



### EAGLE-EYED

Everyone is keeping a close watch on the new proposed prison site

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### HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU!

Pubs re-open and the drinkers celebrate

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### SUPREME COURT DECISION

MARRA and MVC battle over school

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# Meander Valley Gazette

Free every month

July 2020

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper



## In the swim at Mole Creek!

Celebrating funding to repair Mole Creek swimming pool. Front: Jye Webb, Craig Richards, Tannah Webb, Meika Webb and Jenny Lloyd with Stella, Lydia and Charlotte Meure. Back: Trudy Richards, Jill Harvey, Megan Flowers and Connie Frydrych. (see story on page 2) Photo supplied

## Endangered wildlife a hurdle for new prison location

By Sharon Webb

KICKING THE can of its new northern prison a few kilometres further down Birralea Road has created a whole new set of problems for the Gutwein State Government.

On June 18, Corrections Minister Elise Archer announced a change from the 135 Birralea

Road prison site because of negative local feedback. It will now be three kilometres further down the same road on a 70 hectare crown land bush site.

Already, Central North Field Naturalists Inc. has requested a stop on development until the site is investigated, and Federal Environment Minister

Susan Ley is considering the request.

Their argument is that the land has species protected as being both endangered and vulnerable under the Federal *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, 1999.

'We request that you call in as a controlled action the

planned site of the northern prison on the Birralea Road because of the presence of two commonwealth listed species, the Wedge-tailed Eagle and Masked Owl, that are both listed as endangered,' secretary Peter Lawrence wrote.

'While no nocturnal surveys have been conducted at the location, it is very likely that

the Eastern-barred Bandicoot occurs there, as Westbury and Birralea are known hotspots for the species. The dry sclerophyll forest is also likely to provide suitable breeding and/or foraging habitat for Eastern Quoll, Spotted-tailed Quoll and Tasmanian Devil.'

(continued on page 2)



# Birrallee Road prison site – environmental concerns will require further investigation

(continued from page 1)

But Mr Gutwein was quick to deny the existence of an eagle nest.

Commenting on letters from local environmentalists criticising the location, Mr Gutwein said, 'A preliminary investigation of the site has been conducted by DPIPWE and it is understood there are no eagle nests, covenants or records of threatened wildlife on the block.'

He has said further investigations are being done.

Damping down environment concerns, Mr Gutwein said, 'It is important to note that the prison is likely to only require a footprint of approximately 15 hectares of the 70 hectare site.'

In Parliament in June, the Premier also said, 'The site does not contain pristine forest but shows evidence of a very long history of timber harvesting and more recently, illegal firewood collection, stock grazing, rubbish dumping and shooting.'

A Hobart ecologist branded Mr Gutwein as 'playing with words'.

'The Wedge-tailed Eagle nest is recorded on the government's own mapping records as

being on land adjacent to this block. The Natural Values Atlas shows nest number 1402, last observed as present in 2010.'

The EPBC Act dictates developers 'implement breeding season buffers against disturbance of 500m and 1000m in line-of-sight to protect nests from disturbance.'

That distance encompasses half the land of the proposed prison – and all the property is within 1km of the nest.

'What matters is that the nest is sitting there and needs to be assessed with the same rules the State Government imposes on everyone else,' the expert said.

He derided Mr Gutwein's claim that only a small area would contain the prison. 'Under the Planning Scheme's Bushfire Code, a prison is a 'vulnerable' use requiring a large buffer zone. They'll need to clear a lot of land for this prison.'

Eagles breed from August to January, possibly longer, with the government's Threatened Species Link maintaining 'fewer than 200 pairs are left in the wild.'

Long-time conservationist Alistair Graham said that Ms Archer's claim to media that

the site was degraded was 'muddying the waters'.

'This is a high quality piece of land,' he said. 'People did go in and steal firewood, it's regrettable but common.'

But on Facebook, Westbury prison supporter Grace Rock described the land as 'a tip', local Andrea Badcock branded anti-prison people as 'an embarrassment', and Kathleen Cooper recommended they 'get a real job building the prison'.

Birrallee naturalist Sarah Lloyd OAM monitored birds' dawn chorus on the land for a year and was distressed to hear the land was selected for a prison.

'It contains threatened species and species in decline. If the land had been for sale I would have bought it, it's so important.'

'24-hour lighting will completely disrupt birds' reproductive cycles, set migratory species off-course and cause birds to crash into the bright buildings.'

# Mole Creek in the swim as the pool gets funding

By Sharon Webb

(see photo on page 1)

A CROWD at the outdoor Mole Creek Swimming Pool in mid-winter is unheard of – but the town's swimmers had good news to celebrate.

After an expert in a wetsuit found three or four leaks in the 1985-era pool, the local swimming pool committee got to work to raise funds to pay for repairs.

In June came news that the Tasmania Community Fund would come good with \$45,475.40, the majority of the \$64,000 needed.

Committee secretary Trudy Richards said an average of 1,000 people each year pay a gold coin to use the pool in the summer months when it's open.

'It really is the only recreational facility in Mole Creek so it's important,' she said.

'There's not a lot here, for kids especially, to do over summer.'

'All ages use it. Some older lap swimmers, kids and mothers, tourists passing through and young people having get-togethers.'

'The pool was built by the community and the committee has put in a lot of work over the years to keep it going. It's run by volunteers.'

The pool committee, led by president Megan Flowers, has raised \$3,000 through an op shop set up expressly for this fundraising purpose.

Meander Valley Council allocated \$3,000 and the Bendigo Bank contributed \$5,000.

The Tasmania Community Fund's goal is to support and strengthen Tasmanian communities.

Its board members commented on the clear need for a functioning swimming pool in Mole Creek, the capacity of the committee to complete the project and its strong value for money.

# 29 years service to local community

THE DENTURE Centre operated and owned by Russell Brownlie has provided service to the Meander Valley community for the last 29 years, working from Deloraine Medical Allied Health building on Tuesday mornings.

Russell has sold the business and is planning for his retirement and the new owners will continue the business as before and plan to maintain the service to the local area.

Deloraine Medical want to wish Russell and his partner Meg all the best and thank them for the service and wonderful working relationship over the past 29 years.

We hope they enjoy the retirement and we will miss Russell's friendly face every Tuesday.

We look forward to working with the new owners.



Office Manager Sharon Davis presenting Russell Brownlie with flowers and champagne. Photo supplied

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Authorised by REBECCA WHITE, 33 COLE ST, SORELL

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# Early birds!



## WOAD is calling on all artists and local businesses

By Annie Robinson

ARTS DELORAINE is currently working on WOAD 2020.

In the past, this long art gallery has brought together artists, businesses, shops and the community.

Invitations to participate are currently out to artists.

Emu Bay Road businesses and shop owners have been approached for a space in their windows to display an item of art.

Arts Deloraine hope that this may provide an opportunity for us all to begin to feel more positive during the COVID-19 isolation.

WOAD will operate from Wednesday 28 October until Wednesday 4 November, hopefully covering the period of the Tasmanian Craft Fair.

Arts Deloraine are also planning to use another space for displaying arts, crafts, poems, writings and photos that members of our local community have engaged in during the COVID-19 lock down. This mini exhibition will be called 'The WOAD Less Travelled'.

For further information or if you wish to participate in WOAD or 'The WOAD Less Travelled' please contact Annie Robinson on 0419 134 946 or email [artsdeloraine@gmail.com](mailto:artsdeloraine@gmail.com) or [birdwing@activ8.net.au](mailto:birdwing@activ8.net.au).

By Sharon Webb

A MOLE Creek family who recently closed their Chudleigh business, having owed the tax office more than \$2m, will be severely missed, according to the owner of the Chudleigh Store.

The Beerepoot family who own the Melita Honey Farm have sent a postcard to households in the Meander Valley announcing the closure of the business from June 30.

'Our family has recently been through a series of legal challenges', the postcard said.

'Whilst these issues have been largely resolved we have had to make some decisions as to how we move forwards.

'In order to remain true to that in which we believe we have decided to close our store. This wasn't an easy decision to make.'

Chudleigh Store owner Mandy Wyer said the Beerepoots were an integral part of Chudleigh, selfless, community-minded people.

'It's not just about the honey farm, it's the contribution they've made. They were integral to planting the town's roses and getting tourism going here,' she said.

'It's a traumatic upheaval for them and I hope they'll stay in the area but I think they won't.'

In September 2017, Meander Valley Council sold the home of siblings Fanny Alida Beerepoot and Rembertus Cornelis Beerepoot and their mother Alida because they owed rates.

The council auctioned Blue Wren Hideaway, a house on 2.4 hectares in Mole Creek, for \$120,000 to recoup the rates, unpaid because the Beerepoot family owners believed the land was 'owned by God'.

After the council deducted around \$15,000 for the rates and auction costs, it returned approximately \$105,000 to the Beerepoot family.

But it is believed that Rembertus Beerepoot returned \$105,000 in cash to the council because the family viewed the auction as a hostile sale and

# Beerepoots family to close honey farm



The Beerepoot family have made the decision to close the Melita Honey Farm museum and shop in Chudleigh after facing a series of legal challenges. Photo supplied

didn't wish to collude with it. Meander Valley Council has not yet stated the whereabouts of that money.

Subsequently the new owner of Blue Wren Hideaway, who bought it sight unseen because the Beerepoots would not allow inspections, found \$50,000 of the property's fixtures and fittings were missing or damaged.

The property has since been sold again.

In addition, in July 2019 the Beerepoot family was ordered to pay more than \$2 million to the Australian Taxation Office after failing to pay income tax on the grounds it 'goes against God's will'.

The ABC reported that Fanny and Rembertus Beerepoot faced the Supreme Court of Tasmania after they failed to pay an estimated \$930,000 in income tax and other charges in 2017.

Representing themselves, the pair told the court they had previously paid income tax prior to

2011 but a deepened spiritual relationship meant they later realised paying tax was 'against God's will'.

Without a specific reference in the Bible supporting their argument, Associate Justice

Stephen Holt ordered they pay an estimated \$1.159 million and \$1.166 million respectively, covering income tax debt, administrative costs, interest charges and running balance account deficit debts.

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## Letter from the Editor

THANK YOU to the many readers who have taken the time to praise the wonderful people who contribute stories and take pictures for the Gazette.

We honestly couldn't manage without them.

This month we say goodbye to Mike Moores, our wonderful staff photographer who

has graced the Gazette with his talent, experience and good sense for many years. He will be sorely missed.

We will pay tribute to Mike over the next few months, in the Gazette and also at Pixels Gallery at the Deloraine Online Access Centre.

Liz Douglass

## Letters to the Editor

CONGRATULATIONS ON the June publication. It's incredible that writers of the calibre of Sharon and Hayley, and now Michelle, do it all voluntarily.

We should be paying for a journal of this quality, but of course, as soon as a charge is levied, readers will refuse to subscribe. It is thanks to advertisers and sponsors that we can be kept up to date with Meander Valley news which the dailies no longer cover.

I can well remember the visit of the Queen to Elizabeth Town in 1954. As at that time Elizabeth Town was the only town in Australia bearing her name, it had been requested that the procession slow down there as it travelled from the Port of Devonport to Launceston.

We all went round to join the crowd. We had been living in the UK in 1953, and had watched the Coronation on our B&W TV.

