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Running repairs across the Valley

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Awarding a dedicated Deloraine duo

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**ON THE BALL**  
Lisa is taking her fitness classes online

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# Meander Valley Gazette

Free every month

June 2020

Meander Valley Gazette *Your independent community paper*



## Winter is here ...

Beaded with tiny drops of water, cobwebs display their fragile beauty on a cold and frosty Deloraine morning.

Photo by Mike Moores

## Reset for a failure to communicate

By Sharon Webb

TASMANIA'S MOST prominent business leader has advised the State Government to axe the Westbury location for a proposed northern prison, find a new location and 'get on with it' to support COVID-19 business recovery in Tasmania.

Anti-prison group Westbury Region Against the Prison (WRAP) lauded the comment by Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce CEO, Michael Bailey. 'Even if there are funds left in the kitty for this project and it remains on the government's agenda, they really need to go back to the drawing board with their site selection

process and get it right next time,' said WRAP president Linda Poulton. Mr Bailey's comment comes as Corrections Minister Elise Archer has announced that the socio-economic report on the prison completed by consultants SGS Economics and Planning finally has been delivered to the government.

Mr Bailey said of the proposed prison site on Birrale Road, 'If I were the government I'd press "reset". I'd focus on moving it to a viable location and get on with it. 'I think the prison has been an absolute failure as far as communication goes. I can understand the Westbury community being really worried

about it. The government needs to change tack and do it quickly.' Corrections Minister Elise Archer asked to see a detailed statement of Mr Bailey's comments but refused to respond on changing the prison site. *(continued on page 2)*



# What a lucky local newspaper!



One of the front page stories on the Tasmanian government plans to build a regional prison. Written by Sharon Webb, the series of stories won her the Best News Story category of the 2020 Tasmanian Media Awards.

IT'S A lucky local newspaper that can survive in times like these, but the Gazette is lucky to have a group of dedicated contributors and workers putting each edition together.

The Gazette also has journalist Sharon Webb, who reports on local, state and federal government affairs that affect the Meander Valley.

Ms Webb has just won the Best News Story category of the 2020 Tasmanian Media Awards for a series of stories entitled 'How Westbury became a site for a new prison'.

Judges' comments on the three Gazette front page stories submitted said, 'This series of stories demonstrates the best in local reporting – understanding what is important to the community, political and community contacts, an ability to dig beneath the surface, persistence and relevance to a wider population.'

'The story-telling is crisp and concise. As local news outlets disappear, this winner demonstrates what Tasmanian communities stand to lose.'

Ms Webb worked as a teacher early in her career, switching to journalism at *The Examiner* newspaper where she later became News Editor, then Chief of Staff.

After winning a Tasmanian Rotary Foundation Scholarship, Ms Webb gained a Masters degree in International Journalism from the University of Wales, followed by writing for two London newspapers.

On her return to Tasmania, her career then moved into university communications with UTAS and RMIT University Vietnam.

Currently Ms Webb writes for the Gazette while living in her home town, Deloraine.

'After years of commuting out of Deloraine to work and spending time overseas, I want to contribute to my community,' she said.

'Despite the recent troubles of Rupert Murdoch's newspapers, as large media outlets run more syndicated news, I believe the future is in locally-based newspapers whether in print or online.'

'People want to know the news in their own region,' she said.

Judges received more than 120 submissions for this year's Tasmanian Media Awards from journalists working at Tasmanian media outlets, including the Examiner, Mercury, Advocate and Australian newspapers, ABC TV and Radio, WIN and Southern Cross TV.

## Press 'reset' on prison site, TCCI tells Minister Archer

(continued from page 1)

While saying she did not agree her department's communications on the issue had been a failure, Ms Archer hinted at the still-secret Meander Valley municipality response to the mail-out prison site survey.

'There has been extensive consultation over the preferred site with the community since September 2019 including public meetings, one-on-one meetings with myself, numerous mail-outs, a Westbury phone survey as well as a mail survey to residents,' she said.

'This consultation demonstrated that some in the community oppose the prison at the preferred site while others welcome such an investment in the local area. To suggest the entire community does not want the Northern Regional Prison is not correct.'

Mr Bailey said that following the Covid-19 lock-down, large projects like building a prison could provide economic benefits for Tasmanian businesses and workers.

'I'd consider a northern prison to be very useful in kick-starting our economy. In its construction phase it would be the State's biggest project

since the Royal Hobart Hospital redevelopment.

'But I'm not sure the Westbury site is viable as far as the community is concerned. Clearly the community needs to want the prison. Meander Valley is a logical place but if Westbury doesn't want it, don't put it there.'

'Other sites may be more appropriate from the community's perspective. I know the government is looking at other sites.'

Ms Archer responded, 'I welcome the fact that the TCCI recognises the economic benefits a new Northern Regional Prison will bring to Northern Tasmania.'

WRAP president Linda Poulton said the group was 'extremely pleased to learn that Mr Bailey now shares our view that Westbury is not the right place for the Northern Regional Prison because it needs to go where a community wants it'.

'WRAP naturally supports the TCCI's call for the Government to press "the reset button" on this project.'

'We trust Mr Bailey has conveyed this position to the Government to assist them in the critical decisions they will need to make for Tasmania moving forward.'

**SENATOR WENDY ASKEW**  
LIBERAL SENATOR FOR TASMANIA

*Thank you!*

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May has been a busy month for road repair crews across the municipality – taking advantage of the quieter roads during the lockdown. Photo by Mike Moores



# Federal money to give local roads a boost after Covid-19

By Sharon Webb

A FEDERAL Government formula has been lucky for the Meander Valley Municipality, with roads and community facilities to be boosted by \$874,000 of post Covid-19 funding.

The allocation is the third-highest of Tasmanian municipalities.

Launceston Council attracted \$1.2m and Northern Midlands Council will receive \$961,000.

Since the funding for all Australian local councils was announced in mid May, Meander Valley Council has rushed to identify projects that comply with funding guidelines.

The \$500m national program will support local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of

local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a spokesperson from the Federal Infrastructure Department, Meander Valley Council must demonstrate the nominated projects are different from pre Covid-19 targets.

'A formula was applied to calculate the amount for each council, which must then identify the projects they want to complete and submit them to the Federal Government for approval,' he said.

'It's a quick turnaround with the aim of having the money available by July 1.'

Meander Valley Council said works being submitted for consideration include road and bridge reconstruction projects and road safety improvements.

Eligible local road projects could include works involving traffic signs, traffic control equipment, street lighting

equipment, bridges or tunnels, off-road facilities such rest areas or weigh stations, off-road facilities supporting the visitor economy, and road and footpath maintenance which is additional to normal capital works schedules.

Eligible community infrastructure projects could include CCTV, bicycle and walking paths, painting or improvements to community facilities, repairing and replacing fencing, improved accessibility of community facilities and areas, landscaping improvements such as tree planting and beautification of roundabouts, picnic shelters or barbeque facilities at community parks, playgrounds and skateparks (including all ability playgrounds), noise and vibration mitigation measures, and off-road car parks such as those at sporting grounds or parks.

## Law to protect commercial tenancies

LEGISLATION PROTECTING commercial tenants from hardship during Covid-19 is being considered by the Legislative Council.

Minister for Building and Construction Elise Archer said the bill gives effect to the code of conduct for commercial tenancies agreed upon by National Cabinet last month.

'The purpose of the Code is to govern the conduct of commercial tenants and landlords, and provide additional protections and rent reductions for tenants experiencing financial hardship,' she said.

Measures include:

- protection of commercial leases for eligible tenants (a tenant who is eligible for the JobKeeper program and has a turnover of less than \$50 million per annum)

- a freeze on rent increases (a lessor must not, unless agreed by the lessee, increase rent for a protected lease during the financial hardship period)
- rent reductions (the lessor must provide the lessee of a protected lease a reduction in rent in line with the provisions provided in the Code)
- the establishment of mediation services and a Code Administration Committee to support the Code.

The financial hardship period is from 1 April 2020 until the cessation day which is 12 months after commencement of the Act, or sooner, if determined by the Treasurer that the Code no longer needs to be in effect.

Ms Archer applauded tenants and landlords who have already negotiated changes, including rent reductions and deferrals.

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Toosey, based at 10 Archer Street, Longford. PO Box 135, Longford 7301



## Letter from the Editor

THIS MONTH there are congratulations, continuation, and a clarification.

The Gazette soldiers on, thanks to the goodwill and support of readers and advertisers.

Sadly, NewsCorp Australia will close more than 100 regional and local printed newspapers, including Tasmanian Country, with significant job losses as these newspapers disappear or become available only as digital editions.

A big congratulations goes to our star reporter, Sharon Webb who received the award for best news story in the Tasmanian Media Awards.

And a clarification, as several local residents contacted the Gazette after receiving a letter from John Jordan, general manager of Meander Valley Council.

The letters stated: 'Council also supports the Gazette via the Great Western Tiers Information Centre sponsorship which Liz Douglass acknowledged in her Letter from the Editor in the May edition'.

