



ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Police lockdown at Ashleigh

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HERE COMES THE SUN, FLOWER!

Community garden of delights at Mole Creek

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ALPACA LADIES MOVING ON

Back to the farm for the Alpaca Shoppe

▶ **PAGE 12**

Meander Valley Gazette

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April 2020

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper

Tackling the future head on



TO ALL our readers, advertisers and contributors, everyone at the *Meander Valley Gazette* would like to say thank you for your appreciation and support.

The next few months or more will be extremely difficult for the entire community.

The *Gazette* will do its best to stay publishing, to entertain and inform the Valley as we all make our way through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The *Gazette* could not survive without the active cooperation of Meander Valley residents and businesses, so please, if you can, continue to write your letters, submit your stories and place your ads.

We will continue to produce an edition of the *Gazette* every month until we can no longer afford to print and distribute, or until restrictions make it too difficult to continue.

Stay safe and well.

Throwing herself into the game – Gypsy Harvey shows her future Roos potential at the Deloraine Footy Clinic in early March.

Photo by Mike Moores

By Sharon Webb

Ashley roof 'party' causes major damage

SIX YOUTHS aged 15–17 years caused considerable damage to Ashley Youth Detention Centre on March 6 when they spent almost eight hours on the roof of the Bronte wing.

Acting Inspector Jason Jones from the Northern District Support Unit of Tasmania Police said the detainees damaged the roof and ceilings with hammers and screwdrivers while also throwing items including light globes at police and centre staff below.

He said police arrived at AYDC at 3.30pm and two youths came down from the roof shortly after.

'After negotiations by police and staff, the remaining youths left by 11pm,' Insp. Jones said.

'No-one was hurt in the incident but they caused considerable damage.'

Insp. Jones said the detainees were not hostile but simply refused to leave the roof.

He had no idea why the detainees were up there, they made no demands.

'It was possibly an opportunity to cause issues for everyone at the centre,' he said.

Insp. Jones said police had surrounded the building as per protocol and spoke to the youths to get them to come down of their own accord.

'I don't know how they gained access to the roof – but there was never a risk of them getting out of the centre.'

Corrections Minister Elise Archer said the incident was being reviewed.

'An environmental scan will occur to identify the means of



Police surrounded the Ashley Detention Centre while six youths spent almost eight hours on the roof of the facility. No one was hurt in the incident.

Photos by Mike Moores

access to the roof and immediate action be taken to prevent future access at that site,' she said.

'I thank the staff and police for ensuring a safe de-escalation in a timely manner.'

Major projects legislation will play no role in rezoning land for prison

By Sharon Webb

THE STATE Government has asserted that proposed major projects legislation will play no role in rezoning land for the Northern Regional Prison proposed for Westbury.

Early in March the State Government announced its intention to legislate to provide for the independent assessment of major projects.

The Premier, Mr Gutwein, defined major projects as 'development proposals of significant scale, impact or complexity, including those that cross municipalities or require assessment under multiple acts of Parliament'.

He maintained that the process 'will provide confidence to the community that development proposals will undergo rigorous assessment by independent experts, with opportunities for public input'.

Under the process, development proposals can be referred for consideration to be a major project by the proponent, the

relevant council or the Minister for Planning. The Minister's role in the process ends once a proposal has been declared a major project.

Major project proposals will be assessed by an independent expert panel convened by the Tasmanian Planning Commission. That panel will also coordinate other related permit approvals processes.

Tasmanian groups such as Westbury Region Against the Prison, people opposed to a Mt Wellington cable car and to the East Coast's Cambria project are concerned that major projects legislation will fast-track projects supported by government and that normal approval processes will be abandoned.

For the prison, the normal process would be for the State Government to apply to the Meander Valley Council to rezone the Birralea Road land.

According to former acting council GM Jonathan Harmey, the prison project will be advertised and the public can make submissions for and against it.

The final decision will be made by the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

Commenting on the process, Ms Archer played down the role of Meander Valley Council, saying, 'The council simply determines whether to initiate the amendment for consideration'.

But she also maintained, 'The major projects legislation will not, and cannot, be used to determine the prison rezoning.'

'A rezoning is not a "project". It is a planning scheme amendment, and there is already a well-established, independent statutory process for assessing planning scheme amendments.'

'The new major projects assessment process is for the assessment of projects that are significant in terms of their impacts, complexity and importance.'

President of WRAP, Linda Poulton, voiced concerns about the possibility of the government turning to the major projects act if the current planning procedures 'do not go its way on the prison'.

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Authorised by REBECCA WHITE, 33 COLE ST, SORELL



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Westbury and Deloraine signs of the times

THE COVID-19 crisis continues to make huge changes to the way businesses can operate across Tasmania.

Ever-changing Federal and State Government lockdown restrictions have already seen many local businesses close their doors.

Others businesses have had to change the ways in which they provide goods and services for their customers.

To support local businesses, Deloraine Signs is supplying the community with free stickers to let everyone know they are still open. Stickers can be picked up from their office, free of charge.

Launceston printer, Freestyle FX Signs, are providing similar stickers, for those at the Launceston end of the Valley.

For further information, call Deloraine Signs on (03) 6362 3421 or Freestyle FX Signs on (03) 6333 0886.

Go to page 16 for the Gazette's expanding new list of businesses changes.



Nathan Merriman of the Gourmet Butchery and Karen de Bruyn of adjoining business Hair Now were the first in Westbury to sport the new signs from Freestyle FX Signs. Andy Sherriff of Deloraine Signs is sticking to his business plan to help the local community! Photos supplied by Deloraine Signs and Karen De Bruyn

Interest free business loans

THE STATE Government's new Business Support Loan Scheme has opened for businesses in the hospitality, tourism and seafood export sectors.

The Minister for State Growth, Michael Ferguson, said interest free loans of between \$20,000 and \$250,000 have been made available to assist eligible local businesses through the COVID-19 virus.

'Loans will be interest free for the first three years then payable at State Growth's commercial loan interest rate from year four onwards,' he said.

Loans are available for business continuity purposes, eg:

- purchasing business plant and equipment
- improving distribution channels and online shopping accessibility

- implementing initiatives to improve the sustainability and viability of the business
- ensuring essential business continuity is maintained.

Mr Ferguson said, 'Generally loans will be considered for eligible businesses in Tasmania that operate in the hospitality, tourism and seafood export sectors, as well as related supply chain businesses and those that can demonstrate they have been significantly impacted by the outbreak.'

'Loans will be available to businesses with a turnover of \$10 million or less as per the applicant's most recent financial statements. However businesses with turnover in excess of \$10 million per year that operate in multiple locations will be considered by exception.'

'We will continue to work closely with local businesses so they are ready to continue trading and return to full strength once we overcome the immediate COVID-19 threat.'

The scheme will be complemented by the Federal Government's stimulus and support packages, which will be of particular value in helping businesses maintain links with their staff and to prepare for the future beyond COVID-19.

Business academics from the Australian National University and Canberra University have urged the Federal Government to make income-contingent loans available along the same principles as HECS loans to university students.

Professor Linda Botterill from Canberra wrote in *The*

Conversation that providing revenue contingent loans for businesses would be a bridge to a sustainable recovery.

'This would have major potential to sustain the Australian economy during a sharp temporary downturn, while not putting additional pressure on future fiscal solvency,' she said.

The reporting of business revenue is a quarterly legal requirement of business through the existing Business Activity Statement which is used to collect the GST.

'Unlike profits, revenue cannot legally be manipulated to suit the timing of repayments. The revenue-contingent loan obligation would be linked to the Australian Business Number,' Prof. Botterill said.

'In the case of a small business, the government could provide a loan, which would be capped at a level reflecting

a firm's capacity to repay when revenues recover. This could be a fixed amount (for example 25%) of the average of the past three years of annual revenue.'

'To minimise the chance of non-repayment, eligibility could be restricted to firms that have a good chance of future solvency as reflected, for example, in them having been around for a fixed number of years (for example 3 years).'

Prof Botterill said the government would need to set a repayment rate, and past modelling has revealed small rates of say 5% to 8% of future annual revenues would be sufficient.

For more information or assistance with your application call Business Tasmania on 1800 440 026 or email ask@business.tas.gov.au. Applications are available on the Business Tasmania website: https://www.business.tas.gov.au/covid-19_business_support_packages.



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Letter from the Editor

ACROSS THE world, newspapers have been in decline for a long time.

The only newspapers defying this trend are small local newspapers and Tasmania is no exception.

This is because small newspapers such as the *Gazette* supply their readers with micro-news – news focusing on a small geographical area and socially relevant to its readers.

News about local people, local businesses and local government is often unobtainable elsewhere in the media.

Some may regard local reporting as lightweight, yet it can still hold authorities to account.

Without local reporting, many rural and regional areas would receive little or no independent information on what happens in their community.

Whatever the news, the increasing popularity of small newspapers is because people want to read their content.

Nevertheless, with advertising revenue gone in the pandemic, News Corp has now suspended print editions of 60 regional newspapers across Australia.

It has been a full year since I became the editor of the *Gazette* and I would like to thank everyone in the Meander Valley community who has given their support and encouragement to the paper.

The *Gazette* has an obligation to its stakeholders – the community – to maintain an independent voice.

We believe that the majority of the community strongly supports our right to express that independent view, even though they may not always agree with what is written.

As a not-for-profit newspaper, our advertising income pays the printing, distribution

and production costs of putting the paper out every month.

This means that the *Gazette* should be able to keep on publishing until we can no longer afford to do so.

Everyone at the *Gazette* is grateful for the ongoing contribution from our advertisers. In these times, many of Meander Valley businesses may not be able to stay open for much longer. Many have already closed.

We wish them well and hope that they come through this crisis – and that the *Gazette* will still be here to tell the readers all about it.

Good luck and stay safe.

Liz Douglass

Letters to the Editor

Why I support a Northern Correctional Centre

For the record, I served for 12 years on MVC, including a period as Mayor, and then 17 years as an Independent Member of the Legislative Council, including two terms as Deputy President. It was during my time as an MP, that my interest was piqued with regard to a NCC.

As a member and also Chair of the Joint House Parliamentary Public Works Committee, we were tasked on 3 occasions to evaluate and report upon multi-million-dollar projects to reconstruct and build new facilities at Risdon Prison.

We were told quite emphatically, that Risdon is one of the most difficult prisons in Australia, to manage.

Essentially, this is because all of Tasmania's inmates are lumped together in one institution – approx. half from each end of the State. The tensions and problems that occur have been well publicized. Risdon is also currently near capacity.

