



WE'RE ALL DRESSED UP

And we've got takeaway to pick up too!

▶ PAGE 3



BEST IN BRACKNELL

Mountain Vale Dairy reaps the awards

▶ PAGE 8



DELORAINE DELIGHTS

A long history of tourism waiting to be revived

▶ PAGE 10

Meander Valley Gazette

FREE every month!

May 2020

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper



Not forgotten

Anzac Day 2020 – not permitted to gather together, people still found ways to acknowledge the day, separately and at home. See page 2.
Photo by Mike Moores

... and nor should these be

We need help, says our neighbourhood house

By Sharon Webb

DELORAINE HOUSE is appealing for urgent help for people sleeping in cars and tents around the Meander Valley because of the Covid-19 virus.

Manager Debbie Smith has called for donations of temporary accommodation, warm clothing, bedding and food to help homeless people.

'Currently we are assisting four women living in vehicles,

six men living in vehicles or tents, a family with small children living in temporary accommodation and about 20 backpackers and temporary visa holders who are living in hotel/boardings/camp areas,' Ms Smith said.

Ms Smith said many international people had been trapped by the Covid-19 situation – backpackers and fruit pickers who thought they would only be in Tasmania over the warmer months.

'For various reasons they haven't been able to go home and

are stuck here with no warm clothing and nowhere to live,' she said.

'We also have some homeless people from the NW Coast who have escaped the Covid-19 situation because they don't want to catch the virus.'

The situation is exacerbated by the closure of local shops where people could have bought cheap clothing and blankets.

Deloraine House has become a one-stop shop for people needing food, clothing, bedding and shelter.

'We're trying to do it on a skeleton crew and it's full-on,' Ms Smith said.

'We're averaging 20-plus people through here a day.'

Deloraine House is selling nutritious freezer meals for \$5 each and provides emergency food relief and no-interest loans.

Staff are also supporting vulnerable and elderly people who are isolated in their homes via a red and green card system.

'They have registered with us and leave a green card in their window if they're ok and a red one if they need help. We also phone them twice a week,' Ms Smith said. 'We are shopping for groceries for some people

and can deliver food where necessary.'

Ms Smith said Deloraine House is looking to access the Meander Valley Council's \$1.7m business and community recovery package to assist with off-setting some of the expenses needed to provide these services.

Backpackers from as far afield as Longford and Cressy have also appealed for help from Deloraine House because there are no neighbourhood houses in the northern midlands.

People needing to register for help or to offer assistance can contact Deloraine House: phone 6362 2678.

A different dawn



Above: This different style of Anzac Day wreath was created by Ruth Paterson of Moreton Hill Farm, Oaks, and displayed on the front gate of Pearn's Steam World in Westbury.

Photo supplied by Anne Heazlewood

Left: Louise Schaap, Deloraine Big Band saxophonist, playing in her driveway at dawn on Anzac Day.

Photo supplied by Louise Schaap

Right: Alicia, Kayley & Jayla Boxhall of Meander created a front window display and held their own dawn service as well.

Photos supplied by Alicia Boxhall

ACROSS AUSTRALIA, despite the Covid-19 restrictions, plans were made to hold smaller private ceremonies of remembrance for Anzac Day. Meander Valley was no exception.

Some Gazette readers were kind enough to share their stories and photographs.

Janet Morley, Alex Tabor and Louise Schaap are all members of the Deloraine Big Band – normally part of Deloraine's Anzac Day activities.

They took part in the dawn 'service' by playing in their driveways on their saxophones, from one end of Deloraine to the other.

Louise wrote, 'We played the "Last Post" and "Reveille", a privilege usually reserved for a bugle or trumpet at a Cenotaph.

'I also played "I am Australian". A little bit out of the agenda, however I am well aware Peter Ashton is keen to have the Community Band

(that would normally march on Anzac Day) play this every year down at the Cenotaph.

'Janet also says she heard a trumpet, down near the river, at dawn.'

Niecy Brown shared her Anzac Day dawn experience.

'My next door neighbour Louise Schaap was out on the nature strip this morning at 6am playing her saxophone in remembrance.

'It was so moving and beautifully done. Her husband, son and I felt honoured to be part of this ceremony.

'Louise is a valued member of the Deloraine Big Band and teacher at the Deloraine High School – a true community leader in a very special way.'

'Further down the street we heard traces of the last post from Janet Rawley, also from the Big Band and in the distance the enigmatic drift up the hill from a bagpiper near the river.'



ADVERTISEMENT

LIBERAL

Senator Claire
CHANDLER
Senator for Tasmania

Your Liberal Senator
working for **LYONS**

03 6223 1135
Senator.Chandler@aph.gov.au
SenatorChandler
senatorchandler.com.au

Authorised by Senator Claire Chandler, Liberal Party of Australia, 152 Macquarie Street, Hobart 7500

KEEP YOUR HEALTH ON TRACK



Now more than ever, it's important to keep your health and wellbeing on track. Your GP and health services are still there for you, so there's no need to put off or miss medical appointments, or ignore symptoms during isolation.

There are safe ways of getting all sorts of care, including consultations, vaccinations and prescriptions. You may be able to have a phone or video appointment or even have your medicines delivered.

PHONE YOUR GP OR HEALTH SERVICE





www.primaryhealthtas.com.au



An Australian Government Initiative



Empire of fun – Friday night dress-ups



MONDAY 23 March 2020 will live in the annals of Deloraine and Australian history. That's the day that the National Cabinet declared that all pubs, clubs and restaurants had to close to protect the health and wellbeing of Australians.

Tasmania followed suit. Along with the pubs and hotels all other forms of social gathering had to close their doors as well. Overnight, the good folk of the Meander Valley lost the social hubs that many had come to rely on.

With its regular Friday evening get together, the Empire Hotel social club was a place for many Deloraine folk to come together and relax in the company of friends from all walks of life.

According to Russ White, 'Social club on a Friday night has become a great event, something to look forward to, with friends, meat raffles, membership draws and footy tipping.

'And of course, there were always Sheridan's bad jokes and magic tricks as well.'

The weekly shindig was clearly threatened by the lockdown. Not to be denied their weekly fun, the guys down at the Empire social club simply moved online and added a bit of fantasy.

'The brains behind the move was Marion Axelsen. She stepped up and created a social club Facebook page and kicked off the Friday night dress-ups,' said Amanda Flanagan.

'Friday dress-ups have been great fun. We encourage people to get creative on a Friday night. We love seeing how inspired people can be.'

For those who want to join in, just dress up – whether getting home delivery or take-away. They will have their photo taken and added to the Rogues' Gallery on the social club Facebook page.

'Friday dress-ups are a bit of fun for the whole community. You don't have to be a social club member. We are just trying to add some sparkle to what could otherwise be a dreary time in lock-down'.

To check out what is happening at the Empire, go to either their Facebook page or the social club's Facebook page.

Just a few of the charcters added to the Rogues' Gallery at the Empire – from left, Marion, Russ, Kaylee, Russ again and Marion once more. Photos supplied by the Empire Hotel

Hadspen for all to see!



In the main street of Hadspen, vistsors now have a new information sign, map and key to unlock the attractions of the town. Robert Scott and Jenny Triptree show off the result of Hadspen South Esk Lions Club's hard work. The sign is also sponsored by Meander Valley Council .

Photos by Mike Moores

Jen Butler MP Your Local Member for Lyons

For many of us, this is very tough time. I am here to help.

My office can be contacted via email or phone

03 6324 2070 Monday - Friday
jen.butler@parliament.tas.gov.au

Leave a message with your phone number and we will return your call as soon as we can.

Look out for red doublets and stay safe

Labor





PJS Financial
Accountants and Business Advisors

Supporting the Deloraine and Meander Valley community with personal quality advice for more than 30 years.

Employing a friendly team of local staff.

Accredited specialists in cloud based accounting.

Institute of Public Accounting Practice of the Year 2016.



Your Local Accountants & Business Advisors.

21 West Barrack St
Deloraine

Cnr of York & Bathurst Sts
Launceston

T (03) 6362 2346
E info@pjsfinancial.com.au

Letter from the Editor

DESPITE, OR perhaps because of present circumstances, this month's letters are about bigger issues than having enough toilet paper.

Covid-19 is an ongoing threat to the community's health but it could easily become a classic tool of misdirection while we worry about our basic needs.

Here at the Gazette we are worrying about staying in print through winter, until normal life resumes. This month, we cut back to 16 pages to save money, but we were wrong to assume it would be a struggle to fill our pages.

In the coming months, like many regional newspapers and not-for-profits, the Gazette will need to look at what options may be available to ensure our ongoing existence as a community resource.

The Gazette is also making plans to call on our much-appreciated community supporters to help us underpin our survival.

But for now, we must congratulate Sharon Webb who has been shortlisted in the 2020 Tasmanian Media Awards in two categories, for her reporting on the proposed prison at Westbury.

Recognition of the quality of her journalism by her peers, is something that all of the Gazette's supporters, advertisers and our sponsors – the Deloraine and Westbury Medical Centre, the Deloraine and District Community Bank and the Great Western Tiers Information Centre – should be very proud of.

We are!
Liz Douglass

Letters to the Editor

MP BRIAN Mitchell – whose article proves that 73% of statistics are made up on the spot – says some people are sick of old-growth logging protestation.

Vastly more, however, are infinitely sicker of being lied to and robbed throughout recent memory.

Lied to about the autocratic, untouchable HEC during the 60s and 70s, especially the Lake Pedder fiasco. Constant abuse of due process. Parliament sidelined. Rule by decree. No feasibility assessments. Vindictiveness, secrecy, dishonesty, and regime refusal to listen, discuss or compromise.