Many readers remain confused by the role that advertisers and sponsors play in providing support to the Gazette. Once again, we have to assure everyone that editorial content is not influenced by these relationships.

The Great Western Tiers Information Centre (GWTIC) sponsorship, claimed by the MVC, was for \$300 in total and has now lapsed.

MVC played no active role in the original agreement between the Gazette and the GWTIC, despite being the ultimate source of funding for the GWTIC.

The Gazette continues to promote GWTIC, as a valuable resource to the community, but the claim of sponsorship of the Gazette by MVC is no longer current.

Following Mr Jordan's logic, the Gazette should have thanked those who provided the funding for Meander Valley Council – the ratepayers.

*Liz Douglass*

MANY PEOPLE would be wondering why TasWater even considered borrowing money to meet their obligation to pay dividends to Councils, but in fact they have been doing that all along. Their annual income is a mixture of water charges and borrowings. Without the dividends they would not have to borrow as much, and as such it is the ratepayer that is paying the dividend. Some will see the dividend as a benefit to the whole Municipality, town and country alike, but the problem is that it is paid for with unfair sewage fees and a disproportionate amount by the cafés and coffee shops. It would be much fairer if Councils disregarded the dividend issue and made a case for a general rate rise if they feel they have a plausible reason.

The people most affected by the virus issues are the cafés, and while they are dealing with increased costs and restricted seating as they try to get back to normal they should not have to contend with dubious TasWater tactics. In the course of meetings with

TW, it was eventually realised that 3 of 15 small businesses in Deloraine did not need the compulsory greasetraps, and there may yet be more if they are fairly assessed. The quoted cost of greasetrap installation in Deloraine that I know of has been \$80,000, \$25,000 and \$12,000., and there have been many cases around the state of business closures due to not being able to meet compliance requirements.

We are asking for an immediate moratorium on trade waste connections until a proper review of TasWater policy is conducted. Discussion points are being sent to the Economic Regulator, Small Business Council, all relevant Ministers and Legislative Councilors with a request that they work together to resolve the problems. If anyone has had issues with TasWater trade waste policy contact malcolmeastley@gmail.com and we will collate additional information. A copy of the discussion points can be sent to interested parties.

*Malcolm Eastley, Deloraine  
malcolmeastley@gmail.com*

EST.  
2013

# Meander Valley Gazette

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### Editorial enquiries

*Contributions welcomed!*  
Email: editor@meandervalleygazette.com

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

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### 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.

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## Letters to the Editor

HAVE A guess as to why 'Local politicians support logging in State reserves' (p7, Gazette, May 2020). No, it isn't because native forest logging brings a flood of revenue to the state's coffers. Taxpayers chip in over \$40m p.a. in subsidies alone for a portfolio that runs deficits even before anyone counts the damage to water and air quality, roads, tourist amenity, land prices, competing industries, emission rates, and possibly governmental integrity. Our pollies normally claim the industry is all about jobs, which they typically inflate by up to an order of magnitude.

Remember the first part of this century when an anonymous whistleblower in the Land Titles Office revealed that some 77,000ha of State Forest Crown land plantation in the North had been transferred in freehold (private land) to Forestry Tasmania, which managed the plantations for the State Govt? Or that the Auditor-General had replied to queries about this privatisation of public land by saying that he could not locate any of the land of equal value (est. \$200m) allegedly surrendered to the State Govt under a 2000 parliamentary deed of arrangement.

Also chipping in to Tassie's traditional chronic mendicancy was the longterm contract overseen by an outgoing head of Forestry Tasmania CEO to sell Tasmanian logs to a Sarawak logging company at concessional prices, shortly before he resigned and took up a post with the Sarawak firm. Local

politicians and private sector oligarchs (collectively aka Tas Inc) can probably also claim some credit for the non-enforcement of or exemption from irksome legislation, such as conflict of interest laws, planning laws, judicial review of administrative decisions law, which could have thrown spanners into the knee-jerk approvals of 90% of 1080 poison approvals that involved forestry during the wood chip frenzy.

What can be said for Tas logging is that it is a traditional ingredient in the Tassie pork barrel, with prospects for expansion if the present Govt can realise its thwarted dreams to toss our World Heritage forests into the hopper.

In the meantime, we should pray for the Gazette's survival in a valley often dangerous to transparency.

*John and Lynn Hayward,  
Weegen*

ONCE AGAIN Meander Valley Council has failed the Deloraine community. This time by hiring contractors to put 'lots of band-aids' on the main street. Why not do a proper job and re-surface the whole road? The local ratepayers are paying for their community assets.

The Deloraine bypass was supposed to ease heavy traffic on Emu Bay Road. Yeah, right.

We've got double Bs, articulated and 'super-spreaders' using the town's main artery. It's plain to see how Deloraine rate-payers are getting a raw deal for their money.

*AR Trounson, Needles*

CONGRATULATIONS TO Sharon Webb, the MVG, all the staff and volunteers, sponsors, advertisers and supporters for the Best News Story in the 2020 Tasmanian Media awards.

This shows how unique and relevant the Meander Valley Gazette is as a communications medium in the Meander Valley, and how important it is to ensure its future.

Writing of communication and its importance, it is sad to note the total lack of content from the Meander Valley Council in the most recent copy of the Gazette.

In fact since the Covid-19 outbreak, silence has been golden due to the lack of traffic on the roads. It is a positive to be able to hear the bird-song clearly in the mornings.

I AM writing to thank everyone for their support. These people were not known to me or my family, as I was broken into and traumatised on 26th April at 3am. Three people came into my home and ransacked my house going through every room, while I was in bed, and told by them to stay there! Which I did! They stole my wallet, handbag, all my jewellery, watches and more – around \$20,000. They took all keys,

DEAR EDITOR, it is gratifying that Sharon Webb won the award for Best News Story as it was very well deserved.

The improved standard of journalism and the balanced reporting that has been evident

Silence is also what has been heard from the Meander Valley Council. Communication to the community from MVC seems to have been very little. I have seen and heard a couple of media releases about the amount MVC is spending to help the local community and a very poorly written and executed community mail out. That appears to be all. (I do not know about what has appeared on social media as I, like some others, do not use it.)

It would seem that over time the Council has totally lost its way with the community that it is supposed to serve, and its ability to communicate simply and honestly with its residents and ratepayers. This needs to change.

*Sean Manners, Westbury*

including car keys and caused a lot of damage to 2 locked doors with an iron bar taken from my garage to get in.

I was left with no power as they turned it off at the box and stole my mobile phone and my car keys. So thank God, I had my landline and could ring 000.

I would like to thank the Deloraine Police and CIB from Launceston. A big 'Thank you!' for apprehending the people.

*Mary Gow*

in recent times in the Meander Valley Gazette has been commendable. Congratulations and may this continue to be to the advantage of all residents in Meander Valley. Many thanks.

*Mary Jane Gerson, Meander*

Letters to the Editor continue on page 6



# Nice weather for ducks!



Grey skies and cold drizzly days in May seemed like a forecast of what winter will bring. But the weather man says that a wetter and warmer winter is in store for us. Who cares – come rain or come shine, it's water off a duck's back for the Meander River crew.

Photo by Mike Moores

## Tassie gets creative in the era of the lockdown

TASMANIANS ARE submitting their stories and experiences of the Covid-19 era to bring it to life for future generations.

The Minister for Education and Training, Jeremy Rockliff said Libraries Tasmania and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) are partnering on a long-term collecting project to document the Tasmanian community's experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

'As cultural institutions, both Libraries Tasmania and TMAG are aware of how crucial it is to collect this material now, so that future generations can comprehend how Tasmanians lived through the pandemic,' he said.

'The COVID-19 Stories Project seeks to capture the impact of this historic event on the lives and livelihoods of everyday Tasmanians to create a collective memory for the future.'

Both Libraries Tasmania and TMAG are reaching out across Tasmania to collect photographs, writing, and other objects that have mattered to Tasmanians during this unprecedented period of disruption, social distancing and self-isolation.

The focus for Libraries Tasmania will be on 'grass roots' photographs as well as key documents and stories in written, digital, or audiovisual formats.

TMAG will collect three-dimensional items and the personal stories and meanings connected to them.

The organisations are hoping that a wide range of items will be submitted, from personal digital photography to hard-copy items such as personal written accounts, artist diaries, posters and other material such as the contents of care packages used by Tasmanians in quarantine.

The project team will also contact others, including elderly Tasmanians in isolation, innovative business owners, or frontline staff who have gone beyond what they normally do in order to survive.

Both organisations are looking forward to sharing the COVID-19 collections with the public at an appropriate time to enable Tasmanians to reflect on this experience from both a local and global perspective.

More information about the COVID-19 Stories Project and the process for submitting material can be found on the websites of Libraries Tasmania and TMAG: [www.libraries.tas.gov.au](http://www.libraries.tas.gov.au) and [www.tmag.tas.gov.au](http://www.tmag.tas.gov.au).