Compare that to another state – NSW for example. Obviously a much larger jurisdiction, but with approximately 40 correctional centres, there is the ability to much better

manage inmates, because they can be separated by gang affiliations, ethnic groupings, crime families etc. Not so here in Tasmania with one prison and 2 remand centres.

It is also important to point out that in all other states, the majority of prisons are located in regional areas. They are not located just in the capital cities. And yet Tasmania is the most decentralized State!

And, what about the matter of social justice?

During my time as an MP, I had numerous requests from families in the Northern part of Tasmania, to assist with visitation to incarcerated family members in Risdon. This often proved very problematic, as they had to access transport services and comply with visitation bookings – all in Hobart. To visit a family member in prison one has to have the approval from the Dept of Justice, at a designated time.

It is accepted worldwide that accessibility for visitation by families and loved ones is crucial for rehabilitation and reduced recidivism. Well known Hobart lawyer and prisoners advocate Greg Barns strongly supports a Northern Prison for those very reasons.

Up-cycling the Meander Valley Gazette

Today I went for the first time in two weeks to my local supermarket located in the heart of Meander Valley.

I was confronted by a friendly young man from somewhere overseas who sprayed my trolley, my hands and handed me a flyer with today's restrictions as I walked in the front doors.

All looked well as I strolled through the bakery then the fresh food section which seemed to be full and according to the product limit update for Thursday the 19th March 2020 no limits on fresh fruit and vegies.

Then rounding the 1st aisle I began to see no oats, bran or staple basic cereals yet with all

colourful package cereals on full display. Then in aisle two, no flour and no rice with limited pasta and sugar on the shelves.

Of course. No toilet paper. I grabbed what was left within the limits 2 by canned corn 2 by canned mushroom and 2 beetroot cans yet to my surprise at the checkout I was only allowed to have 2 cans of any canned vegetable in total and yet there was loads of them.

It seemed a little unreasonable and given that the product limit update states – 2-pack limit per customer per shop for every other product category.

As I took my one can of mushrooms and corn back to the car without any toilet paper it struck me.

I raised this issue several times in Parliament. It was invariably supported by political groupings – everybody recognized the need – it was just a matter of when, and of course importantly the budget cycle.

Never on any occasion did I specify a particular site – that is a matter for government.

However common-sense dictates that any facility would ideally be constructed adjacent to existing infrastructure, such as gas, water, power, highways etc. If one draws a line East to West, say St Helens to Smithton, then the epicentre is in the central MV area.

I don't wish to trawl through all of the arguments, which have been mounted against the proposed site, and yes, I agree the Govt could have consulted with Council and the community in a different manner.

However, I will say that arguments put forward such as 'agriculture and tourism will be destroyed in the Meander Valley' are without foundation, and cut no ice with the broader Northern community.

As a farming business, we took considerable commercial risk over time, and employed many MV residents in both agriculture and horticulture. It is then disappointing to read letters from people, whom I

suspect have done nothing or very little in that space. Those same few, then advocate, that we don't need taxpayer spend on infrastructure in MV.

Because of my background, of course I am a strong supporter of small business and private enterprise per se, but it is simply ridiculous to suggest that we should attempt to deny current and particularly future generations in regional areas, a slice of public funding.

As we all know, private sector can be affected very quickly by global events and markets.

Therefore, a backstop and opportunity to employ 'secure' 250 or thereabouts public sector jobs in a region should be embraced.

The construction phase alone would be a boon, plus the ongoing myriads of health professionals, caterers, correctional staff, administrators etc., who would be employed – cannot be denied!

I understand the emotive opposition to a prison from some, but for goodness sake, this is a massive opportunity for the central north of the state and one never likely to be repeated.

Negative and short-term thinking will not serve our communities well in the future. Greg Hall

I will up cycle my *Meander Valley Gazette* each month by tearing into four equal parts from the spine and then I can tear three equal widths from each strip which will allow me enough paper for the crap times ahead.

James Harvey

WITH COVID already impacting on people with respiratory difficulties, surely now is NOT the time for SusTimberTas to be further jeopardising their health/adding strain to hospitals by proceeding with their business as usual autumn regen burns? Will Gutwein show some leadership at last and act now to intervene and stop these carbon polluting atrocities?

Daniel Panek, Hobart



Letters to the Editor are continued on page 6

EST.
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*Meander
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Gambling profits Mole Creek community garden



Jill Harvey, co-ordinator of the Mole Creek Community Garden – gardening solo for our photographer, because of the limits on the number of people allowed to gather in one place. With a new water tank and storage shed, the ongoing success of the garden seems assured. Photo by Mike Moores

By Sharon Webb

MOLE CREEK Community Garden will buy a new water tank and a storage shed from a State Government grant of \$4153.

Garden co-ordinator, Jill Harvey, said that the garden needed a storage place for tools since many had been donated by community members and the Mole Creek Hotel.

'With a new tank we will be able to hook up for watering in our hot-house,' she said.

The community garden was established about four years ago, with vegetables being the favourite plants along with a few recently-established fruit trees.

'Our older residents love to come along to the garden to collect some vegies and we have about five volunteers who come to work there and bring their children,' Ms Harvey said.

'Mole Creek School has its own section and the kindergarten children enjoy visiting.'

A side-shoot of the community garden, located next to the community swimming pool, has been the establishment of a men's shed on a nearby site – inspired by the success of the garden, Ms Harvey said.

The Mole Creek Progress Association applied for the grant from the 2019–2020 Community Support Levy, supported by Deloraine House.

The levy is funded from a percentage of profits from gambling venues in Tasmania. About \$200,000 was allocated to 23 organisations across Tasmania, focussing on improving the capacity of organisations to provide services, leisure activities and/or inclusion opportunities within their community.

One of the largest grants went to Rural Alive and Well, to deliver a support service for young rural Tasmanians aged 13–18 who may be at higher risk of committing suicide.

Deloraine House community project officer Tanya King said the Mole Creek Community Garden is a vibrant space created by the five families who work in it.

Extended return date for prison survey

MEANDER VALLEY residents now have until April 15 to express their views on the siting of a new prison at Westbury.

Corrections Minister Elise Archer said although many surveys had been sent out from March 16, the government was aware some Meander Valley households were yet to receive a survey on the preferred site of the Northern Regional Prison.

'Following requests from concerned Westbury residents the government has determined it appropriate to extend the deadline to 30 March.'

'This important mail out survey is being independently conducted by SGS Economics as part of its role to complete a Social and Economic Impact Study for the preferred site.

'As a result of this new survey deadline and because of the challenges that have emerged due to the coronavirus, it is expected the Government will now receive the report later than had been previously indicated.'

Ms Archer reiterated that no final decision had been made about where the Northern Regional Prison would be located.

She said the SEI Study was an important part of the government's extensive consultation process, which will determine if this is indeed the best location for this important facility.

The survey has been sent to 7500 households. People who require more forms should phone 61656782 or email northern.prison@justice.tas.gov.au.



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Shelton in the clear on prison site says corrections minister

By Sharon Webb

THE STATE Government maintains Lyons Liberal Mark Shelton was not involved in the selection of the Westbury site for the proposed Northern Regional Prison.

Corrections Minister Elise Archer said that Mr Shelton had not been involved with the site selection panel in any way, nor had he been involved in discussions or decisions on the site of the proposed prison.

Her comments come after the Labor Opposition accused Mr Shelton of dodging questions of conflict of interest in Parliament in early March.

Labor Member for Lyons, Jen Butler, said Mark Shelton must come clean with Tasmanians because as Meander Valley mayor he negotiated a \$700,000 loan agreement with the owners of the preferred northern prison site on Birrale Road.

'Mark Shelton has intimate knowledge of this matter and must have been aware as a cabinet minister of his responsibility to identify a conflict of interest and exempt himself from Cabinet decision making,' she said.

'Mark Shelton owes it to all Tasmanians to clarify whether or not he declared a conflict of interest regarding decisions on the location of the northern prison site – his failure to do so can only mean one thing.

'The site for the proposed maximum security prison has caused incredible distress for the Westbury community and the Liberals lack of transparency about the issue is disgraceful.

'The question is simple: did Mark Shelton declare a conflict of interest or didn't he?'

Both Labor and Westbury Residents against the Prison (WRAP) argue Mr Shelton is compromised because as mayor he signed a deed of agreement for the council to

develop an industry precinct on land earmarked in 2019 as the preferred location for a northern prison.

They maintain a deed of agreement was signed by landowners Glen Avon Farms with the understanding the council would establish infrastructure in return for future payment. Glen Avon Farms are now \$700,000 in debt to the council.

But Ms Archer maintains Mr Shelton had no input into the siting of the prison and therefore is not compromised.

President of WRAP, Linda Poulton, said that even if Mr Shelton did not identify the site, he should not have taken part in Cabinet discussions on the prison.

'WRAP believes he should have declared a conflict of interest when the issue came up for discussion in Cabinet,' she said.

The Northern Regional Prison Siting Panel included:

- Nick Evans, deputy secretary, corrections and regulation, Justice Dept
- Ian Thomas, director of prisons, Justice Dept
- Gary Hancl, director, strategic infrastructure Projects, Justice Dept
- Michael Stevens, independent
- Glenn Frame / Richard Cowling, assistant commissioner, Tasmania Police
- Alison Turner, director, infrastructure review and evaluation, State Growth Dept
- Denise McIntyre, manager network planning, State Growth Dept
- Barry Nicholson, nursing director, group director, forensic, correctional health and alcohol and drug services, Tasmanian Health Service
- Brian Risby, director, planning policy unit, Justice Dept.

Letters to the Editor continued from page 4

MP BRIAN Mitchell's amazing paean to the Tasmanian logging industry reads like something plagiarised from that industry's own breathtaking spin of twenty years ago.

There is no hint that the then booming, and still self-regulated, business had the highest proportional rate of native forest destruction in the developed world and close to the lowest rate of value recovery. It still runs at a general net loss to the public purse before there is any evaluation of its damage to Tasmania's air, water, land, public health, scenic amenity, and competing industries, much less

THERE'S BEEN lots said about the Northern Prison, but not everything has been said.

Does everyone know about the Northern Prison Remand Centre planned to go smack in the middle of Prospect? Said to be located nearby where the Italian-Australian club is on the Westbury Road.

Surely, you haven't been told about that? What else haven't you been told?

Fact is, we have not been told about most of the dirty business going on behind our backs regarding the Northern Prison. Clearly, the Liberal party sees the North as their throw-away-zone.

We're not worthy to develop our tourist businesses from the Launceston Airport expansion/Cradle Mountain development. Yes, Hobart is THE IN-SCENE but the Liberals say no-way to tourism in MV.