Back to the car, our 5 year old daughter promptly had a tantrum. Years later, when she wrote an essay for her grand daughter 'What did you do when you were little?' she explained that she had been expecting the Queen to be in full regalia in a golden coach

drawn by 12 white horses. Instead there was only 'an ordinary looking woman, waving a white gloved hand'.

Referring to the story from Sharon, 'Idyllic Mole Creek childhood', I can remember Carol's grandfather Lewis Lee, a jovial old farmer who had a magnificent singing voice, and was apt to burst into song when greeting friends. (I think he sang hymns).

My son, then in high school, needed some rocks for his geology studies, and with Lewis' permission, we walked up through the farm to the rock formations on the ridge. As I looked over into the wild rocky gorge of the Mersey, I could not help comparing that rough rocky precipitous slope with the rapids at the bottom with the beautifully tended pastures on Lewis' farm.

I look forward to making Usma's potato curry - just the thing for these winter days - quite easy and simple and containing ingredients which can be found in most kitchen cupboards. I am looking forward to our Deloraine Market opening again, when I can buy Usma and Munaza's delicious samosas to take home for lunch.

Nell Carr, Dunorlan

DO WE really need a manager for business and economic recovery costing ratepayers \$200,000 or thereabouts over two years?

If economic stimulus is the reason then I and no doubt many ratepayers could think of much better ways to spend the money.

Council should confine itself to providing essential services. If it did so, rates could be lower which in itself would help many struggling ratepayers and indeed help and stimulate local businesses.

The spend, spend, spend philosophy has seen problems and mismanagement with some councils in recent times. I for one do not wish to see MVC follow this path.

Kevin Briggs, Quamby Corner

THE ARTICLE 'Elizabeth - Town and Queen' in your last edition of the Meander Valley Gazette brought back memories of having been there when the Queen passed through and remembering the wonderful archway. At the time I lived at Moltema and was only 7 years old. I wonder how many others remember this event?

John Flower, Deloraine

IT WAS with great pleasure that I had the privilege to be forwarded a digital link to your June 2020 edition.

I wish to commend you and the team on an extremely positive and uplifting community paper full of diverse informative and positive stories and information.

So many people out there doing great things

A great contribution to what is a great region and community.

Mark Winter

and know that this windy and hilly section can be extremely frightening when faced with on-coming trucks, other large vehicles and people travelling too quickly.

2 There are currently no services on site which means a considerable easement along Birralee Road will be required to bring electricity and water to the site. Not only will this be very disruptive to commercial vehicles and resident's travel on this very busy road, it is on a main tourist route. What impression will this make on visitors to Tasmania?

3 What will happen to waste water? Given the aspect of the site, it is likely to make its way to Brushy Rivulet, eventually to end up polluting the Meander River.

4 Illumination of the building will extend its footprint beyond the 10-15 ha the government claims. All life on earth is geared to respond to the 24-hour day night cycle. The lights will have an impact

WE MOVED into our home around 18 months ago. The first thing I did was to plant a garden that would attract the birds and bees to our yard. It was becoming wonderful to hear the morning bird songs and look out our window to glimpse what bird was visiting.

To our chagrin, we discovered other people's cats coming into our yard and killing off all our little visitors. Now - no birdsong, no glimpses of various little birds.

I'm pleading for cat owners to be responsible for them. Cats are magnificent hunters. For this reason, they don't belong in the environment.

Decades ago, I too used to own a cat. They are brilliant company. But that was until I learned of their destructive behaviour on our native wildlife.

If you own a cat, please control it. They can live happily indoors, but if you want them to also be outdoors, build an enclosed cat park. You can even buy such items these days. This isn't too much to ask for a happy healthy community, surely.

We're killing off far too much of our natural world.

Marion Curtain

THE DELORAIN business community has been in consultation for some time with TasWater regarding pricing and policies. Thanks to some solid work by our local MLC Tania Rattray, and support by her colleagues, the Legislative Council has agreed to a Select Committee Inquiry to investigate TasWater operations.

This should spotlight the problems and lead to the Government, TasWater, Economic Regulator, and the public working together to develop a policy and pricing that meets community expectations.

TasWater has regarded themselves as an independent body that accepts advice from nobody, but in this case we hope that TasWater will invoke a moratorium on pricing and tradewaste issues until the inquiry is held.

Malcolm Eastley, Deloraine

on all plants and animals in the vicinity, including domestic stock.

5 Listed threatened species including Wedge-tailed Eagle, Grey Goshawk and Masked Owl have been observed at the site. It has additional natural values that make it worthy of a nature conservation area. Serious consideration should be given to locating the new prison at the current site of the Ashley Youth Detention Centre.

This looks like yet another complete stuff up on the part of Minister Archer.

Sarah Lloyd OAM, Birralee

EST.  
2013

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Contributions welcomed!

Email: editor@meandervalleygazette.com

Phone: 6286 8212 (Please leave a message - it will send an email.) For editorial, the closing date for the August 2020 edition is 24 July.

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Current stories can be read online or readers can search for older stories they may have missed.

All editions of the Gazette are available to be downloaded as PDFs from the website 'shop' free of charge.

To have a digital copy emailed to you, please make a request to general@meandervalleygazette.com.

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Nominations for committee called from the floor  
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### Not just the birds

It seems that the state government has found possibly the most inappropriate site in the entire Meander Valley for the northern prison on Birralee road. Below are my concerns:

1 It is my belief that a level site is needed for a prison. The site chosen is possibly the most gently undulating on the crown land. However, not only will considerable work be required to actually level the site, but it is adjacent to one of the most dangerous sections of the Birralee Road. I have lived at Birralee for 32 years



By Sharon Webb

IF SEPPENFELTS' owners Isabel Shapcott and Alfred Franssen had drawn a Viking rune at the beginning of the COVID-19 era to predict events, it surely would have been Uruz.

Uruz is the rune of terminations and new beginnings, opportunity disguised as loss.

Instead of them despairing over being forced to close Seppenfelts, Isabel and Alfred led a renewal of their Deloraine shop with help from assistant manager Linda Pittard.

For years they had considered having a website but didn't have the resources to make it happen. Lo and behold, during COVID-19 it eventuated, created with the help of Deloraine resident Pearl Maya.

'Everyone was very stressed at first but the break from running the shop every day gave us the opportunity to step back and reassess our options,' Isabel said.

'We surveyed our staff, spent time looking at aspects of the business we liked and re-evaluated stock that didn't reflect our philosophy.'

Seppenfelts devotees will be able to see the result of this reflective, introspective process when the store relaunches on August 1 with new products and new events.

Some products have vanished, replaced with others following Sepps' ethical, sustainable philosophy. A more select range of women's clothes, for example, because of the well-publicised wastage in the fashion industry.

'I'm feeling inspired about using the Little Laneway for more events, enriching the ambience of the area,' Alfred said.

'And I'm excited about our plan to sell plants and organic vegetable seedlings propagated in my greenhouse, along with medicinal herbs and natives.'

Along with the plants will be new products: Tasmanian ceramic and terracotta garden products, tiles, ventilation bricks, decorative pots and traditional garden edging.

# Predicting the future at Seppenfelts

Jess Bartholomew, Isabel Shapcott and Linda Pittard have worked with other Seppenfelts staff to plan a new era for the Deloraine store. Photo by Hayley Manning



And others such as local gardening guru Steve Solomon's Tasmanian gardening guides and organic fertiliser, the bio-dynamic sowing calendar and books on sustainable living.

The new direction will build on Seppenfelts' well-known sense of community.

'Socialising, sharing information, networking and being uplifting in the community is important to us,' Isabel said.

'On August 1 we're starting a series of cuppa mornings for locals to hear a guest speaker and exchange ideas. The first one will be with local herbalist Sandra Parker who will demonstrate homemade incense.'

'Hank Horton will officiate in a welcome ceremony using smudge and telling us what a welcome to country really means. And local musicians will perform on the day.'

'As we make these changes we're open to being responsive to the community. We want to hear people's ideas.'

Isabel is clear that this revitalising of Seppenfelts could not have happened without government support.

'We received a state government small business grant. Without that and the JobKeeper package I'd never have been able to afford staff to upload our books and winter woollies onto the new website. I'm enormously grateful for that opportunity,' Isabel said.

Linda Pittard believes that the COVID-19 break, where Seppenfelts closed its doors and opened only by appointment, opened up the possibility for the team to move in a direction they'd always wanted.

'We had time and space to think about how to respond,' she said.

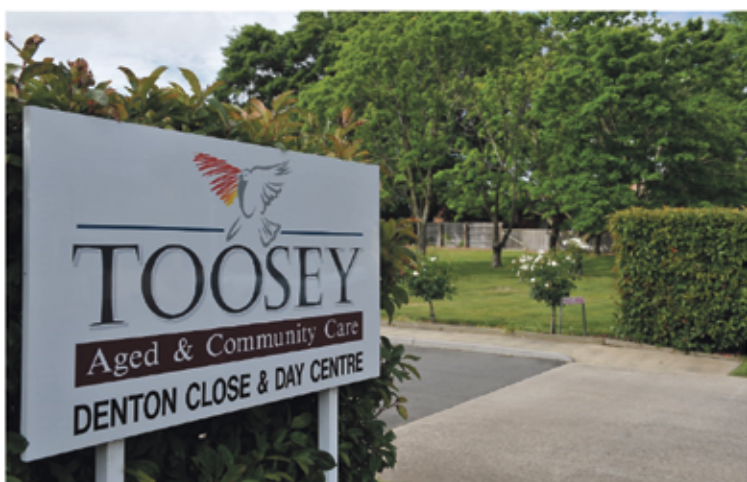
But some things never change. In case you're wondering, Sepps' mindblowing chocolate-coated coffee beans will still be available, and many other products customers have come to love.

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## Opinion

## Who's been placated over Westbury?

WHEN THE Government abandoned the prison project on the Westbury industrial estate on 18 June, it did not come as a surprise to opponents here in Westbury.

We had begun to publicise details of the close, historic collaboration between the Government and the Council on the selection of the industrial site, aimed at securing the delivery of the prison to Westbury.

This level of collaboration had not previously been known by the public.

The Government's determination to press ahead with Westbury and the Council's obvious support for this course, in the face of ongoing passionate public opposition, was looking unhealthily obsessive.

So on 18 June, Tasmania's most powerful developer was driven off its chosen site at Westbury.

For be under no illusion: when it comes to this prison project, the Government is wearing its developer's hat. And this developer has deep, taxpayer funded pockets to see its project over the line.

When the Government abandoned the industrial estate in June 2020, it had already spent significant taxpayer dollars over nearly 12 months preparing its planning application.

In September 2019, it had engaged SGS Economics and Planning (SGS) to produce a report that would show only the benefits, not the downsides, of the prison.

When the Government is viewed as a developer, this should come as no surprise.

Like any developer, the Government paid a consultant to present its planning application in the most favourable light. Like any paid consultant, SGS performed that task.

The only real surprise is that the Government now insists that SGS is an independent

umpire and we are told to accept the findings in its report.

But this umpire is anything but independent.

The Government says that the SGS report justifies the prison being nudged just a little further down the road. It says that it has listened to opponents.

This statement is as ludicrous as it is self-serving.

It is true that opponents wanted the prison to be moved away from Westbury. So far away that the prison could have absolutely no association with our small, historic town. This decision was not made to placate opponents, and was never going to.