Lied to about job-destroying, money-munching casinos and pokies, and a gold mine free gifted monopoly to a private company, forfeiting \$700m+ in public revenue sorely needed for education, health and other front-line services. Secrecy, bribery, people paid off everywhere, and under-the-table conversion of public assets into massive private wealth.

Lied to about blatant commercial and environmental det-

I NOTE that Greg Hall, former mayor of the Meander Valley Council and champion of dumping a totally inappropriate maximum security prison on the village of Westbury has been kick started again by the liberal government to again stir the pot.

Mr Hall and his other 'jobs for the boys' brigade are called on to spout their liberal biased opinions in favour of the prison whenever things look bad for the proposal. And so it goes again.

The so-called 'survey' must have put the wind up Minister Archer, otherwise we would

riment from raping old-growth forests to underwrite Japanese woodchip importers' profits.

A financial basket-case for years, Forestry Tasmania's economics are simple: to meet legislated (why?) production quotas, it sources a \$10 product which sells for \$8. Such economic idiocy can only exist if enforcers don't know 8 is less than 10, or [what do you think?] someone is pocketing a bit of the 10 and/or a bit of the 8. Conflicts of interest, dodgy deals, public wealth theft and corruption of process in all directions.

Systematic and pervasive dirty tricks, rorts, corruption, conflicted interests, abuses of power, intimidation of opponents and blatant illegalities defining the past 60 years are well-documented: names named, yet no defamation cases – what does that tell you?

Without politicians capable of clean, transparent, intelligent and visionary leadership, business as usual means any hope for a better future is on hold.

Peter Anderson, Western Creek

already know the results of the botched exercise. The phone survey was a mess. The written survey was incomplete and a mess, and so the results could hardly be enlightening, otherwise we would be told how many survey responses were received, we would have been told what the results of the surveys are, and when the SGS Final Report be handed down.

But all we get is Mr Hall demanding that the government spend even more money on so called experts to do the whole thing again, and silence from the government.

Peter Wileman

We need to look at the site

I refer to the letter from Greg Hall in last month's issue who made some very valid points in support of a Northern Prison, however it was disappointing that he didn't comment on the proposed site in Valley Central Industrial Precinct at Westbury.

This site is less than 2 km from the Westbury Post Office and our village has a population of 2000.

Furthermore, the Industrial Precinct was assessed in a Northern Industrial Land Study by SGS Economics in 2014 as being the second largest industrial site in Tasmania and the largest industrial site in the Meander Valley. Westbury was reported as being one of the 5 regionally significant industrial precincts in the state.

To place a prison in a regionally significant industrial precinct that is government-funded, instead of the wealth-generating industries that it was originally intended for by the Meander Valley Council doesn't make sense.

The Meander Valley Council have such a great asset in the future development of the industrial precinct for businesses to invest in over the coming years that many councils would envy.

This could stall the progress of industries investing in the precinct, however some politicians believe that other industries will move to Westbury because of the prison. But Risdon Vale has approximately 46 hectares of industrial land

I THINK it's absolutely pathetic that it has taken a world-wide pandemic for Meander Valley Council to provide 'soap' at the Deloraine public toilets.

Further disturbing is that now everyone must use the 'one' toilet.

AR Trounson, Needles

Federal Government snubs conservation legislation review

On Friday the 25th of April the Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley showed her true colours.

Until the 17th of April this year, the government welcomed submissions into the independent review of the *Environment Protection and Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*.

It pains me to note that Sussan Ley said that work is already underway to speed up environmental assessments of projects. The government is aiming to change Australia's environmental laws before the EPBC review is even finished.

This is evidence that current and previous reviews (such as the Hawke review in 2009) have

with only 4 businesses, none of which derive any income from the prison which was built 60 years ago.

After speaking with one of the unions that represent the workers at the Risdon Prison, they confirmed that most of the workers live in the Greater Hobart Region and workers don't live in Risdon Vale to work at the prison.

So, we can take from that, the workforce for a Northern Prison will not move to Westbury, they will travel from Launceston and Devonport areas. Which is exactly what is happening in Hobart.

Some supporters of the prison have indicated that they have given the State Government a wish list such as a new police station (which we already have), a pool (which is in Deloraine 10 minutes away and a new Aquatic Centre in Launceston 25 minutes away).

So if the prison is such an asset to the Westbury community why should supporters be asking for more taxpayer funds to be spent on infrastructure that the Meander Valley Council will have to maintain?

I am not opposing a Northern Prison, I am however opposing the site and I would encourage Greg Hall to visit the industries already established in the industrial precinct to get their view as they are the industries that have already spent millions of dollars investing in their businesses.

His time could be better spent finding a new site for the Northern Prison as the Meander Valley Municipality covers a large area and no other council has come out publicly in support of the project for their municipality.

No, I am not a nimby or a naysayer, just a concerned Westbury resident.

Carol Firth

been and will be ignored by the Federal Government.

It seems the Environment Minister has a lot of discretion when it comes to giving the green light for developments that threaten our endangered species.

Our country has one of the worst species extinction rates on this planet.

How can legislation be watered down at a time when the legislation's directives are not even being met?

It is a massive waste of money to create legislation and review processes and plans for protecting the environment when the legislation is not being followed and nobody is held accountable. It smells a lot like green washing to me.

Felicity Holmes, Blackmans Bay

EST.
2013

Meander
Valley
Gazette

This newspaper is published by Meander Valley Connect Inc., 21 West Parade, Deloraine 7304. ABN: 89090614412.

9,400 copies are printed each month on paper made in Tasmania and delivered to all homes in Meander Valley.

Editorial enquiries

Contributions welcomed!
Email: editor@meandervalleygazette.com

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

For editorial, the closing date for the June 2020 edition is 22 May.

Advertising enquiries

Email: advertising@meandervalleygazette.com

Phone: 6286 8216 (Please leave a message, as it will send an email.)

For advertising, the closing date for the June 2020 edition is 18 May.

Photo sales

Many of the photos in this publication are available for sale in varying sizes. For more information, please call 6286 8216 or email advertising@meandervalleygazette.com.

Home delivery and digital

If you live in the Meander Valley municipality and are not receiving the *Meander Valley Gazette* each month, you may have a 'No junk mail' notice on your letterbox.

Drop in or contact our office to get your free 'Please deliver *Meander Valley Gazette*' weatherproof sticker.

Email: general@meandervalleygazette.com
Phone: 6362 3537

To receive a digital copy of the newspaper each month, please make a request by emailing general@meandervalleygazette.com.

Please note

While every care is taken, the producers of *Meander Valley Gazette* cannot be held liable for any publication errors in written material or advertisements. The opinions expressed, whether by paid advertisement or editorial content, do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper. Some material may be abbreviated due to lack of space.

Letters to the Editor are continued on page 6

Questions over abattoir plan for Mole Creek



Aerial view over the Durham grazing property in the Mole Creek karst landscape. Limestone karst features can be seen on the creek banks and under the trees. To the right, across Den Road, is the neighbouring property which will be within 300 metres of the proposed abattoir.

Photo supplied

By Sharon Webb

A karst landscape expert is concerned a planning application report for a proposed \$425,000 Mole Creek abattoir could mislead non-experts at Meander Valley Council.

Deb Hunter, who has specialist knowledge of karst geochemistry and a master's degree in landscape analysis, said the report appeared to imply part of the paddock where the abattoir will be located did not have karst features.

'This is troubling use of terminology – the term 'karst' refers to a landscape.

'You can't say this side of the paddock has no karst features and some does. That's a nonsense,' Ms Hunter said.

'I fear this could be read into the report by non-experts.'

Neighbouring Mole Creek property owner Carol Douglas has registered her concern at having the Den Road abattoir only 300 meters from her house.

'I've never been past an abattoir that didn't smell and I don't

want to hear the distress noises of animals going to slaughter,' she said.

'In winter when trees are bare I'll also be able to see it.'

The abattoir, proposed by Mole Creek grazing property owner Denis Durham, would operate one or two days a week with minimal staff.

Mr Durham described the project as a 'small impact abattoir' processing only his own cattle, sheep and pigs for sale at a boutique butchery he will establish in Mole Creek next to the current supermarket.

He said the planning application for the butchery has not been publicised by Meander Valley Council as a strip of crown land accessing the Pioneer Rd property had yet to be approved for use.

'My main goal is to take the stress off the animals in transport.

'We also want to make the best beef we can on our local site and offer a high quality product for locals and tourists.

'We consider ourselves a good neighbour and I believe

most neighbours will be in favour of it.'

Wastewater-producing operations such as abattoirs can be a problem in limestone karst areas such as Mole Creek.

Surface run-off can disappear into waterways deep underground, possibly polluting locations where it unpredictably reappears kilometres away.

The planning application says Mr Durham intends to treat wastewater from the abattoir operation in a recycling plant, then use the treated water, sludge and animal stomach contents on his pasture south of the abattoir.

The karst report provided by Mr Durham noted no information had been provided on the volumes of waste water to be dispersed on pastures.

Ms Hunter said she was concerned the report was based only on surface karst features of the area.

The report noted that a geotechnical survey would be required to investigate the nature of underground karst and features.

**Do you think the Gazette deserves its place in the Meander Valley?
Do you think the Gazette could do better?
Would you be willing to help us out?
Will you miss us when we're gone?
If your answer to any of the above is YES,
then WATCH THIS SPACE!**

ADVERTISEMENT

Proudly serving the Meander Valley!