Advisors to support small businesses

SMALL BUSINESSES can get help and advice from a network of Enterprise Centres Tasmania advisors appointed by the state government to work directly with new and established small businesses.

They will provide support at all stages of business development, from concept and

before assessing the burgeoning evidence of logging's major contribution to climate change emissions.

For undisclosed reasons, the present Tas government has promised to restore its former sylvan blitzkrieg.

By chance, the Melbourne Age of the same day featured an article about eminent ANU forest ecologist David Lindenmayer calling for an immediate cessation of native forest logging in Victoria because of its effects on forest volatility. Seemingly, the only available defence for opposition MP Brian is that he may have relied too heavily on the industry's fulsome astro-turf library.

John Hayward, Weejena

The Liberals plans are ugly for Meander Valley, secret ones, as they develop their garbage dump called the Northern Prison in MV.

Do we wish for our children to work in the Prison sector, or to develop their own tourist-based businesses? Besides Risdon Prison is not staffed to date!

Voters in Launceston say the Liberals are out in next election, explaining the State politicians along with experts went to the Federal Libs to prepare for a disastrous fire season asking for better equipment but they were not even given a meeting.

After pressing the PM, the Feds simply said NO to new and better equipment for fire-fighting.

Wake up Meander Valley, it's time for new blood in government.

Stephen Phillips, Prospect

IN THIS new and alarming time of a respiratory pandemic it horrifies me that non essential forestry burn offs are continuing.

The Tasmanian forest industry (Sus Timber Tas) is continuing to carry out regeneration burns where forests have been clear-felled in order to make the regrowth more suitable for future logging.

These regeneration burns are not to be confused with fuel reduction burns. The extra smoke pollution from regeneration burns is totally unnecessary in the face of increased risks of deadly respiratory illness due to the coronavirus.

Why is it business as usual in the Tasmanian forests when the world is suffering and climate change continues?

Felicity Holmes,
Blackmans Bay

REGARDING THE incident involving hammers and a five hour standoff at Ashley Youth Detention Centre recently.

Why are we as a state pouring \$7m in upgrades into something which just does not suit the 21st Century?

Experts are calling for its closure and be replaced with urban centres closer to family support and rehabilitation services.

One has to wonder how the already stretched resources of emergency services will cope if the other State Government election promise (the track record of Liberal election promises is very well known!!) of a Northern Prison is built at Westbury and a standoff happens there!

Sean Manners, Westbury

The new ECT Program will operate in seven regions across Tasmania. Advisors in the north are Ben Jones at Project Lab and in central North West, Fleur Bourke of Fusion Business Services.

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The Empire strikes back!

Mark and Amanda Flanigan keeping calm and serving takeaway food and drink from Cycles at the Empire in the times of COVID-19.

Photo by Mike Moores

By Sharon Webb

IN THESE times of COVID-19 Deloraine's Empire Hotel is no more.

The bar is dark and empty. No tourists are staying in the accommodation upstairs.

But over lunch and dinner times Cycles Café is buzzing with staff activity as the hotel morphs into a food and drinks takeaway and delivery.

Under the rules to combat COVID-19, owners Amanda and Mark Flanigan have adapted, then adapted some more to keep the Empire going.

'We're trying everything we can to support our employees and keep them in jobs,' Mark said. 'We decided to swing everything behind that.'

'Back in January when the virus kicked off I thought it would be a serious challenge for our business and it's been a rollercoaster since then.'

Currently Cycles comes alive for lunch and dinner, with hygiene-conscious kitchen staff constantly using hand sanitiser and wiping down surfaces with spirits.

Customers phone in their order, paying by credit card on

the phone. The chef jumps into action then Mark delivers the order to the customer's front doorstep.

'Delivery doesn't take long because Deloraine's a small place. People from further away tend to order by phone then drive in to collect. Today we had someone from Dunorlan come in.'

The best part is the conversation on the doorstep when he delivers, Mark said. 'It's a nice feeling because Deloraine's really got behind us. We feel connected and people are still trying to connect with us.'

'The first few days were slow but it's really picked up. The support we've had is really great and hopefully it will keep going.'

'We feel helpful and cheerful – it's a good feeling. What we're doing allows people to isolate but stay in touch.'

Cycles' continued operation is in question, depending on whether the government allows businesses to do takeaway food in the future.

'It's a weird time to be operating a business,' Mark said. 'Early on we changed how the business operated – and then

new announcements came and we had to change again.'

No doubt there will be new requirements and Cycles staff will rise again to the challenge.

What your local pubs are doing ...

GO TO page 16 to look at the new 'Open for business' listings.

Check out your favourite pub's Facebook page for menus and updates.

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Judy Nelson – uncommon artistry and common history



Judy sitting at her easel, documenting the life and times of Westbury in words and pictures.
Photo by Mike Moores

JUDY UEHLEIN Nelson and her husband Jon live on a quiet Westbury street facing the Town Common.

Built as the Military Barracks in 1828, for the newly formed convict settlement, their cottage is on the street once known as Toe Rag Lane and the patch of common ground was once known as the swamp.

Originally from Wisconsin, Judy and Jon arrived in Australia in the 1970s. Part of a wave of US teachers recruited by the government, Judy was a female teacher bringing along her husband – problematic for the Australian authorities, but sense prevailed.

Judy had trained as an art and craft teacher, but on settling in Melbourne, began designing and illustrated children's

books, working from home while their children were small. Jon also became a graphic designer, studying at Swinburne Technical College in Melbourne.

Judy later combined her publication, illustration and digital design skills to commence a long career teaching graphic design at a tertiary level.

The couple came to Tasmania looking for a quieter life. 'The technology was doing us in!' Judy exclaimed.

'We didn't know where in Tasmania ... and then I found this house and I fell in love with it!'

Next door to Judy and Jon is Dexter's Cottage, built for Lieutenant Dexter, the commander of the garrison. The cottage and the former barracks on Toe Rag Lane (now Mary

Ann Street) are two of the earliest buildings in Westbury that remain standing.

Moving to Westbury in May 2014, Jon and Judy met their Dexter's Cottage neighbour Gwen Boyer when she called in to welcome the new arrivals.

Gwen was born in Dexter's Cottage and grew up helping her parents tend their cows that grazed on the swamp, delivering the milk and doing the chores. She still lives in the small house which has been in her family since the 1920s.

Disaster came to Mary Ann Street in June 2016. Winter rain flooded the town common and nearby houses, including the Barracks and Dexter's Cottage.

Gwen, Judy and Jon were forced to leave their homes for over six months, their belongings and property severely damaged by floodwater, and the long road to restoration and repair ahead of them once the waters receded.

The day of the flood, Jon filmed the steady progress of the water across the road and under their door. He commented that the pine floors were so dry that they soaked up the water and swelled up. The fridge moved by itself and loud cracking sounds were heard, as the water slowly rose from under the house.

Gwen was fast asleep next door, when at 5.00 in the morning, she woke to find the water coming under her front door. Flowing in, as fast she could mop it up, by the time her

brother came down from his house up the hill, it was up to Gwen's knees.

With help from Westbury neighbours, family and friends, the Nelsons and Gwen moved from place to place until their houses were once more fit to live in. There is now little sign of the devastation that occurred in the Nelson house.

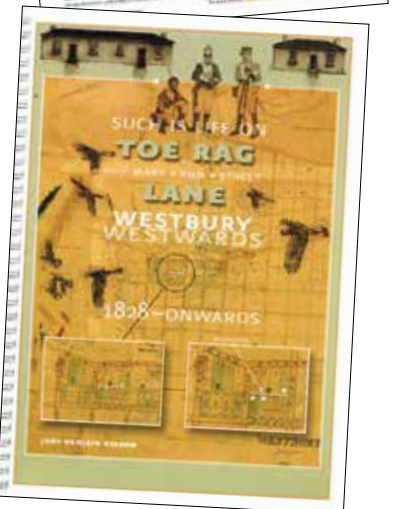
With seven skiploads of damaged property – mattress, carpets, bed – taken to the tip from Gwen's house alone, Gwen's kitchen, living room and bedroom were completed so she could move back in as soon as possible. Gwen is still waiting for some final restoration work, four years on.

Judy and Jon are both passionate about their small cottage and the greater community of Westbury. Judy's interest in local history has led to her writing a book on the history of the lane, starting with her own cottage, eventually growing to encompass Gwen's cottage, the surrounding streets and the whole town.

Combining her skills as artist, designer and graphic communicator, the book, *Such is Life on Toe Rag Lane, Westbury Westwards*, is a marvellous chronicle of everyday life in one small Tasmanian town.

A resource for anyone interested in the early history of Westbury, copies of Judy's book are available from the author.

Book price is \$25. Contact details are: judy.uehle.nelson@gmail.com / m: 0402 240 749.



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Great Western Tiers Art Award – art and social commentary

SINCE SETTLING in Westbury, Judy Nelson has rediscovered her traditional talents in painting and illustration. Her artwork fills her cottage with scenes from her garden and the surrounding landscape, often with a strong narrative thread underlying the images.

This year, Judy entered the Great Western Tiers Art Award. The theme ‘Close encounters’ was not inspiring but recent events sparked an idea.

Jon Nelson had recently joined WRAP, the Westbury residents’ association that opposes the new prison site.

Attending town hall meetings with Jon, Judy had an idea.

‘I finished the book, I know the history. There’s this fight going on. This is a close encounter!’

Judy explained, ‘I have always wanted to paint this house and Gwen’s house ... these are the oldest (probably) buildings in Westbury.’

Judy’s painting ‘Should we lock our doors?’ is in four parts – the Village Green, Mary Ann Street seen from the Common, an aerial view of the town and a row of doors to represent the buildings of Westbury. Perspex tags list the town’s heritage.

‘It’s being realistic, it’s not saying anything false. Let’s put the emphasis on the history, not Westbury the prison ... and I thought why not?’

The artist statement was due. ‘I hadn’t even started the painting at that point but I knew what I wanted to say.’

The painting took 10 days. ‘And I won. I wasn’t expecting that. I honestly thought I wasn’t even going to get into it. I had eyelets, I had wire, I had plastic engraved tags and I thought that’s probably going to disqualify the whole thing.’

Judy concluded, ‘I just feel very strongly about what’s happening here in Westbury.’