So, we ask, what is the real reason for the project being moved just a little further up the road, to a far more

expensive building site with its own unique and significant set of complications?

Perhaps some people had believed, despite no 'final decision' having been made, that the industrial site was well and truly in the bag and had gambled on that outcome. Perhaps keeping the prison close to Westbury is aimed at placating them.

This is a far more logical conclusion, for there is no other reason why the obsession with Westbury has not been well and truly shaken off.

The ongoing fixation on locating the prison near Westbury now has more of a stench than before, something that we who knew its already torrid history had not thought possible.

Linda Poulton, Westbury



## Northern Regional Prison has significant benefits for the Meander Valley

THE NORTHERN Regional Prison project will deliver significant benefits for the Meander Valley Region.

Not only will the project support more than 1,000 jobs in construction and prison operations, it will deliver an economic boost of \$500 million to the region.

At a time when Tasmania desperately needs jobs as we emerge from the challenges of COVID-19, this vital project will deliver them and help to provide the region with economic certainty long into the future.

Community consultation has always been key to progressing this project and delivering our Government's 2018 State Election commitment to build the \$270 million Northern Regional Prison, in order to address the challenges facing Tasmania's correctional system.

Although many in Westbury and the broader Meander Valley region continue to be supportive of this important project, I am well aware that some in the community have concerns.

The extensive community consultation undertaken and now complete, together with the recently released Social and Economic Impact Study, showed a clear theme among some community members and local businesses surveyed that building the prison at a site further away from the town centre of Westbury would be preferable.

The new site proposed for the Northern Regional Prison is a parcel of Crown land on the Birralee Road, 5.2 km from Westbury. Signs on the property indicate that the area has environmental value, but this has failed to prevent dumping of rubbish.  
Photo supplied

Our Government has taken on board this feedback as promised and, as a result, has now identified a new site 5.2 kilometres from the Westbury town centre and, to be very clear, we will not be pursuing the previous preferred site.

This is a significant geographical distance away from the town centre (more than Deloraine is to Ashley Youth Detention Centre) and does not require travel through Westbury, which was another concern expressed throughout consultation.

Preliminary analysis of this Crown land site has been undertaken and we will now progress with further due diligence over coming weeks, including talking with local landholders.

I sincerely thank the residents and businesses of Westbury, and the broader Meander Valley community, for their valuable feedback and participation in the extensive consultation process to enable this decision.

As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, the injection of a \$270 million infrastructure project and the creation of more than 1,000 jobs is more important than ever, particularly in our regional communities.

The Social and Economic Impact Study focused on the Westbury and the Meander Valley region gaining the views of residents about the project in the region. The community will have a further opportunity for consultation as is required under planning laws.

We are committed to delivering this vital project for Tasmania on the new site, in an effective and timely manner.  
Elise Archer, Attorney-General and Minister for Corrections

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# Cheers!

WHEN THE announcement came that pubs could re-open for 40 people post-COVID, Deloraine's British Hotel rushed to be ready.

Mid-redecorating, publicans Steve and Robyn Green were caught on the hop by the Premier's earlier-than-expected communiqué that they could open on June 5 from 3pm.

'The floor's still being sanded and the bar was just finished yesterday,' said Steve, pointing out the old cinema-themed posters acquired by Robyn.

'A week's notice would have been good. I just hope the powers-that-be have got the timing right.'

'I'm happy with the way Premier Gutwein's handling the virus, basically keeping Tasmania independent. It's an attitude a lot of people like.'

The working man's bar at the British wasn't exactly crowded, unlike the Mole Creek Hotel bar where the manager needed to police the numbers strictly, but the atmosphere in all the pubs was definitely upbeat.

Deloraine's Caitlin Scott was having a quiet one with friend Katie Gardner and voiced the feeling of everyone in the Meander Valley's pubs that night. 'It's just great to be out having a drink again!'

Left, from top to bottom: Mole Creek Hotel, Barry Roach and Malcolm Walters of Mole Creek; Mole Creek Hotel, Geoffrey Kempson, Noel Parker and Diane Brown of Mole Creek; Deloraine Hotel, Rodney Simpson of Deloraine, John Jeffrey of Launceston, Nikki Blair of Launceston, Sarah Spencer of Sassafras and Shaun Bartlett of Mole Creek. Deloraine Hotel, Tianna Smith and Nick Bryan.

Right, from top to bottom: British Hotel, Caitlin Scott and Katie Gardner of Deloraine; British Hotel, Karl Gammler and Tom Green of Deloraine; British Hotel, Jason and Taneille Marshall of Shearwater; Westbury Hotel, Vanessa Walters, Raylene Maroney and Dezza Plumbridge of Westbury.

Photos by Hayley Manning and Sharon Webb



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# HomeBuilder a 'massive missed opportunity'

By BRIAN MITCHELL MP

Australia is set to lose a further 100,000 apprentices and trainees this year, a massive 35 per cent drop on what we have now.

Tasmania is set to lose 2,107. It's no wonder that our nation has a shortage of bricklayers, plumbers, hairdressers, panelbeaters and other critical trades.

How does this Prime Minister expect HomeBuilder to rebuild communities and the economy when his government has slashed support for the apprentices and trainees who are vital to the building and construction industry?

Over the past seven years, this incompetent Liberal government has ripped more than \$3 billion from Australia's TAFE and training systems, leaving this critical sector woefully unequipped.

No wonder Australia has a skills shortage, with more than 140,000 apprentice and trainee positions lost in this country since those opposite came to office. There are 140,000 already lost, and another 100,000 are soon to join them under this government. What a legacy.

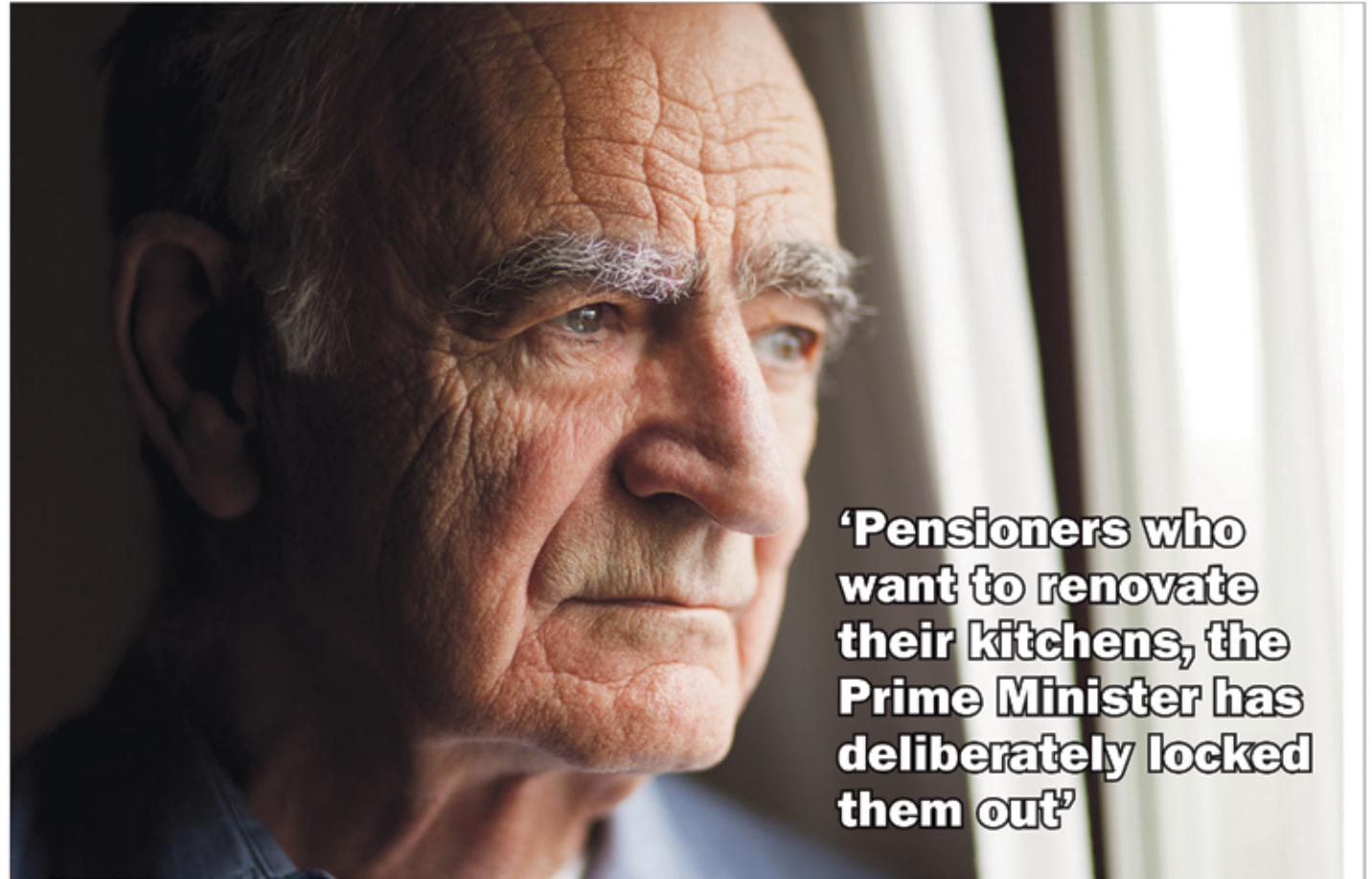
It's all very well to talk about construction projects and renovations, but you need tradies and apprentices to build them. The sector was expecting to build 160,000 homes this year. Now it's 100,000. That's 60,000 fewer homes in the pipeline.

This prime minister has a plan to get his photo taken next to tradies in high-vis but no real plan to save and build the sector.

HomeBuilder is a massive missed opportunity. It is woefully inadequate and woefully misdirected.

Let me be clear: the \$25,000 for new home builds gets two thumbs up.

**'Imagine the maintenance backlogs that could have been cleared if armies of tradies had been deployed to fix up public housing in desperate need of repair — mould in kids' bedrooms, leaking kitchens, dangerous electrical outlets...'**



**'Pensioners who want to renovate their kitchens, the Prime Minister has deliberately locked them out'**

They won't get an argument from me about that. I think that's a good thing and, largely, what Labor would have done.

But a minimum of \$150,000 for a renovation before you can get \$25,000? That's ridiculous. It locks out so many people—nearly everybody in Tasmania—from accessing that money. That renovation side of it will do nothing to assist the trades in Tasmania.

And what sort of person who claims to be a national leader would think up a \$688 million housing and renovation program and not put one

cent—not one cent—towards public housing or towards housing for women escaping domestic violence?

There are 3,500 Tasmanians on Tasmania's priority public housing list. People could be waiting for a year or more for a place.

We are talking about pensioners, veterans, single parents, people with disabilities, women escaping domestic violence, people who could do with a bit of a hand and, more importantly, a roof over their head.

If you are not convinced by the social good argument, be convinced by the raw economic argument. Tradies would be kept busier building more homes for these folk and fixing public housing than they would be building pool decks and second storeys.

Imagine the maintenance backlogs that could have been cleared if armies of tradies were deployed to fix up public housing around the country in desperate need of repair—mould in kids' bedrooms because of crappy ventilation, leaking kitchens, dangerous electrical outlets, security fly screens that don't lock.

What is the better use of public money? Which one delivers the better bang for buck?

