



### FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

The Northern Hunt season at full gallop

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### BENJAMIN, THE LAST TASSIE TIGER

One of Tasmania's lost treasures

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### ETHICAL AND FASHIONABLE!

Westbury Village Central recycled fashion

▶ PAGE 12

# Meander Valley Gazette

Free every month

August 2020

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper



## Footy's back!

Saturday July 25, football is back on the calendar and players are back on the ground! The womens' teams clashed at Westbury with Scottsdale's Georgia Knight (No 3) and Kate Minchin fighting for the ball with the Meander Valley Suns' Kelly Jackson and Claudia Gardner (No 3). Result: 1.2.8 for Meander Valley, 5.10.40 for Scottsdale. Photo by Andrew Shepherd

## Meander School drug rehab facility in limbo

By Sharon Webb

A DRUG rehabilitation facility planned for the Meander Primary School site is in limbo after four years of legal brawls on which community groups spent hundreds of thousands of dollars.

In 2017 Meander Valley Council agreed drug rehab group Teen Challenge would lease the empty school site in the centre of Meander.

Since then the council and the Meander Residents and

Ratepayers Association have faced off on six occasions in Tasmania's planning tribunal and the Supreme Court, the council defending its decision and MARRA challenging it.

Now Teen Challenge and Meander Valley Council refuse to commit to staying the course over the decision.

Asked whether the facility would go ahead given the latest ruling against the council in the Supreme Court, Teen Challenge executive director Tanya Cavanagh equivocated.

'I have no comment. We're taking advice from our board and talking to Meander Valley Council,' she said.

Meander Valley Council's position on continuing the legal fight is 'to be determined', said council manager John Jordan.

After twice refusing to answer the Gazette's questions about ratepayer funds that Meander Valley Council spent on legal action, Mr Jordan now gives the figure of \$60,000, repudiating the Gazette's \$250,000 estimation (see letters, page 6).

But MARRA, backed financially by local business Timber World, has been billed \$140,550 plus 18 per cent GST, including \$57,000 for the last Supreme Court challenge.

Why the council's legal costs appear to be so much lower than MARRA's is unknown.

Teen Challenge has paid nothing in legal costs.

Teen Challenge has less than a year left of its initial five-year lease of the primary school site but it has the option for two more five-year leases.

Members of Christian communities in the area surmise Teen Challenge may drop out of the project because four years after being allocated the site for a peppercorn rent, the ongoing legal challenges mean they have never used it. In the interim Tanya Cavanagh is taking the anti-drugs message into Tasmanian high schools with her Not Even Once program.

According to Meander residents, the school site is in need of maintenance.

(continued on page 2)





## Readers are winners!

PARTICIPATION IN Westbury Library's school holiday activities has always been its own reward. But this holiday period, there were prizes to be given away for those who contributed their drawings and paintings for display at the library.

Janette Mitchelson thanked the Westbury Hotel for their support, by donating a voucher and a book as prizes.

Westbury Library's Janette Mitchelson and Launceston Library Manager Garry Conroy-Cooper awarded a book prize to Sophia Sully (9), seen here flanked by her siblings William (5) and Annabelle (11), displaying their holiday creations.

Photo by Hayley Manning

## Meander School in limbo

(continued from page 1)

MARRA president Bodhi McSweeney said the council should never have spent rate-payers' money fighting for Teen Challenge.

'I hope the council walks away from it and lets Teen Challenge fight their own fight for the school site,' she said.

'If councillors had done due diligence on the Teen Challenge program they would have realised it would suit only a small number of women who already have Christian beliefs.

'Teen Challenge is backed by the Assemblies of God church and has a religion-based drug treatment program using no professional staff. It's worst practice in drug rehabilitation treatment.'

Teen Challenge's board of directors includes Ms Cavanagh

who has 20 years experience in the automotive industry; her partner Peter Ferrall, formerly a bed retailer in WA; former George Town Council general manager Ngaire McCrindle; Lalla resident Margie Dockray; and Mark Brown, state manager of the Australian Christian Lobby.

Teen Challenge's original 2015 pitch document to Meander Valley Council indicates Launceston mayor Albert van Zetten and Stan Pisulak, former director of Presbyterian Aged Care, were Teen Challenge Tasmania directors at the time. The application included letters of support from former MLC Greg Hall, MHA Guy Barnett and Meander resident Neil Johnston, father of the current council mayor Wayne Johnston.



## Signs of sporting success!

Back from left: Andrew Sherriff (Deloraine Signs), Daniel Wickham (Meander Wilderness Experiences), Robyn Green (British Hotel) and Darren Buffy (Mumma Buzz Cafe). Front from left: Little Devils Cecilia Wickham, Miley Sherriff, Dione Lee, Mary Walters and Sophie Sherriff. Photo by Hayley Manning

By Hayley Manning

THE MEANDER Valley Netball Association has been granted council approval to mount 1200mm x 900mm corflute signs in 17 spaces around their new netball courts in Deloraine.

Meander father of three, Daniel Wickham, said he started the 'approval process' with Meander Valley Council 12 months ago.