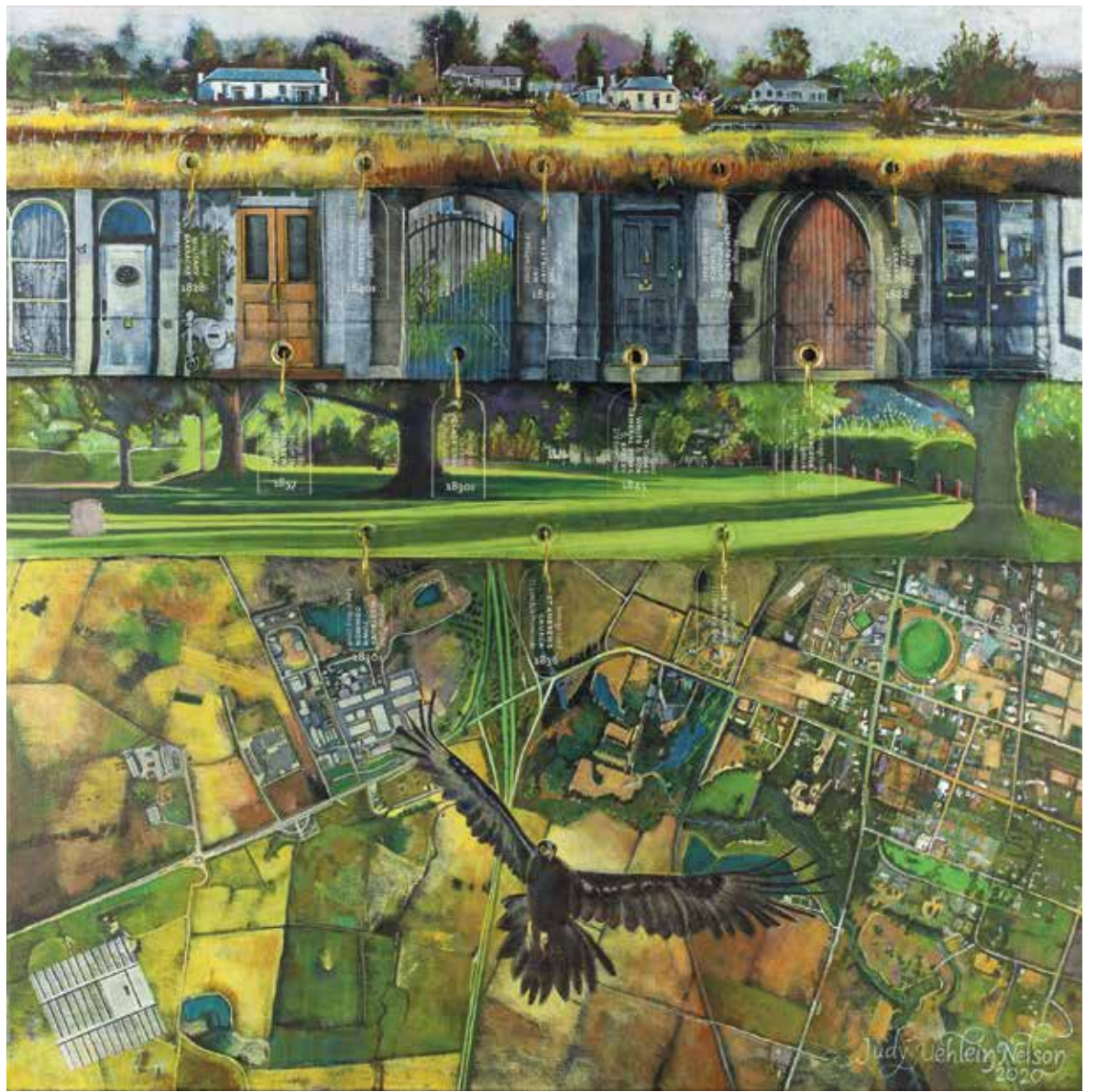
‘Jon goes out there with a placard and protests, and I said I’m not that sort of person. But I can do it through my artwork.’

Judy and Jon share the belief with many Westbury residents, that the uniqueness of the town in Tasmanian and Australian history is often overlooked and that the prison project could permanently damage the historical significance of their peaceful and beautiful town.

Accepting the award, Judy donated the money from the sale of the painting to WRAP to help fund the fight against the prison.

In a circular twist, the painting was also purchased by a member of the WRAP group.

Judy is now working on a companion painting continuing the theme of Westbury’s history. Its sale proceeds will also be donated to assist WRAP.



Winner of the Great Western Tiers Art Award 2020, Judy Nelson has chosen art as the means to comment on the proposed prison at Westbury and the town’s unique history. Photo supplied

The Village Green – a unique history?

By Michelle Blake

THIS YEAR, St Patrick’s Day Festival on the Village Green was cancelled due to the potential risk from COVID-19.

The festival celebrates the Celtic and Irish culture of the State and is an important event for Westbury and the Green.

It continues the link to the Irish heritage of the area and utilises a space that is not only important to Westbury but is quite possibly unique to Australia.

The Village Green still retains the original and traditional aspects of an English Village Green and is the only area in Australia known to do so.

The Village Green was originally a military barracks with huts for the convict men and

houses for the police officer and medical officer nearby.

The area of Westbury was first surveyed in 1823 and was established soon after as a military and convict post in order to cut a road to the west.

By 1837 an established town had begun to grow up around Lonsdale Promenade, with the foundations for St Andrew’s Church being laid. Completed in 1842, the church is on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

In the 1840s and 1850s, assisted immigration brought farmers, tradespeople and female servants to Van Diemen’s Land with many from Ireland settling in the Westbury area.

The promenade was laid out with ornamental trees from around the 1880s, with seats provided and where games

of archery, crochet and tennis were enjoyed. Since this time, the Village Green has become an important area for social activities, recreation and commemorations.

In 1922, a war memorial was positioned on the green to commemorate the soldiers of the First World War and in 1953 a water fountain commemorated the Westbury–Hagley water scheme of 1902. A pioneer’s memorial was established in 1973. That year was

Michelle is a qualified historian and an accredited member of the Professional Historians Association.

‘The idea was to give people an opportunity to ask me questions and to seek advice for their own research and interests. I have had the pleasure to hear interesting stories and have been asked fascinating questions.’

Michelle offers a research service for people who may not

know where to look for information or may not have time.

‘I generally assist with family history or house history research, but I do take on other research and have worked with authors, architects, archives, and an environmental company. All enquiries are different ...

‘I see my role as helping people access information.’

also the 150th anniversary of Westbury’s founding and to honour the occasion, a carved maypole was donated by the residents of Westbury in Wiltshire, England. It is used on the Village Green during local maypole festivals.

Two silhouettes found on the Green are part of the town’s Silhouette Trail celebrating characters connected to Westbury.

The Westbury Historical Walk is also available as a free map.



Westbury Village Green – a vital part of Westbury’s emerald heritage.

Photo supplied

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Climate change awareness not rocket science

By Sharon Webb

SINCE AUGUST last year Helen Hutchinson has been a bee in the ears of Meander Valley councillors.

Not only does she habitually stand on a Deloraine street corner waving a Climate Emergency placard but time and again at monthly meetings she has asked the council questions in public question time.

In November 2019: 'Will Meander Valley Council act on the items in the Darebin Climate Emergency Plan to protect the residents of Meander Valley by producing a similar action plan and make this available on the web pages?'

In January this year: 'In view of the extreme and life-threatening bushfires already taking hold on the Australian mainland, will the council request state and federal governments to provide extra bushfire and flood prevention infrastructure?'

In February: 'Does the council consider a climate emergency plan part of its remit to protect residents from predictable threats?'

And after the council's March rejection of a climate emergency motion: 'What problems would developing a climate emergency plan present for the council?'

Confronted with councillors' blank looks, puzzled looks and even 'mad woman' looks, the Western Creek woman has persisted, rewarded ultimately in March with a successful motion declaring Meander Valley Council's recognition that climate change is indeed a thing.

Now she says, 'It's a start – but a very mild start.'

'They haven't set themselves targets or talked about decreasing emissions, except to say we need to do it.'

'Most scientists know we need to do it now. Every day emissions go up, it's just going to make it harder for us.'



From Deloraine and all points beyond – local concern for a global problem. Front row, from left: Helen Hutchinson, Deb Lynch and Deb Hunter. Back row, from left, Stuart Brown, Laurie Goldsworthy and Neil Smith. Photo by Wendy Miller

Speaking to Helen, it's obvious that if Meander Valley councillors now believe that with this new policy they can relax into their comfy seats because they've got the bee out of the way, they can think again.

'The council has said they will apply this policy to all their practices but they haven't actually said they will create a plan,' she said.

'They've made motherhood statements about 'co-ordinating action' and 'working with government at all levels' but there's no mention anywhere that they need a plan to do that.'

According to Helen, a definite plan is the council's next necessary step.

Other actions Meander Valley Council could take include public education, reducing its own emissions, creating a food waste venue for residents without compost heaps, creating better pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and establishing

more electric vehicle charging stations.

Helen points out that residents expect much more of local government these days.

'Councils need to think ahead. The coronavirus has caused great disruption – but so will global warming.'

'Councillors must use their imaginations to consider how they can help protect people against intense storms, heat and high rainfall events.'

Helen, who is pleased with the council response so far, thanks Cllrs John Temple and Rodney Synfield for supporting her efforts. 'John Temple obviously understands the problem and how serious it is,' she said.

'I've had emails from a couple of other interested councillors, asking me to come and see them.'

Helen is studying a U3A course on the history of climate change in film, is a member of the Greens and sees herself as a prompter for action on climate change.

'I was holding my placard on a Launceston street recently and a man said, 'Good on you,' she said.

'I told him, "It's not rocket science to hold a sign – you could do it".'

Council acknowledges global warming

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY Council has acknowledged climate change as a factor to be managed in its day-to-day operation.

In the March meeting councillors committed to work with other levels of government, industry and the community to responsibly mitigate and adapt to the local effects of climate change.

By voting for the new policy councillors elected to underpin all future council action by responsibly implementing measures to minimise emissions and address the emerging risks from climate change.

The policy was a turnaround from the almost blanket rejection of a December 2019 motion by Cllr John Temple to declare a climate emergency, as 83 Australian councils already have done.

Cllrs Andrew Sherriff and Michael Kelly voted against the motion but Mayor Wayne Johnston described it as a 'major step forward'.

He thanked 'the public' and new council general manager John Jordan for his input into formulating the policy.

The public push for the policy has come from Helen Hutchinson, who has asked a question about council action on global warming at every meeting since August 2019, and Westbury's Sean Manners.

The policy will apply to all Meander Valley Council operations, practices, services and community facilities, including management of natural areas.

It commits the council to responses and specific actions to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through normal planning and risk management systems.

The motion was put by Cllr John Temple and seconded by Cllr Rodney Synfield.

Cllr Susie Bower commented, 'This is an important first step to acknowledging climate change.'