Instead, this prime minister has designed a scheme that gives \$25,000 to people with at least \$150,000 to spend on a reno and it locks out the vast majority of Tasmanians. I asked local builders in my electorate how many had done renovations of \$150,000 over the past couple of years? There was one reno in two years — one!

This is a poorly designed scheme that fails to do what it is meant to—stimulate building and construction, which was sputtering even before COVID, and since then is heading for the cliff.

The Prime Minister's performance in Question Time was a disgrace when he said he had deliberately designed a scheme to lock pensioners out.

Pensioners who want to renovate their kitchens, he has deliberately locked them out and he basically labelled tradespeople who specialise in the small renovation projects sector crooked.

## 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)



LET'S REBUILD OUR REGIONS

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





# So long, Patrick, it's been good to know you!

By Sharon Webb

PATRICK GAMBLES knows what it's like to run an event on the smell of an oily rag.

One year when Deloraine's Little Laneway Fringe Festival was scraping for funds to put on the event, he came up trumps with \$300 of council money to save the day.

It wasn't much, said organiser Alfred Franssen from Seppenfelts Emporium in Deloraine, but it hit the spot and the event was a success. And Patrick himself stepped onto the stage to perform, along with all the locals.

That was the secret of his success as a local government bureaucrat, blurring the line between work and play.

That happened because Patrick lived in the community in which he worked. He could see his own community benefiting from the help he gave, whether it be to Arts Deloraine, the Launceston Art Society or Westbury Primary School's 180th celebrations.

When Patrick retired a few months ago from his Meander Valley Council position as community development manager, folks were disappointed. Over fifteen years in the job he'd built a reputation as a good organiser, someone who invariably supported, especially in the arts. Obliging, someone described him.

Stacey Tweedale, president of the Westbury Primary School Association, experienced that successful blurring of the line between Patrick's work and local life.

'He had a connection with the school because his niece Samantha's two children attended there,' she said.

'I asked: Would you be interested in writing a piece for the school?

'He came up with a beautiful song with a soft melody, not really a traditional school song. The kids loved performing it with him and recorded it



After 15 years of supporting the arts, professionally and personally, Patrick Gambles has retired from Meander Valley Council. Photo by Mike Moores

in his studio. Patrick was very willing to be a part of our 180th celebrations.'

Westbury Historical Society, a sub-committee of council, always attracted Patrick's support according to president Amanda Taylor.

'If questions came up Patrick was always our first port of call,' she said.

'He always showed an interest in events and displays. He never missed attending one, whatever it was. When he left the council, everyone at the Historical Society had their story of how he'd helped them and were disappointed he was leaving.'

Patrick's namesake festival, Westbury's St Patrick's Festival, was where he made a special contribution. (Then again,

everyone who worked with Patrick believed he made a special contribution to their event.)

'The music side of the festival was his passion,' Amanda said. 'He knew all the musicians. He had all the contacts.'

'Patrick was the push behind starting up the festival again after its first phase ended. He organised a community meeting, a lot of people came and a committee was formed.'

'He facilitated everything and without him it wouldn't have happened.'

But often Patrick's help was unofficial and behind the scenes. That's how he lent a hand to organise the wedding of fellow musicians, harpist Joanne Mitchelson and violinist Hamish Pike, famous for being rained-out on Westbury's

Village Green and moving their wedding to the Westbus Depot.

'I asked for his advice on the wedding and he suggested Florida Rickard and Miles Kerr. We couldn't have pulled it off without them,' Joanne said.

'Patrick was one of the first people to whom I was bold enough to play some of my own compositions. He liked the songs and lyrics and it gave me confidence.'

'He's so talented with music and lyrics and he plays the banjo really well.'

At the council, Patrick's important talent was on show at community forums.

According to Councillor John Temple he hit the right level and made everyone feel at ease.

'He was brilliant at those sessions, bringing everyone together and speaking to their needs,' John said.

'I knew anything Patrick was organising was going to be well-run with attention to detail.'

'We started a cycling group and I enjoyed his company on a personal level. He is a loss to the council.'

Currently Patrick Gambles is trapped in Cornwall, in the UK, because of COVID-19, hopefully sunning himself on the region's wild coastline.

Patrick's own comment on his Meander Valley role is self-effacing. 'It was a privilege to represent the council and to work closely with the Meander Valley community.'

'There are so many good people out there doing selfless things that greatly enhance the quality of community life.'

'Typically, they do not seek acknowledgement or reward. I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to get alongside just some of them and to have gained an insight in to what makes Meander Valley truly tick.'

Meander Valley residents have one message for Patrick, said Amanda Taylor. 'Come back. We'd love you to be on the St Patrick's Day Festival Committee to organise the music.'

## Libraries fully open

By Julia Hawthorn

AT LAST some good news. All libraries are open for browsing and borrowing as well as computer and internet use.

Library users must minimise time spent in the library as this will enable them to respect public health guidelines and give everyone a chance to visit. Longer stays to read or meet friends are not possible yet.

Items that are due can be renewed at the library or online

at the Libraries Tasmania website under 'My Account'. Books can be renewed twice, as long as no one has requested them.

Deloraine borrowers now have a library chute where books can be returned at any time. Very handy for those who live out of town.

Problems can be resolved at your local library or by phone – 6165 5600 during business hours.

Changes to other library services and details are available at the Libraries Tasmania website: [libraries.tas.gov.au](http://libraries.tas.gov.au).

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# 'If we can just get a house'

By Sharon Webb

THE MEANDER Valley is dishing up its coldest days of the year and most of us are hunkering down in cosy homes.

But in Birralee the Buchanan family is living in a shipping container and a caravan and it's far from comfy.

The Buchanans hit the headlines a year ago in the *Examiner* when Meander Valley Council was chasing them to get a permit for the structure they'd built between the container and the caravan, their make-do kitchen and living room.

The situation is now worse.

Rob Buchanan, 60, was diagnosed with throat cancer in late June and is having chemotherapy and radiotherapy in Launceston most days of the week for seven weeks.

'Rob's working on a farm and does heavier jobs at home like getting wood and emptying our portaloos,' wife Deanna said.

'But as his treatment goes on he won't be able to do that. We really need a warm house with food in the cupboard, a place where he can recover. If we can just get a house we'll be happy.'

Five years ago, Rob, Deanna and daughter Jacinta were knocked by Rob's heart attack.

Now they're fortifying themselves against bad health news again because if treatment is unsuccessful Rob may have his larynx removed.

Both Dee and Rob grew up in the Deloraine area and want to stay there.

'After Rob's heart attack Jacinta's grandparents offered us this location on their Birralee land, where we've been for three years.

'It's not ideal but it was OK. Right now, everything's hard. If the hoses freeze we can't do the washing or have a shower until lunchtime, and I really hate the rats and mice,' Deanna said.

'Rob will need special food for his throat and there's a limit to what you can cook on a barbecue as we don't have a stove or cooktop.

'I'm coping with what Rob's going through but living here is doing our heads in. It's all too hard.'

In addition, Meander Valley Council is still pursuing them to enforce state building legislation, a situation that could lead to trouble for Jacinta's 80 year-old grandparents.

A recent email from the council reads, 'I now require you to provide evidence demonstrating progress made to date to

provide suitable accommodation. Failure to provide this will lead to council commencing further action on the property owner.'

The Buchanans' comments to the *Examiner* opened up a hornets' nest as people living in illegal structures were angry they had spoken out.

'If we can just get a house we'll be happy – an affordable place where Rob can recover,' Deanna said. 'We don't want people to feel sorry for us, we just need a house.'

Anyone with two-bedroom accommodation where the Buchanans can live with their daughter and their two Maltese Shih Tzu dogs should contact Deloraine House on 63622678.

**Deanna and Rob Buchanan in their make-do outdoor kitchen tacked onto a shipping container – trying to stay cheerful, against the odds.**

**Photo by Hayley Manning**

## Entertainment facilities improvements for the Deloraine Showgrounds

THE FACILITIES at the Deloraine Showgrounds are being spruced up at a cost of around \$300,000.

Showground committee president, Lynette Gleeson, said new toilets, showers, kitchen and entertainment areas are being built in the showground's largest building. Depending on weather, the work will be complete by September or October.

There will also be an extension to the sheep shed – a skillion roof where more sheep can be exhibited – to be completed by early August.

'We had more than 200 sheep at last year's show and there wasn't enough room,' Mrs Gleeson said.

'And I think the old toilet block has been there for 50 years.'

A shortage of available local builders held up the start of work, but development of the large building has begun, with slabs down, floors polished and the roof on.

The building alterations will be paid for with a Tasmanian Community Grant and a State Government Agricultural Show grant.

Mrs Gleeson said the result will be a building which can be hired by community groups for entertainment purposes.

The building work means the Deloraine Market held at the Showgrounds on the first Saturday of the month cannot be held until after September despite loosening of COVID-19 restrictions.



**"I know I'm not family, but should I be worried about how much weight he's lost?"**

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## Western Tiers Film Society kicks off in July

With state government restrictions lifting in July to allow groups of 80 to meet, the Western Tiers Film Society is finally able to resume its eagerly-awaited program, so rudely interrupted in April this year by the COVID-19 virus.

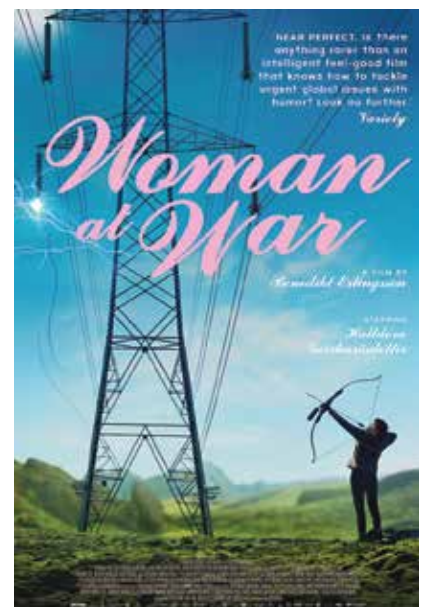
The Society's COVID-Safe Plan ensures the now familiar measures of deep cleaning, hand sanitising and social distancing will be in place, so the Society can pick up where it left off in March, films double-time to cover the pause in movie nights.

Usually held on the second Saturday of each month, the WTFS will now show films on the fourth Saturday as well, to include movies left out of the Term 1 program.

With 11 movies showing between July and December, it promises to be a welcome change to the stay-at-home lives that became the norm at the virus' peak.

July 11 kicks off at 7.30 sharp with Icelandic thriller *Woman at War* followed on July 25 by *Ali's Wedding*

— both widely acclaimed and well worth waiting for!



**For information about the WTFS, email them at [westerntiersfilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:westerntiersfilmsociety@gmail.com) or call 0418 389 868**





**Julius Edward Kearon**  
17 May 1942 – 4 June 2020

JULIUS EDWARD Kearon – husband, father and father-in-law, grandfather of many and great grandfather – died on 4 June 2020 at the Deloraine Hospital with Ann Kearon, his wife of 53 years, by his side.

Julius was born on 17 May 1942, in Corfe Mullen in the South of England in the midst of World War 2.

Julius spent his childhood years there, moving onto university to study mathematics and teaching.

It was in his early years of teaching at North Romford Comprehensive School that he met and married his wife Ann Kearon.