6398 1115 (Perth)
6263 3721 (Bridgewater)
brian.mitchell.mp
@aph.gov.au

f t

Labor

Brian Mitchell MP
Your Federal Member for Lyons

Authorised by Rebecca White MP 33 Cole St Sorell

“We are here to advise and support you through these unprecedented times”

As we settle into a new normal, ALA is open for business and committed to responding with an informed and solution-based approach, which prioritises the best interests of our clients, our people and the greater community.

Whilst we miss the comradery, our team is working from home offices equipped with the latest technology, to ensure we continue our service delivery during these challenging times.

There are a range of strategies and planning opportunities to help you endure and then thrive into the future.

We encourage existing and new clients to contact us to discuss how.

90 Emu Road Deloraine

03 6331 5555 or 0438 622 824

info@alapartners.com.au



Brawling begins over bungled prison survey

By Sharon Webb

CORRECTIONS MINISTER Elise Archer has thrown responsibility for a bungled prison survey not received by many residents firmly back at Meander Valley Council.

Mayor Wayne Johnston has told media that even he did not receive a government survey asking his opinion on the proposed prison – and nor did many other residents.

'I have been in the shearing shed today and three out of the four of us there did not receive the survey,' he told the Examiner newspaper.

But Ms Archer said the council was responsible for supplying residents' names and addresses for the survey mail out.

'The survey was posted to over 8,500 households in the Meander Valley in mid-March. The information for the mail-out survey was provided by the Meander Valley Council,' Ms Archer said.

'In excess of 120 additional surveys have also been provided to eligible people upon request, either to replace original surveys that were reported as not received or to allow additional adults in a household to have their say.'

Anti-prison group Westbury Residents Against the Prison (WRAP) said the survey had been 'truly lamentable in concept and execution' and was a waste of taxpayers' money.

As Ms Archer attempted to blame Covid-19 for the mess, WRAP president Linda Poulton said problems were apparent before the advent of COVID-19.

Council general manager John Jordan also waded into the turmoil.

He acknowledged in an email to WRAP the importance of the flawed survey results because they 'may influence or form part of any development application should it be lodged by the Tasmanian Government'.

He said the council had written to Minister Archer asking that steps should be taken 'to confirm with the independent firm conducting the prison survey that the results are statistically valid and that steps have been taken to ensure full coverage of the municipality.'

But Mr Jordan would not release a copy of the letter, inviting WRAP to pay for a copy under the Right to Information Act.

Former mayor Greg Hall has also weighed in on the debate, saying the survey should be redone – only to incur the derision of WRAP, who accused him of speaking after the horse had bolted.

'This complaint is, to say the least, belated,' said WRAP president Linda Poulton.

'It was reported as far back as 17 March that survey forms would only be mailed to 7,400 households in the Meander Valley.

'As a former mayor Mr Hall must also have known that this figure represents less than half of people on the electoral roll in the municipality.

'Yet he did not complain at that critical juncture.

'Instead he waited until the survey was over and when the broad outcomes of the survey would be known by those in government, to complain.'

The prison survey, supposedly mailed out to all households in the municipality, is part of the State Government's consultation process on a proposed prison at Westbury.

Conducted by Myriad Research for SGS Economics, the survey forms part of the government's socioeconomic report on the prison proposal.

Ms Archer has blamed Covid-19 for the survey being mailed out late, which will also delay the socioeconomic report.

She did not give technical details on how Covid-19 had caused the delay.

Letter to the Editor continued from page 4

Why I don't support the prison at Westbury

Everyone who was born and raised in Tasmania, like me, and most who have lived here for any significant amount of time, know and love how close knit our communities are.

It's one of the reasons that most people who are born and raised here do not wish to leave the State, and those who do so often return.

Our close knit communities are our abiding strength. But sometimes, they can also be a weakness.

It's a weakness when someone gets a job because of who they are or who they know, instead of what they know.

It's a weakness when someone gets away with feathering their own nest because those around them are worried that whistleblowing will have terrible ramifications for them personally, across the entire State.

It's a weakness when we feel pressure to toe the line or have financial or other support withdrawn from us.

And it's a weakness when decisions that affect all of us are made behind closed doors by a small group of 'future makers' who support each other's agenda.

Lots of debate has surrounded the decision to build a large high security correctional centre in the North of the State, and the merits of that course. The letter to the editor from Greg Hall (April edition) is one such opinion.

Opinions amongst WRAP's members on the merits of the Northern Regional Prison differ widely.

Some do not think a second prison in the State should be prioritised. They believe that lowering the incarceration rate in the first place and improving rehabilitation back into the community are the solutions.

Others think a regional prison in the North is a good idea but that the Westbury site is the wrong place for it.

Others are appalled at the secretive process used to select the site and the shambolic aftermath that followed its announcement. They think that the selection of Westbury was predetermined behind closed doors, and the Government's Expression of Interest process was a clumsy sleight of hand. They view the distressing 'consultation' process which has followed the announcement as a cynical exercise designed to pull the wool over the public's eyes.

Westbury's fate could have been seen in a crystal ball at least as far back as May 2018, when the then General Manager Martin Gill met with representatives of the Department of Justice. At that meeting, the Westbury site was undoubtedly targeted. As a matter we are being asked to regard as coincidence, the owner of the site owes the Council a debt of approximately \$680,000.

A poorly marketed 'procurement process' (labelled an 'expression of Interest' process) was then conducted by the Government. Its advertising was limited, it was shrouded in mystery and it yielded a miserable 5 prospective non-Government sites, 2 of which were at Westbury.

Martin Gill had helped identify the Westbury site for the Government. He now applied himself to assisting the landowner with its application. On 19th November 2018 he sent a 'joint application from the Meander Valley Council and [the landowner]'. Council has refused to produce a copy of this application despite our request, even though the application was prepared with ratepayers' money.

Since the announcement on 30 September 2019, the merits of locating the prison at Westbury have been repeatedly spruiked by the State Government. The proposal appears to have some supporters on the current Council and in former members of Council.

Two former Meander Valley Council mayors (Craig Perkins and Greg Hall) have weighed

in by giving their strong public support to the prison at Westbury. Another former mayor, now MP, Mark Shelton has conveyed that he supports the prison. The current Mayor Wayne Johnston appeared at the media release of the Attorney-General's announcement of the site.

Yet their apparent enthusiasm for the site does not flow from any widespread consultation with their community.

At no stage since this idea was first touted in early 2018 has the Council held a community meeting to ask its ratepayers whether they support a correctional facility of this size and type in the municipality. The current Council has ignored requests for such a meeting to be held despite being asked to do so shortly after the announcement was first made.

The survey designed to canvass wider opinion has been plagued by problems. Even Greg Hall has labelled this survey as a failure and has called for a rerun. We strongly oppose this as it would be throwing good money after bad. Council's position on the survey has not yet been made known.

Westbury has been stitched up and we continue to be treated like mushrooms. But it could have been any town in the Meander Valley and it could have been you, in the dark.

Contrary to what Greg Hall and others say, WRAP is not a bunch of 'naysayers' to development. We have simply stood up for our community because we know it's been dealt a dud hand. It's not a negative thing to stand up for your community.

We have not said no to a prison. We have simply said no to the prison being located so close to Westbury. We believe the entire municipality should be asked by its Council whether it wants the prison, and if so help choose a site. It's not negative to ask for the community to be involved in this a decision which will affect our municipality for generations to come.

Linda Poulton, President, WRAP Inc

ADVERTISEMENT

Guy BARNETT
Liberal for LYONS

**Listening
Caring
Delivering**

Tasmanian Liberals

P: (03) 6701 2170 - www.guybarnett.com.au
E: guy.barnett@dpac.tas.gov.au f GuyBarnettMP

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

COOPER ACCOUNTING PLUS

Tanya Cooper
Principal

Annette Powell
Senior Accountant

Small & Large Businesses
Detailed and sensitive personal attention

Specialising in:

- Taxation, Accounting & Audit Services
- BAS, GST & Fringe Benefits Tax
- Self Managed Superannuation
- Retirement & Succession Planning
- Primary Production
- Retailers
- Trades and Construction

Now in Deloraine at 3/58 Emu Bay Road 6331 5838
Also in Launceston at G1, 26 Elizabeth Street 6331 5838

Home Control of Rats & Mice.
Eftpos Facilities Available

J.G Pest Control Pty

The Home Pest
Control Specialists

Removal of ALL Home Pests!
Including Sheds, Garages & all Outdoor areas.
Spiders, Earwigs, Centipedes, Scorpions & other Creepy Crawlies.
Cleaning of Cobwebs, Rat & Mouse Control &
Treatment of Wasp Nests.

ALL Enquiries welcome, Please phone or email Guv on
Phone : 0418 697 061 or 6362 2532
Email: guv-kate@bigpond.net.au

Local politicians support logging in State reserves

By Sharon Webb

STATE RESERVES close to the Meander Valley are up for logging and Meander Valley's legislative councillor Tania Rattray has said she will support government initiatives to log them.

Local areas available for logging include the Reedy Marsh Forest Reserve, the Gog Range Regional Reserve, Dogs Hill Forest Reserve near Mole Creek, Mt Roland Regional Reserve, Caroline Creek Forest Reserve near Railton, Mt Careless Forest Reserve near Frankford and the Western Tiers.

At a Deloraine information session in March, Tom Allen from the Tasmanian Wilderness Society told 60 residents that from 8 April, State Reserves totalling 360,000 hectares are available for logging.

The session followed a march up Emu Bay Rd by local and Launceston people against logging in the reserves, labelled Future Potential Production Forest by the State Government.

'From 8 April the Resources Minister Guy Barnett can pick some reserves and offer them for logging,' Mr Allen said.