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# Back-to-school under COVID-19 rules means extra unpaid work for teachers

By Sharon Webb

FROM 9 June all students in Tasmanian government schools are expected to be back on site, placing a huge extra workload on principals and teachers expected to maintain hygienic learning environments.

The number of teachers returning to schools is not known but over past months around 15 per cent of the teaching force worked from home because they were in vulnerable COVID-19 categories.

Under pressure from politicians wanting to get parents working and the economy on track, Education Department bureaucrats have 'encouraged' these teachers to make the transition back to work, even though some are afraid of becoming ill.

Some teachers believe they are being bullied into risking their health as Tasmanian bureaucrats have worked to a Federal Government list of acceptable illnesses allowing teachers to stay at home.

One teacher working from home to provide learning materials to her students said, 'I have a rare complaint that's

not on the list and have been told "be at school or you won't get paid". I have a medical certificate and I don't want to risk my health but I need a job. It's stressful.'

The Education Department has paid millions of dollars for hand sanitiser and other cleaning materials for schools. Now principals and senior staff are responsible for keeping schools super-clean.

Some have had problems hiring enough cleaners to clean student areas and toilets twice a day as dictated because older cleaners in the vulnerable COVID-19 age range do not want to work in schools.

The Education Department has dropped a whopping 47-point online tick-the-box document on principals to make sure all the necessary cleaning tasks are done.

Some of these items are the normal things expected of teachers. Teachers will monitor students' wellbeing and the engagement of learners on their return to school.

But others certainly will not. Teachers must constantly remind students not to touch their eyes, noses and mouths. They must remind them to

wash their hands and supervise young children's 'hygiene practices'.

According to the tick-the-box document, teachers must discourage students' sharing of food, drink and personal items, such as pens and pencils, and make sure canteens are hygienic.

But cleaning will place the greatest work pressure on teachers and many have complained about the extra menial workload.

They must not only teach content and manage students' behaviour but ensure high-touch surfaces such as door knobs, light switches, desks, sinks and keyboards are cleaned during the day.

The document also requires teachers to ensure computers, sports and music equipment are cleaned with detergent and disinfectant wipes.

Teachers and principals must also take on more crowd management roles.

The document encourages staggered school days to space students and tells principals, in no uncertain terms, to keep parents out of school buildings.

Teachers used to 'bus duty' at the end of the day will find

themselves doing much more of it to ensure students are socially distancing at bus interchanges and supervise parent crowding at pickup locations.

And finally, in truly Yes Minister style, the bureaucrats who dreamt up this document have iced the cake with an instruction that teachers must tell school communities how well they are doing this.

'Consider how the school might capture, share and celebrate quality practice stories from the transition back to school,' the tick-the-box document instructs.

As high school students join their younger and older colleagues in the back-to-school move, parents not wanting their children back at school will be told they are not entitled to continue to be supported with home education – unless they have a COVID-19 related health condition.

'However, if a parent of one of these children contacts the school, their teacher may wish to discuss with them ways in which they can best support their children at home,' the Education Department has instructed school principals.

## Letters to the Editor continued from page 4

MY NAME is Tristan Stroud. My wife Cassandra and I own the old Soldiers Memorial Hall in Hadspen.

We are currently in the process of putting the life back into this building that would still hold many memories for lots of people. Our latest addition is giving this beautiful hall its name back with a period-looking sign: 'EST. CA 1920 Soldiers Memorial Hall', at the street facing end of the building.

We are writing to the Gazette as we are struggling to find out vital information about the building. For example, day/month/year of build, who built it and early pictures of any kind.

We would like to reach out to the broader Meander Valley community.

Our goal is to love this building and property as much as those who hold dear memories in it, and in doing so give back to the local community in the way of sparking old memories.

Please feel free to call or email us.

Tristan & Cassandra Stroud  
stroud.tristan@gmail.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO Sharon Webb and the Gazette on her Tasmanian Media Award.

Meander Valley is lucky to have such a fearless and honest investigative journalist. Long may she, and the Gazette last!  
Heather and Chris Donaldson,  
Westbury

REGARDING SENATOR Chandler's interview with Peter Gleeson on Sky News about the Bob Brown Foundation, I do not believe that the Bob Brown Foundation should lose its charity status. I believe that the protesters are rightfully highlighting the incredibly devastating loss of wildlife habitat that occurs due to native forest logging. Without the protesters, people would not know how logging is affecting our precious wilderness. In Tasmania we have a huge plantation estate yet we continue with the criminal act of logging native forest. People all around the world are aghast that this kind of forestry is still occurring in Tasmania. And we dare to call it sustainable.

Felicity Holmes,  
Blackmans Bay



## The colours of Autumn

Photographer Mike Moores has been turning his camera lens to the natural world during the Covid-19 lockdown.



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By Hayley Manning

# The dynamic duo – forever Young!

A RECORD was created in Deloraine, possibly even Tasmania, when Lexie Young was awarded an Order of Australia Medal at the 2020 Australia Day Honours List and a Paul Harris Fellowship was accepted by her daughter, Merrilyn Young, in March 2020.

The mother and daughter now have the unique distinction of both having an OAM and Paul Harris Fellowship for services to the Deloraine community in addition to being Life Members of the Deloraine Show Society.

Rotary Deloraine Secretary, Stephanie Johnston said there are many local family members who have received a Paul Harris Fellow, but they do not have an OAM as well.

USA based Rotary International President, Mark Maloney, said it was heart-warming to offer words of congratulations to two individuals on the other side of the globe in Tasmania, during this year's Rotary theme, Rotary Connects the World.

'As the President of Rotary International, it is my pleasure to congratulate Lexie Young OAM and her daughter, Merrilyn Young OAM. It is gratifying to note that a mother-daughter team, already recognised by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International as Paul Harris Fellows, are both recognised by Australia for their service to the community.'

Stephanie said Merrilyn was presented with her Paul Harris Fellowship during a 'This is Your Life' style ceremony at Deloraine Rotary's 63rd birthday celebrations on 5 March. 'We try to make a special night of the award presentations which are mainly achievement based but it is important to note you do not need to be a Rotarian to be nominated for the Paul Harris Fellowship.'

Stephanie worked behind the scenes to arrange video-link ups with Merrilyn's sister, her nephew in Sydney and



Lexie and Merrilyn Young of Deloraine are a mother and daughter duo both renown and recognised throughout the Meander Valley for their longstanding commitment to serving their community. Photo by Mike Moores

other mainland family members. Deloraine Radio identity and Winter Fire instigator Tim Biggs was also awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship on the night.

Merrilyn said she was very proud to be recognised. 'You don't join these organisations to receive awards – you do it because you love it. Mum and Dad had always been involved in the Show Society, so have mum's parents and the great grandparents. It is a bit of a family tradition.'

Lexie and Merrilyn have experienced their share of personal illness but they attribute their unflappable energy to carry on down to a 'positive attitude' and the support of friends and family.

'You never get anywhere without your friends. I know, I had six weeks of chemotherapy and never drove once to an appointment because there were always friends to take me, and friends at work delivered meals to my door. It is

just amazing how people rally around you.

'I suppose you can turn around and help them – that's the way the world turns a bit doesn't it,' Merrilyn said.

A Life Member of the Deloraine Football Club, Merrilyn took over from Lexie's long held role as the Deloraine Community Car Secretary. She is also the Secretary of the Tasmanian Craft Fair and still audits the books for Probus and the Red Cross.

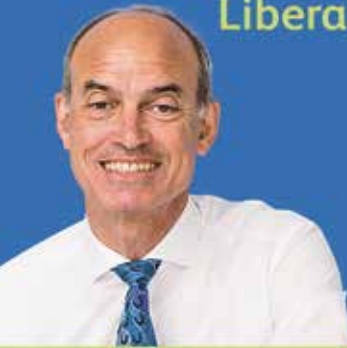
'I have been with the council doing different jobs for 43 years this August.

'I started with Deloraine Council in the building where Service Tasmania is today, until we amalgamated with Westbury and moved there in 1993.

'I love work – there is never a day I don't feel like going to work and I never start the day crabby. But retirement is looming and that's always a good thing to look forward to!'

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# Let's be stronger and better than a snapback

By BRIAN MITCHELL MP

As we've heard many times over recent weeks, Australians have, by staying further apart, come closer together in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

We have checked in on neighbours and friends, we have picked up the phone and we've cooked and delivered meals for those doing it tough. Home baking has become a cottage industry. We have found new ways to work within our homes. 'Zooming' has become part of the language. All this change has taken just weeks.

In federal parliament, the Opposition has worked constructively with the Government on key issues and sought not to impede measures.

We have not agreed with all the Government has done and is doing and we have made our views clear, but we have not allowed a pursuit of the perfect to be an enemy of the good.

As a result of this coming together by staying apart, we seem to have avoided the worst of the health



predictions, a scenario that is very different to nations that did not act quickly or decisively enough.