'Devonport Football Club has around 33 sponsors, so I thought why not have a go?

Businesses should be falling out of the trees to sign up and associate themselves with our awesome association.'

The two new netball courts were built at the Deloraine Community Complex thanks to a successful Community

Infrastructure Fund application by the Deloraine Devils Netball Club. The upgrade to the sporting precinct was designed to keep families together through less travel and ease of access for children after school.

The Devils' club legend Taneil Bloomfield has been a driving force behind the netball club since its inception nearly 15 years ago.

'We had around 250 people playing last year and we are growing all the time across all teams from juniors through to seniors, with the mid-week "fast five" mixed games proving to be increasingly popular.'

'Sponsorship allows our team of volunteers, many of whom work full time and have families, to focus their time and energy into running the netball,' Taneil said. 'At the end of the day, we just want kids and adults participating in and enjoying sports.'

Mumma Buzz Café are the first official sponsors followed by the British Hotel and Deloraine Signs.

For more information please contact Daniel Wickham on 0427 731 934.

## Funds for netball

THE STATE Government has provided \$150,000 to Netball Tasmania as the first tranche of a sport and recreation COVID-19 support fund, with 17 jobs supported.

'We have provided significant support for the state's sport and recreation sector through COVID-19, including our \$10 million Improving the Playing Field Fund, which will provide grants to local councils, sporting clubs and associations to improve playing facilities across Tasmania to maintain and build participation across sporting codes,' Sport and Recreation Minister Jane Howlett said.

'We also recently doubled the support available under the Ticket to Play program from \$100 to \$200, giving young Tasmanians the opportunity to feel part of a team, to learn new physical skills, to gain leadership experience and to have some fun along the way.'

Tranche two of the fund, which will have a focus on returning to play and assisting grassroots sporting clubs with restarting, is now open for applications.



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# Safe for Henry at Longridge Swimming Hole



ON THE night of June 28, vandals burnt pallets and left piles of dangerous nails behind on the shore of the Longridge Swimming Hole.

They also cut down trees and limbs and left half cut trees standing.

The pristine Meander River frontage and pebbled shore is a popular summer swimming area for visitors, locals, children and dogs.

Nails are harmful to marine life as well as the many people and their pets who use the area for recreation.



Henry going for a swim on a sunny winter day at Longridge. Left: some of the nails collected at the site. Photos by Hayley Manning

## Council vetoes prison public meeting because of invalid petition signatures

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY Council has signalled it will use its powers to block public meetings on the proposed Northern Regional Prison.

The mayor of the Meander Valley Council said he is committed to facilitating community discussion on the State Government's second site for a northern prison, but rejected a petition calling for a public meeting because it fell 86 signatures short.

Cllr Wayne Johnston said the petition from anti-prison group WRAP was not 'compliant with certain legislative requirements'. It's the worst-kept secret in the municipality that most of the nine councillors support the prison: six in favour, two against and one unknown.

While councillors supposedly maintain neutrality to fulfil their planning authority role on the prison planning application, the *Mercury* newspaper reported in June that even the mayor said it was 'a good thing the Northern Regional Prison development will stay in the municipality.'

WRAP president Linda Poulton said, 'We believe the council must face its community publicly to properly canvass sentiment on the prison proposal.'

'We therefore propose to gather signatures on a new petition seeking a public meeting on the Northern Regional Prison proposal.'

'We now know that the council will most likely decline to hold a meeting unless compelled to do so and we will ensure that there are no loopholes this time around.'

A petition obliging the council to hold a public meeting must have 747 signatures of people on the municipality's electoral roll.

But it has the option of accepting a petition for a public meeting with fewer than 747 signatures, as it did in February 2018 when it held a public meeting on the proposed Westbury recreation centre with under 500 signatures.

The *Examiner* reported that of 865 WRAP petition signatures, 44 were duplicates, 102 did not provide a full address, 51 were outside the municipality and

seven did not present information to determine their address.

'By the council's own reckoning the petition contained 661 valid signatories,' Ms Poulton said.

'The council considered that an additional 102 ratepayers in the municipality should not be counted as they had not provided their full address. WRAP had offered to provide the council with the additional information for these 102 signatories before its meeting but this offer was declined by the general manager.'

Cllr Johnston said the council will seek information about planned prison consultation and the timeframes for the release of due diligence information on the site.

'Council met with pro and anti-prison groups in February, making a commitment to work with representatives from both groups to ensure everyone has equal access to consultation avenues,' he said.

'This commitment continues across to the new site. We want to ensure everyone has the opportunity to have their say in a respectful way. When we have



Linda Poulton, President of WRAP Inc. hands over the group's petition to the General Manager of Meander Valley Council, Mr John Jordan, with suitable social distancing protocols clearly adhered to. Photo by Mike Moores

more information we will bring together community representatives to plan consultation.'

In June Corrections Minister Elise Archer announced the site

change for the proposed \$270 million prison from Glen Avon Farm at 135 Birralelee Road, to 70 hectares of crown reserve further down Birralelee Road.