Cllr Tanya King, who declared the December motion 'a publicity stunt', described the new policy as 'a strategic, evidence-based acknowledgment of climate change, and a sensible way for the council to get involved in mitigation ... the initiative acknowledges the issue, and moving forward gives the opportunity to behave strategically and sensibly to manage the effects of climate change,' she said.

'I particularly look forward to better management of fire, fuel loading and improved management of natural areas.'

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Message from Mayor Johnston

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the world and Council appreciates that many in the community have been directly affected. As individuals, we all need to follow the guidelines to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

As a community, we need to support and care for each other, we need to buy from local businesses and we need to work together to solve the many issues that the current pandemic is causing. In these difficult times, Council's motto of 'working together' takes on even more meaning. Myself and all your Meander Valley Councillors are committed to providing real support, where it is needed. We can't solve it all, but we can do our bit.

Meander Valley Council's \$1.7m community support package will help reduce community stress and allow people and businesses to make plans with some clarity on the support to be provided by Council. The initiatives below are comprehensive and provide immediate relief to reduce expenses for residents and businesses. They also provide for longer term measures to assist the municipality to recover. Council is in a relatively strong financial position and this package is financially responsible. The hard work of many over the years has prepared Council for a rainy day and this is certainly one of those days. We are sure the measures below will help many. We will continue to work beyond these measures wherever we can to help our community recover strongly on the other side of these troubling times. If there is any assistance you need please contact us or Council's customer service centre, take care,

Mayor, Wayne Johnston



Council's \$1.7m community and business support package

Immediate rate waivers for most owners of commercial and recreational property

Most properties valued and used for commercial and recreational purposes will not be charged rates from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020. Council will also be strongly advocating for cost savings to be passed on to commercial tenants such as small businesses.

Suspension of any increase in annual rates charges, planning, building and licensing fees

All property owners can expect no increases to Council's rates charges for the next financial year. In addition, community members utilising Council's services and facilities will see no increases in fees for the same period and any increases associated with changes to the CPI will not be applied.

No fees for operators, sports clubs and users of Council's recreation grounds and buildings

All fees normally charged to operators, sporting clubs and community groups for Council facilities will cease, effective immediately. This arrangement will remain in place until the COVID-19 emergency is declared over.

Temporary removal of all fees associated with food business licensing

To assist the hospitality sector with recovery, there will be no fees charged for food business licensing during the 2020-21 financial year.

A package of small grants aimed at helping community and business recovery

New funding will be available to help organisations recover from the cost of canceled events and to assist with the delivery of new community events during the recovery phase. Grant funding for small business will also be available in the first quarter of the 2020-21 financial year. This funding is critically timed to assist small business to recommence operations and re-open after forced shutdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Helping those who help us – we will provide direct support to community service providers

Council will step up direct support for community services provided by volunteers that are deemed to be at higher risk during the COVID-19 pandemic. Temporary community car drivers have been employed and Council staff may also be re-deployed to provide additional support to community groups where needed. This is essential to ensure those who are not leaving their homes are supported.

Helping business cash flow

Council will process all early payment requests from creditors quickly to ensure cash flow for business.

Plans to assist economic continuity and recovery

Council will support local trades through a one off additional building maintenance program. By fast-tracking maintenance works across townships, Council will be assisting to provide opportunities for local companies where it is possible to do so. Council will also bring forward the planning and design of our 2021-22 capital works program so storm water, recreation and roadwork projects are ready to commence. Council will also look to bring on trainees and apprentices to support young people.

By Sharon Webb

IN THE middle of Paddy Murray's Deloraine living room stands a bicycle. But he's not an exercise freak. The bike is for grinding flour for his bread.

'If you want rye bread you can't buy rye flour,' he said.

'You have to grind it yourself. The smell is rich and aromatic, not like the flour from stores.'

Paddy's kitchen and living room are a bread-making operation. (Except for the computer station and the camera tripod – we'll come to that.)

That's because when Paddy moved to Deloraine from Bicheno two years ago he set out to renovate his small house to suit a bread-making operation with a tiled floor, slow-combustion oven and a Bosch oven.

After finding Bicheno 'lonely and too far from everything', Paddy says he feels held by Deloraine, its diverse community, neighbourly people, always something happening.

What he calls his bread-making studio surrounds him – the warmth of slow combustion, well-used worktops, pristine polystyrene broccoli boxes with warming elements for use as a prover, TV and armchair – and Wilson the dog wandering among it all.

Before the coronavirus intervened, Paddy was poised to run sourdough bread-making

classes. But with students lined up to taste warm bread fresh out of the oven, learn sourdough's 6000-year history, sniff the cultures and knead some bread, everything changed.

'I was involved in an international video-conference for a men's group when I realised I could do bread-making as an online workshop with people. That way I could cater for the local market but also make it available to the world. I've got the gear,' Paddy said.

'So now I'm closing down the face-to-face classes and cranking up the online thing.'

It's a challenge. The normal five-hour class involves chatting, questioning and lunching – on bread. From running bread-making classes in his former home in Bundanoon NSW, Paddy understands people don't know what they don't know about making bread until they're making it.

'I think an hour and a half session to condense the essentials would work, then if some people want to know more about certain aspects I can create individual modules on YouTube,' he said.

Face-to-face, learners make bread dough, knead it, then take it home to develop and bake. They also get a copy of the sourdough culture.

'With the online course I'll send the culture in the mail.



Paddy Murray really kneads to share his love of bread.

Photo by Mike Moores

Within Australia you can send a dry, dense flour culture. Internationally you use a dry culture technique – then reconstitute it with water and flour.

'A lot of people say it's easy to make your own sourdough culture. It bubbles – but it doesn't make good bread.

'I source mine from overseas, in countries where they have years of tradition in sourdough making.

'The potential combinations of bacteria and fungus is in the millions and only some of them make great bread. A good culture creates flavour, texture and volume. It also needs to be resilient, which means not being easily contaminated and going off.

'I have made cultures but they're nowhere near as good as cultures I've imported.'

Paddy taught himself how to make sourdough years ago when he was bringing up his son on a NSW farm. A friend told him that a real man has a brick oven – then set about building him one.

Since then he's run a training bakery and supplied Wollongong and Sydney restaurants with bread.

But Deloraine was where he finally decided that he wanted to be.

Paddy never fails to be inspired by the town whose residents maintain its beautiful riverbanks – and maybe he can inspire locals to enjoy a mouthful of their own fresh-baked bread in these times when self-sufficiency can only be a good thing.

Interested in sourdough bread-making?
Email to padraicmurray@gmail.com or find Paddysbread on Facebook.

Alpaca Shoppe on the move

AFTER 12 years in Deloraine, the Alpaca Shoppe is relocating to Quamby Park Alpaca Farm at 374 Quamby Brook Road, just out of Deloraine.

What a journey it has been! Jeanette and Ken Manning started out at Quamby Park Alpaca Farm in 2004 and from there, to the Deloraine Market.

One of the first businesses to set up at Deloraine Creative Studios, they made a significant contribution to the building and development of DCS.

In 2011, with the growth of their business, they set up the Alpaca Shoppe at 1 Emu Bay Road Deloraine, where they have been, and will continue to be, until June 30th 2020.

Jeanette says that now Ken is in the nursing home they need to continue their venture 'back home on the farm'.

Officially closing in Deloraine on 30 June 2020, the new Farm Shoppe will open from 1 July.

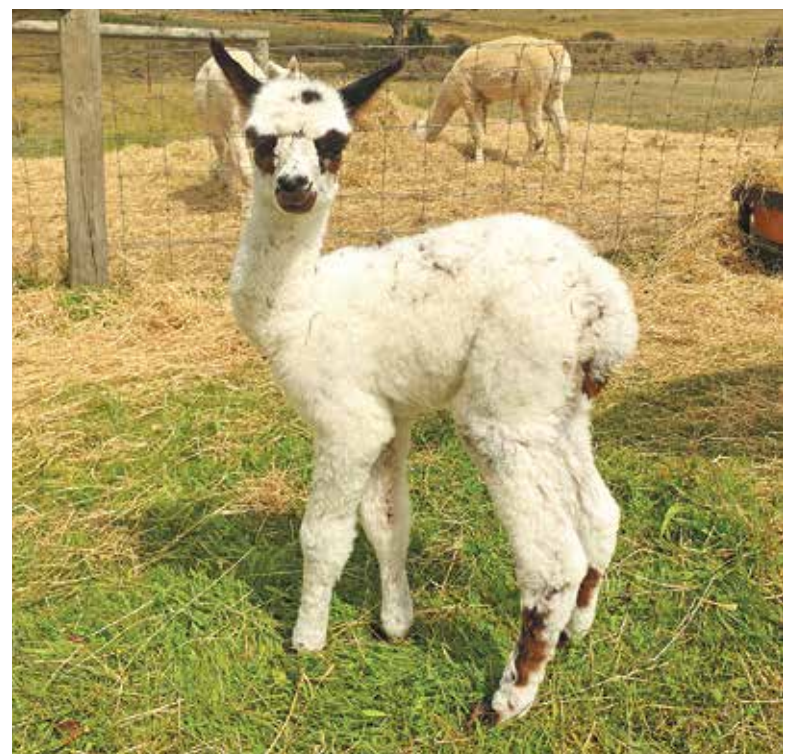
Jeanette, Lyn and Lynne would like to sincerely thank everyone who has supported them over the years.

Tasmanian fleece, yarn, garments and the Alpaca Shoppe's very own Tasmanian Grown and Made 100% Alpaca throws, knee rugs and baby blankets will all be available.

The new shop will also be supporting selected Tasmanian craftspeople, offering their products for sale.

Please come and visit the new Farm Shoppe and say hello to the beautiful alpacas.

Contact the Alpaca Shoppe by phone on 0457 198 753, email the alpacashoppe@westnet.com.au or like them on Facebook.



A new arrival at the Alpaca Farm is Hallie-Jaye.

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Labor



Jordanian-style cauliflower and lamb casserole

By Wai Lin Coultas

MAKLOUBAS IS a much-loved, traditional Palestinian dish often only prepared for Eid, Ramadan and family birthdays.

Numerous culinary twists never stray from the nutritious harmony of rice, meat and stir-fried vegetables, garnished with nuts, parsley and Greek yoghurt.

Serve this casserole with Greek yoghurt or with a raita celebrating mint's time-honoured pairing with lamb and the Middle East's fondness for fruit in a savoury dish.

Perfect as a hearty yet light, one-pot rice meal when close friends come for a casual autumn dinner.