'High conservation value forests can be logged – areas bordering the Tasman, Douglas Apsley and Ben Lomond National Parks, the Wielangta Nature Reserve, the Styx, the Weld and the Florentine Valley.

'Forests are our best form of climate change defence. These reserves have huge carbon values. If they were logged it would be the equivalent of five million more cars on our roads or doubling aviation emissions each year.'

As the member for MacIntyre, Ms Rattray's electorate covers many of the timber reserves in what the government has labelled a Future Potential Production Forest Wood Bank (FPPF).

Her electorate includes the whole of NE Tasmania further south than St Marys, west through the Northern Midlands

Before the lockdown, logging protestors walked the crowded and busy length of Emu Bay Road in Deloraine.
Photo by Wendy Miller



and most of the Meander Valley, including Mole Creek and as far west as Cradle Valley.

Ms Rattray said, 'I support access and harvesting the resource required for speciality timbers products that are an important part of the timber industry.'

'Given the challenging times that our communities, our state and our country are living through, support for a strong regulated sustainable timber industry in my view is a responsible approach.'

Minister Barnett, who also represents the Lyons electorate in which some reserves are located, said he would welcome applications to log reserves listed as FPPF.

'The government continues to engage with the industry about the FPPF and has no immediate plans to convert the FPPF land to production forest,' he said. 'The legislation provides for conversion of FPPF

land to permanent timber production zone lands after the April 2020 date,' he said.

'Contrary to recent claims, the Wood Bank is not open to harvest from April 2020.

'Instead, the legislation outlines a specific process to allow for any application for conversion to occur after this date. This includes approval from both Houses of Parliament.

'There have been no applications made to date.'

But Mr Barnett said the government would welcome logging applications in FPPF to create jobs in regional areas.

'The Tasmanian majority Liberal Government is a strong supporter of Tasmania's forestry industry, which contributes \$1.2 billion to our economy and employs more than 5,700 people

through direct and indirect jobs, many in regional areas,' he said.

'We have a long-term plan to rebuild Tasmania's forestry sector after it was decimated by the Labor/Green Government lockups.'

Mr Allen said the Wilderness Society had legal advice saying that the application process Mr Barnett referred to does not exist in any formal sense.

Reporter shortlisted for media awards

MEANDER VALLEY Gazette reporter Sharon Webb has been recognised in the 2020 Tasmanian Media Awards.

Ms Webb's work has been shortlisted in two categories: Public Service Journalism and Best Media Story.

The three stories submitted for each category were all front page Gazette stories in 2019,

Gazette journalist Sharon Webb
Photo by Hayley Manning

charting the progress of the controversial Westbury prison issue in the Meander Valley.

Ms Webb, who has a 30-year newspaper career in Tasmania and London, said it's unusual for a non-daily news outlet to be included in the awards.

'The shortlisting recognises the Gazette's strength in reflecting and informing the Meander Valley community,' she said.

Award winners will be announced on 15 May.



ADVERTISEMENT

Tania RATTRAY MLC

INDEPENDENT MEMBER



For
MCINTYRE

**Your full-time Independent
Legislative Council Member
representing the Meander Valley
community**

Contact details— Mobile—0427 523 412
Office Phone—6350 5000
Email—tania.rattray@parliament.tas.gov.au

We're still with you
Wherever you are.

Keep up-to-date with Tasplan's response to COVID-19

 tasplan.com.au/coronavirus-update

 1800 005 166

 info@tasplan.com.au



The trustee of Tasplan Super (ABN 14 602 032 302) is Tasplan Pty Ltd (ABN 13 009 563 062). AFSL 235391. © 2020 Tasplan Pty Ltd. All rights reserved.

Tasplan
Super

By Lorraine Clarke

Adapting for success – dairy business of the year

WE ALL know that bad habits are hard to break, but Grant and Kim Archer of Mountain Vale Dairy, Bracknell, are creating a good habit of breaking records.

Active Dairies Pty Ltd has just won their fourth ANZ Tasmanian Dairy Business Award, making them the most successful dairy business in the history of the awards.

The award is based on financial performance, management of the farm team, pasture growth and utilisation, cows and the environment.

Grant explained, 'We've always been keen on benchmarking. This is a competition where you benchmark against other farmers and against yourself, to see whether you are improving. The pleasing part is that each time we have won, it has been on a different farm. Some are wetter, they have various climates and soil types, some have irrigation and so on. So we seem to be able to adapt to different environments.'

Since moving to Mountain Vale in 2013, the Archers have bought additional blocks to increase the farm to 546 ha, and expanded their herd to 1,200 cows. They have created roadways, water storage, drilled a bore, built a bridge across the Liffey River, a new 60-stand rotary milking shed, and a purpose-designed calf shed.

Soil testing, fertiliser, pasture renovation, irrigation and drainage are key to the Archers' success. They regularly apply fertiliser, and nitrogen when the grass is growing.

Paddocks targeted for pasture renewal are ploughed and



sown to fodder turnips in spring for feed in summer before new grass is sown in autumn. They measure the pasture offered to the cows, and have found that renovated pastures often produce an extra 1 tonne dry matter per hectare per year.

'We have renovated about 60% of the farm so far, and it is providing big benefits,' said Grant.

They have made a big investment in drainage on the Bracknell property, to manage excess water and divert runoff into storage dams for the drier times. Only 22% of the farm is irrigated at present and, as their water rights from the Liffey River are turned off early in dry summers, they try to utilise all

available water to maximise pasture growth.

Currently the young and older cows are kept in separate herds. A third central pivot irrigation system is being installed, so three herds will be run on their own blocks next season.

In autumn, cows are milked 3 times in 2 days, which is more productive than once per day. They still receive 3 kg of grain daily to maintain production and body condition. The herd is a 3-way cross of Friesian, Jersey and Swedish red breeds for optimum milk solids and adaptation to the environment below the Great Western Tiers.

'It's nice to be on a farm that's so picturesque,' said Grant, admiring his contented cows against the backdrop of mountains and trees. They will convert some of their bush to pasture in the future, but retain a large area of timbered land.

'We have 13 year old cows in the herd. As long as they get in calf, continue milking and don't get mastitis, they're welcome to stay. We don't herd test. We produce around 465-470 kg of milk solids per cow per year, with 35,000 litres per day at peak season.'

The dairy employs six full-time staff, some of whom have worked for Active Dairies for up to 11 years, moving with them from farm to farm. 'We realise how important our staff are to us, so we try to look after them really well,' Grant said.

Grant Archer at Mountain Vale Dairy with some of the ladies who contribute to the success of the Bracknell dairy. Photo supplied



Sew safe!

Phyllis Moores and Jackie Webster try out the face masks being made for Community Care Tasmania. Photo by Mike Moores

JACKIE WEBSTER has been making protective masks for Community Care Tasmania, of Launceston. She has made over 200 masks.

Jackie is the Relief Society President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Deloraine Ward.

There is plenty of cotton fabric left over from sewing

projects, but any donations of elastic would be welcome.

Elastic can be dropped off in the letter box at 1050 Weegen Road, Dunorlan.

Sue Aykut is the contact person at Community Care Tasmania. Her phone number is 6334 0990.

Jackie can be contacted on 0411 467 525.

ADVERTISEMENT

HERE TO HELP



Rebecca White MP

Labor Member for Lyons

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

For the latest health advice visit
www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au

Authorised by REBECCA WHITE, 33 COLE ST, SORELL




PREGNANCY COUNSELLING & SUPPORT TASMANIA

Someone to Listen - Caring Support - Information - Practical Help

A free, confidential service for women, men and families experiencing distress or difficulties as a result of pregnancy or pregnancy loss.

Pregnancy Counselling & Support (Tas) Inc. gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of the Department of Health & Human Services

PHONE: 6224 2290 | WWW.PCSTAS.ORG.AU | OFFICE HOURS: 10AM TO 2PM WEEKDAYS



Viburnums

VIBURNUMS ARE a numerous group of flowering shrubs and trees from America and Asia. All are frost resistant but drought tender, and so are eminently suitable for the Meander Valley. (For cold tolerance, it would be hard to beat *V. cotinifolium* which is native to the Himalayas.)

The reason for making them this month's subject is that their vibrant Autumn foliage is so evident in our locality just now. Most are deciduous, but the quite common Laurustinus (*V. tinus laurustinus*) is an ever-green tree which grows to 3m.

Many Viburnums are sweetly scented. For example, the Korean Viburnum (*V. carlesii*), a shade loving small shrub, carries a delightful fragrance.

The Guelder Rose (*V. opulus*) has at time of writing turned a beautiful russet red. There is a striking example of this tree at the Great Western Tiers Visitor Information Centre garden in Deloraine – closed for the time being, but this one can be seen from the car park.

There are other Viburnums inside the garden, e.g. *V. plicatum tomentosum*, the Doublefile Viburnum, has layered branches with the white flowers lying on top of each branch.

The Chinese Snowball Bush (*V. macrocephalus*) bears much larger globular heads of white flowers in Spring than the Guelder Rose. Its foliage is just now turning from green to pink.

Viburnums develop berries after flowering and the most stunning of these is *V. opulus* 'Knotcutt's Variety', with pendulous panicles of large red berries. The accompanying picture was taken in early March, and is only now losing the berries to the birds.

In the veggie garden

SEEDS OF onions may be sown from May onwards, but as they like well drained conditions, gardeners will be hard-pressed find a dry enough spot this year.

In this district at the Western end of the valley, March and April have been unusually wet



(March 140mm, average 48mm, and up to the final week in April 129.8mm, average 66mm).

A large raised bed or box would be suitable, and the seedlings thinned out when 10 to 15cm high.