Together at 24, they set off on an overland adventure to move to Australia to take up teaching posts on the other side of the world in Burnie, Tasmania.

Travelling across Europe, the Middle East and Asia they arrived in Burnie in 1967.

Julius continued to have a love for adventure and travel throughout his life and despite failing health managed to travel around Australia in 2019 with his wife and good friends.

Following teaching appointments in Burnie, Ulverstone, Longford, Glenora, Bothwell and Savage River, Julius Kearon arrived in Deloraine in 1984 to take up the role of principal of the Deloraine High School.

He is remembered by his past students and co-workers as a steadfast and fair teacher and leader. He always enjoyed it when past students would

greet him, as grown men and women, as Mr Kearon.

He was a dedicated educator and undertook a master's degree in curriculum studies, became a life member of the Tasmanian Principals Association and served as the President of the Australian Principals Association.

Julius Kearon was a proud and active member of the Deloraine community. He was a dedicated Freemason and part of the Meander Valley Lodge and amongst other roles served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Tasmania between 2005–2008.

He had a strong and enduring connection with St Mark's Church and served for many years as their treasurer and secretary.

He enjoyed being a part of the Deloraine Dramatic Society, participating in many shows and helping in the background with many more.

Julius enjoyed having a big extended family and his memory will be cherished and kept alive by his wife Ann Kearon and five children: Patrick Kearon, Sarah Freeman, Ruth Kearon, Richard Kearon and Adam Kearon (and their wives, husbands, partners and children).

The family wishes to extend their thanks for the compassionate care he received at the Deloraine Hospital. This was particularly important at the end of his life where the excellent palliative care facilities, combined with the gentle expertise of the nursing and other staff, meant that Julius could be surrounded by those that loved him day and night.

The family of Julius Kearon held a funeral service in the garden of their home on Wednesday 10 June followed by his committal at the Deloraine Cemetery. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus restrictions, the number who could attend were limited and we are sorry to have been unable to have all who would like to have attended to say their farewells.

*Ruth Kearon*

# Wilfred's amazing bike ride

By David Claridge

FOR A lot of people, this May meant finding new ways to go about their days.

With sporting clubs and gyms shut down, people who were motivated enough to keep in shape got outdoors.

A local boy, seven-year-old Wilfred McKibben, wanted to do more than just ride his bike outside.

Wilfred was inspired one night while watching the news.

'I saw Captain Tom Moore on the TV raising money and I thought I could do it too,' said Wilfred.

UK war veteran, Captain Sir Thomas Moore, received international recognition for raising money for health services in the lead up to his 100th birthday by doing laps in his yard.

Wilfred is involved in BMX club racing and wanted to keep riding while everything was on hold.

Mother Jackie McKibben explained how they went about their own fundraising.

'We started a Facebook page, Pedal for Pods. From there, people shared it. There was word of mouth and media coverage,' she said.

Wilfred, with the help of his family, raised over \$6,000 for Launceston's homeless.

The McKibben family's chosen charity, Strike It Out, fits out shipping containers with sleep pods.

Wilfred's original target of raising \$1,500 and riding 150km turned into \$6,340 and more than 320km, riding with family around Prospect and other areas – some of those kilometres up very steep hills.

'It's amazing what he did. We're very proud of him to be able to have that compassion and recognise it, seeing Captain Tom on the news.

'And actually not only achieve, but smash his goals.

'He is a lovely little boy,' said Jackie.



Wilfred McKibben, riding for a good cause.  
Photo by Andrew Shepherd



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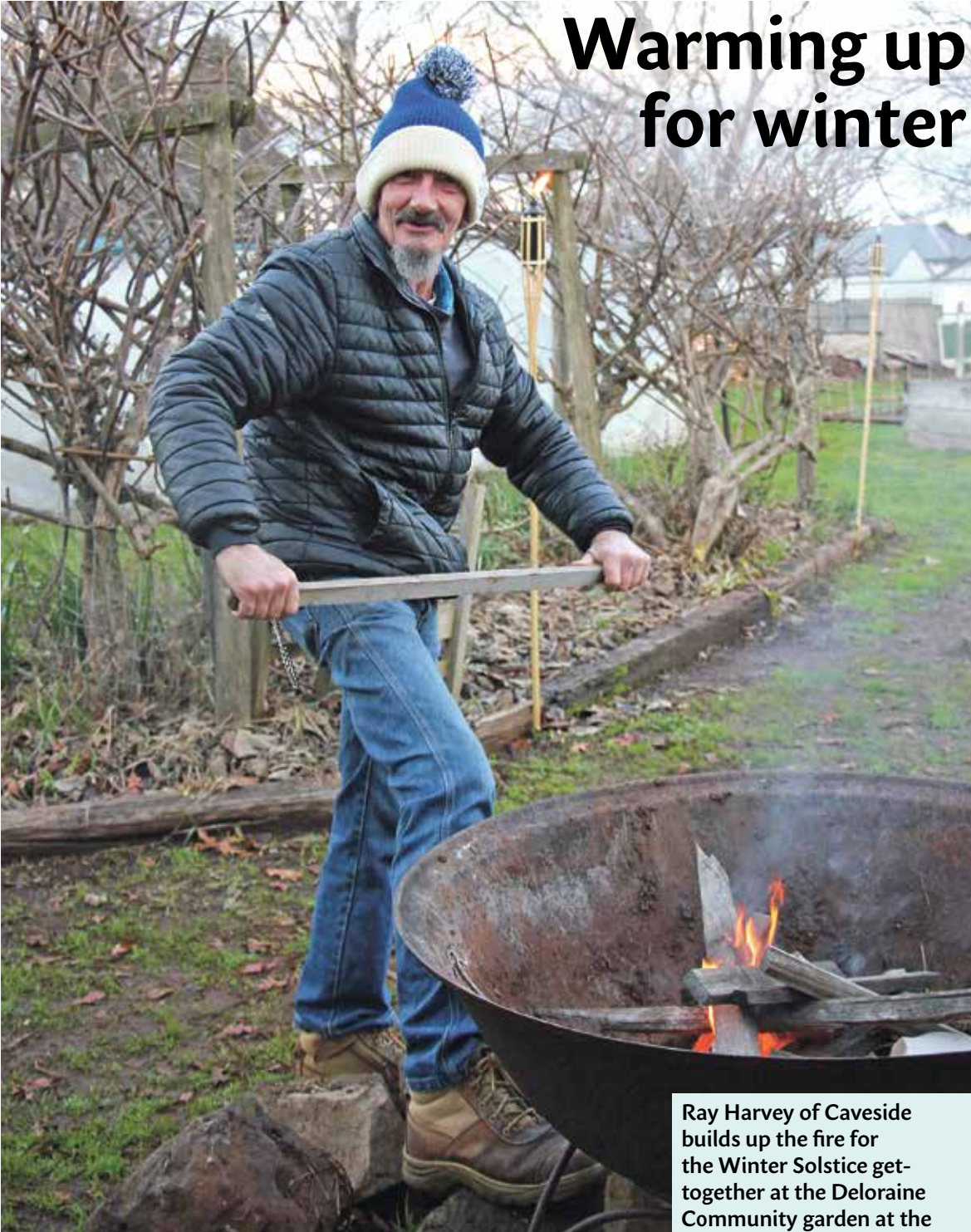
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## Warming up for winter



Ray Harvey of Caveside builds up the fire for the Winter Solstice get-together at the Deloraine Community garden at the Deloraine Community garden on Wednesday 24 June. Organised by Deloraine House, relaxed COVID-19 conditions allowed locals to meet and eat to celebrate the shortest day of winter.  
*Photo by Hayley Manning*

## COVID-19 small business grants unfair says Labor

THE LABOR Party is pushing the State Government to review and reopen its Small Business Hardship Grant program.

'When Peter Gutwein first announced the grants program in March, he said grants would be available to all small businesses suffering financial hardship as a result of COVID-19,' Labor leader Rebecca White said.

'But numerous businesses have contacted Labor describing a shambolic process, adding stress at a time when they were already facing pain and uncertainty, and ended with them missing out on crucial support.'

Small business minister Sarah Courtney announced on 27 April that 167 businesses had already received \$15,000 before the program closed.

'Labor has always supported these programs but the allocation of funds must be fair and equitable so that Tasmania's small business owners and their employees can get back on their feet and be a part of the state's recovery.'

## It's lager time



TO 'LAGER' beer is actually a description for cold fermentation, cold storage, and using bottom-fermenting lager yeast.

Here in Tassie, winter provides the ideal conditions to both ferment as low as 7°C to 15°C and store bottles and kegs even cooler.

No need for temperature control. Sheds, indoor verandahs, laundries, etc. all provide cool locations to do both.

I have a pantry where my fermenters stay at ideal lager temperatures and a back verandah where I can store the beer even cooler.

In spring and especially summer, these beers are brought out of hibernation and tapped.

Most commercial beers are lagers, included Boag's and Cascade Draught, Cascade Pale Ale, Boag's XXX Ale. All lagers.

Most home brewers and craft breweries brew ales.

Ales can mask most slight mistakes, whereas lagers leave very little to hide behind. So if you can make a decent lager consistently, you can give yourself a well earned pat on the back.

Extract brewers beware! The yeast supplied with a tin will most likely be an ale yeast, even if the tin claims it's a lager.

So you will need a specialty yeast from a brew shop to brew a true lager. That's OK as there are heaps out there, but they're a little more expensive than ale yeasts.

If you can't get hold of one, all is not lost, as most ale yeasts can be brewed down to as far as 15°C which will give you a 'faux' lager.

The beer will come out crisper and dryer than an ale and appear quite clear.

You won't have to wait as long to consume, but like a lager it will get better with age.

The most popular lager yeast is 34/70 by Fermentis. It has a wide temperature range and is very forgiving.

You can get a specialty yeast for any style of lager you wish to make.

For example, I use White Labs WLP 940 Mexican Lager when I make a cerveza and try to get my citrus profile from the hops.

These beers turn out worlds apart from the commercial equivalents.

I have two kegs lagering away at the moment and aim to have four all up, ready for summer, as they are highly drinkable on a warm afternoon.

If there is one positive thing that has been brought about by Covid-19, it would have to be the gained popularity in home brewing.

For those who have recently taken up the hobby and have missed my last articles, here are some tips to try and help you improve your beer and thus get more enjoyment from your new hobby.

**Cleanliness is most important** – clean and sanitise everything that comes in contact with your beer.

**Use your hydrometer** – don't worry if your airlock doesn't bubble, fermentation is inevitable if you have created the right environment for your wort.

**Try to ferment at the right temperature** – no higher than 22°C for ales.

**Use the very best fermentables you can obtain** – usually a mixture of Light Dry Malt and Dextrose. Say 50/50 will improve your beer to no end, try to avoid white table sugar.

**Use a better yeast** – a specific store brought beer brewing yeast will take your beer to a new level, especially brewed at the correct temperature.

**Patience is key, fermentation takes time** – bottle or keg after two weeks fermentation. Even though it may appear to be finished, yeast still needs time to clean up after itself, resulting in a better finished product.

**Experiment with your methods** – any beer you make can always be improved.

**Keep records of your actions** – especially if experimenting. There is nothing worse than creating that perfect beer and forgetting exactly how you made it.