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## Letter from the Editor

THIS MONTH, I believe that the letter below, from Mr John Jordan, General Manager of MV Council, requires a response.

Gazette reporter Sharon Webb has a masters degree in journalism and a long professional career in the same field. Although she has written one Gazette opinion piece, clearly labelled as such, her description in Mr Jordan's letter as 'opinion writer' is inaccurate and reductive.

Mr Jordan invokes Australian Press Council standards and the 'values and ethos of a community paper' over two instances of our reporting.

In the first, Council refused to respond to our request for information on Mr Grose's salary at the time of his appointment.

Secondly, Council twice refused to supply us with information about their legal costs in the Meander School litigation.

The Gazette makes regular requests for information from Council so that we can report to our readers. If we do not receive a reply, other sources are used.

Our reporting of these amounts clearly indicated that they were estimates and we would have welcomed accurate information from the source – especially as Mr Grose's position was not advertised and the litigation is against a group of the municipality's ratepayers.

The Gazette believes that there is a strong argument that both these disputed amounts are well within the public interest.

Council's spending is of particular interest to ratepayers, when COVID-19 has caused many people and businesses in the community to suffer financially.

A community newspaper has an obligation to provide independent and accurate coverage of local news. But we cannot always report across the entire range of community views when parts of the community will not engage with us.

And we do not accede to requests to modify or remove editorial content with which some groups disagree. To do so would be a violation of Australian Press Council principles of independent journalism.

The Gazette informed Mr Jordan of our complaints policy and procedure, based on Australian Press Council guidelines – downloadable from our website or available on request.

Gazette management would welcome an opportunity to engage directly with Meander Valley Councillors, the Mayor and management. Until then, we endeavour to maintain an open and cordial relationship with Council.

*Liz Douglass, Managing Editor,  
Meander Valley Gazette*

ON 1 June 2020, I presented a petition to the Meander Valley Council asking the Council to hold a public meeting to discuss the Northern Regional Prison on Birralelee Road.

Such a meeting would require Councillors to make themselves available to answer questions from the public. It would have a completely different focus to the meeting held by Minister Archer in December 2019 at which she alone presented for questions.

The petition had been circulating in various public venues since late October 2019, but after COVID-19 hit in February 2020 the process was severely curtailed. Still, the petition had amassed over 700 signatures by the time it was presented to Council in June.

When the petition was considered by the Council's General Manager in early June, he indicated to me that a number of individuals (102) had not provided their full street address. I offered to gather and provide these details to him, but my offer was declined.

If the petition had contained 747 signatories whose street number had been provided, Council would have been compelled to hold a public meeting. By the General Manager's count, it contained 661: 86 signatories short.

On 14 July 2020, Council considered the petition. Despite the GM's view that the petition was deficient, the Council could have called a public meeting if it had the will to do so. However, all but one Councillor (Clr Synfield) declined.

By this time, the State Government had announced the new site on Birralelee Road.

I believe that Council should nevertheless have chosen to call a meeting because it has never consulted its community about the Northern Regional Prison in any public forum.

There is now a newly proposed location for the prison. This is a new site with different issues. A fresh round of consultation needs to be undertaken. Given that Minister Archer has indicated that the Government proposes only limited consultation on this new site, a public meeting called by the Council may be the only chance the community gets to discuss this proposal in an open forum.

To facilitate this, we propose to circulate a new petition asking Council to consult its community on this new site by holding a public meeting albeit within the restraints of COVID-19. Everyone who is keen to be heard on the prison is strongly encouraged to sign it.

Please contact WRAP via email at westburytas@gmail.com if you would like to be sent a copy of the petition to gather signatures. Every person's signature will count!

*Linda Poulton, President  
WRAP Inc., Westbury*

IF TASMANIAN history is anything to go by, endangered wildlife should prove no hurdle for the proponents of the proposed Birralelee Road prison (p1, MVGazette, July 2020). The state's polities have long ranked environmental matters at the bottom of their priorities. Before citing the Tasmanian Devil as an exception to this rule, one should consider the state Lib/Labs zeal in resisting the pleas of scientists to permit the establishment of free-range DFTD-free devil populations in dingo-free areas of their recent former range on the mainland, and their reported enthusiasm for selling our captive-bred devils to foreign zoos, where they allegedly fetch up to \$40,000 each as the largest marsupial carnivore on the planet. Meanwhile, the devil genome narrows past the point of no return. The bright side, from a Tas Government perspective, is that the prison's inevitable degradation of natural habitat and amenity along Birralelee Road will grease the skids for further development approvals.

*John Hayward, Weeena*

TANYA CAVANAGH from Teen Challenge Tasmania stated in an Examiner article on July 01, titled Rehab centre still in limbo, that they will continue to fight, in regards to their proposed use of the old Meander School. I understand that Meander Valley Council is footing the bill for the huge legal costs. This is actually our ratepayers' money which could be put to much better use than fighting against the majority of the Meander community. Would Ms Cavanagh be so keen to continue this fight, if the cost were coming out of Teen Challenge's pocket? Also, would the old Meander school be so important for them to acquire, if the council hadn't agreed to a \$1 a year peppercorn rent?

