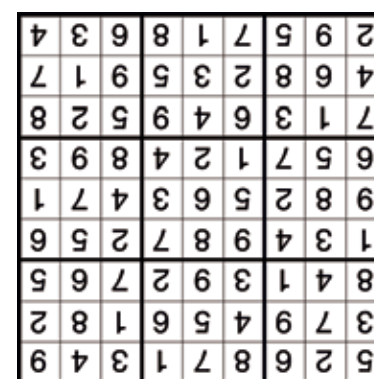
© 2020 Syndicated Puzzles

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 March 2020 solution



Sudoku March 2020 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
Most evenings	Platypus Guided Tour with Mark Flanigan	See a platypus in the Meander River Meet at the Empire Hotel Call for time: 0455 100 854
Every Mon, Tues & Wed 9am-4pm	Deloraine Community Shed	Alveston Drv, Deloraine For men & women to enjoy woodworking Fully equipped workshop Ph 6362 4522
Every Monday 10-10.30am	Story time for preschoolers 0-4 yrs	Deloraine Library During school terms Ph 6701 2100
Every Monday 1pm	Story time for preschoolers 0-4 yrs	Westbury Library During school terms Ph 6393 1439
Every Tuesday & Thursday 9am	Walkie Talkies Heart Foundation Group	Meet at Deloraine House just before 9am for an hour walk Walk at own pace
Every Tuesday & Thursday	NILS Loans, Deloraine House	Assistance with no interest emergency loans Call 6362 2678
Every Tuesday 10.30am-2pm	Anglicare Emergency Financial Help	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Call 6362 2678 to book appointment
Every Tuesday 10am-12pm	Hadspen Playgroup (during school terms)	Uniting Church Community Centre, cnr Claire & Main Sts Hadspen Anna 0423 939 304
Alternate Tuesdays 10am-2pm	Tuesday Spinners & Weavers Group	\$3 room rent, Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd. New spinners welcome, spinning wheels for loan Lois 0433 191 831
Every Wednesday 1-4pm	Deloraine Indoor Carpet Bowls	Western Tiers Community Centre, Parsonage St, Deloraine Elaine 0417 561 837, Philip 0418 877 744
Every Wednesday 6.30-8pm	Meander Valley Choir practice	Westbury Uniting Church Hall More info Rob Mitchelson 0419 560 835, Helen Walker 6393 1567
Every Wednesday	Community Garden Westbury	For information call Fiona Thowe 6701 2154
Every Thursday 10-11am	Physiotherapy & exercise classes	Westbury Community Health Centre, Meander Valley Road, Westbury
First Friday every month 6:30pm	Westbus, 63 Meander Valley Rd, Westbury	Westbury Community Tea All welcome Bring food to share Ph 0408 134 057
First Friday evening every month	The Celtic Players	Empire Hotel, Deloraine
Saturday evenings	Computer Games	Deloraine Online Access Centre 4-6pm for ages 8-15 rated G From 6.30 pm for ages 16+ Ph 6362 3537
Every Saturday 11am-12pm	Produce Swap	Deloraine Fountain (near the Library)
Every Sunday 10-11am	Dragon Boating	Meander River, Deloraine (near Swimming Pool) Experienced or beginners All welcome Andy Dunn 0409 537 372
Wednesday 18 March, 1 April 1-3pm	Rowdy Ruggers	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd. Hook rug group Donation \$2 Child friendly
Friday 20 March 7pm	An Evening with the Young Irelanders	Music, song, dance St Andrews Church, Village Green, later at Westbury RSL Tickets 6393 5300
Saturday 21 March 9am-1pm	Mole Creek Market	Join the Market Day fun @ Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drv & Caveside Rd Contact Ross Quick 0413 681 252
Saturday 21 March 9am-2pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Promenade, Westbury Rob Menzie 0417 931 619
Saturday 21 March 10am-4pm	St Patricks Festival, Westbury Village Green	Parade, food, craft, music, dance, vintage tractors, petting animals, childrens activities etc. Entry by donation
Wednesday 25 March 6pm	Mole Creek Photography & Visual Arts Group	Presbyterian Church Hall, Caveside Road, Mole Creek Email: whatthedickens@activ9.net.au
Saturday 4 April 9am-1pm	Deloraine Showground Market	Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Road, Deloraine Bodhi McSweeney 0409 695 321
Monday 6 April 12-2pm	Eating with Friends	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine \$7 Bookings essential Ph 6362 2678
Tuesday 7 April 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
Saturday 11 April 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>Woman at War</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M Drama Iceland/Ukraine 101m More info 0418 389 868