We owe our deepest thanks to workers who have come to be known as 'essential workers' — they weren't known as essential workers before the pandemic!

These essential workers are health professionals, aged-care workers, disability workers, cleaners, teachers, shop assistants, truck

*'If we want to build a bridge to better times, let's build it on the strong foundations of secure work and fair wages and conditions'*

drivers, public transport workers, police and emergency service workers.

It is also important to note the essential contributions of the armies of volunteers at neighbourhood houses and charities who have put together, with appropriate social distancing, relief packages of food and clothing.

Many of those accessing this relief would never have dreamed just a few short weeks ago that they would ever need it.

The change in circumstance for so many Australians has been as swift as it has been brutal. Indeed, the economic impacts of this pandemic will be with us for years to come.

I do echo the sentiments of Labor Leader Anthony Albanese who said we must act now to ensure we come

out of this crisis better than we went into it. The Prime Minister wants us to snap back to the way things were before COVID-19, but, for too many, that means a return to insecure work and low wages.

If we want to build a bridge to better times, let's build it not on the sand and the mud of insecure work, low wages and casualisation but on the strong foundations of secure work, fair wages and conditions, top quality education and skills training, and a first-class public health system that doesn't need to scrounge and beg for essential supplies.

Let's not snap back to an economy that was slowing down, to record household debt and to two million Australians looking for work or more work. Let's not snap back to a damaged environment and a public discourse that derides scientific expertise.

Our challenge must be to recover from this pandemic stronger and better than we were before—not to snap back to what we were before, but to build a stronger and better economy and society.

## VC campaign continues for Tasmanian WWII hero Teddy Sheean deserves Victoria Cross says Brian Mitchell MP in speech to federal parliament

BRIAN MITCHELL MP — THURSDAY 14 MAY 2020

Tasmanians learned yesterday with great shock that the Government had decided not to posthumously award Teddy Sheean a Victoria Cross.

What made yesterday's announcement grievous for Tasmanians was that a tribunal had recommended to the Government that the posthumous award be awarded. The Government has,

for its own reasons, decided not to grant this award.

Tasmanians are united on this. This cuts across all political divides—Labor, Liberal and independent. Tasmanians are united: Teddy Sheean deserves this award.

His story is well known. I am sure most here will be familiar with it—18 years old, lying down on the deck of the HMAS Armidale, shooting at Japanese planes whilst they're

strafing his colleagues in the water. He is credited with saving 49 lives and he got a mention in despatches.

There has been a 30-year campaign for him to get a VC. It has gone through a number of different processes.

New hearings were held in Hobart and, in July last year, the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal recommended to the Government that the



• Teddy Sheean was 18 when he died saving 49 Aussie sailors.

posthumous Victoria Cross be awarded. So it is with great disappointment, anger and outrage that we learn that the

Government has decided not to award it. All I can say is: please reconsider.

This award is well deserved by any contemporary standards or even standards of the day. I can't imagine why at the time it was decided that he was not deserving of this award, but Teddy Sheean is deserving of this award.

I really do hope that the Government reconsiders its decision and awards it.

### GREAT NEWS!

MY OFFICE AT 53B MAIN ROAD PERTH RE-OPENS MONDAY 25 MAY 2020.

WHILE RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN PLACE I AM CONTINUING TO LIMIT MY TRAVEL TO ESSENTIAL PURPOSES BUT I LOOK FORWARD TO VISITING MEANDER VALLEY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

## Brian Mitchell MP

Your Federal Member for Lyons

Contact Brian:  
6398 1115 (Perth office) | [brian.mitchell.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:brian.mitchell.mp@aph.gov.au)

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Authorised by Brian Mitchell MP (ALP, Tasmania) 53B Main Road Perth TAS 7300





# Herd instinct makes Luke Baldock the Dairy Employee of the Year



With a solid education in all things dairy, Luke Baldock shows off the herd at Dalmore, Dairy Plains.

Photo by Andrew Shepherd

By Lorraine Clarke

LUKE DAVEY Baldock is no stranger to winning recognition for his efforts in his chosen career.

Luke, farm manager at Dalmore Dairy of Dairy Plains, recently took out the gong for Fonterra Tasmanian Dairy Employee of the Year in a virtual awards ceremony, after being nominated with glowing praise by his employer, the Dalmore Group.

'Luke has shown great enthusiasm, knowledge and skill in all the key areas of farm management. Luke is always thinking ahead, considers risk, knows where his budget is sitting and communicates early.'

After working on several dairy farms, Luke began at Dalmore about 5 years ago, where he quickly progressed from senior

farm hand to second in charge, then farm manager.

'I was born and bred in Sheffield,' said Luke. 'I began working on a dairy farm the day I left school twenty years ago.'

That was Grade 10 at the Sheffield School Farm. Luke was just 15, but the academic education system wasn't working for him.

'I am dyslexic. I couldn't read until Grade 9. I liked being outside. Dad and I went duck shooting on a farm one day, and I asked the farmer whether I could do work experience there.'

'So I started working part time for him, and then went straight into a dairy apprenticeship after I left school.'

Although he had no farming background, Luke had found his niche. He worked hard at his studies.

'I've done all the courses. The dairy industry has a massive amount of educational opportunities. I got my Diploma in Agriculture, and my Certificate III.'

Luke won Dairy Apprentice of the Year. 'I got top marks, but I still couldn't spell my full name. I can now.'

Under Luke's enthusiastic and skilful management, the farm produces about 490-500kg of milk solids per cow per annum.

'One thing we are trying to do is be better for the environment, such as using less urea and growing more grass. We are very close to being carbon neutral already.'

Pasture is balanced with feed wheat and a protein supplement, keeping grain to the minimum. 'Our budgets are very flexible. We look at each season

as it comes. We try to fit them to the current milk price and grain price.'

The farm is now backed by 50% Australian and 50% Swiss investors. 'We personally know and talk to our investors,' said Luke. The Swiss like to have picture-perfect pin-up farms.

'They are willing to put in to make the farm look beautiful. I always have it tidy so anyone can come in and look around.'

Luke's management style focuses on good communication with his employer, maximising pasture growth, keeping his herd healthy and productive, and having good staff. Two full-time and four casual workers form a cheerful team who self-roster.

'I'm a people person. I work on praising staff for doing a good job. I make other people happy. That's my goal.'

## Feds fund aerial bushfire fighters

THE STATE Government has welcomed an \$11 million federal boost to the national aerial fire-fighting fleet.

The Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Mark Shelton, said the funding is a critical part of protecting the Tasmanian community during bushfire season.

'Aerial firefighting plays an important role in protecting communities, property and lives during bushfires by supporting the hard work of the firefighters on the ground,' he said.

'Aircraft were deployed to over 40 fires in Tasmania during last fire season, with the longest duration fires in Fingal, Swansea and at Strathgordon being very resource intensive.'



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# New council business manager to 'kick local business into gear'

By Sharon Webb

A FORMER spokesman for Launceston businesses has described his new role with Meander Valley Council as being to 'kick business into gear in the Meander Valley'.

This month Launceston Chamber of Commerce executive Neil Grose will fill the newly created position of manager of business and economic recovery, which pays an annual salary of around \$80,000-\$100,000 for two years.

Mayor Wayne Johnston boasted on ABC Radio of personally 'headhunting' Mr Grose although a Meander Valley Council spokesperson confirmed Mr Grose unsuccessfully applied for an advertised position with the council earlier this year.

'The manager of business position was filled considering an existing order of merit for a previously advertised role that was subject to a full selection process,' the council spokesperson said.

On ABC Radio last month Cllr Johnston said, 'We're pretty

stoked to secure Neil from the Launceston Chamber of Commerce. Considering there's not many good news stories about, this will be a good one for Meander Valley.

'We aim to look at what our strengths are: tourism, agriculture, getting some manufacturing back into Westbury industrial site.

'I guess it's pretty open slather for the new role. We're hoping to come out of this really well.

'We're pretty much a glass-half-full kind of council, not half empty, and we thought we needed someone with the nous and ability to talk to all walks of life.'

In a more formal media statement Cllr Johnston said the new role expands existing support for small business and will work with community and regional organisations to bring new jobs, people and prosperity to Meander Valley.

Response to the appointment has been mixed, with some residents commenting on the 'bad look' of the highly paid appointment, and two

similarly-paid council job ads coming during the COVID-19 period when households and businesses are struggling.

But the Great Western Tourism Association welcomed the appointment, saying they look forward to working with the council and Mr Grose on building the visitor economy in the Meander Valley.

'A strong local economy with a secure population base is vital to the way of life we enjoy in the Meander Valley,' association spokesman Mark Flanagan said.

'This is even more important as we weather the unforeseen storm brought about by the COVID-19 crisis.'

The president of anti-prison group WRAP, Linda Poulton, said not advertising the job was disappointing.

'This practice lacks transparency and promotes nepotism. We believe this type of cosy practice is partly responsible for where we find ourselves with the prison.'