*Sue Evans, Meander*

THE COST incurred by MV Council, in support of Teen Challenge and fighting against the Meander community is a staggering misuse of ratepayers' funds.

The overwhelming majority of Meander area residents and ratepayers do not want a cult-like conversion therapy so-called 'hospital' for drug, sex and gambling addicts, in the middle of our village, locking out the locals from our wonderful public facility, all for a peppercorn lease.

The old Meander School would be much more suitably re-purposed for community uses. The community has a vision for a community hub in the old Meander School, engaging people, and small enterprises in a marvellous revitalized multi-use community site. It is time the Council gets behind the community.

*Kerin Booth, Meander*

EST.  
2013

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### Editorial enquiries

*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 September 2020 edition is 21 August.

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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.

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## Letters to the Editor

I AM writing to clarify facts in relation to recent reporting in the Meander Valley Gazette.

In June, opinion writer Ms Sharon Webb covered the appointment of Mr Neil Grose to Council. Council, for reasons of personal privacy, did not disclose details of Mr Grose's employment to Ms Webb. Yet the article included a figure purporting to be Mr Grose's salary. That figure is both incorrect and unnecessary in the service of the public interest. The Australian Press Council's standards enshrine 'a person's reasonable expectations of privacy'. It is disappointing that this standard appears to have been set aside.

Secondly, in July, an article by Ms Webb covered a decision in the Supreme Court relating to the use of the former Meander Primary School. Ms Webb wrote that the cost of legal action by Council was 'estimated at more than \$250,000'. To again highlight the Australian Press Council's standards, member publications have a responsibility to

ensure material reported as fact is accurate and not misleading. Ms Webb did not disclose how she determined this estimate. Again, it is difficult to see how the community interest is served by such highly inaccurate and unverified coverage. For the record, Council's legal costs to date are below \$60,000, a figure that highlights the wild inaccuracy of Ms Webb's unverified estimate.

Council supports promoting community awareness through accurate reporting. This is particularly important when the reporting covers contentious issues with the potential to divide the community. The value and ethos of a community paper should be to build community considering a balanced and broad church of views without bias. The confidence of a community to express such views and to support a publication relies ultimately on a publication's capacity to present factual material and opinion in a fair and balanced way without omission of key facts or a reliance on the views of a few.

*John Jordan, General Manager  
Meander Valley Council*

**Letters to the Editor  
continue on page 8**

**Willowdale Cricket Club  
honours the fall of wicket  
of Phill Gregg – run out 72 –  
played Phill !!! "**



**Sharon Webb looks at the history of the land chosen as the new prison site**

THE 70 hectare block of crown land on Birralee Road chosen for a prison site was never reserved, even though it was bought by the State Government with Federal Government money for that purpose.

Corrections Minister Elise Archer recently sought to shrug off any environmental value of the site in Parliament. 'Publicly, the site has not been actively managed by the Crown. It is not the responsibility of DPIPWE's private land conservation program,' she said.

'The site does not contain the values for which it was originally purchased and, for more than a decade, consideration has been given to the land being sold ...'

Ms Archer may have used the word 'publicly' because a former DPIPWE employee, shocked about wood theft and rubbish dropping there, told the *Gazette* he erected signs used for another DPIPWE project. The signs told people to keep out and that the land was protected under the 2002 Act.

Environmentalists such as Australian bird expert Sarah Lloyd OAM who lives at Birralee and long-time conservationist Alistair Graham dispute Ms Archer's comments, saying the land is a haven for endangered and vulnerable wildlife.

The block was sold to the Tasmanian Government by former Westbury residents Harry and Elizabeth Laker.

According to a family member it was owned by Laker family company, Marney's Hill Estate, part of a much larger property including the 280 hectare Birralee Road farm now owned by objectors to the new prison site, Aaron Reader and Olivia Quill.

Harry and Elizabeth Laker were well-known in the Westbury area. Harry was a local vet and the couple owned Culzean, an Anglo-Indian style house built in 1841.

# The history of the Birralee block

From 1965 until 2000, the Lakers lived at Culzean, with its stunning four hectare garden and large lake installed by Dr Laker.

In 1997 the ageing Lakers sold the Birralee block as part of the Regional Forest Agreement process. It was the beginning of their move from Culzean to a newly-built Westbury house where they planned to spend the rest of their lives.

Tasmania's record of land ownership, The List, shows the Lakers sold the crown land block for \$75,000.

The family member said she believed Dr Laker had wanted to subdivide it.

'My memory is that he was told he couldn't do that because it contained a plant that needed to be preserved,' she said. 'So he chose to sell it to the government.'

A DPIPWE spokesperson confirmed the site was bought with Federal Government funds.

At that time the State Government, through the Regional Forest Agreement, was preserving under-reserved land with high conservation values. It achieved this by either by encouraging owners to covenant land or buying it with \$30m funding provided by the Federal Government specifically for this purpose.

But according to the spokesperson, Dr Laker's land was never made a reserve. The soil type was key.