**Don't over sugar your bottles or bottle too early** – bottle bombs are a real thing.

**Avoid the temptation of opening your lid** – unless dry hopping. This is how your beer gets infected.

### An extract recipe

When I was only extract brewing, the finest lager tin that I brewed was the Morgans Blue Mountain lager.

Add this to 500g dextrose and 500g LDM. Ferment it with Saflager 34/70 between 8–15°C for two weeks and you will have an excellent lager, similar to your favourite pub beer.

*Next time: a Boag's 1942 clone recipe*

SENATOR  
WENDY ASKEW

LIBERAL SENATOR FOR TASMANIA



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Please stay vigilant to keep our community safe.

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Launceston TAS 7250

03 6331 8501

Senator.Askew@aph.gov.au

SenatorAskew



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



By Liz Douglass

THE ORIGINS of this recipe are a mystery, but it has been a family favourite for over 20 years.

Originally bought at a school fête, a request for the recipe produced an anonymous hand-written note.

Cooking time and results can be variable, but anywhere on the cake-pudding spectrum, this is delicious.

Feel free to add more apple but check that the inside of the cake is cooked through.

Hot from the oven or warmed through, serve this cake with cream, icecream, custard or all three for a substantial winter dessert.

Equally good when cool, lumberjack cake is just as good for afternoon tea and as it travels well, it is a great cake to bring along on holidays and picnics.

During cooking, apple syrup and the topping can ooze out of a cake tin with a loose base, so put a tray underneath, just in case.

**Ingredients**

- 2 medium to large apples, any variety
- 200 g dates, stones removed
- 1 tsp bicarbonate soda
- 1 cup boiling water
- 125 g butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 large egg

- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 1 1/2 cups plain flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tbs lemon juice

**Topping**

- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 60 g butter
- 1/3 cup milk
- 60 g shredded coconut

**Method**

Line a 20cm cake tin with baking paper.

Chop dates into small pieces and put into a heat proof bowl with the bicarbonate soda

Pour boiling water over the dates. Leave until lukewarm.

Peel and chop apples into 1-2 cm pieces and toss in lemon juice.

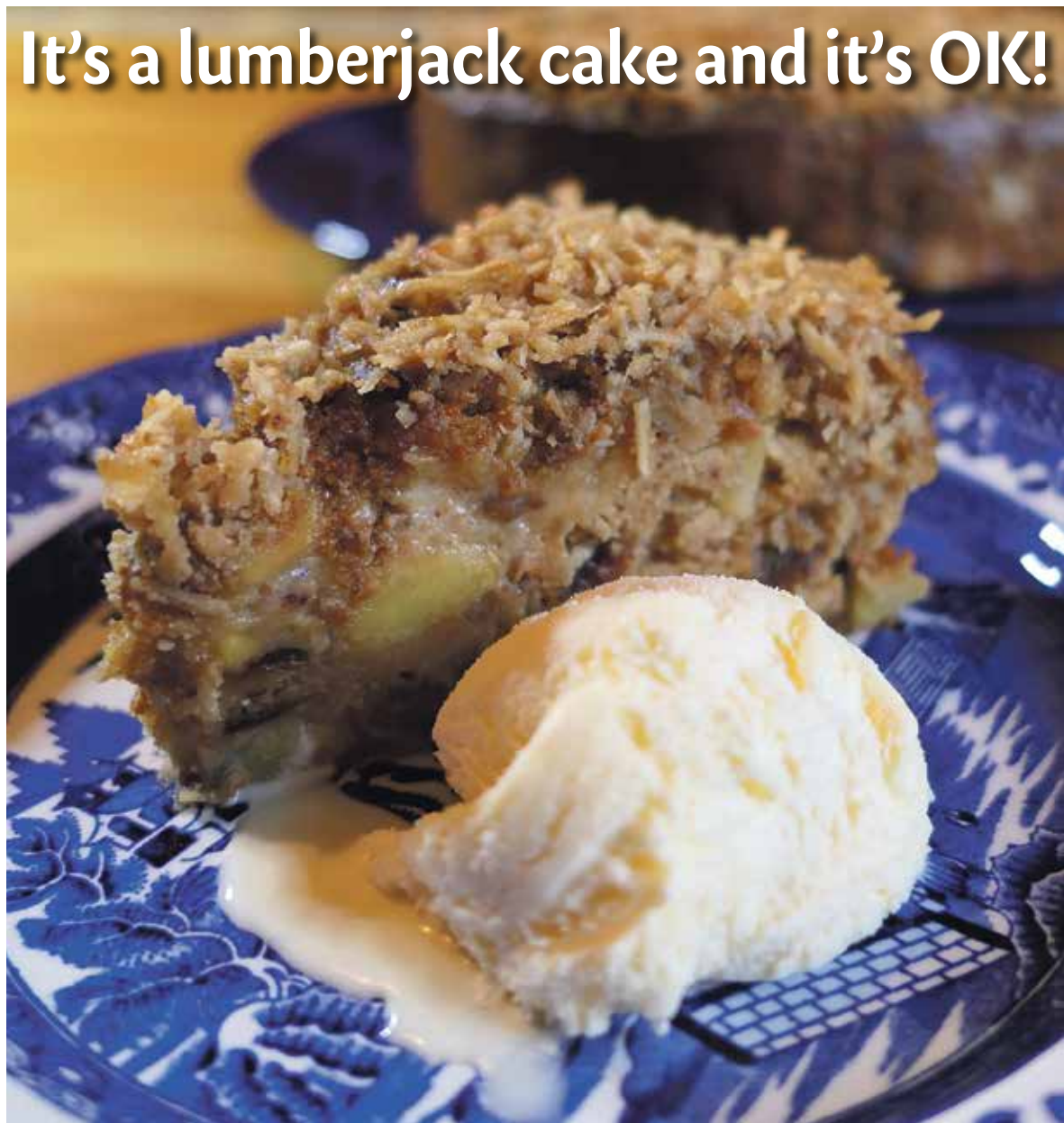
Cream butter and sugar until pale and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla and mix well.

Sift flour with salt and add to mix, alternately with dates and apples. Stir well.

Pour into cake tin and bake in a moderate oven at 180°C for 60-80 minutes until just cooked. Test with skewer at intervals.

While cake is baking, combine topping ingredients in a small saucepan. Heat through, stir until combined and keep warm.

When cake is just cooked, spread the topping over the top of the cake and continue to bake for another 15-20 minutes until golden brown on top.



Warm lumberjack cake and icecream – a perfect apple season treat. Photo supplied



**Hypericums**

*Hypericum* (St John's Wort) is a numerous species of perennial shrubs and ground covers.

From the description in the gardening dictionary the one pictured is probably *Hypericum elatum*, from Madeira and the Canary Islands a frost resistant species with open 2.5cm yellow flowers.

The dictionary says 'flowering in Spring', but this one still has a few flowers albeit closed ones perhaps because of the wintry conditions.

It is listed as drought tender, but that is scarcely a problem in the Deloraine district this year as up until the final week in June rainfall for the month is 72mm and more forecast for next week.

There are seventeen different species of *Hypericums* listed in the dictionary, most of them from the Northern Hemisphere but *H. japonicum* is from Australia and New Zealand. As it is low growing and mat forming, it is possibly the invasive weed we know as St John's Wort.

The drought and frost tender *H. calycinum* (the Rose of Sharon) has flowers of the same size as *H. elatum* but only grows to 0.3m.

**In the vegie garden**

In well drained gardens, soil may be turned over ready for

spring sowings, but best to keep off heavy wet soils, as tramping on this type of soil will consolidate it and exclude vitally important oxygen. (Apropos of this, I do ask farmers with roadside properties to clean off their tractor tyres before venturing out onto the roads. There is nothing worse than trying to avoid great chunks of heavy wet soil on our narrow country roads.)

Two-year asparagus crowns have been noted in garden shops. Dig a trench to spade depth, add a pre-planting fertilizer, plus liberal quantities of organic matter, add the crowns 20-30cm deep and 50-60cm apart, cover with 5cm soil, and fill the trench as the asparagus grows. A little lime should have been mixed with acid soils before planting (from Yates Garden Guide).



*Hypericum elatum*, a frost resistant species, flowering in Spring. Photo supplied

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# Sniffing out a monster

Anna Terry of Tasmanian Truffles, with Labrador Doug and Poppy, the truffle hunting champion.  
Photo by Andrew Shepherd

Far right, the monster truffle before being cut up for sale.  
Photo supplied



By David Claridge

A GIANT discovery underground near Deloraine has given some joy in a time when things are not so joyous.

A record-breaking truffle found at Tasmanian Truffles weighed in at 910 grams.

Business owner, Anna Terry, was out on a regular walk with trainee truffle-hunting dog Poppy when they came across the monster.

'I was out doing some training with one of the dogs. He has only been training for about six months,' Anna said.

'She scratched like she does when she finds a truffle. I got down on my hands and knees and usually I can see the sides of it or the bottom, but I couldn't. It kept going!'

Anna explained what they could have done with it. 'They only last two weeks, their shelf life, which was frustrating.'



Normally something of that size would go to Japan or Hong Kong as a novelty item, but with COVID-19 it wasn't going to happen so we had to cut it up to sell it locally. It broke my heart a little bit to cut it up.'

Anna is optimistic of finding more large truffles in the future.

'It's very encouraging. Truffles are nearly 90 percent water, so it's a really good indicator that we have some really nice soil conditions for that to grow. Not being stunted by clay.'

'You never know what you are going to get under the ground. It's a mystery.'

## Winter at home – some fire safety tips

By David Claridge

HAVING ENDURED COVID-19, and being well and truly into winter, the next threat is already here, a silent danger that can easily be prevented.

The Tasmania Fire Service has urged people to be vigilant over winter, and with more people expected to stay at home, to be mindful of the dangers and prevent housefires.

TFS Director of Community Fire Safety, Jeremy Smith said the risks associated with housefires were often underestimated and complacency has the potential for deadly consequences.

'This winter, people will be spending more time at home, and the use of heating,

cooking and electrical equipment will naturally increase. This means we could see an increase in housefires that can be prevented.

'Fire can engulf your home in a matter of minutes, putting you and your family in danger,' said Mr Smith.

Most house fires can be prevented by following these tips.

- Don't leave cooking or candles unattended.
- Always clean your dryer's lint filter and run a full cycle to cool down the drying items.
- Keep flammable items at least two metres from heaters and fireplaces.
- Clean and test smoke alarms once a month, replace batteries once a year and replace the device every 10 years.

'You are twice as likely to die in a house fire if you don't have a working smoke alarm. If you're asleep, you won't smell the smoke and it will likely put you into a deeper sleep. Smoke alarms prevent fatalities by waking people up.'

## Axe your wood smoke pollution

THE GOVERNMENT has launched its annual Burn Brighter this Winter campaign to reduce domestic wood smoke pollution.

Minister for Environment Roger Jaensch said the campaign provides easy-to-follow advice.

'In winter smoke from wood heaters can get trapped by cold

## Parks passes extended, walkers' fees reduced

ALL ANNUAL, two-year and seniors parks passes will be extended by three months – the time these spaces were closed due to COVID-19.

Environment and Parks Minister Roger Jaensch said extending passes will ensure

the community is not financially impacted by COVID-19.

'The fee to walk the Overland Track at Cradle Mountain Lake-St Clair National Park will also be halved between 1 October and 31 December this year,' he said.