Ms Poulton also said WRAP had been concerned Mr Grose's appointment could potentially

be related to him running as a high profile candidate for the Liberal Party at the next state election.

'Neil dismissed this outright on ABC Radio recently which we were relieved to hear.'

Mr Grose led the Launceston Chamber of Commerce for almost three years. Previously he was economic development manager at Dorset Council. Before that he edited the NE Advertiser in Scottsdale.

Earlier in his working life he ran a guided fishing tourism business in the Central Highlands, with some time writing for a fishing magazine.

He also spent three months doing communications for former Liberal Senator David Bushby and has UTAS degrees in education and fine arts.

Launceston mayor Albert van Zetten commented, 'Neil has been and remains a passionate advocate for small and medium business in Launceston and I have no doubt that whatever role he fills in the future, he will continue to be a positive and supportive voice for the region.'

## Trout re-stocking boost for anglers

THE INLAND Fisheries Service released 240 brown trout into Four Springs Lake near Birralee in May, with about 4000 brown and rainbow trout to be transferred there before the 2020-21 season starts in August.

Around 5249 brown trout have been transferred so far this year.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Guy Barnett said that in autumn and winter each year the service transfers wild brown trout harvested from fish traps in the Central Highlands.

'They are released into waters with limited natural recruitment capabilities, including Penstock Lagoon, Nineteen Lagoons region, Craighourne Dam, Curries River Dam and more,' he said.

'The service is aiming to transfer around 33,000 trout this year - 18,000 yearling rainbows and 15,000 adult brown trout.'

The 2020 Trout Weekend at Liawenee is cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic but trout egg collection is still happening to ensure fish numbers are managed across the state.

For more information see [www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au).

## Stay the distance, reduce the risk

### Lifting restrictions - Stage 1 (from Monday 18 May)

Our plan to gradually and carefully ease restrictions in stages is guiding Tasmania's recovery and continue to reduce the risk of COVID-19.

Each stage will be carefully monitored to ensure people are following the rules and the approach is working. Changes may need to be made depending on Public Health advice and Tasmania's circumstances.

#### MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PEOPLE AT ONE TIME (FROM MONDAY 18 MAY)

- 5** Visitors to households
- 20** Indoor funeral attendees
- 30** Outdoor funeral attendees

- 10** Gatherings – indoor and outdoor
- Outdoor skate parks and playgrounds
- Outdoor exercise - park equipment, boot camps and sports training
- Swimming pools
- Restaurants and cafes in all settings - up to two dining areas with 10 seated patrons each

The above limits do not include staff or volunteers.

Remember to practice physical distancing (stay 1.5 metres from others) and good hygiene (wash your hands often and cover your coughs and sneezes). Stay home if you are vulnerable or you are unwell.  
Call your GP or the Public Health Hotline (1800 671 738) to be tested for COVID-19 if you have any cold or flu-like symptoms.



# Idyllic Mole Creek childhood just a memory

By Sharon Webb

IF MOLE Creek landowner Denis Durham is successful, in a year or so Carol Douglas will sit at her dining table and gaze across the paddocks to a green Colorbond abattoir.

Another homeowner faced with an abattoir next door would put her house on the market and hotfoot it out of town. But Carol has a good reason for staying put.

Close to retirement, she bought her cottage in 2018 because of its historical links to her family. The Den, the property now owned by the Durhams, was owned by the Lee family for almost 100 years.

Now Carol wants her two adult children and grandsons Percy and Teddy to be able to stand on the land of their ancestors.

It makes no difference to Carol that most of The Den is now owned by the Durhams. Comfortably encircled by Durham land, Carol feels as if she is sitting in a patch of family history.

Married to Launceston developer Mort Douglas, known for Morty's Food Court, Carol manages Launceston properties. She plans to retire soon and spend time at Mole Creek, encouraging family members to stay and absorb the Lee family history.

'To be here is just magical for me. In the last 10 years I would dream about it,' Carol said.

'It was never on the open market and it took patient negotiation over many months to buy it from Darlene Mansell, the former owner.

'What matters is to stand on the land again and have a sense of belonging. I can see the mountains and hear the creek.'

Carol's sense of belonging comes from growing up in the cottage until she was 12, when her parents Ron and Doris Lee moved to Launceston for work.

'It was built in 1900 and when my parents arrived there with a baby, sheep had been through it and hay stored there.

'I remember mum saying there was one bed, a kitchen table and apple crates to sit on,' Carol said.

'They pumped water from Mole Creek for a water supply, no fridge but a meat safe. Dad worked at The Den on the farm and on the forestry.

'As a child it was amazing. I was never hungry or cold. I had paddocks to play in, trees to climb and an old pear tree swing Dad made from binding twine and a sugar sack stuffed with straw. I was so happy, and that never left me.'

As a mature woman, Carol says she 'felt a calling and a longing' to be at the cottage.



Above: Carol Douglas at her dining table in the Mole Creek cottage where she grew up. Carol hopes to retire here and reconnect her family with the Lee farming history. Photo by Mike Moores



Left: view over the proposed abattoir property, with Carol's cottage mid distance. Photo supplied

Denis Durham Junior wants to keep the operation small, operating a couple of days a week to supply a boutique butchery he plans for Mole Creek township. His words are 'small impact'.

The butchery plan has some locals puzzled. They think the demand won't be there.

Mr Durham says he wants to process only his animals, to remove travel stress from their deaths.

Other locals are supportive of a new Mole Creek business, said Carol, 'but if you ask them if they'd be happy for an abattoir to be over their back fence it's a different question'.

One elderly Den neighbour who has lived in her home for 60 years will look out straight at the abattoir, Carol said.

'Denis said 'boutique' but he's a driven businessman so I believe it will increase in size.

'I understand the paddock to plate concept but I believe its possible the meat will end up in Sydney or China rather than a local butcher shop.'

The elephant in the room is the effect of an abattoir on Mole Creek's karst landscape. The big unknown in waste disposal is underground. Unmapped streams flowing who knows where through limestone caverns, carrying waste that pops up – who knows where?

And the problem of people buying rural Tasmanian properties only to find the effects of neighbouring farms on their

lifestyles unacceptable is a growing one, prompting the government to develop a website to better inform potential rural buyers.

Carol Douglas has strong family ties to Mole Creek.

Apart from her history, her eldest brother Ronnie still lives there and with the help of Uncle Lewis' grandson, Grant Evans, she has a longterm renovation happening at her cottage.

These days the Lee family name is most famous for its links to Lee's Paddocks, of which Carol's relatives Dympna (Uncle Lewis' daughter) and Lloyd Evans are part owners.

The Lees are spread Australia-wide and in 2014 around 220 descendants of George and

Alice Lee gathered at the Mole Creek Memorial Hall for a reunion.

One activity was to visit Den Plains, where Carol's grandparents once lived in a cottage.

Denis Durham facilitated the convoy of cars onto his property, kindly grading the road in preparation, and family members were photographed in front of the cottage's remaining chimney.

It was a last opportunity because the chimney washed away in the 2016 floods.

'Since then we've lost a lot of those cousins and the visit meant a lot to them,' Carol said.

'Denis has been a good neighbour but this abattoir is not what I expected.'

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# Clients can stay home when fitness business jumps online

Liza deLatour, taking personal training online and past the lockdown to her clients at home.

Photo by Mike Moores

By Sharon Webb

ANYONE WHO knows Westbury's Liza deLatour knows she's a force of nature – and even the Covid-19 shut-down couldn't keep her down for long.

Liza's personal training business, You & Me PT, closed on 16 March and the following Monday she was conducting classes doing Facebook live.

Her health and fitness classes now are available online – in real time or recorded for clients who can't make class times.

'We had the choice to hibernate then resurrect whatever we could - or reinvent ourselves online and deliver a training programme replicating our in-studio offerings,' she said.

'And to my surprise, it has its benefits.

'Other than keeping my mind in the technical age and

ensuring I am glued to the screen 10-plus hours a day (due to my slow learning capabilities!) it is convenient, safe, economical, private and it is community.'

A surprising aspect of the move online is that Liza never anticipated it. While some businesses procrastinated over going online and used the Covid-19 enforced break to make the switch, Liza had assumed her personal fitness classes would continue in person.

'My 60-strong clientele dropped to 15 people – most of my business was lost,' she said. 'I needed to redevelop and start again.

'I've had to learn to do online-everything. I didn't even know how to do a group email at the beginning!' she said.

Two months later and with a little help from conference calls with trainers doing the

same thing worldwide, Liza has a fine-tuned health and fitness business working with clients in their own homes.

Georgia Gee of Westbury and Christine McCulloch of Hagley made the transition with Liza.

'I'd done classes twice a week with Liza for eight years but I was hesitant about doing it online,' Christine said.

'But my 17 year-old grandson who lives with us was keen to get me started.

'Liza cleverly gave us all Zoom IDs and passwords and I just use my Samsung Galaxy Tab phone.'