'It was thought that the land contained the vegetation community "*Eucalyptus amygdalina* inland forest and woodland on Cainozoic deposits" which was considered a high priority for reservation because of historical loss due to land clearing, and which was subsequently included as a "Threatened Native Vegetation Community" under the Nature Conservation Act 2002,' she said.

'However, further surveying of the site revealed that it actually contained the community



Harry Laker pictured in front of the lake he built at Culzean. This photo is reproduced from a clipping from the *Examiner*, Saturday August 29, 1992.

"*Eucalyptus amygdalina* forest and woodland on dolerite" which is not listed, is well-reserved, and has not been a high priority for reservation.'

This non-reservation brought the land to its current status of unallocated crown land.

During the RFA process conservationist Alistair Graham was on the advisory committee for the Private Forest Reserve Program and said he knows the block well.

He believes it was reserved – then de-gazetted about 10 years later by a subsequent government. 'It is a very high-quality reserve. The forest type is immaterial,' he said.

'We advised the Federal Government to spend money on it in good faith and it's frustrating that the State Government can now denigrate its values and dispose of it as it sees fit.'

**Birds, light and the new Northern Regional Prison site – page 11**



MISSING – Percy the peacock. Distinguishing features? Yes!

Percy the peacock has long been a resident in the garden at Kanangra.

Originally accompanied by a bevy of peahens, he stayed behind on his own, when the girls were relocated elsewhere. Apparently Percy escaped the round-up.

Kanangra residents may have had mixed feelings about

sharing their garden space with a large and independently-minded bird, but some are worried about what happened to him when he disappeared from their garden recently.

If anyone knows his current whereabouts then we will be happy to pass the information along. Perhaps Percy has gone looking for companionship?

Or was the grass just greener elsewhere?



Thane Bardenhagen

Sophie Poke



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At the Port Stop, behind Carrick Pub, Tory Hood, the Club's first female Hunt Master addresses all present before the toast. Eleanor James, the Kennel Master, is holding the hounds.  
Photo supplied



# Everything but the fox!

By Sandra Atkins and Liz Douglass

THE NORTHERN Hunt Club has been around since the late 1950s. Founded by a group of Deloraine district farmers, the grandchildren of some of those original families are still riding.

Members come from as far as Devonport and Cressy, even further afield on some weekends. For special days, riders come from all over Tasmania.

The Club will have a 'Poker Run' early in August with a big following expected. The Run is the Club's main fundraiser. An entry fee is charged and a playing card collected at intervals during the ride. The best 'hands' win prizes (all donated).

The Run will be at 'Junction Farm', the hounds' home at Westwood, even though the hounds have the day off. A staggered start, for 15km riding with picturesque views from the hills.

Hunts are held on properties all around the north of Tasmania. The number of properties used depends on the size of the property, how much is under irrigation, cropping or otherwise unavailable to ride across, and how much bush land is available.

Hunt riders are very aware that the Hunt must leave the paddocks as clean as possible, to be welcome back!

A Childrens' Hunt was held on July 26, at 'Myrtlewood', Conara. The younger riders help run the Hunt and about 40 riders were expected.

Sandra Atkins has been hunting for nearly 60 years and has seen the Club's numbers rise and fall, as most Club numbers do. She says, 'We've had 150 riders at a Childrens' Hunt. We've had 2 hunts televised for National TV and we had over 100 riders at both! We averaged over 50 riders for the last season of 20 hunts.'

Many Pony Club riders start their riding sport by hunting,

then progress to Show Jumping and Eventing, or Games.

Hunting is a great grounding for new horses – no competition, so no pressure. Some jumps are small, some are quite big (a metre or so) but none are compulsory, so non-jumpers are welcome.

Safety conscious and welcoming to newcomers, anyone can ride with the Northern Hunt Club, for a 'capping' fee, as long as they have riding boots and a correct helmet.

There is no rough riding – all riders are contained behind the 'Field Master', so the hounds are in front of the horses. A rider lays the scent (aniseed essence) and the hounds chase after them as if they were

chasing a wallaby or a deer. The Club sets the route and knows where jumps are. No animals are chased.

This season's Opening Hunt was on June 20 at 'Staunton', the property of Richard and Jan Higgins on the Delmont Road, out past Cressy.

The first time the Club has had an Opening Hunt there, it would usually be held two weeks before Easter, but Equestrian Tasmania had closed gatherings to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

Members are pleased that the Club can still have a short season and will hunt every weekend until mid-September, as long as there are no more COVID-19 outbreaks.

Sandra Atkins has the final say. 'Heaps of horse owners don't have anywhere to ride and they really appreciate being part of the Club and being allowed to ride on privately-owned land that normally is out of bounds.'

'We've lost the use of many properties, even having farmers keep outsiders away for fear of contaminating their paddocks, especially when they export lambs, cattle and crops overseas.'

'So we are always on the lookout for new places where we can organise some long runs and build jumps where possible out of fallen logs or whatever might be available.'

'The properties we are riding on this Sunday always used to have some different jumps, like a row of old couches across the track, or a couple of canoes tipped over in the paddock.'

'They even built an arch with a hosepipe and had it spraying water as we rode through!'