However this is a time consuming and fiddly task, so perhaps better to buy onions, available all year round and quite cheap.

Red onions are dearer, but as they are mainly used raw and thinly sliced in salads and sandwiches, only small quantities need be purchased.

After flowering, *Viburnum opulus* 'Knotcutt's Variety' shows off with a spectacular display of large red berries.

Photo supplied

Burmese-style fried fish curry

By Wai Lin Coultas

AS BURMESE cuisine has Thai, Indian and Chinese influences, this flavour-packed curry marries Myanmar's culinary essence with what's readily available in Tasmania – some hailing from, of course, Thailand, India and China. Perfect for lunch while working from home.

Ingredients

- 2 small mullet, scaled and gutted
- 4 tbsp bacon fat, melted

For coating

- 1 tbsp plain flour
- 1/2 tsp lemon pepper
- 1/2 tsp ground turmeric
- 1/2 tsp 41° South ginseng spice

For sauce

- 1 onion, peeled and thinly sliced
- 5 cloves garlic, peeled and thinly sliced
- 2 cm length fresh ginger, peeled and julienned
- 1/2 cup tomato passata
- 1 cube beef stock
- 1/2 lime, juiced
- 1 tbsp fish sauce
- 2 1/2 tsp caster sugar
- 1 tbsp whisky

For garnish

- pickled green and red chillies
- crispy fried shallots
- 3 sprigs flat leaf parsley

An exotic and tasty fish curry for a locked-down lunch.

Photo by Wai Lin Coultas

Instructions

Turn mullets in plate of coating mixture to evenly and generously cover all over.

On high heat, pan fry the coated fish in heated bacon fat until all sides are nicely brown and all visible flesh turns opaque. Set fish aside and keep warm.

In the same pan of fat, stir fry onions, garlic and ginger

until fragrant and approaching caramelisation.

Turn heat down to medium and add passata, fish sauce, lime juice, stock, sugar and whisky. Stir until well mixed and heated through.

Spoon hot sauce over plated fried fish, garnish with chillies, parsley and fried shallots. Serve with basmati rice.

Serves 1




**KEEP CALM
AND
ORDER FOOD
FROM HOME**

No need to miss out on restaurant-quality food in these troublesome times

Cycles @ THE EMPIRE
eat - drink - relax

is offering free home delivery,
Monday to Saturday, 5pm to 8pm
from our mouth-watering menu on

www.facebook.com/empiodeloraine

so give us a call and place your order now

6362 1029

and remember, we deliver drinks as well!

Liquor Licence No 71107455


JAMIESON'S
STATEWIDE RURAL

**Jamieson's rural merchandise store
has everything you need for
companion animals and livestock**

We offer free home delivery within the Meander Valley and encourage all our customers to take advantage of this by calling the shop to place and pay for their order.

Within 3 days, we will leave your order inside your gate, front porch or feed shed. No social contact required, just a friendly hello while keeping our distance.

6393 1067

Deloraine – the gateway to the Lakes

By Michelle Blake

IN A winning essay published in *The Mercury* on Monday 18 June 1928 Deloraine was mentioned as one of the many attractions that Tasmania has to offer.

At the time a prize was offered by the 'Come to Tasmania' committee to children on the mainland to write a letter to children in Tasmania on 'Why I would be desirous of an Easter holiday in Tasmania'.

The winner of the essay was Gordon Robson of Station Street, Katoomba in NSW. He highlighted and described many of the attractions of Tasmania at the time.

'This is a land which is wrapped in natural beauties, scenic attractions, appealing to one as a place resembling the Old Country, with its quiet rural scenes; a place where enthusiasm and wonder are raised to a keen pitch by all that is of historical interest; a health resort of mild seaside temperature or bracing mountain air; a land of mountains, lakes, plains, orchards, primeval forests, of myrtle or clematis-loaded slopes, heavy with an atmosphere of native flora; the veritable 'Apple Land,' or appropriately termed 'the Mineral Island.'

Reading this today, the description is still an accurate reflection of Tasmania. Deloraine is mentioned in the essay as the 'western centre of agricultural lands and is at a very convenient distance for tourists to leave for the famed 'Lake District'.

The area of the Great Lakes became popular from the 1890s with the introduction of trout to Tasmania. Small dams at the outlet of the Great Lake were constructed by the Tasmanian Hydro Electric Power and Metallurgical Co around 1911. A multi arch dam was built at Miena to increase the Great Lake storage and the power station was expanded in the early

1920s when the Hydro Electric Company became government owned. More and more people were attracted to the area for work or recreation and interest in the road to be improved increased.

The feat of driving from south to north via the Great Lake was achieved by Mr WH Davey of Launceston on an Indian with a side-car. The trip was made during the Easter Holidays in 1920, taking the road from Bothwell.

The trip across the lake was taken by motorboat though there was not a lot of room for the motorcycle with a sidecar and every breeze caused Davey to imagine his outfit at the bottom of the lake. He then took to the bush for a few miles as no road yet linked it to the Lakes. Once he reached the end of Pine Lake Road he was able to continue through to Deloraine.

This accomplishment generated much interest in developing a better road not only to the Lakes but through to the West Coast.

Today the road, still unsealed in places, is an important alternative route to Hobart via the Great Lakes and the Central Highlands.

The beauty of Tasmania's environment is widely marketed to visitors to Tasmania. As locals, we have such beauty at a convenient distance in our 'land of mountains, lakes, plains and primeval forests'.

As we are gradually released from our quarantined isolation perhaps it is time to rediscover our own local attractions and imagine Mr Davey on his motorcycle with sidecar bumping through the bush before the road between Pine Lake and the Great Lake was built.

<https://stors.tas.gov.au>
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/29775052>
 Spurling, Stephen, 1876-1962. *The Great Lake, north end from road, Tasmania. PPIC/13001/3009 LOC Box PIC/13001 Spurling box 8/nla.obj-145480524*

About Trove

INSPIRATION FOR this story came from searching Trove.

Trove is an online service created by the National Library of Australia.

It is a search engine that brings together digitised content from libraries, museums, archives and other collecting organisations.

Through Trove it is possible to search for books (it will tell in which libraries in Australia they are located), photographs, items, Government Gazettes and newspapers.

There are 104 Tasmanian newspaper titles that can be accessed through Trove including *The Derwent Star* and *Van Diemen's Land Intelligencer*, the earliest newspaper available, published from 1810, to local newspapers such as the *Western Tiers*, published between 1980-2004. The major papers that are still in circulation including *The Mercury*, *The Examiner* and *The Advocate* only allow access to view up until 1954, due to copyright restrictions. Later editions can still be viewed on microfilm at a major library location.

Searches on Trove can be filtered by date and location. For this article, the search was for Deloraine, limiting the search to May 1920. Terms such as 'Deloraine tourism' were also searched, limited to 1920-1929. Searchers can also assist Trove to improve the accuracy of search results by correcting the transcription of the text.

Michelle Blake – Historical Research can assist with historical and general research and help readers access information and break through brick walls in their own research.
www.mbhistoricalresearch.com/contact



A view over the Great Lake on the Central Plateau. This photograph was taken by Stephen Spurling some time in the 1930s. Today, the road from Deloraine to Hobart via the Great Lakes and Central Highlands is still unsealed in places, but is an important alternative route to the Midland Highway.

Photograph courtesy of the National Library of Australia

Swings and roundabouts for Tas Alkaloids business

By Sharon Webb

TASMANIAN ALKALOIDS at Westbury will cut operating hours and workforce in opiate production at the same time as announcing a new market for its medical cannabis product.

While it is rumoured 20 positions may be made redundant, CEO Ross Murdoch said job cuts numbers hadn't yet been decided.

But in late April the company announced an agreement to sell medical cannabis to Melbourne-based Avecho Technologies.

Avecho will buy Tas Alkaloids' natural cannabis products to combine with its own TPM technology to investigate increasing the oral absorption of natural cannabinoids.

TPM is being developed to create injectable, oral and topical products for the human health market but will also be used to enhance the feed efficiency and health of livestock.

According to Tas Alkaloids' chief operating officer Brad Blackaby, 'By providing the initial raw ingredient in this way, we facilitate our partners' ability to produce an improved commercial product, improve the quality and options for patients and gain the benefit of a long-term supply agreement.'

Dr Murdoch said Tas Alkaloids is currently consulting with employees and unions on the job cuts. 'This is not a cost-cutting move. It's a recognition of what's happening in the market.'

He said the company's diversification into medicinal cannabis over the last few years gives

it the opportunity to potentially redeploy people into that area of the business.

'We are also looking to accelerate capital works on-site.'

As demand for medicinal cannabis increases, Tas Alkaloids is adjusting longterm to a worldwide decreased demand for its opiate product.

'There has been a steady decrease in global demand for alkaloid raw material,' Dr Murdoch said. 'It's stabilising now but it won't return to 2014 levels.'

Poppy Growers Tasmania chief executive Keith Rice said the job cuts were not unexpected.

'In 2013 Tasmanian growers were growing close to 30,000 hectares of poppies. Last season it was 12,000,' he said.

'Tas Alkaloids has done a top job keeping that complement of staff as long as it has.'

Mr Rice said growers expected no impact on their industry. Farmers have gone through the pain of a reduced market for poppies and diversified into fat lambs, cattle and vegetables.

'In 2014 President Obama released a white paper on the overuse of prescription drugs and since then the US, the UK, Europe and Australia have looked at their systems of how pain medication is prescribed.'

'Everywhere there are tighter restrictions on the import of narcotic medications.'

Tas Alkaloids' agreement with Avecho seems a natural move. Dr Murdoch took on the Tas Alk CEO position in 2015, moving from his job as Avecho CEO.