Now that Christine is actually doing the online classes she enjoys it more than face-to-face.

'I don't actually like exercising with other people,' the 63 year-old confessed.

'And having the class at home saves a lot of driving time. I'd go to the class and drop in at the supermarket on the way there or back. And we run a business so there's always something to collect at the post office. Now someone else does all that!'

Busy mother-of-two Georgia Gee says she still gets individual attention from Liza in the online classes.

'Liza has tried to pull her gym community together virtually,' Georgia said.

'She understands her clients and their individual needs and limits.

'Because she can see us online we get individual attention. It's all very positive and uplifting and motivational.

'Liza doesn't want us just to be cardiovascular fit but mind-fit as well.'

Liza believes the product of her self-education will work for a lot of people.

The studio will re-open but online classes will continue, with Liza having seized the opportunity to progress towards her goal of personalised health training.

See the You & Me PT 2020 online timetable on Facebook. Contact Liza on 0432 419355



## Always on the air

'THE VOICE of the Valley', MVFM 96.9, is now livestreaming, not just to our local area or even around Australia, but around the world.

A listener from the Ukraine contacted the station recently and even sent some Ukrainian music for the Meander Valley based station to play.

And there are plenty of other responses from all over our country. MVFM has become renowned for the range of music genres and presentations which are heard on the station.

Some of the programs presented by local volunteers are shown here. The rest of the music time is Jazz, Country

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### Take it Easy

Relaxing music from great orchestra, instrumentalists and vocalists

Nick Sun 7pm, Fri 6pm

### Roots and Branches

Reggae and hip hop hits

Mira Sun 4pm, Thu 4pm

### The Big Daddy Medicine Show

Americana from Hank to Hendrix

Kris Tue 5pm, Sat 3pm

### Cogwebs and Strange

Steampunk and music on the slightly heavier side

Julia and Gordon Mon 9pm, Thu 9pm

### Strings 'n' Things

Obscure and interesting music

Big O Wed 4pm, Sat 4pm

### Praise in the Valley

Mix of much-loved hymns and well known contemporary Christian music

Phil Sun 8am

### Classical Time

Top of the pops in the 60s: 1760s, that is

John P Tue 7pm, Sun 3pm

### Weird, Wonderful and Wacky Wecords

Some of the strangest, craziest and downright stupidest records ever released

Nick Sun 10am, Wed 7pm

### Meet me in the Middle of the Air

Past personal favourites

Rijke Mon 4pm, Sat 12am

### The Eclectic Show

A mixed bag of terrific and cool hits

Greg and Eddie Mon 7pm, Sat 1pm

### The Journey

World and ambient music

John K Sun 12am, Tue 8pm

### Music and Mirth

Contemporary hits and chuckle-worthy comedy

John K Tue 4pm, Sat 2pm

### Voices that Sing

An old-fashioned, sing-a-long to tickle your tonsils

Stephen Sun 8pm, Fri 5pm

Rock and Easy Listening. The station is on the air 24/7 for your enjoyment.

So, no matter what your musical taste, it's covered at MVFM 96.9.





**Two bulbous plants**

Quite rare plants in Tasmanian gardens, Josephine lilies, or *Brunsvigias* would be hard to miss, as their large (up to 6kg) bulbs grow on the surface. Their unique flowers appear in the Autumn months.

As children we called our single specimen an Umbrella plant.

The lilies were named after Napoleon Bonaparte's favourite wife Josephine. They are frost resistant and extremely drought resistant.



Above: the South African River Lily has flowers, reminiscent of Gladiolus. Below: the striking Josephine Lily flowers during the autumn months. Photos supplied

After flowering, they send up broad flat leaves from the crown, and also from those offshoots that develop on the sides of the bulbs. These may be sliced off and planted elsewhere in a dry sunny spot. Their tiny plentiful seeds are scattered about the parent plant, but as they take about 14 years to germinate, only younger gardeners should make an attempt at propagation.

By contrast, the South African River Lily, *Schizostylis coccinea* (pictured left) flowers in April and their highly visible red flowers, reminiscent of miniature gladiolus, are enjoying this Autumn's conditions, and will bloom on until mid June.

**In the vegie garden**

Swedes and turnips seem to revel in cold weather. Sow them in shallow drills lined with seed raising mix. Turnips develop earlier than Swedes so to give them more space, thin out the smaller ones and use them raw in salads.

Swedes take longer – about three months – but mashed and served with salt, pepper and plenty of butter, are a great accompaniment for cold weather dishes. The gardening book says that peas both climbing and dwarf may be sown in June, but a late frost spells sudden death to peas if it coincides with their flowering, so in frosty districts, best wait until July. They should be ready to pick in around 16 weeks from sowing.

By Uzma Aamir

THIS IS a very tasty dish that is easy to cook and does not take long.

**Ingredients**

- 2 large waxy potatoes, peeled and cut into cubes
- salt to taste
- 1/4 tsp red chilli powder
- 1/4 tsp ground turmeric
- 1/4 tsp ground coriander
- 50 ml vegetable oil
- 1 small brown onion, thinly sliced
- 2 cm fresh ginger root, crushed
- 4 cloves fresh garlic, crushed

**Method**

Heat the oil in a saucepan. Add sliced onion. Cook for a few minutes until translucent.

Then add crushed ginger and garlic. Let it cook for a couple of minutes, stirring.

Add 2 tablespoons of water. Let it simmer for a few seconds, then add all the dry spices. Let everything cook for a few minutes.

Now add potatoes. Stir and add 1 cup of water. Cover with a lid and cook on slow to medium heat until the potatoes are soft, and water has evaporated.

Garnish with fresh coriander leaves and serve with plain boiled rice, or chapatis.

(If you like hot curry, add some fresh green chillies with the ginger and garlic.)



IN THE years since Uzma and Aamir Mahmood made their home in Deloraine, many locals have enjoyed Uzma's fragrant traditional Pakistani recipes.

Here, Uzma teaches us how to make one of her family's favourite dishes. Hardboiled eggs can be added, or green peas.

Uzma says it is important to choose recipes to match the

**Uzma's potato curry**



A winter-warming potato curry.

Photo by Mike Moores

season and the occasion, and as the weather cools, a hearty potato dish appeals to us all.

Uzma and her cousin, Munaza Imran, run the catering business, 'Spice House Take Away', taking orders for small or large gatherings with a selection of rice, breads, appetisers, sauces, beef, chicken and vegetarian dishes to ensure customers will have a feast!

Special dietary needs can be catered for and all meals are made fresh daily with seasonal local ingredients, no artificial additives or ready-made curry paste.

Orders must be placed the night before, and food can be collected in Deloraine on Wednesdays, Thursday, Fridays and Saturdays from 1-2pm. Call 0469 861 307 to place orders.



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# Elizabeth – Town and Queen



Royal visit, Elizabeth Town street decorations, 23 February, 1954. Photo courtesy of State Library and Archive Service, Libraries Tasmania, Item number AB713/1/2810

## Libraries Tasmania – a great resource

THE INTERNET is a wonderful place for information but don't believe everything you read. When undertaking research, it is important to use original sources where possible. The use of both primary and secondary sources will allow a researcher to confirm information and get a broader understanding of it.

Primary sources were created at the time. These are usually official documents and records, such as birth, death and marriage certificates, census information, reports, log books and convict conduct records. In this article, photographs, maps, the Post Office Directory and newspaper articles are used as primary sources.

Secondary sources are those in which others have written about a person, place or event and have used primary sources, but the author is giving their opinion or interpretation of those documents. In this case, Wikipedia is the secondary source.

Libraries Tasmania is a great resource of primary and secondary sources. The amount of digital content on their website is impressive and worth having a look at.

It is fun just to explore and see what they have. For this article, to see what was available on the Elizabeth Town area, 'Elizabeth Town' was entered in the search bar and when the results came up, the search was filtered to give me the items available online. There is a great photography collection and it is always surprising as to the type of maps that are available. For help with historical research please contact: *Michelle Blake Historical Research* <https://www.mbhistoricalresearch.com/contact>

By Michelle Blake

UNDER THE entry for Elizabeth Town in Wikipedia it states, 'The town is named after Her Majesty Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia during her first visit to the Commonwealth of Australia in 1954. It was the only town named after Her Majesty the Queen during her 1954 tour of Australia.' This

is incorrect. Although Queen Elizabeth II did drive through Elizabeth Town on her 1954 visit to Tasmania, the town itself existed at least 100 years prior to her visit.

In 1822 the area was known as Norfolk Plains and the land around Elizabeth Town and Deloraine was at the time designated as a Government reserve. The area was marked

for a possible future township.

The first land grant in the area was to Captain Malcolm Laing Smith of the 83rd Regiment who had arrived in Van Diemen's Land around February 1826 and was later granted 2000 acres of land. He named it 'Whitefoord Hills'.

Captain Smith did not reside at this property and had caretaker stockmen run sheep and cattle on the land. After an incident with local Aboriginal people who retaliated against restrictions on their use of the land, the property was sold to William Field.