Ingredients

- 400g boneless leg of lamb, cut into 2cm cubes
- 40g cup mushrooms, sliced
- 1 large onion, peeled and segmented into 6 pieces
- 1 large red capsicum, cored, deseeded and squarely sectioned
- 1 head garlic, peeled and minced
- 2/3 head cauliflower, cut to medium-sized florets
- 25g pine nuts, dry roasted
- 35g roasted hazelnuts
- 1 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground cardamom
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp ground allspice
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- 2 bay leaves
- 4 cups seasoned beef stock
- 1 1/4 cup Basmati rice
- salt
- cracked black pepper

- canola oil
- water
- 4 sprig tips fresh curly parsley

For raita (optional)

- 6 tbsp vanilla yoghurt
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 1 handful fresh mint leaves, chopped
- 25g dried cranberries, chopped

Method

In a cast iron pot, brown lamb in batches in heated oil. Repeat for mushrooms, then onions. Set each aside.

In the same pot, lightly brown the capsicum then add the garlic and stir fry until fragrant.

Return the lamb, mushrooms and onions to pot, stir in spices and bay leaves

Add 2 1/4 cups of stock to pot and season. Cover, bring to boil and then simmer for 1 hour till lamb is tender. Discard bay leaves and set stew aside.

Fry cauliflower florets, in batches, in heated oil and a splash of water until slightly browned. Set aside.

Cover the bottom of an oven-proof dish with 1/2 cup rice. Layer the browned cauliflower over the top and then cover with stew.

Layer 3/4 cup rice on top and then pour 1 3/4 cups of stock over the dish.

Steam in an oven until the stock has all been absorbed and the rice is fluffy and cooked through (60 minutes in a steam oven preheated to 170C).

To plate 1 individual serve, garnish 1/4 casserole with 1/4 nuts and 1 parsley sprig tip, with raita on the side.

Serves 4



Jordanian lamb casserole is a one-pot rice meal for a casual dinner.

Photo by Wai Lin Coultas



Currants, both edible and ornamental

Edible currants, (*Ribes*), come in several colours, but the most used types are the red and black varieties. Red currants (*R. rubrum*) are the sweetest

of the two, and so unprotected bushes are quickly demolished by the birds as soon as they ripen. Black currants, (*R. nigrum*) however, because they are so sour, remain on the bushes until well after they

are fully ripened. This tartness means that their natural pectin makes easily setting jams and jellies. Our childhood remedy for sore throats was a dollop of either jam or jelly in a cup of hot water.

Ornamental currants.

The red flowering currant, (*R. sanguinum*), from childhood memory – so it must be a very old plant – grows to 2m.

It bears racemes of beautiful red flowers in Spring. The Clove currant (*R. aureum*), bears strongly scented small yellow flowers in spring. Its chief beauty, if planted in a sunny spot, is its striking autumn foliage. That photographed in late March by Clive Carr, began to turn from green to red, green,

bronze and pink early in the month. Each of these plants can be propagated by cuttings.

Vegies for April

Seeds of onions, spring onions, broad beans, and radishes, and seedlings of cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower, may be grown in nitrogen enriched soil.



Clove currant's chief beauty is its striking autumn foliage.

Photo by Clive Carr

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Beerepoot family avoids rates again

By Sharon Webb

A CHUDLEIGH business has dodged paying rates they owe to Meander Valley Council because of a legal technicality.

In a Devonport Magistrates Court hearing in March, Magistrate Leanne Topfer threw out the council's claim for \$891.63 in rates on Fanny and Rembertus Beerepoot's Melita Honey Farm shop at 39 Sorell St Chudleigh because the property's address was missing on a letter sent from the Tasmanian Collection Service.

However Magistrate Topfer ordered the Beerepoots to pay \$566.84 in rates on their 33 Sorell St property.

In court the Beerepoot's legal representative claimed the council's later production of the original letter which contained the address was a version council staff had 'knowingly fabricated'.

Magistrate Topfer said she believed 'sloppy Tasmanian Collection Service practices' were to blame.

In the past the Beerepoot family has claimed religious grounds for not paying rates claiming their property belongs to God – but on the

day Magistrate Topfer handed down her decision there was no mention of religion.

In 2017 the Beerepoots owed Meander Valley Council \$9332 because they had not paid rates since 2010 and the council sold their home to recoup the rates.

Even though an anonymous benefactor had paid the rates on the two Chudleigh properties for them, the family still owed rates on Blue Wren Hideaway, their 250 square

metre house on 2.4 hectares in Mole Creek.

The council put the property up for auction and it sold for \$120,000 – a low price that stunned locals because it was probably worth \$500,000.

After deducting rates and auction expenses, the council returned the remaining \$110,000 to the family, only to have Rembertus Beerepoot hand it back.

The Beerepoots said they would not collude with what they saw as 'a hostile sale'.

The unusual situation was made worse when the new owner of Blue Wren hideaway Geoffrey Styles took it over, finding \$50,000 of fixtures and fittings removed and damage

done, with local police unwilling to investigate.

The Beerepoots also wrote Mr Styles a welcoming letter, saying 'Your act of possession is an act of theft' but 'we bear you no ill will'.

Meander Valley Council's director of corporate services Jonathan Harmey described the March court decision as disappointing.

'The council certainly has the option to reissue a new letter to the property owners and recommence a further minor civil claim for the second property,' he said.

Outside the Magistrates Court Ms Beerepoot told a friend the council's legal challenge was 'God testing us'.

'God had promised he'll give us the strength to get through it. We're responsible to do what God tells us to do,' she said.

Ms Beerepoot also said her father, Hendricus Beerepoot, had offered to pay the rates before he died in 2013 but 'we said we didn't want to'.

Several weeks after the court decision Mr Harmey confirmed the Beerepoots still had not paid their rates but he 'expects the property owners to meet their obligations and pay the outstanding amount, as per the court's finding'.

Mr Harmey would not comment on how council planned to convince the Beerepoots to pay rates they still owe from 2018, 2019 and 2020.



Day at the Creek – just in time!

You won't see a crowd standing this close together and having a good time for a while.

Photo supplied

Deloraine & Westbury Medical Centre COVID-19 virus

COVID-19 is now a pandemic. Deloraine and Westbury Medical Centre is taking extra measures to safeguard staff and patients, such as social distancing and cleaning/disinfecting the premises three times daily, including desks, door handles, sinks etc.

What COVID-19 symptoms should you look for?

- fever
- flu-like symptoms – coughing, sore throat, fatigue
- shortness of breath

What to do if you think you have the COVID-19 virus

(especially if you have been overseas or had contact with a confirmed case):

- phone your Medical Centre – Deloraine 63622266 or Westbury 63931221
- or phone the public health number – 1800 671738
- if your symptoms are extreme – phone 000 or go to Accident & Emergency

Telehealth phone appointments for COVID-19 are now available from any GP for any Medicare-eligible patients and are recommended for patients:

- self-isolating from COVID-19 on a doctor's advice
- in quarantine for COVID-19
- at risk from COVID-19 because they are:
 - over 70 years old
 - Aboriginal /Torres Strait Islander over 50 years old
 - have chronic health conditions or are immunocompromised
 - pregnant or the parent of children under 1 year old

Regular appointments at the Medical Centre are available

- if you have not travelled
- if you have no COVID-19 symptoms
- if you do not want a telehealth appointment

This information was correct at the time of publication.

FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION:

NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS HEALTH INFORMATION LINE
PHONE 1800 020 080

For appointments at D&WMC, phone 03 6362 2266

22 Tower Hill Street, Deloraine and 80 Meander Valley Road, Westbury



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Deloraine & Westbury Medical Centre 2020 influenza vaccine information

Influenza vaccination procedures this year are different from previous years because of the COVID-19 virus distancing rules.

The Medical Centre will only give vaccinations in special clinics – not at any other time.

We recommend that people arrange to get their vaccination from mid-April onward, so that they have the best protection in August/September – the expected peak influenza season.

Most people will only need ONE vaccination – the Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine. A booster dose later in the season is not recommended.

Deloraine and Westbury Medical Centre will hold flu clinics on these dates:

Deloraine Friday 17 April, 9am–5pm
Saturday 18 April, 9am–5pm

Westbury Saturday 18 April, 9am–5pm

- You must make a vaccination appointment.
- You must arrive on time for your vaccination – do not come early.
- More clinic dates may be announced depending on demand.

Your choices

- Age group – six months to five years – **free vaccination at a clinic**
Children having their first influenza vaccination will need a second dose.
- Aged 65 and older – **free vaccination at a clinic**
- Pregnant – **free vaccination at a clinic**
- Suffering chronic disease – **free vaccination at a clinic**
- All others – **no free vaccination**
Organize a vaccination prescription with your GP by phone consultation. We will send the prescription to your pharmacy for you to pay for and collect. Then make an appointment at a clinic or pharmacy for the shot.

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'committed to comprehensive, compassionate, community health care'

By Lorraine Clarke

RHODA WEAVER is a young lady with the right background to run a greengrocer's store. She is the youngest of 11 children, who grew up on a Canadian farm where her parents were market gardeners. From childhood, she helped the family pick acres of peas, beans, strawberries, raspberries and more, to stock their roadside stall, for farmers' markets or wholesalers.

When Julie and Mark recently retired from the Meander Valley Fruit and Veg store in Deloraine, Rhoda and her sister Joanna bought the business. Joanna is away for a few months, and Rhoda's parents Harold and Phyllis Weaver step in to help until she returns. The shop is open from Monday to Saturday.

Home is now a 300 acre rented farm, where they raise sheep and cattle, and grow some produce for the store.

Phyllis is famous for her jars of home-made jam that gleam like jewels, complementing the display of seasonal fruits and vegetables, honey, eggs, cheese and other delectable fare.

'We've always had an interest in growing produce, and now we're on the other end of it,' said Rhoda. 'We really enjoy it in here. We have a nice flow of tourists and regular shoppers. I look forward to meeting new friends every week. The bigger benefit of the business is meeting the people.'

Her extended family is now scattered across the USA, Canada, Europe and Tasmania. Parents Harold and Phyllis emigrated here nine years ago to answer the call of locals who had heard of the Mennonite faith through reading Christian literature, and needed a pastor.

Today 900,000 Mennonites around the world follow the teachings of Menno Simons, a former priest who rejected the Roman Catholic church and joined the Anabaptists in the early 1500s.