SENATOR WENDY ASKEW
 SENATOR FOR TASMANIA

During these difficult times my office is here to support you.

Please call or email for assistance.

For more information about Coronavirus visit:
www.australia.gov.au

03 6331 8501 senator.askew@aph.gov.au [SenatorAskew](https://www.facebook.com/SenatorAskew)

Authorised by W. Askew, Liberal Party of Australia, 46 Cameron Street Launceston TAS 7250.



IT'S NEARLY a decade since 'The Voice of the Valley' began broadcasting. With two years of preparation, Meander Valley Community Radio (MVFM 96.9) was on the air in 2011.

Some of the people associated with the station in the beginning days were Rod Willey, Roy Jury, Marg Leedham, Di Whitely, Robin Hewlett, Sandra Johnstone, Michael O'Reilly, Lionel Walters, Mira Kuperstein and Joy Willey.

The station is tucked away in the Deloraine Creative Studios, a building complex of busy artists, craftspeople and their studios.

From the beginning, students of the local high school became involved in the station, producing and presenting programs of interviews and music, and students of all ages continue to be invited to participate.

At the 2011 Craft Fair, station committee members and volunteers conducted interviews and contributed to the broadcasting of announcements and daily programs of the event.

It was not long before many different types of program were being broadcast – play performances, book readings, and a growing range of music styles as more presenters became involved. Announcements of local news and events first

appeared in 2012 and these have continued ever since.

With healthy, continuing changes of committee members, presenters and other volunteers, the station has diversified and developed. The range of music styles featured has continued to grow and all of it reflects the diversity of the people who call the Meander Valley home.

But the station is not just about music. There are the regular news and community announcements, interviews and special events.

Grants from the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia have given great help to the station to pay for much-needed equipment and for operations. Meander Valley Council, Bendigo Bank and various other local businesses, clubs and individuals have also given grants and support.

MVFM is always looking for more volunteers. People interested in presenting or giving technical or office assistance are invited to contact the Station Manager, John Kenzie on 0473 232 030.

Like many voluntary organisations, the station has had its ups-and-downs but right now it's looking strong, vibrant and growing. There are more members, clubs and sponsors than ever before.

The new studio, new committee members and presenters are onboard, new programs are being broadcast, new relationships with local bodies are being nurtured and new equipment will enable the station to widen its role even more.

Livestreaming is underway, equipment is ready for live-to-air broadcasting and plans are underway for more outside broadcasts.

Live from downtown Deloraine!



John Kenzie, Station Manager of MVFM at the controls of the new live on-air console – waiting for Covid-19 restrictions to be lifted before live broadcasts can commence. Photo supplied

Meander residents advocate for consultation on Avoca School site

ANOTHER VACANT primary school building is up for grabs and the Meander Area Residents and Ratepayers Association has emphasised the importance of councils consulting with their communities.

In a situation similar to the one at the former Meander School site, Northern Midlands Council is considering buying the Avoca Primary School building.

Launceston YMCA has expressed interest in using the Avoca site but councillors last week postponed a decision until they have more information.

MARRA spokesperson Bodhi McSweeney said she encourages all involved to honestly consult/involve the community with any decision making.

'Country schools are generally the heart of small towns and care needs to be taken to see that the re-purpose is something that will benefit the community and that the community is in agreement with.'

'Communities put in a lot of work and dedication keeping schools alive and open via volunteering and fundraising and have a right to be consulted in the process.'

'Meander is suffering emotionally and financially because of the lack of community

involvement with the decision to lease the former primary school site for \$1 a year to a faith-based rehabilitation program.

'We wouldn't wish this hardship on any other small rural town.'

Northern Midlands mayor Mary Knowles said the Avoca community identified strongly with the school, not least because a local farmer had donated the land.

'The council needs to look at the ongoing costs of maintaining the building,' she said.

'I believe the community will not object fiercely to the YMCA proposal because it's an educational program.'

RETAIL DIRECTORY

Advertising enquiries to advertising@meandervalleygazette.com

Phone 6286 8216

CARRICK MILL ANTIQUES

One of Meander Valley's newest businesses in one of its oldest buildings.

A treasure trove of the old and interesting!

Featuring a huge range of antiques and collectables, curios and books.

Open Thursday thru Sunday, 11.00am to 5.00pm

67 Meander Valley Road, Carrick

Meander Store café extension

MEANDER STORE will build a \$150,000 extension to its café and kitchen following Meander Valley Council's approval of its application.

The store's owner, Jo Frisby, said the move was to create

more space for people to sit in the café. 'It's always well-patronised by locals,' she said.

'A few tourists stop at the café on their way through, and we get a few people from Deloraine, but 98 per cent of our customers are local.'

The store and café at 75 Main Road, Meander also runs the Meander Post Office service.

Ridgeline of New Zealand

NOW STOCKING RIDGELINE CLOTHING

Willis & Friends Clothing

20-22 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine TAS
www.willisandfriendsdeloraine/

Art Craft Handcrafted & Antique Furniture Clothing Durham Gallery Clocks Studio Space

20-22 Emu Bay Rd Deloraine

art as MANIA

THERAPIES DIRECTORY

Advertising enquiries to advertising@meandervalleygazette.com

Phone 6286 8216

Acacia Healing

Remedial & Relaxation MASSAGE

Deloraine based
 10 years professional experience
 Health rebates available

For bookings call or text Chris
 P: 0459 322 171

www.acaciahealingtherapies.com

TasWater bill support

DURING THE Covid-19 outbreak TasWater is offering bill payment support to residential customers, businesses, not for profit organisations and eligible sporting clubs. The offer includes people owning investment properties or vacant land.

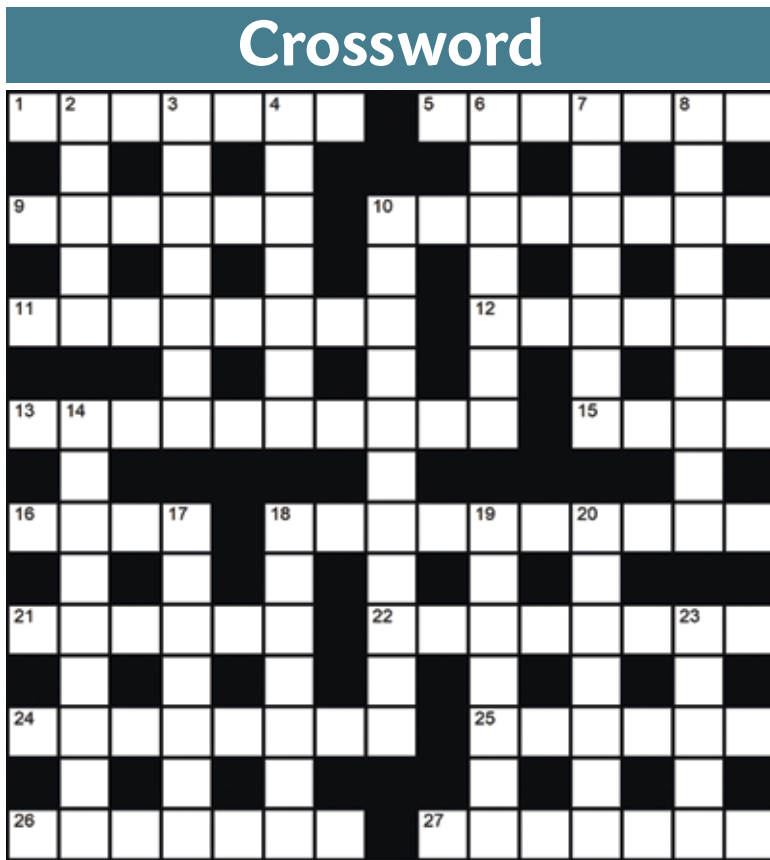
TasWater retail value creation project manager Kendall Mahnken recommended that people with payment difficulties contact TasWater.

'If you are facing financial difficulties, or if you have trouble paying your bill at any time, please contact us. We have a dedicated Customer Support Team to help you and we will work with you to create a flexible solution that meets your individual needs.'

'TasWater can also help businesses, not-for-profit organisations and eligible sporting clubs to extend payment terms based on individual needs for up to three years, with some business customers now able to defer trade waste payments for six months,' Mr Mahnken said.

TasWater had previously announced it would freeze any price increases for 12 months for residential and business customers as well as giving a 100 per cent rebate to eligible small business customers on their next bill after 1 April 2020.

For more information, go to TasWater on Facebook, www.taswater.com.au, or all the customer contact centre 13 6992.