An undated map held in the Libraries Tasmania online archival collection shows the road along the Rubicon River to Deloraine.

Beside the road is land owned by William Field, James Bonney and E Richards. The map is labelled as Elizabeth Town, which would indicate that at the time William Field owned land in the area, it was already known as Elizabeth Town.

Other maps of the area dated 1862 show the grid layout of the streets and the land owners of the subdivided area off Samuel Street.

Over time the area gradually built up. In 1860 the Governor approved the establishment of a post office and postmaster at Elizabeth Town. In 1863 John Spicer held the licence for the Saddler's Arms.

By 1890, the Post Office Directory listed a bustling farming community in the area complete with the services of bootmakers and blacksmiths and a miller. The town had a post mistress, two school masters, police sergeant and John Spicer still in charge of the Saddler's Arms.

The Church of the Holy Cross held a harvest festival in 1916 and concerts were held at Salter's Hall.

The 1930s saw an active community complete with fundraising dances, school concerts and various sporting clubs.

On Tuesday 23 February 1954, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip passed through town. Arrangements had been made for the royal procession to slow down so the 300 people from the surrounding area that lined the road could cheer, clap and wave flags to welcome them.

Mr Toby Lee of the Commercial Hotel had been responsible for erecting an archway and sign across the road with the assistance of the Dunorlan CWA and locals.

It was decorated with holly, flowers and greenery and a large crown topped the arch which was lit with a bright, white light. The town was colourfully decorated with bunting and a festival atmosphere and celebrations lasted into the evening.

Reports of the Queen's visit noted, 'The town has the distinction of being the only one in Australia to bear the Queen's name', though this only means that they shared a name, not that the town was named after her.

## Be a good farming neighbour

A NEW campaign aims to reduce land use conflicts in rural areas preparing newcomers for the realities of rural life.

The three-year \$100,000 campaign funded by the Tasmanian Government works with farmers, the real estate industry and local government to support good neighbourly relations, especially where farmland adjoins existing or new urban and peri-urban developments.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Guy

Barnett, said the campaign aims to improve neighbours' understanding of farming activities.

'It explains everyone's rights and responsibilities when living near agricultural producers.

'Developed by the TFGA, it will inform those from a non-farming background about essential farming activities and practices, as well as respective responsibilities of farmers and neighbours,' he said. For more information see [www.tfga.com.au](http://www.tfga.com.au).

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# Driscoll's and Caitlyn – growing Tasmania!

By Hayley Manning

FORMER SCOTCH Oakburn student Caitlyn Badcock was thrilled to accept a Driscoll's Scholarship in Agricultural Science on 25 February 2020.

According to Human Resources Manager, Sonia Murat, Driscoll's Australia partnered with the University of Tasmania in 2018 to provide a scholarship each year with the aim of increasing industry skills and strengthening the Tasmanian community.

The scholarship payments will be paid in equal instalments during the four years of full time study required for a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at the University of Tasmania in Hobart.

'Driscoll's Australia is a joint venture company owned by Driscoll's (USA) and Costa Group. Agriculture is the cornerstone of the Tasmanian economy and home to many of our berry growers including Deloraine and surrounds.

'It is a prosperous region with excellent growing conditions and an area of growth within our business,' Ms Murat said.

Caitlyn, 19, says the payments will assist with accommodation fees at Jane Franklin Hall, text books and a printer.

'Half of the students on my floor have bought a printer and a ream of paper to save on printing costs!'

During her year 12 studies, Caitlyn increasingly realised she wanted to pursue a career in agriculture that would allow

her to follow in the footsteps of her sixth generation farming family, who are based on the outskirts of Deloraine.

'My family are excited, and my mum's family, who are heavily into farming, are happy too. I am not sure what life would look like without farming. I have so many fond memories growing up. It's a great atmosphere to grow up in.'

At the completion of her degree Caitlyn plans to gain employment as an agronomist within Tasmania.

An agronomist is best described as a 'crop doctor' who works closely with the farmer to develop optimum methods of increased food and fibre production based on soil tests, cultivation techniques, climate science, erosion and livestock placement.

'I think Tasmanian agriculture will continue to progress into the future.

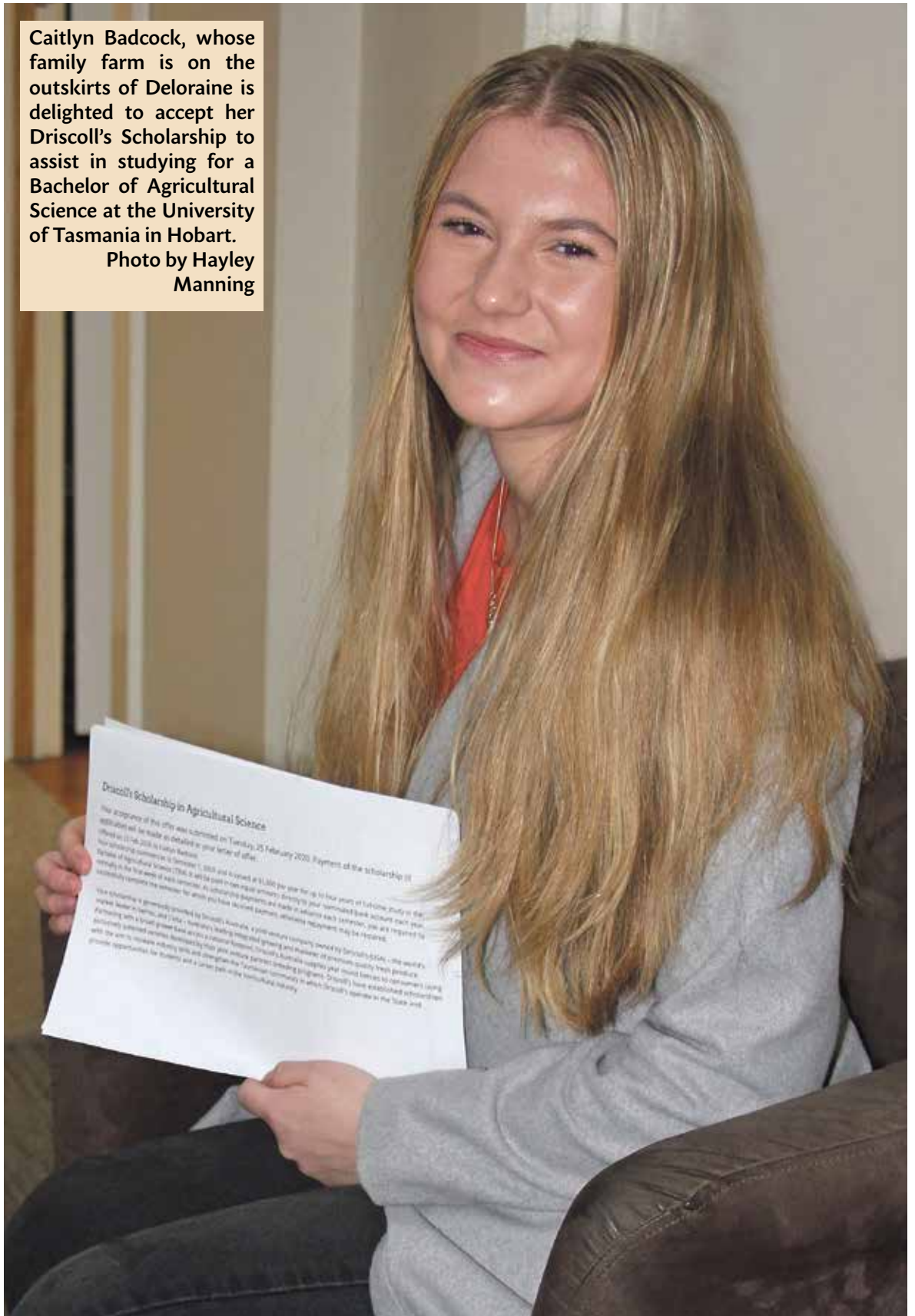
'We have a rich farming history here and there is a lot of interest in the agricultural industry and the role it has to play in creating sustainable food and fibre production systems. The environment we have here gives us the ability to that.

'I would like to thank Driscoll's for the scholarship and the opportunities that it has provided me with. It has set me up for the future.

'It gives you breathing space to settle into university life and invest the majority of your time into studies, so you can do the best you can.'

Caitlyn Badcock, whose family farm is on the outskirts of Deloraine is delighted to accept her Driscoll's Scholarship to assist in studying for a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at the University of Tasmania in Hobart.

Photo by Hayley Manning



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# Is the world pumping too much iron?

JUNE 1 marks the start of World Haemochromatosis Week.

Haemochromatosis is the most common genetic disorder in Australia and causes the body to absorb too much iron from food.

Haemochromatosis is easy to test, simple to treat but tragic to ignore because excess iron overloads body tissues, damages organs and can cause premature death.