Lexie Young OAM – a tradition of giving

By Hayley Manning

DELORAINE'S OWN Mrs Lexie Eileen Young was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for service to the community on Australia Day.

Lexie's award acknowledges the 9000 hours of volunteer service she has given to countless organisations throughout the Meander Valley.

'My parents and grandparents were always involved in community events and volunteer work – it just follows on from one generation to the next. Making things work. That's the main thing isn't it? You always went the extra mile to help people. You baked a spare cake in case you ran out.'

Lexie has lived in the one house in Deloraine for all of her married life, which would have been 60 years in March. 'It was just gravel roads and the milk was delivered by a horse and cart!'

Volunteer life began with fundraising events through her local church. 'We used to have

street stalls with cakes and knitted items and we would sell about 50 hand-sewn aprons at the church fair.'

A life-long association with Deloraine Red Cross (President since 2009) began after Lexie witnessed her sister Hazel's reliance on blood transfusions during the final few months of her life in 1976.

Her daughter's breast cancer diagnosis saw the former 'fastest knitter in Australia' knitting to help raise funds for the Holman Cancer Clinic. She witnessed first-hand how helpful they were. 'The Clinic would take wigs to the patient's home, where invited friends would give an opinion.'

'I am thanking the people who helped me – who always worked with me. It has been, and continues to be fun. Lots of hard work but we always came up trumps and we have helped so many families, either financially or with practical items, who had difficult times. Over the years hands on stuff got done!'



Lexie Young will be officially presented with her OAM and certificate by the Tasmanian Governor, Catherine Warner, at Government House on 24 April. Photo by Mike Moores

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☘ Thank you for understanding that Westbury is not saying 'no prison'. People are just calling for a prison to be sited away from small towns, to retain any benefits while removing risks. That way, everyone wins.

☘ Thank you to everyone from Oaks, Exton, Osmaston, Cluan, Birralea, Whitemore and Westbury who shared their concerns in the government's recent phone survey.

☘ Thank you to everyone across the Valley for writing letters to our elected representatives, saying, 'Respect small towns. No spin, no politics. Let Westbury decide. Not government, not council, not big cities and towns. Just the people and businesses of Westbury.'



No-one should try to force an unwanted proposal like a large prison on a small heritage village, especially vested interests that don't live in that town. Not when there are better sites for a prison – away from our small towns.

Thank you Meander Valley, for hearing Westbury and supporting us. It means a lot.

For more information: www.westburyregionagainsttheprison.org
To support Westbury, please visit: GoFundMe: Save Historic Westbury

Advertisement authorized by the President, Westbury Region Against the Prison Inc. (WRAP), contact details here: www.westburyregionagainsttheprison.org

Westbury is celebrating our heritage and tourism values with our St Patrick's Day Festival, Saturday 21 March on our historic Village Green – all welcome!



Water restrictions are now in effect.

These restrictions have only come in after advice from our engineers and scientists who monitor our systems across the state. Their aim is to manage the uncertainty around rainfall in the immediate future and protect drinking water supplies.

Communities affected stretch from greater Hobart to Wynyard with restrictions expected to remain in place until 31 March 2020.

Communities already on water restrictions remain unchanged, except for Bridport which will be increased to Stage 2.

Reasons for restrictions:

- Continuing dry conditions and the long-term weather outlook
- The needs and projected demands of residential customers, irrigators, visitors and firefighters

Our priority will always be to provide reliable, high-quality, safe drinking water for our residential customers. Community support and assistance is much appreciated.

For a full list of areas affected visit taswater.com.au/waterrestrictions