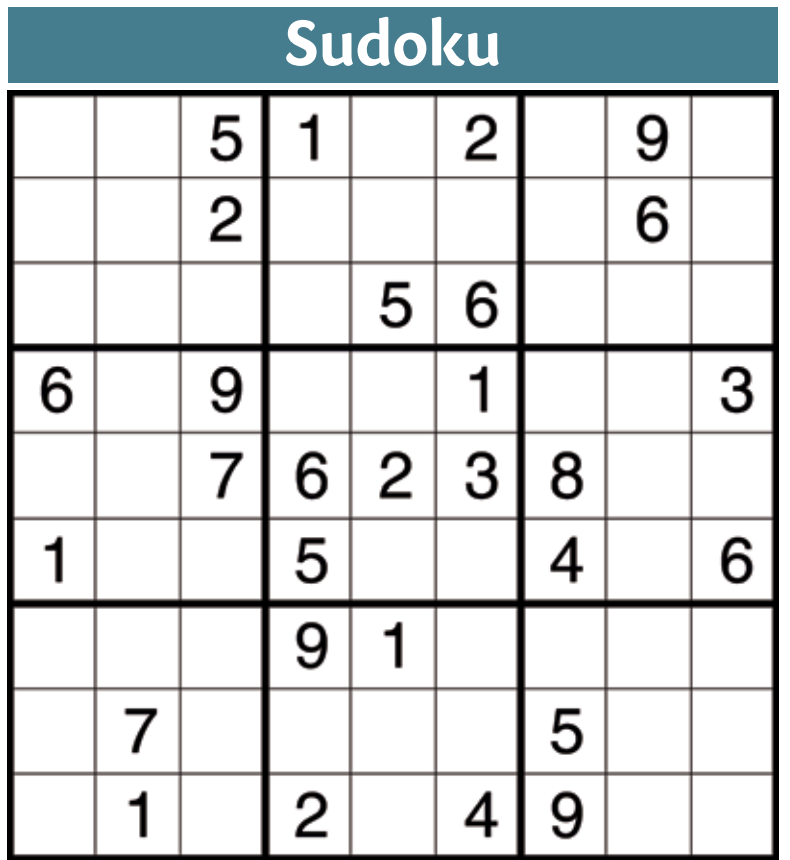


Across

- 1 Such as *Jarndyce v Jarndyce* (7)
- 5 Declares as fact (7)
- 9 Available to rent (6)
- 10 Part of a literary team (2-6)
- 11 Dealing with a subject (8)
- 12 Poverty-stricken (2, 4)
- 13 Victorian surf pioneer and board designer (5, 5)
- 15 Sometimes syphoned in bars (4)
- 16 Sour (4)
- 18 Study of pictures and painters (3, 7)
- 21 Work schedules (6)
- 22 Not normal (8)
- 24 Widespread type of fern (8)
- 25 In recent times (2, 4)
- 26 Educates (7)
- 27 Wheeled status symbol (7)

Down

- 2 Covered with water (5)
- 3 Vagabond (7)
- 4 Overall (2, 5)
- 6 Iberian tongue (7)
- 7 Prolongs (7)
- 8 Bundaberg hockey striker who won Olympic Gold in 2004 (4, 5)
- 10 Important tropical crop tree (7, 4)
- 14 Boozy (9)
- 17 In reality (2, 5)
- 18 Gun collection (7)
- 19 Refresher on a stick (3, 4)
- 20 Small, noisy, black and white bird (7)
- 23 Communion table (5)



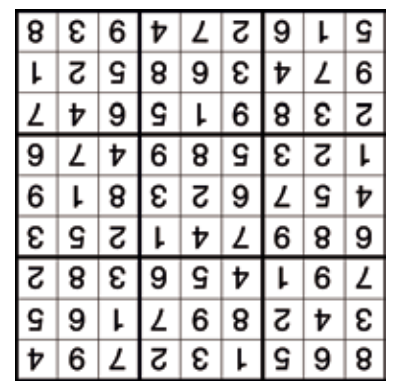
© 2020 Syndicated Puzzles

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 May 2020 solution



Sudoku May 2020 solution



Open for business

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

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



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
Mon-Sat	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	MFx 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 Road Call 6362 2678 for advice on services or to book appointment
Mon-Sat, 9.30am-5pm	Art as Mania	20-22 Emu Bay Road Business as usual
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

* as many businesses need to constantly update their hours and services, please check the Facebook pages of all pubs, cafés and restaurants for menus and changes

Vote for Deloraine's mosaic art in the Great Regional City Challenge

DELORAINE IS a contestant in Launceston's Great Regional City Challenge and Meander Valley residents are encouraged to vote for the project online.

Community groups have entered 50 projects for the Challenge and winners will get up to \$10,000 and project support.

Deloraine's project is supported by the Great Western Tiers Tourism Association, with representatives from the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre, Rotary Craft Fair, Meander Valley Council and Libraries Tasmania.

If it wins, the Meander On project will link the kooparoonia niara Cultural Trail along the Meander River with Emu Bay Road.

Helped by students, community artist Niccy Brown will create six small panels of cobble mosaic artwork, guided by cultural advisor Hank Horton.

The mosaics will be installed on the steps beside the library, at Seppenfelts, in the Laneway Precinct, next to the Brush Rabbit shop, near the toilet block and at the Great Western Tiers Visitor Center.



Mosaic art of the kooparoonia niara trail runs along the bank of the Meander River in Deloraine.

Photo by Jade Hallam

President of the tourism association, Mark Flanigan, said the project will continue to develop Deloraine's street art.

'We need to refresh the town's artwork, keep it new,' he said. 'It plays into our creative town ethos.'

Art has played a key role in Meander Valley over the years and Deloraine has remained a dynamic and viable township, in some measure through

its activity and reputation as one of Australia's creative communities.

Meander On acknowledges and celebrates Tasmania's original people and their culture. The project is also a small step in support of the town's retail and hospitality sectors.

Residents who want to support Meander On can vote until 31 May at launcestontogether.com.au.

Agfest goes online in 2020

AGFEST WILL go online this year because of the Covid-19 virus.

Renaming the event Agfest: Paddock to Cloud, the Agfest committee has utilised a \$65,000 grant from the Tasmanian government so that stallholders can sell their goods.

Agfest chair Ethan Williams said organisers knew exhibitors

had already bought stock and spent funds on their stands' signage and designs.

'Many companies rely heavily on Agfest revenue as they head into the quiet winter months,' Mr Williams said.

Agfest will run from 7-28 May this year.

Go to agfest.com.au for more information.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY



Proudly sponsored by
**DELORAINE & WESTBURY
MEDICAL CENTRE**

Not-for-profit ads, phone 6286 8216

Hello to all from Deloraine House

We are still open and serving the people of the Meander Valley region.

With many stores being closed due to the pandemic, Deloraine House has changed the way we are doing what we do.

112 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine
Phone 03 63 622 678
Open Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm

- ♥ We are still providing emergency food relief, no interest loans from NILS and fresh produce from our new pantry on the veranda.
- ♥ We are asking the public for donations of clothing, non perishable food, camping equipment, warm blankets, etc., to assist people who are in hardship, with no income and no warm clothing, living in their cars or sleeping rough.
- ♥ Deloraine House is supporting people from many regions including Northern

- Midlands, central highlands and some from the North West coast.
- ♥ We have a range of freezer meals available to the public to purchase for under \$5 and delivery is available to those who need it.
- ♥ We are also in the process of installing a shower and a laundry facilities for transient and homeless people.
- ♥ Our community library has restocked and we have a range of books for the community to come and borrow or swap.

DONATIONS WANTED for the
DELORAINE DRAMATIC SOCIETY

COSTUME BANK

Pre-1980's clothing for women, men & children; hats, shoes, wigs, umbrellas & accessories sought.
All enquiries to Tara Badcock 0409242184 or delorainedramaticsocietypr@gmail.com

Western Tiers Film Society

See award-winning films each month at the Little Theatre Cinema

Memberships available now at:
westerntiersfilmsociety@gmail.com
or call 0418 389 868

Arts Deloraine

Promoting the arts in the valley -
concerts, plays and exhibitions

Join to become involved as well as to get discounted entry prices.

For information, call Di Tuleja on 0439 695 126 or email artsdeloraine@gmail.com or find us on

DELORAINE HOUSE INC
THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY
PHONE: 03 63 622 678

Meet New People | Volunteer | Learn New Skills

Come and visit us at 112 Emu Bay Road Deloraine
Visiting Services

Regular Groups and Activities
Email, Phone, Photocopy and Scanning facilities
Room Hire

Visit our Facebook page [DeloraineHouse](https://www.facebook.com/DeloraineHouse)
Check out our website www.delorainehouse.com.au
Or email us at info@delorainehouse.com.au

Open: Monday - Friday 10am-4pm

Deloraine & Westbury Medical Centre

Covid-19 and your flu shot

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 on dedicated flu clinic days - not at any other time.

You must book in advance to get a vaccination appointment. You must arrive on time for your vaccination. **Do not come early.** More clinic dates will be scheduled depending on demand.

'committed to comprehensive, compassionate, community health care'

For appointments, phone 03 6362 2266
22 Tower Hill Street, Deloraine and 80 Meander Valley Road, Westbury

SERVICES DIRECTORY

Advertising enquiries to advertising@meandervalleygazette.com 6286 8216


Proud sponsor of the Services Directory and contributor of \$1.8million to the local community.

Deloraine & Districts
Community Bank® Branch

Bendigo Bank
Bigger than a bank.



**C&S
GLAZING**
0408 979 110



**Deloraine
UPHOLSTERY**
Re-upholstery and repair of all types of furniture
Peter & Julie Larcombe
For all your upholstery supplies, including a large range of fabrics
Phone: 6362 2093 or 0400 622 094
102 East Barrack Street, Deloraine Tas 7304

Paul Lethborg T/A TASSIE TRADIE
Qualified Tradesman with 40 years experience
DECKS, STAIRS, BALUSTRADING, TILING,
HOUSEHOLD REPAIRS OR RENOVATIONS,
PAVING, FENCING
Ph: 0438 522 248
email: tassietradie@gmail.com
Get the job done right first time
Serving Meander Valley and Northern Midlands.
abn.95968248230.....FREE QUOTES



@another computer store (03) 6344 4423
solutions@another.com.au

Northern Tasmania's recognised center for IT Services and Support.
Do you know who is fixing your device?
Do you trust them with your data?

OFFERING YOU A SERVICE YOU CAN TRUST!

Book in your:

- PC Computer Repairs
- Notebook and Mac Repairs, including Screen Repairs
- Power Supply & Notebook Battery Replacements
- Computer Upgrades
- Printer Repairs
- Mobile Device Repairs

Buy and set up your new computer with us today too!