'Some horses didn't think it was a good idea, but went through anyway and everyone had a good laugh! Those were the days!'

'It's just a good fun day and a nice ride with like-minded people from all walks of life.'



The Northern Hunt and hounds, riding down the main street of Carrick. Photo supplied

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



**The Port Stop**

LIKE THE Hunt, the Port Stop is an English tradition. Riders would have a tot of port before the hunt started.

The hunt has about 6 runs with a short stop every 3 or 4kms. Hounds can have a breather, slower riders catch up and everyone has a break.

The Northern Club has their Port Stop about halfway, to make sure the hunt starts on time. Waiting for latecomers to join the toast would make a late start, which led to more late arrivals!

Riders toast the landowners, the Club, workers (who prepare the course and jumps), hounds, horses and riders.

The midway Port Stop ensures that everyone, including spectators in 4WDs, is there to have the toast and hear all the announcements.

Riders usually dismount to rest their horses and catch up with friends. After 15–20 minutes the riders are off again for the last 2 or 3 runs. Normally the Club would then have a BBQ lunch, but with COVID-19 restrictions, it's a sandwich, a quick chat and everyone heads home.



Top left: Tory Hood, Hunt Master, preparing the lure, while the hounds look on. Top right: Steven Atkins, Whipper-In, riding his stallion Omar Shalim with his mother Sandra Atkins on Anawa Painted Vision. Not everyone dismounts to take their break! But everyone enjoyed the egg and bacon rolls provided by the Carrick Pub for the Hunt breakfast. *Photos supplied*



Right: Danielle Taylor and Alicia Saunders enjoying their day out at 'Staunton' on June 20, the first Hunt of the season. *Photo by Rosemary Goodwin*

For more information and some great photos, go to the Northern Hunt Club Facebook page. Details of the Poker Run on Sunday 9 August can be found there.

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**Rebecca White MP**

**Labor Member for Lyons**

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

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# Go pink!

GOLDEN VALLEY'S Cristy Hall was only six when her Auntie Bev died of cancer, but the loss had a big impact on the little girl.

On the 40th anniversary of her death in May, Cristy thought, 'Go Pink for Breast Cancer Research – that's a nice way to honour her.'

In mid-July Cristy's family and friends gathered at Deloraine's British Hotel to watch her daughters Hollie

and Charli shave their mother's (pink) hair to raise funds for the Breast Cancer Foundation.

On hand was Sue Bellamy from Deloraine Lions, who will boost fundraising by raffleing a load of firewood at the Deloraine Woolworths supermarket.

Cristy has raised more than \$3500 so far and if you'd like to contribute, find Cristy's fundraiser page on [fundraise.nbcf.org.au](http://fundraise.nbcf.org.au).

**Hollie and Charli wield the clippers for their mum.**  
*Photo by Sharon Webb*

LET'S GET some things clear about the Westbury Reserve.

Only Premier Gutwein and Minister Archer have used the word 'pristine' with regard to the Westbury Reserve. There is evidence of early selective harvesting of large trees, but many burnt or hollowed old giants survive and there is

## Letters to the Editor continued from page 4

CONGRATULATIONS MUST go to the government in reacting to the outcry of the Westbury Community not happy with the prison being sited in their town and moving it further away from its original preferred site.

What needs to be answered now is does the new, more remote site comply with all or in fact any of the siting principles required for a maximum security prison.

It seems they have been totally ignored this time around. Another light bulb moment for Westbury?

*David Gibson*

UNLIKE THE proposed prison at Westbury, Risdon Prison was built in the bush, and the village of Risdon grew up around it. To dump a 270 bed Maximum Security Prison at a small village like Westbury and expect it

considerable healthy regrowth providing important bird and bandicoot habitat.

There is some unsightly rubbish dumped just inside a gate. That's it. Wood hooking stopped years ago.

Herbivores – cattle, deer, wallaby and pademelons – graze the site occasionally, but not

to be absorbed without serious impact on the social and economic structure is absolutely naïve. Where else has such a small, historic village been visited by this profound outrage?

There is no other comparable example of this devastating violation in Australia. The residents of Westbury had expectations of living out their lives in this picturesque, heritage rich village, exchanging the services enjoyed by big city residents for the peace and tranquillity of country life, only to be bullied by our elected representatives into hosting a prison that warehouses convicted people who mainly lived in the major cities.

Of course, there must be alternative areas for the prison to be built (if the government are truly able to afford to have one built, of course by out of state builders, plumbers and painters) but ... Are any other council's fighting for the rights? Not one.

*Harvey Gee, Exton*

to the extent that the flora has been damaged. There is some gorse, mainly along the roadside, but it is not extensive.

I don't know of anyone shooting in the Reserve, but there is certainly plenty of wildlife to shoot if you're that way inclined. (I'm not.)

*Ron Nagorcka, Birralee*



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Drop into your nearest branch at 49 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine or phone (03) 6362 4801 to discuss your organisation's grant application.

## Somerset on the Pier Gazette Giveaway!

Somerset on the Pier Hobart is offering Gazette readers the chance to win a city break with luxury accommodation for two.