For more information visit the PWS website at [www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au).

Air quality monitoring across Tasmania shows poor air quality in several locations during the winter months.

For information about smoke levels in your area, smoke alerts and health advice for people affected by wood smoke visit <https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/alerts/air/>.

Further information can be found on the EPA's website at [epa.tas.gov.au/burn-brighter](http://epa.tas.gov.au/burn-brighter).



**BE FIRE SAFE  
THIS WINTER.**



Tasmania Fire Service

## Burn Brighter this Winter

### Is your chimney smoking excessively?

A smoky chimney may mean you are not burning your wood efficiently, wasting money.

Excessive chimney smoke is also an environmental and health issue.

### Simple tips to Burn Brighter this Winter:

- Always burn with a flame - don't let your fire smoulder
- After reloading, open the air control and burn your fire on high for 20 minutes, especially before going to bed
- Only burn dry, seasoned wood
- Ensure your flue is clean

**Burn Brighter this Winter** is a community education project about operating your wood heater more effectively to warm your home, save money, reduce smoke pollution and save lives.

**For more information:**  
[epa.tas.gov.au/burn-brighter](http://epa.tas.gov.au/burn-brighter)



Department of Primary Industries,  
Parks, Water and Environment





# Meander ratepayer group wins in the Supreme Court

By Sharon Webb

A SUPREME Court decision has the potential to overturn Meander Valley Council's allocation of a school property to a drug rehabilitation religious group.

Meander Area Residents and Ratepayers Association had appealed the council's lease of the former Meander Primary School for a peppercorn rent to Teen Challenge in Tasmania's Planning Appeals Tribunal – on the one ground of bushfire protection.

The tribunal rejected the appeal *ultra vires*, essentially saying a decision was beyond the delegated powers of the legislation.

MARRA appealed to the Supreme Court and in his June decision, Justice Blow sent the decision back to the tribunal to reconsider.

Justice Blow also directed that the tribunal reconsidering MARRA's appeal must be constituted by members who did not sit on the original hearing. That direction may drag out the matter for a long time because of the limited number of tribunal members.

MARRA president Bodhi McSweeney said their members were pleased with the determination.

'We have always been concerned about the lack of due process and community consultation in the granting of the lease to Teen Challenge Tasmania by the Meander Valley Council,' she said.

'It's the wrong place for any drug rehabilitation centre and

we have serious concerns about the nature of the program and its directors.'

Meander Valley Council's only comment on Justice Blow's decision was that it was 'waiting for advice on the decision and would consider its position in due course'.

While the Council would not comment on the cost to date of legal action to defend its decision on the school, it is estimated at more than \$250,000.

The ground on which MARRA appealed to the tribunal was that the proposal did not comply with standards in the Meander Valley Interim Planning Scheme 2013 relating to bushfire-prone areas.

According to Justice Blow's, the proposed rehabilitation centre is classed as 'hospital services', a 'vulnerable use' under the Bushfire Prone Areas Code.

Therefore it must comply with the code's standards for vulnerable use.

Meander Valley Council decided that the centre complied and granted a permit.

But MARRA appealed to the tribunal on grounds of the code's statement that 'only in exceptional circumstances should vulnerable uses be located on land which is within a bushfire prone area'.

Under the code, when a vulnerable use is proposed to be located in a bushfire prone area it must be demonstrated that:

- there is an overriding benefit to the community
- there is no suitable alternative lower risk site and



Joan Rylah, Bradden MHA; Roger Jaensch, Minister for Environment & Parks and John Tucker Lyons MHA open the new Cradle Mt visitor centre. Photo supplied

the bushfire risk can be managed to an acceptable level having regard to any advice from the Tasmania Fire Service.

Justice Blow said witnesses gave evidence at the tribunal on whether there was 'no suitable alternative lower risk site' and until the final day of the hearing there was no suggestion any of the three provisions was *ultra vires*.

'That changed. It appears that counsel for the council had a "light bulb moment" on the morning of the fourth day of the hearing. After the hearing had resumed, he advised his opponent that he would contend that the "no suitable alternative lower risk site element" was *ultra vires*,' Justice Blow said.

That move by Meander Valley Council's legal representative, Shaun McElwaine, led to the tribunal declaring the matter *ultra vires*.

'This appeal (by MARRA) must succeed because of the tribunal's error in concluding that performance criterion was *ultra vires*,' Justice Blow said.

Note that in the Supreme Court, the name of the case is *Timber World Pty Ltd vs Meander Valley Council* as Timber World is funding MARRA's legal case while MARRA raises funds to repay the money.

# World-class gateway to Cradle Mountain

ENVIRONMENT AND Parks Minister Roger Jaensch has opened a new visitor centre at Cradle Mountain in June.

'The new visitor centre is part of the Cradle Mountain Gateway, a major entry point to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and part of the State and Federal Governments' \$86.8 million investment in Cradle Mountain,' he said.

'A contemporary, world-class visitor centre and supporting infrastructure befitting Cradle Mountain's reputation as a global destination for nature-based tourism is now open for the public to enjoy.

'Cradle Mountain is one of Tasmania's iconic visitor destinations and a major visitor drawcard for our State, and we are investing to ensure it can continue to deliver high quality experiences for future generations.

'With travel now allowed throughout the state, and unlimited accommodation options now permitted, I am sure the community will be keen to see the new visitor

centre for themselves and once again enjoy this iconic location.'

The Cradle Mountain visitor centre was designed by Cumulus Architects and built by Fairbrother, supporting local jobs and the North West economy.

It features modern amenities including a gift shop, café, tour operator interface, three undercover shelters, two amenity blocks and a first aid room.

It also has space for walkers beginning their Overland Track adventure to prepare them for the days ahead and hear important briefings from Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service staff.

The development also includes interpretive installations, a redesigned car park offering space for more than 236 vehicles, a shuttle turning circle, electric car charging stations and 24 hour self-service fuel bowsers.

The Cradle Mountain visitor centre and services is equipped with physical distancing floor decals and perspex screens to ensure COVID-19 safety is upheld.

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### Market openings delayed

MARKETS IN the Meander Valley probably will not start up again until after September, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Deloraine Market organiser Bodhi McSweeney said her market had hoped for earlier but was also being held up by building work at Deloraine Showground.

Westbury Market may start up again in August or September, according to organiser Rob Menzie.

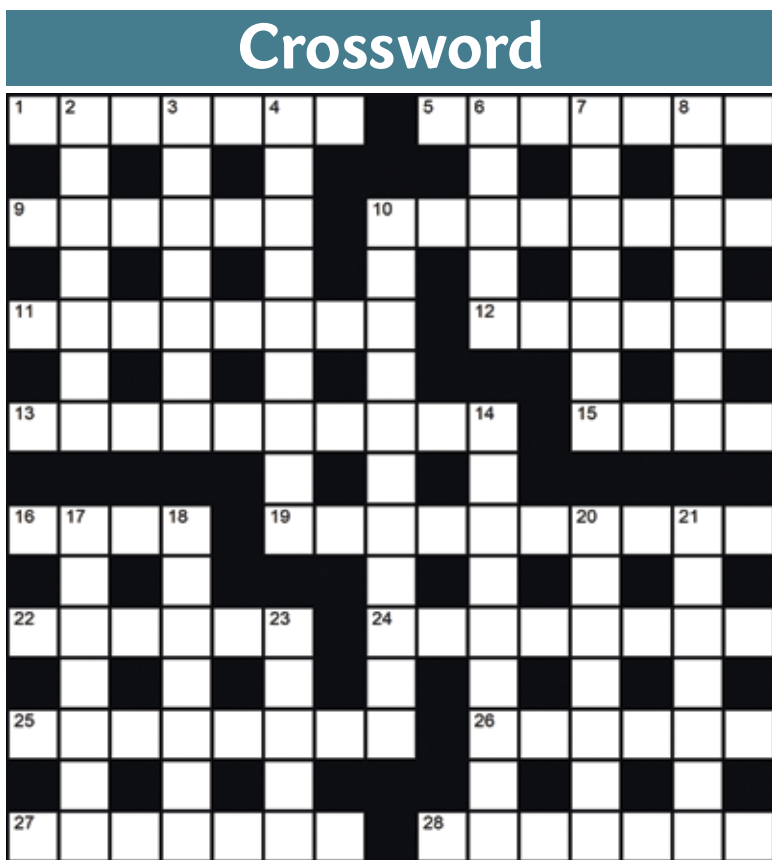
Mole Creek organiser Ken Philpott said COVID-19 related council restrictions meant a delay until September.

### Hello tourism operators and owners!

THE GREAT Western Tiers Visitor Information Centre's new website is now live and ready for tourism operators and owners to check their listing at [www.greatwesterntiers.net.au](http://www.greatwesterntiers.net.au). Please let GWTIC know via email if a listing needs any changes.

The website is free for all Meander Valley tourism businesses thanks to Meander Valley Council. GWTIC has used their downtime to move this project forward in support of recovery in the Great Western Tiers.

The information centre reopened on June 9 from 9-5 weekdays, with a return to seven day opening from July 1.

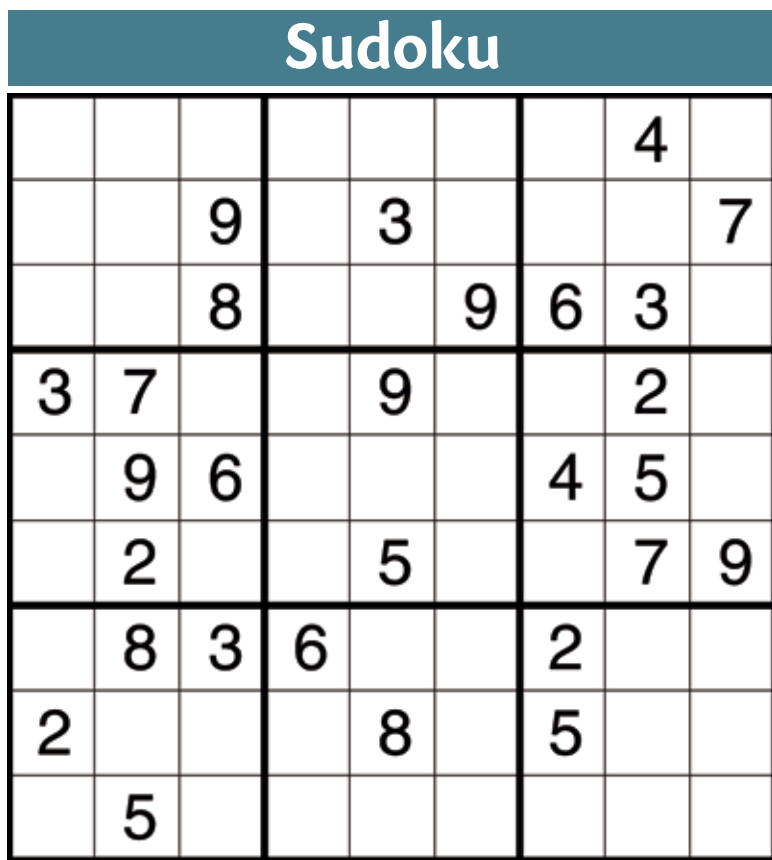


**Across**

- 1 Incident (7)
- 5 Arts hub reinvigorated common shrub (3, 4)
- 9 Printers' or Tasmanian (6)
- 10 Fire-resistant tree (8)
- 11 Take it easy! (4, 4)
- 12 Large beer bottle (6)
- 13 Scissors grinder (10)
- 15 Repose (4)
- 16 Global airline body (1, 1, 1, 1)
- 19 Reliance (10)
- 22 Part of a car's steering system (3, 3)
- 24 On the books (8)
- 25 Sydney surfing beach (4,4)
- 26 Pro bono (6)
- 27 If you're doing it, you're on this (3, 4)

**Down**

- 2 Triumph (7)
- 3 Earth-shaking (7)
- 4 Twisted out of shape (9)
- 6 'The game's \_\_\_!' (Shakespeare and Conan Doyle) (5)
- 7 Chatterbox (7)
- 8 Beach habitués (7)
- 10 Former national cricket captain (3, 8)
- 14 Evasion (9)
- 17 Horizontal bearing (7)
- 18 Popular type of paint for artists (7)
- 20 Overshadow (7)
- 21 Closing items, usually, on TV screens (7)
- 23 Just what the doctor ordered (5)



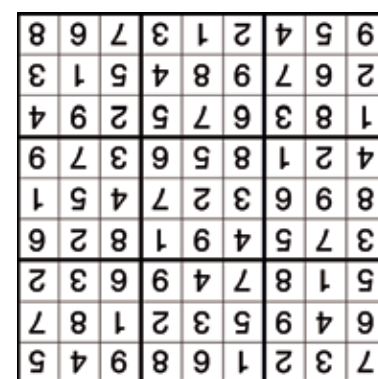
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**How to play** Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9, each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9 and each set of 3 x 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9. Best of luck!