Are you thinking of selling your Meander Valley home?

You may be surprised to learn what your home is worth in this seller's market.

lee **JAMIESON'S** real estate

For a no obligation free market appraisal ...

Call the Meander Valley experts today -
Lee Jamieson's Real Estate on 6393 1037

Westbury Agency of the Year

PAUL MALERBI
Electrical Contractor - Hadspen
0418 124 426



• DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL
INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE
• DATA
pmalerbi@bigpond.net.au
E.C. Licence No. 93863

Western Tiers Heating & Cooling Solutions
0423 797 835
Heat Pumps
Heat Pump Services - Residential & Commercial - Refrigeration & Air Conditioning
Installations, Repairs & Maintenance
AU 35438



- Decks
- Bathrooms
- Renovations
- Extensions
- Heritage work
- Repairs

LAUNCESTON
Building & Renovation
Lic No 084 190 396
PHONE: 0407 965 524

Steven Cripps

Premium Garden Care and Maintenance
Professional gardening service

ABN: 21 085 371 171
premiumgardencare.com.au 0418 307 871
crippsy.s@hotmail.com



Locally owned & operated equipment hire including trailers, ride on mowers, mini excavators and more.

10 West Barrack Street
Deloraine, Tasmania
(03) 6362 3707
enquiries@sunrisehire.com.au



Tiling
Bricklaying
Gyprocking
Rendering
Bathroom & Kitchen Renovations

Over 30 years' experience
Contact: Mark
0487 742 112



FOR MORE THAN JUST MOWING
Lawn Mowing . Pruning . Mulching . Lawn Care .
Garden Clean Ups . Rubbish Removal . Landscaping .
Now servicing Deloraine and Westbury
Fully Insured, Police checked and OH&S compliant
ph: **131 546** or book online jimsmowing.net

Find out how we can help you achieve your financial goals.

Branch Manager Simon Rootes
Customer Relationship Manager Allison Latham

Deloraine & Districts
Community Bank® Branch
Phone: 03 6362 4801

Bendigo Bank

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited
ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL 237879
(1194039-1194038) (05/18)

sunrise trailers

trailers, trailer components & steel sales
111 Emu Bay Road
Deloraine, Tasmania 7304
phone: Ricky 0409 052 761
Michelle 0407 052 701
email: sales@sunrisetrailers.com.au
web: www.sunrisetrailers.com.au

RADIATORS PLUS
the cool guys

- ✓ Radiator repairs, cleanouts, new radiator assemblies
- ✓ Truck and industrial radiators
- ✓ Custom made alloy radiators
- ✓ Tig welding fabrications
- ✓ Fuel tank repairs
- ✓ Fast friendly service
- ✓ Brand new clean enviro friendly workshop

6 Shamrock Street, South Launceston
Phone 6334 8722
www.radiatorsplus.com.au email: radiatorsplus@bigpond.com



GRAHAM AUTOMOTIVE & FABRICATION
Now at 11 West Barrack Street, DELORAINÉ
Ph: 6362 2955

- All mechanical repairs
- Log book and warranty servicing
- Approved inspection station
- Metal Fabrication & Welding

Call in anytime for your free battery check.
Large range of batteries in stock.



Council easy on illegal carport

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY councillors have indicated they will go easy on people who don't apply for building permits by approving a Westbury carport in retrospect.

Officers reported to council that the owners of Unit 1 at 24 William St built the carport at the front of their property without the necessary approvals.

They said the carport's setback is significantly less than that of other comparable developments fronting William Street which generally have a setback greater than four metres.

'The setback is distinctly different and incompatible with existing developments in the immediate area,' the report said.

After the building's owners applied for a permit in retrospect, council officers recommended it be refused because of the setback issue.

This would have meant the carport being dismantled.

But Cllr Michael Kelly supported the resident, calling for councillors to agree to the carport on the grounds that it was not creating a problem.

'We should also write to the applicant and reiterate that planning approval must be gained in all circumstances.'

Cllr Sherriff said, 'While I don't oppose the structure as it sits, this guy needs to know that he needs to seek council approval for these sorts of things. This will send a clear message from now on.'

Cllr Cameron said the applicants were 'a little bit ignorant' but she didn't know whether that justified the carport being pulled down, while Cllr Frank Nott described them as 'unwitting victims'. 'This is a wise decision. To pull it down would be a negative step,' he said.

New policy will help residents struggling to pay their rates

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY Council has approved a new policy to help residents in financial hardship to pay their rates during the Covid-19 crisis and beyond.

The new policy gives the council the option to postpone rate payments, give a remission of late payment penalties or interest, or grant a remission of rates.

Discussing the new policy, Cllr Stephanie Cameron said, 'The situation we are in is pretty hideous and is affecting a lot of people. I hope this policy goes some way towards helping.'

Council officers reported that a number of community members had contacted

the council to say they were experiencing financial hardship caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

'Council recognises that some ratepayers can experience significant financial hardships during and as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic where income has reduced, financial position changed or they have been affected by business closure as a result of illness or government response measures,' the report said.

To seek financial hardship assistance from the council, ratepayers should email or write to the general manager, John Jordan, providing evidence of hardship and requesting the type of help needed.

The policy says that remission of any rates, or interest, in part or in full, is reserved only for the most serious and exceptional of financial hardship cases.

Serious financial hardship involves both low income/cash flow and a low asset base.

Evidence of hardship may include:

- a statutory declaration from an appropriate professional who is familiar with the applicant's circumstances (for example, a family doctor for health-related evidence, a bank official, insurance policy manager)
- pending disconnection of essential services, like water, electricity, gas (not phone)
- notice of impending legal action
- a letter from a charitable organisation regarding loss of employment or inability to provide for basic necessities.

For more information, please phone 6393 5300.

Damien Buttery Land Clearing Services
-loaders diggers dozers-
All machines have stick rakes



Specialising in Irrigator Sites, Plantations Stumping, Gorse, etc

Phone: Damien 0428 622 294
Bac Tas Pty Ltd
(Currently working Cressy and Deloraine areas)

DIG-EZI
EXCAVATIONS



- Driveways - Carparks
- Gravel - Cartage + Leveling
- 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, payroll and training needs. Call Zsuzsanna on 0427 362 058, delorainebeancounter@gmail.com. Central office located at Room 4, 62-64 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Tas 7304

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
Regularly servicing your area

Locally owned and operated



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

We offer:

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

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

0419 154 475

SHERRIFF'S PLUMBING
PTY. LTD.

SERVICING MEANDER VALLEY FOR OVER 40 YEARS

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

Find us on Facebook



David 0417 104 467 - Simon 0408 622 279

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

SEE A PHOTO THAT YOU LIKE?

Many of the photographs in the Gazette can be purchased. It's a great way to keep memories of friends, family or places that you love. For prices and further information, please phone 6286 8212.

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

Deloraine Football Club is expanding facilities to cater for their growing women's teams. Amongst the future Roos players at the March footy clinic are (front to back, as identified): Adarie Bloomfield, Travis Field, Akileah Adams, Charlie Jaehne, Kae-Lani Taylor, Jenna Field (being piggybacked) and Danika Barrett.
Photo by Mike Moores



Kangas keeping their heads above water ...

By Sharon Webb

THE FLOOR height of new \$161,000 changerooms planned for Deloraine Football Club will be built 600mm above ground level – just in case of flooding.

Meander Valley Council has lodged an application for two demountable changerooms for the Deloraine Football Club as unisex facilities to cater for growing women's teams.

Club president Don Tracey said the club now has three junior women's teams and anticipates the establishment of a senior team in the future.

The changerooms will be paid for by \$80,000 from the State Government's Levelling the Playing Fields grant, \$40,000 from the Bendigo Bank, \$10,000 from AFL Tasmania and the balance from the football club.

Executive member of the junior football committee Rodney Buzzey said current facilities were not suitable for women's teams.

'Having multiple teams playing means changeroom cross-over periods get quite busy.

These facilities will cater for the number of players we have now.'

The club, on council land at Racecourse Drive, was not able to use its grounds and facilities for months after the 2016 Meander River floods.

Flood damage to football, squash and pony club facilities led to Deloraine sports clubs forming the Meander Valley Regional Recreation Precinct Working Group which aimed to house basketball, netball, football, squash and little athletics at Deloraine's Alveston Drive Community Complex.

The working group attracted \$98,000 from Meander Valley Council, the State Government and Bendigo Bank for a feasibility study which came up with three options in January 2018 for consolidating Deloraine sports facilities.

The councillors' and working group's preferred option was to consolidate sporting, recreation and community facilities at the Deloraine Community Complex site, including buying adjoining private land and upgrading the

Deloraine Primary School sports ground. The cost was \$33m, with phase one, incorporating facilities for football, squash and netball, costed at \$13.3m.

But that option was shelved by the council because of its cost. Deloraine junior football president Taneil Bloomfield said Deloraine sport clubs are still fighting for it.

According to MVC Director of Infrastructure, Dino de Paoli, the new changeroom floors will be set at a 20-year flood level which would result in negligible impact on the development.

'The change rooms will be washable and not formed of materials that require replacement due to inundation with sediment-laden floodwater, for example.'

At a 100-year flood level, the flood depth over the proposed floor level would be 460mm.

'This is still considered to be of insignificant or minor consequence in terms of building impact, as the change rooms are constructed in a manner that will enable ease of cleaning, and flow velocity is low,' he wrote.

STAY
HOME

SAVE
LIVES

coronavirus.tas.gov.au

Tasmanian Public
Health Hotline



1800 671 738



Tasmanian
Government