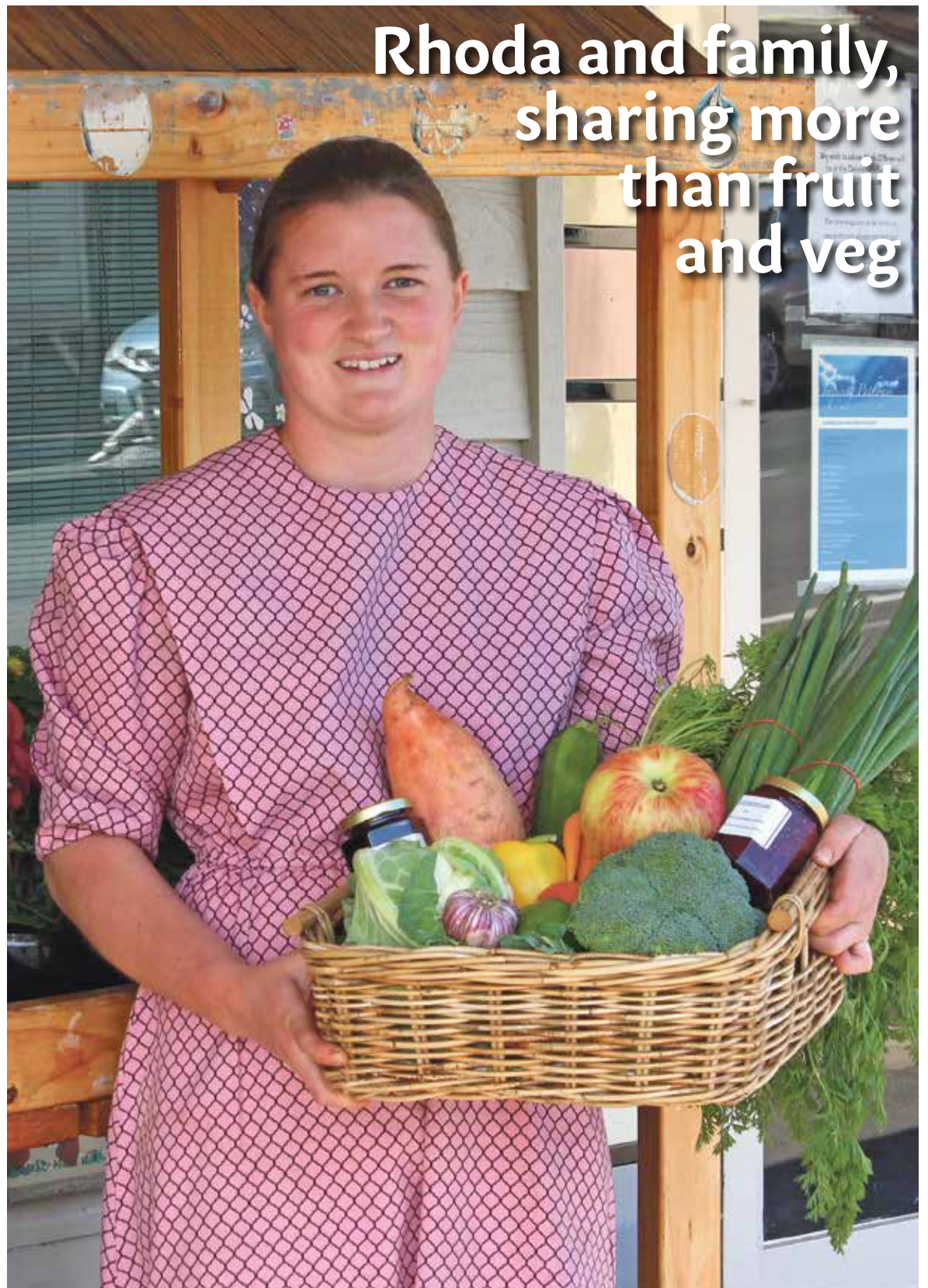
The Tasmanian Mennonite community has grown rapidly. Other families also made the move from Canada or the mainland, and children are springing up like mushrooms.

'We definitely call this home. We think Tasmania is a very nice place to be,' she says. Our winters are much milder than Canada's where several feet of snow blanket everything each year, making the farming life so much harder.

'We are living in interesting times. I hope it makes people stop and think about what is most important in life. There is more to life than the here and now. Eternity is coming. It's a time to be there for others. We have to do our part, being careful so the coronavirus doesn't spread.'

The Mennonites recently took on the Uniting Church building in Deloraine, and warmly welcome everyone to any service there. Although church meetings have been temporarily cancelled due to COVID-19, they normally meet on Wednesday nights at 7 pm, Sundays at 10 am, and host a song service on the third Sunday of each month at 6 pm.

As Rhoda explains, 'The Christian life gives you purpose. Peace and joy now, even in this turmoil. You don't have to be caught up in the fear of death because you know you have a home in heaven. It's not always easy but we know Christ has everything we need. The Lord gives us strength and courage every day.'



Rhoda and family, sharing more than fruit and veg

Growing up on a market garden farm in Canada, and now at Meander Valley Fruit & Veg in Deloraine, Rhoda Weaver enjoys sharing their produce with the local community. Photo supplied

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Non-events diary

BECAUSE OF the COVID-19 restrictions, most of the activities usually listed in our events diary have been cancelled.

While restrictions apply, we will be listing local businesses that are now trading under different circumstances, such as home delivery from online or phone orders.

For a temporary listing on this page, please contact advertising@meandervalleygazette.com.

Summarise what your business can still do.

Provide contact details such as email, Facebook or phone.

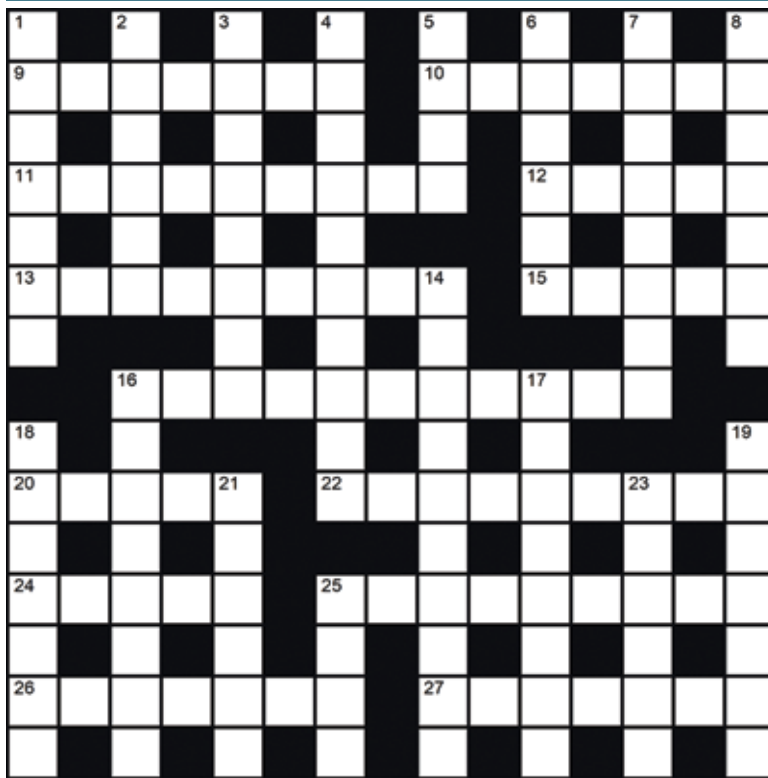
Because the restrictions are constantly changing, we cannot guarantee that listings made at the time of publication will be accurate for the entire month.

Westbury Baptist Church

ALL CHURCH services and activities are suspended until further notice.

Should anyone require further information, phone: 0402033366 or 0408114510.

Crossword



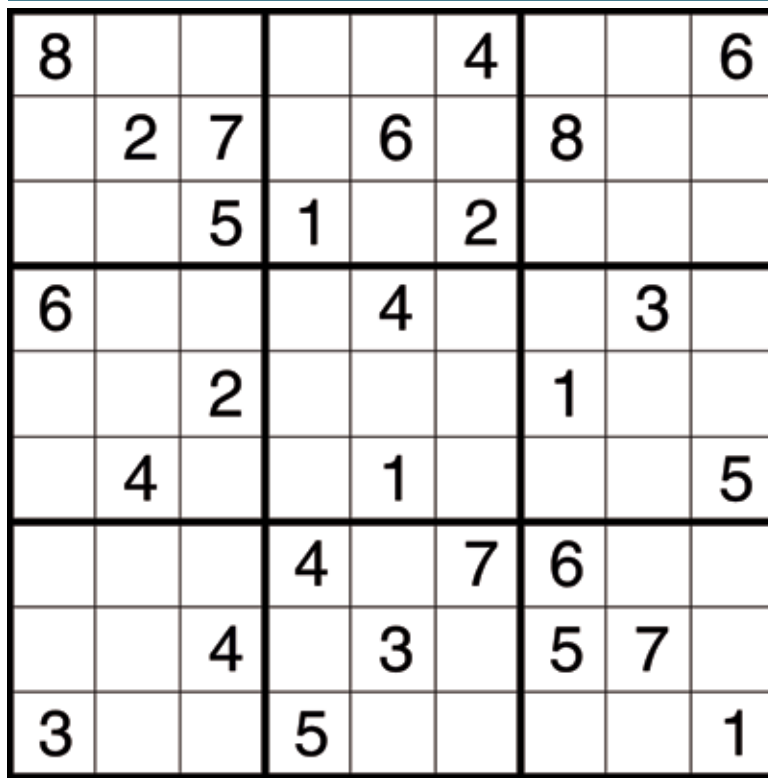
Across

- 9 Fully owned (4-3)
- 10 Musical entertainment (7)
- 11 Carried on (9)
- 12 Elevate (5)
- 13 Hero type (4, 5)
- 15 Storage centre (5)
- 16 Controversial WA settlement between Lancelin and Cervantes (5, 6)
- 20 Person used as one's excuse (5)
- 22 Institution for abandoned children (9)
- 24 Prague resident (5)
- 25 Asian ____, a shorebird seen in summer in the North (9)
- 26 Energetic (7)
- 27 Bigger than the rest (7)

Down

- 1 Discriminating diner (7)
- 2 ____, Murphy, radical judge (6)
- 3 Swore (8)
- 4 Nuclear point of detonation (6, 4)
- 5 Cricket World Cupper, ____, Hogg (4)
- 6 Beat the goalie (6)
- 7 Bare (8)
- 8 Canadian oil province (7)
- 14 Olympic gold-winning Hockeyroo forward (4, 6)
- 16 Undermine (8)
- 17 Interconnecting devices (8)
- 18 Series of waterfalls (7)
- 19 Rues (7)
- 21 Residence-based (2-4)
- 23 Former tennis Grand Slammer ____, John Cooper (6)
- 25 Evade (4)

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 April 2020 solution



Sudoku April 2020 solution

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

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Still open for business? Then make sure everyone knows about it. Email the details to advertising@meandervalleygazette.com and we will add them to our list.