Crossword July 2020 solution



Sudoku July 2020 solution



# Open for business

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 98-100 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine, Tasmania 7304  
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Re-opening? Changing hours and services? Make sure everyone knows about it. Email 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	Winter hours, limited seating, so book ahead 6363 2095*
Sun, Mon, Thu, Fr, 10am-2pm	The Green Door, Westbury	Bookings essential For all reservations 63931185*
Open daily, distancing restrictions apply	Cycles at the Empire, Deloraine	Lunch 11am-2.30pm & dinner 5-8, Tue-Sat Home delivery & takeaway Bookings & orders 6362 1029*
Evenings by appointment	Platypus guided tours, Empire Hotel	See a platypus in the Meander River Meet at the Empire Hotel, Deloraine Call for time 0455 100 854
Open daily, distancing restrictions apply	British Hotel, Deloraine	Wed-Sun open for lunch & dinner Pizzas Mon & Tue*
Open daily, distancing restrictions apply	Mole Creek Hotel	40 patrons at a time Restaurant bookings necessary 6363 1102 or 0408 648 895*
Open daily, distancing restrictions apply	Deloraine Hotel	Bar, gaming & bottleshop now open Booking for accommodation or dining essential 6363 2022*
Bottleshop open daily, 9am-9pm	Bush Inn, Deloraine	Bar and meals closed for winter break Bottleshop open*
Open daily, distancing restrictions apply	Westbury Hotel	Dinner bookings necessary 6393 4083 Takeaway available for lunch & dinner*
Open daily	Mumma Buzz Café	Daily for breakfast & lunch, Thu, Fri, Sat for dinner Bookings essential 0400 259 663*
Fri & Sat 10am-4pm	Devils Own Icecreamery/Hazelbrae Hazelnuts	127 Hagley Station Lane, Hagley <a href="http://www.hazelbrae.com.au">www.hazelbrae.com.au</a> or Martin Hamilton on 0467 929 2338*
Tue-Sun 8.30am-2.30pm, closed Mondays	Café Verde, Westbury	Corner of Taylor Street and Meander Valley Road, Westbury
Open daily, distancing restrictions apply	Carrick Inn Hotel	Tue-Sun lunch 12 noon-2pm, dinner 5.30-8pm Limited seating, booking essential 6393 6143*
Open daily, distancing restrictions apply	Bracknell Hotel	Dinner Thu-Sun, Sunday lunch, takeaway Booking essential 6397 3278*
Thu-Sun	Wandering Trout, Mole Creek	Thu 4-8pm, Fri 3-9pm, Sat 12-9pm, Sun, 12-6pm Limited seating, bookings essential 6388 9252*
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 9am-5:30pm, Sat 10am-2pm	Wholesome House Deloraine	Health foods, bulk grains, flours etc. Vacola preserving kits Organic fruit, dairy, honey
Open	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
Most library services resumed	Deloraine and Westbury Libraries	2-4 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine, Ph 6701 2180 33 William St, Westbury, Ph 6777 2457 <a href="http://www.libraries.tas.gov.au">www.libraries.tas.gov.au</a> for hours
Sat 11 July, 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>Woman at War</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M Drama 2018 Iceland/Ukraine 101m Info 0418 389 868
Sat 25 July, 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>Ali's Wedding</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M Comedy/drama/romance 2017 Australia 110m Info 0418 389 868

\* check Facebook pages of all pubs, cafés and restaurants for menus and updates to services and opening times



# Will Smith – empowering and inspiring youth at risk

By Hayley Manning

**TASMANIAN CONSTABLE**  
Will Smith has been awarded the 2020 Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year in recognition of his ongoing services with disadvantaged youth in Australia and overseas.

The social justice advocate, 26, began his volunteer journey at 15, when he started helping at Edmund Rice camps for youth at risk, during the school holidays. In 2019, he developed and launched the not-for-profit JCP Empowering Youth program to encourage leadership and motivational skills to participants at camps and school-based seminars.

‘My passion at the moment is inspiring and empowering young people towards leadership. Leadership is about action – a positive action that you take in life. Every young person has leadership capacity and my role is to help people realise what that is.’

The inspiration behind JCP stems from John Pounds (1766–1839), a disabled cobbler who educated, clothed and fed impoverished children in his tiny workshop in Portsmouth, England.

‘An amazing story with awesome elements – shoes – as a meaning behind what we do. We have probably given out \$30,000 worth of sporting shoes and boots in the last year which is a bit of a tribute to John “Cobbler” Pounds.’

After discovering the plight of Syrian refugees, Will flew solo to Beirut then travelled to the Mish Mish Mountains – a no-travel zone in June last year

Will Smith, with (from left) Obsa, Mickey and Ahmed.  
*Photo supplied*

– to deliver soccer boots and coordinate a six-week soccer program.

‘Sport is attractive to young people. It is an energy release, its interactive fun but also an opportunity for Syrian refugees. There are not a lot of options for them in their current circumstances, where a negative option is Islamic State recruitment, so it’s trying to create something positive enough to keep their mind busy and instil a bit of hope.’

‘Just getting into the danger zone proved a difficult feat. Things got hectic at the checkpoints where I was stripped naked or held at gunpoint by “security services”. Not all checkpoints are run by government, army or official groups, so you have to convince them you are there for the right reasons. A lot of people were confused and wondering “who’s this guy with all the soccer gear”, but it probably saved me a few times!’

‘Someone has to do it. The recent COVID-19 situation shows the world can do miraculous things to better the lives of others but these people have been the most at-risk people in the world for the last eight years and we’ve done nothing. I’m not making a massive difference but I am doing something.’

Will credits the Deloraine Football Club for starting him in the right direction. ‘I still vividly remember my coach Malcolm Walters having an impact on me – the terminology he used, I still use today.’



## Tasmania – working it out together

WORKING IT Out (WIO), Tasmania’s gender, sexuality and intersex status support and education service, is currently offering a special Tasmanian COVID-19 initiative: *Working It Out Together*.

This program draws on the resilience of LGBTIQ+ people to provide a mechanism to support each other.

- The main features are:
- a web page with details, links and resources: [www.workingitout.org.au](http://www.workingitout.org.au)
  - a process to allow LGBTIQ+ Tasmanians to get extra support during this crisis and/or to help out



LGBTIQ+ people sometimes have limited options for connection and support, especially in regional and remote areas. These may shrink even further under COVID-19.

Uncertainty about which services and people are inclusive, understanding and respectful can mean LGBTIQ+ people don’t seek help as often as they should, or don’t get the right kind of help when they do.

This program provides connection, support and assistance that is accepting and inclusive. Please contact WIO, or go to the website to register or to find out more about the individual support and peer group options WIO offers.

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# Locals to petition against Mole Creek café

By Sharon Webb

MOLE CREEK residents will ask Meander Valley Council to reject a planning application for a new café in the town and already have 75 signatures on a petition.

Mole Creek landowner Denis Durham has lodged a planning application to build a \$360,000 butcher shop and café at 42a Pioneer Drive, Mole Creek.

Mr Durham, who owns The Den property on Den Road but lives in Sydney, has lodged the application in concert with an earlier planning application to establish an abattoir on his land.

But Jim Casey, manager of the independent supermarket

next door to the proposed butcher/café, said the town's residents believe there are already enough cafés there.

Mole Creek, population around 200, has three cafés, a pub and a supermarket selling takeaway snacks, as well as another café just out of town.

'The butcher shop is probably fine, but we believe the café will take business from other family-owned businesses and make them unviable,' Mr Casey said.

Mr Durham said he wants to establish the abattoir so he can kill animals on his property to reduce their travel stress. He plans to provide high quality meat to tourist venues.

'I want to make the best beef I can locally,' Mr Durham said. 'We want to keep the operation small and boutique – keep it for Tasmanians.'

The butcher shop site currently is currently unused and within the village zone under the planning scheme.

The application includes a shop, kitchen, cool store, covered dining area, car parking and an AWTS waste water system.

The maximum café patrons will be 20 at any one time. Opening hours will likely be 9am to 5pm, 7 days a week.

Because the property is on karst, Mr Durham proposes waste water treatment via an AWTS treatment system rather than a conventional septic system, with waste irrigated on the allotment's northern area.

No small goods will be made on the property.

Den Road property owner Carol Douglas has signalled she will oppose the proposed abattoir because it would be 300m from her house and within sight, sound and smell.

Mrs Douglas has questioned the economic feasibility of a butchery in Mole Creek.

# History of natural wonders

FOR THOSE who live in and around Deloraine, the caves of Mole Creek are part of the background of natural wonder that is the Meander Valley.

The caves have been attracting visitors since the 1800s and became a major attraction with commercial operations in the early 19th century.

Today, Marakoopa and King Solomon's Caves attract over 50,000 visitors a year.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, the guides at the Mole Creek caves have been engaged in maintenance of the cave precincts and also researching the history. The Byard family who discovered and guided in Marakoopa Cave from 1911 until the 1930s demonstrate the pioneering spirit that adapted from farming to tourism and often managed to do both.

King Solomon's Cave was discovered by Alfred (Frederick) Francis Holmes and William Henry Pochin in 1906 but real tourism development was by Edward Charles James. With a high social profile, his flair for publicity left many references in contemporary newspapers but very little is known of Messrs Holmes and Pochin.

To help fill in the gaps the guides are seeking the aid of anyone who has information, family connections or photographs that feature the Byards, Holmes, Pochin or any early aspects of the caves.

Get in touch by ringing the caves office on 6363 5182 or emailing [mccaves@parks.tas.gov.au](mailto:mccaves@parks.tas.gov.au). They would love to record stories and if possible, copy photos and ensure that these memories are not lost.



The Byard family at the entrance to Marakoopa Cave  
Photo supplied

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