Early symptoms may include fatigue, abdominal pain and joint aches. Many people can suffer from haemochromatosis without being diagnosed and without any symptoms, even though damage is occurring.

Early diagnosis and treatment prevents complications and results in normal health and life expectancy.

Haemochromatosis is easily treated. Excess iron is removed from the body by taking blood in the same way as donating blood at a blood bank.

Find out more about haemochromatosis at [www.ha.org.au](http://www.ha.org.au).

## Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8				9		
10				11		
12				13		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
22						
23				24		
25				26		
27				28		

**Across**

- 8 Burn (7)
- 9 Illusory pointer to gold (7)
- 10 Used in cooking (8)
- 11 Bring forth (6)
- 12 Bring up (7)
- 13 Very detailed (2, 5)
- 14 Dark-grey waterbird (4)
- 17 Second largest stringed instrument (5)
- 19 Youth charity (1, 1, 1, 1)
- 23 Impacts (7)
- 24 Asks over (7)
- 25 Gets up late (4, 2)
- 26 Shriill (8)
- 27 Comments (7)
- 28 Frequent-flyer perk (7)

**Down**

- 1 Explosively violent (8)
- 2 Cattle station trainee (8)
- 3 Pride young 'un (4, 3)
- 4 Not far away (4, 4)
- 5 Inherited (4, 4)
- 6 Wholly (8)
- 7 Kind of medicine (8)
- 15 Assistant (8)
- 16 You know what I'm drinking (3, 5)
- 17 In a rage, you might get as mad as one (3, 5)
- 18 Behave in a vulgar way (4, 2, 2)
- 20 Like unicorns (8)
- 21 Designated (8)
- 22 Unremarkable (7)

## Sudoku

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

© 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 June 2020 solution*



*Sudoku June 2020 solution*

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

# Open for business

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

Open	Business	Details
Fri, Sat, Sun 9am-4pm	Earthwater Café, Mole Creek	Reopening June 5 with a limit of 10 people seated at a time Book ahead 6363 2095*
Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat 10am-2pm	The Green Door, Westbury	Reopening Monday 15 June Bookings essential for all reservations 63931185**
Fri, Sat	Cycles at the Empire, Deloraine	Dine in has started again, with social distancing rules in place 6362 1029
14 June, 15 June	Cycles at the Empire, Deloraine	Platypus tours resume by appointment accommodation open from 15 June
Wed-Sat 12-8pm	British Hotel, Deloraine	Reopening mid-June Bottleshop open pizzas available, takeaway meals, dinner only*
Fri-Sun 11am-2pm, 5pm-8pm	Mole Creek Hotel	10 patrons at a time Phone bookings are necessary 6363 1102 or 0408 648 895*
Daily	Deloraine Hotel	Bottleshop open Takeaway meals from 5.30-8pm Takeaway lunches, Fri and Sat only, from 11.30-2pm*
Daily	Bush Inn, Deloraine	Bottleshop open*
Wed-Sat 5.30-8pm	Westbury Hotel	Bottleshop open takeaway meals*
Mon-Sun	Mumma Buzz Café	Dine in has started again, with social distancing rules in place Bookings essential 0400 259 663*
Fri & Sat 10am-4pm	Devils Own Icecreamery/Hazelbrae Hazelnuts	Dine in reopening 6 June @ 127 Hagley Station Lane, Hagley Booking essential Takeaway icecream packs*
Mon-Fri 7.30am-5.30pm	Best's Butchery, Deloraine	All your favourite local farm meats Home deliveries 6362 2039, 0498 099 742*
Mon-Fri 8.30am-6pm	Westbury Gourmet Butchery	Business as usual
Mon-Sat	Meander Valley Fruit & Veg	Fresh and local fruits and vegetables, honey, eggs, dairy
Daily, 9.30am-5.30pm	Ashgrove Cheese, Elizabeth Town	Takeaway ice-creams, specialty cheeses, dairy products 6708 1012
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
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 and coffee*
Daily, until 9pm	United Elizabeth Town Roadhouse	24/7 fuel takeaway including wood fired pizza, coffee, groceries 6368 1216*
Fri, Sat evenings	Wandering Trout, Mole Creek	Limited dine in available, up to 10 people Bookings essential 63889252*
Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm	Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre	Reopening June 9 Closed June weekends Back to 7 days from July 1

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



# Local bookworms welcome back in Tasmanian libraries

By Julia Hawthorne

MEANDER VALLEY book lovers looking forward to the re-opening of their libraries after the Covid-19 lockdown will be pleased to hear this is happening NOW.

Westbury Library opens on 5 June and Deloraine Library on 9 June.

Initially this will be a click & collect service where readers order books online, collect them, then return the books.

Just now Libraries Tasmania doesn't know when normal library service will resume – so don't just rock up expecting to browse the shelves!

Library members can browse the online catalogue, place holds and pick up books during

specified hours. Members are emailed or telephoned when orders are available for pickup.

In Stage Two of the State Government's Roadmap to Recovery, libraries reopened from the top down, beginning with a click & collect service at Launceston and Devonport libraries.

Libraries Tasmania executive director Liz Jack said library staff are working on a safe operation for the public, so book browsing won't be available until a later date.

'But Libraries Tasmania continues to offer an expanded range of online services accessing an increasing range of online resources including eBooks, eMagazines, eFilms and eNewspapers,' she said.

# Farewell to our kitchen goddess

FOR MANY years, the Gazette has been privileged to be able to present the delightful and delicious recipes of Wai Lin Coultas, meticulously planned, prepared and photographed every month.

Wai Lin has graciously shared her love of world food with our readers, but has now decided to move on.

We wish her the very best of luck in all of her future endeavours.

# Westbury Show seeks secretary

THE HISTORIC Westbury Show is looking for a motivated secretary to become part of the show's friendly committee.

The committee has been granted approval for the position to be part of the Jobseeker volunteer program.

This means that the volunteer hours as secretary can be counted as part of the Jobseeker allowance.

If you have previous experience, administration skills, excellent written and verbal communication skills and are community-minded, the committee would like to hear from you.

Please send a cover letter and your resumé to the Westbury Show Committee.

Send emails to:  
Kevin Lattin, President,  
Westbury Show  
klattin@bigpond.net.au

For more information please contact:  
Stacey Tweedale,  
Media and Marketing  
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Westbury Show Committee



Quiet time for mum and baby at the 2019 Westbury Show, despite the surrounding activities. Photo by Mike Moores

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## Deloraine & Westbury Medical Centre

would like to welcome Dr Nicole Anderson

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Dr Stephanie Hey will be starting work again on Fridays from 5 June.

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



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# Get those trees growing! Fruit growers market recovery

FARMERS ARE invited to apply for grants to establish shelterbelts and woodlots on their properties.

Private Forests Tasmania is partly funded by the State Government. The organisation is seeking expressions of interest from Tasmanian farmers to join a project to increase the number of trees planted on farms.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Guy Barnett, said more than \$330,000 will be available through the Federal Government's Smart Farming Grants.

'Improving farm productivity will be vital for Tasmanian primary producers as we plan to rebuild a stronger Tasmania,' he said.

'Trees can play an important role in improving productivity and profitability through shelterbelts, delivering biofuel,

boosting carbon balance and improving water quality and efficiency.'

For more information on the project, see [www.pft.tas.gov.au](http://www.pft.tas.gov.au) or phone 1300 661009.

**These trees at Dunorlan have been grown from seed.**

Archive photo



FRUIT GROWERS Tasmania will use a \$460,000 federal grant to create an export hub which will play a pivotal role in the State's agrifood recovery.

Tasmanian Minister for Trade Jeremy Rockliff said the funding will help producers of fruit,

nuts, vegetables, salad greens and other horticultural products build on Tasmania's brand and strong export culture.

'The growers will work with other industry groups and agribusiness to leverage new collaborative market and export

opportunities, drive increased trade, value and farm productivity,' he said.

'With the disruption to trade worldwide due to COVID-19, the Tasmanian and Commonwealth governments are helping exporters maintain access to key international markets and prepare for new opportunities.'

## Feasibility study for wild-shot deer

THE STATE Government has advertised for consultants to work out whether a trial of using wild-shot deer for commercial purposes is feasible.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Water Guy Barnett said the task was a commitment the government gave in its response to the 2017 Legislative Council inquiry into wild fallow deer in Tasmania.

'It is important to note this study is not intended to determine the financial viability of,

or market development for wild-shot deer products. This would be for individual commercial businesses to determine,' he said.

'The study will evaluate the potential for deer farmers and landholders to supply value added wild deer products for the regulated food and restaurant trade.'

The report is expected to be completed this year. For more information go to [www.dpipw.tas.gov.au/deer-feasibility](http://www.dpipw.tas.gov.au/deer-feasibility).

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The Gazette would like to thank all businesses who have continued to advertise, and those who are new to advertising with us, despite the COVID-19 restrictions. To those businesses who have been forced to close, we wish you well and hope to seeing you back in business soon.



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116-118 Emu Bay Road **DELORAINE** 6 3   
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