Open	Business	Details
Daily	Cycles at the Empire, Deloraine	Takeaway – lunch & coffee free home delivery of 'Heat at Home' meals & alcohol 6362 1029*
Daily	Deloraine Hotel	Bottleshop open takeaway meals from 5.30-8pm*
Daily	Bush Inn, Deloraine	Bottleshop open*
Wed-Sat 12-8pm	British Hotel, Deloraine	Bottleshop open pizzas available, takeaway meals, dinner only.*
Wed-Sat 5.30-8pm	Westbury Hotel	Bottleshop open takeaway meals*
Thurs-Sun	Mole Creek Hotel	Bottle sales takeaway meals*
Mon-Fri 5:30am-3pm, Sat-Sun 8am-2pm	Amble Inn Snack Bar, Deloraine	Takeaway – fish'n'chips, pies, rolls, cakes Sunday roasts with vegies
Mon-Sat 5am-3pm	Deloraine Town Café and Bakery	Takeaway – coffee, breakfast & lunch rolls, wraps, pastries, pies, quiches, cakes
Mon-Fri 7:30am-5:30pm	Best's Butchery, Deloraine	All your favourite local farm meats Home deliveries 6362 2039, 0498 099 742
Mon-Sat	Meander Valley Fruit & Veg	Fresh and local fruits and vegetables, honey, eggs, dairy
Mon-Sat 8am-8pm, Sun 9am-8pm	Subway Sandwich Bar, Deloraine	Takeaway Seniors' deals online and phone orders
Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat-Sun 8am-3pm	Frog's Bakery and Café, Deloraine	Takeaway – bread, pies, rolls, cakes, coffee
Mon-Sun	Mumma Buzz Café	Takeaway – lunches, hot meals, curries, chips, pastries, cakes
Mon-Fri	Julie Byrne Legal	Phone, email & mail business reception@jblegal.com.au 6362 2655
Phone to make arrangements	MFY Gymnasium, Deloraine	Personalised yoga & gym training 0422 190 847 www.facebook.com/MovementEffects/
Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm, Sat 10am-2pm	Wholesome House Deloraine	Health foods, bulk grains, flours etc. Vacola preserving kits Organic fruit, dairy, honey
Call for bookings	Deloraine Community Car	Ann Axelsen Co-ordinator 0427 504 546 In-car phone 0407 873 954
Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday am	Emergency relief, visiting services	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd Call 6362 2678 for advice on services or to book appointment
Any time	Bonorong Wildlife Rescue	Call to report finding injured and orphaned birds and wildlife 0447 264 625
Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm, Sat 9am-3pm, Sun 10am-3pm	Westbury Hardware	Corner of Taylor Street and Meander Valley Road, Westbury business as usual
Tue-Sun 8.30-2.30, closed Monday	Café Verde, Westbury	Corner of Taylor Street and Meander Valley Road, Westbury takeaway only
Mon-Fri 8.30am-6pm	Westbury Gourmet Butchery	Business as usual
Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat 10am-2pm	The Green Door	Corner of William Street and Lyall Street, Westbury takeaway only
Daily, 9.30am-5.30pm	Ashgrove Cheese, Elizabeth Town	Takeaway ice-creams, specialty cheeses, dairy products 6708 1012
Daily, until 9pm	United Elizabeth Town Roadhouse	24/7 fuel takeaway including wood fired pizza, coffee groceries 6368 1216

* check the Facebook pages of all pubs, cafés and restaurants for menus and updates to service

By Sharon Webb

THE FIRST real estate casualty of the Northern Regional Prison has been put up for sale.

Cindy Swinton, who lives at Rivers Edge on her 20 hectare property further down Birralea Road from the proposed prison site, has decided the uncertainty of running a bed and breakfast business close to the prison is not for her.

'After living here 35 years it's not a place I want to leave but it's too much for me. The prison announcement was the last straw,' Ms Swinton said. 'Now is the time to go.'

Ms Swinton's husband died seven years ago. The couple ran the property as Park Crest Thoroughbred Stud, the home of several successful racehorses.

They built a home of stone quarried from the site in a stunning location right on the banks of the Meander River. The sound of the water rushing by is soothing as Ms Swinton puts up her feet with a glass of wine on the covered deck.

Having converted her home to a B&B six months ago, Ms Swinton is despondent about its future. 'No-one will want to stay in my B&B next to a prison,' she said.



Too close for comfort?

But actually, the property is not within sight of the prison and home-owners with a sense of history may well be attracted.

'We used Baltic Pine and convict bricks from three old houses we demolished for feature walls,' Ms Swinton said,

'The uprights are Tasmanian Oak from the old Deloraine train station and the Oregon beams are from an old bridge at Latrobe.'

The couple lived in a caravan on the site for two years while they built the house.

During prison consultations, Ms Swinton was immobile after breaking her ankle. Corrections Minister Elise Archer visited Ms Swinton to hear her opinion on the project.

'Elise Archer agreed the prison would affect property prices but she wouldn't actually say what the benefits of

the prison would be. I think we won't benefit at all.

'To me, if someone breaks out they will go bush and head for the river.

'But I don't think the prison will get passed because the government has gone about it totally the wrong way. They need to bow out gracefully now and find another site – not near a tourist town or in a tourist area.'

Rivers Edge on the banks of the Meander – out of sight of the prison but not out of mind.

Photo supplied

Ms Swinton has her eye on buying another home on the Tamar River.

'The government needs to put the prison out of sight of tourists,' she said. 'If they don't, Labor will just drag out the issue until the next election.'

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New council procedures for COVID-19

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY council's customer service office is now closed to walk-in enquiries. Mayor Wayne Johnston said 'Staff are still working and are available to provide service by phone and email.'

The next MV Council meeting on 21 April will see councillors meet remotely –but ratepayers will still be able to hear meetings and submit questions.

Local Government Minister Mark Shelton has formalised arrangements so councils could meet COVID-19 distancing requirements but still hold meetings and fulfil their statutory requirements.

'Local government plays a crucial role in keeping our economy moving and providing essential services to our local communities,' he said.

New procedures allow councils to meet via teleconference

and videoconference and to authorise and sign certain documents electronically.

Documents normally available at council offices in hard copy will be accessible online.

Councils will need to make electronic recordings of meetings available on their websites for the community to view.

For Meander Valley Council meetings, residents can submit questions via the council website or by phoning 6393 5300. Handwritten questions can be submitted in a box in the council foyer. Recordings of meetings will be available via a link on the council's website.

Meander Valley Council held a special meeting on 7 April to formalise a range of measures to support the community during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Councillors also discussed requirements around social distancing and restrictions on public gatherings.

Hadspen cricket – back to back GF wins

By David Claridge

THE TROPHY cabinet at Hadspen Cricket Club has gained some new editions after a clean sweep of this year's top two leagues.

Both Premier League and A-Reserve recorded grand final victories over Longford.

Club president Corey Martin said he is stoked that both teams were able to go back-to-back.

'The Premier League grand final was one of the best games of cricket most people would have seen. It ebbed and flowed, we had it, Longford had it and fortunately we were able to be on the right ebb at the right time. To win by one wicket adds that extra bit of theatre to it,' he said.

'Overall, we've had a brilliant season. To be a part of an event for the Bush Fire Appeal with three other clubs from Meander Valley and raise \$20,000 and to

cap it off with on-field success makes it even more special.'

Hadspen B-Grade also made their grand final but lost to Perth, while Hadspen C-Grade made finals.

'All four men's teams to make finals and we're the only club to have two women's teams, the club is in a strong position,' Martin said.

'The amount of progress the women have made after only just getting into the sport has been a highlight.'

Due to the new social distancing measures, they were unable to have their end of season celebrations. 'We are looking into ways of acknowledging our players' achievements in due course,' said Corey.



Hadspen Cricket – celebration postponed!

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- Power raking - Lawns - Small Acreage
- Slashing - Grading - Trenching
- Drain Cleaning

Greg Leonard 0408 543 132

CLASSIFIEDS

Advertising enquiries to
advertising@
meandervalleygazette.com

Phone 6286 8216

Walters
CONTRACTING

NO JOB TOO BIG OR SMALL

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

JOEY 0467 361 626 CHRIS 0418 370 646



SERVICING THE MEANDER VALLEY COMMUNITY FOR OVER 50 YEARS

MIGHTY SKIPS
Locally Owned & Operated

Skip Bin HIRE
for Rubbish Removal

Tim Dawkins
Phone: 0400 087 854

ACCOUNTING & BOOKKEEPING

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

COMPUTER REPAIRS

For computer repairs, upgrades, accessories & internet phone installation. Call Alistair Carr. Mobile: 0438 681 290. Email: ali_carr47@carrpar.biz

NIGEL'S
PUMPING SERVICE
Locally owned and operated

Regularly servicing your area



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

We offer:

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- Sludge removal
- Portaloos

Ask about our reasonable rates

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

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SHERRIFF'S
PLUMBING PTY. LTD.

SERVICING MEANDER VALLEY FOR OVER 40 YEARS

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

David 0417 104 467 - Simon 0408 622 279



Find us on Facebook

DEBORAH HUNTER Bowen Therapy (Reg. Cert IV), Seppentfels Wednesdays & home visits. Therapy has ceased until the Covid-19 crisis passes. Stay safe everyone. Ph: 6367 8142 or 0403 293 549

4WD TRACTOR & 4WD TIP TRUCK HIRE

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

The Gazette would like to thank all the local businesses who are continuing to advertise with us despite the COVID-19 restrictions. To those businesses who have been forced to close down, we wish you well and look forward to seeing you back in business as soon as the restrictions are lifted.

See a photo that you like?
Many Gazette photographs can be purchased. Prices and information: call 6286 8212.

A flying farewell to footy



This might be Mike's last football photo for some time – Louis Davey, taking a great mark at the Deloraine Roos' footy clinic in early March.

Photo by Mike Moores

Protecting yourself from coronavirus



Following this advice and practising hygienic respiratory etiquette can help slow the spread of COVID-19.



1 Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



2 Cover your cough and sneeze with your elbow or a tissue, then dispose of the tissue in a rubbish bin.



3 If unwell, avoid contact with others (stay more than 1.5 metres from people).



4 Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces regularly.



5 Stay home if you are feeling unwell.

Practising good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence against most viruses. Coronavirus is most likely spread from person-to-person through direct or close contact. For more information visit www.health.tas.gov.au/coronavirus