Ideally located on the shores of Hobart's waterfront, Somerset on the Pier is housed in a stunning 1930s pier building conversion.

Somerset on the Pier offers range of spaces from 1-bedroom lofts to spacious family apartments – a perfect option for singles, couples or families looking for a weekend away or extended stay.



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You need to live or work in the Meander Valley to be eligible for this prize. Entries close 18 September.



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IT HAS been a productive year for Tasmanian Tiger Archives researchers Brandon Holmes, Gareth Linnard and Mike Williams, who recently rediscovered moving images of the last known captive thylacine at Hobart's Beaumaris Zoo, in the National Film and Sound Archives.

'Tasmania the Wonderland', the 1935 travelogue by Sidney Cook, has reignited speculation into the origin and life history of the thylacine dubbed 'Benjamin'.

Prior to the new discovery, Australian naturalist Dr David Fleay's famous footage of Hobart Zoo curator Arthur Reid and a white terrier interacting with the last captive in 1933, had been considered the last film recording.

In the recording, Arthur Reid is shown using his unique 'prodding' motion on the fence to rouse the thylacine into action.

Fleay reflected in *Memories of a Tasmanian Tiger*, 'Not long captured and still wearing the springer snare brand above his right hind leg, this long, lean softly padding animal had an ethereal appearance.'

And in the *Australasian*, 'Late in 1933, during a visit to Hobart, I was fortunate in photographing the last marsupial wolf in captivity, and unfortunately, this fine male animal died not so many months later. It had been in Hobart for three years, at that time.'

The last captive can be identified by a distinct snare ring on a slightly elevated rear ankle, in addition to an anatomical



By Hayley Manning

## The last thylacine

comparison of the stripe pattern which is unique for each thylacine, as noted by Sleightholme and Campbell\* in 2015.

Despite an end to the stock bounty scheme in 1909, the thylacine continued to be caught in 'powerful springer snares' set by trappers who were targeting wallabies and pademelons.

There are several theories regarding the source of Benjamin, including the long-held belief that the animal was captured by Elias Churchill at Tasmania's Florentine Valley in 1933, however, there is no evidence to support this position and it has been dismissed.

Walter Mullins sold an adult female and three young cubs to the Hobart Zoo in 1924 and has been suggested as a possible source. However, the *Mercury* reported the last male cub died in April 1930.

Visitor testimonials describe an old, male thylacine that had been at the Zoo for many years.

Vita Brown described Ben as 'very old, sad, lonely and pacing.' She says she left and never returned.

Gilbert P Whitley says he purchased a postcard at Hobart Zoo during a visit to Tasmania in 1928. The postcard features Benjamin peering at Arthur Reid and an English setter.

Will Cramp on ABC Audio, 'Used to help on Sundays. Got to know him over the years. Developed a real empathy with him. Bones, meaty bones. Paced in a not very big enclosure. Early morning call.'

Australia's largest carnivorous marsupial, Tasmanian *Thylacinus cynocephalus*, also known as the tiger wolf, zebra wolf, marsupial wolf, hyena

opossum, Tasmanian dingo, zebra opossum and dog-faced dasyurus, was added to the Tasmanian list of wholly protected animals on 10 July 1936.

The Hobart City Council Reserves Committee Minutes reported the last captive's death on 16 September 1936.

'The Superintendent of the Reserves Committee reported, "The Tasmanian Tiger died on Monday evening last, 7th instant and the body had been forwarded to the museum"'

However, there is nothing recorded to prove the last thylacine ever arrived at the Tasmanian Museum in Hobart (TMAG), and Tasmania does not have an intact adult specimen registered in the International Thylacine Specimen Database.

The ITSD was initiated in 2005 by museums and universities to digitally photograph and catalogue all known thylacine material from around the globe.

Updated in 2017, the database includes three pouch young in the Tasmanian collection, in addition to three taxidermied mounts by the curator's daughter Alison Reid. TMAG currently has the c. 1925 mount on display, while two female mounts, c. 1928, are in storage.

Miss Reid, who increasingly took on animal care duties at the Zoo said in 1992, 'thylacines in poor condition were not offered as museum specimens, they were buried up on the bank at the zoo.'

In 1937, the Tasmanian Fauna Board expressed fears the

'native tiger' may have ceased to exist based on reliable data indicating it had been some years since the last tiger was seen in the state.

'A letter has been sent to the Attorney-General advising that there were no specimens of the Tasmanian native tiger in captivity in the State at present, the single animal which had been in the Beaumaris Zoo for some eight years having died recently ...' (10 February 1937).

A lack of primary sources, erroneous dates and conflicting reports, places emphasis on the search for archival material and the essential role the Tasmanian Tiger Archives have in unravelling the life history of the thylacines held at Hobart Zoo between 1923 and 1937.

**Above: Tasmanian Tiger (Thylacine). Photograph AA193/1/1003 from the Archives Office of Tasmania, is reproduced here, courtesy of the Libraries Tasmania Online Collection.**

**Below: The postcard from Hobart Zoo, c. 1928, showing Benjamin peering at Arthur Reid and an English Setter. Photograph AMS597/66/1 is reproduced here, courtesy of the Australian Museum, Sydney NSW.**

\* 'The earliest motion picture footage of the last captive thylacine?', Stephen R Sleightholme and Cameron R Campbell, *Australian Zoologist* volume 37 (3), 2015





ADVERTISEMENT

# Fewer flights = fewer jobs

Appearing on the ABC's *Four Corners* program, Virgin Australia chief executive Paul Scurrah revealed there is "zero doubt" the reborn airline will fly to fewer places.

"This is bad news for Tasmania and regions like Break O'Day that rely on the economic activity and jobs driven by interstate and international tourism," said federal Lyons MP Brian Mitchell.

"With high profits to be made on east coast capital city routes, Virgin Australia in the future will fly to fewer regional destinations, which are less lucrative."

Prior to the crisis, Virgin Australia operated up to 116 flights a week into Tasmania, with up to 80 of those services landing in Hobart and 36 in Launceston.

These flights were essential to the pre-COVID economy of Tasmania, and maintaining that level of service will be integral to driving economic recovery across the state.

Fewer routes will mean fewer tourists. Prior to COVID, tourism injected \$3.2 billion per annum into the Tasmanian economy and directly or indirectly supported the jobs of

43,000 Tasmanians, or a massive 17.4 per cent of all workers in the state. That is the highest proportion of any state or territory.

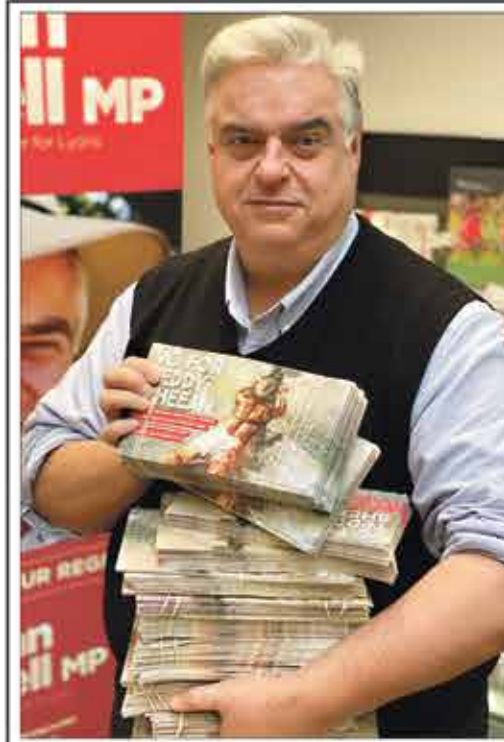
If Virgin Australia is forced to cut any of its routes to Tasmania, it is local workers in the tourism and hospitality sectors who will suffer most.

These route cuts will come after the Morrison Government rejected eight letters from the airline seeking assistance, preferring to allow it to fall into voluntary administration rather than take action to protect routes and jobs.

"Fewer routes will mean higher fares and fewer services to regional communities, costing jobs," Mr Mitchell said.

The Virgin chief also revealed the airline received "mixed signals" from the Government regarding support that might be available to the stricken airline and its 18,000 workers.

The Government did however make millions of dollars available to the foreign-owned Rex, whose deputy chair is a former Coalition minister. Rex does not fly into Tasmania at all.



• Brian with some of the 'VC for Teddy Sheean' postcards sent in by Tasmanians.

I'd like to send a big thank you to the many Tasmanians who sent in their "VC for Teddy Sheean" postcards.

The postcards have now all been sent on to the Prime Minister and, fingers crossed, Teddy will finally receive the military decoration he so deservedly earned through his valour and self-sacrifice.

Tasmanians ask for one thing in the postcards — that the PM respect the unanimous recommendation of the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal that Teddy Sheean receive the Victoria Cross.

After we launched the campaign the PM announced he was reconsidering his initial refusal to respect the DHAAT recommendation, and he's set up a new panel which is set to come back to him with a recommendation by the end of July.

Tasmanians are united on this issue, which cuts across political loyalties. Teddy Sheean deserves the Victoria Cross and it's long past time it was awarded.

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# 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





# Birds, lights and the northern prison site

By Sarah Lloyd

ANYONE WHO has been up before sunrise has probably heard the dawn chorus, i.e. the simultaneous singing of birds before sunrise. It's a wonderful natural phenomenon that I studied in the forest surrounding my home at Birralee. Several times a week I made a minute by minute note of what species were singing, and the time of their first and subsequent songs.

The dawn chorus is closely related to a bird's reproductive cycle and hormone levels which is why it is especially noticeable in late winter and early spring when birds are preparing to breed.

When I started the project in late August 2005 the blackbird-like song of the closely related Bassian Thrush started

the chorus at 6:05, 30 minutes before sunrise. (People who share their neighbourhood with blackbirds will notice that they are also early singers.)

If I documented the dawn chorus on consecutive days, species would start singing at exactly the same minute each morning! They gradually sang earlier and earlier as the days lengthened, and later as the days got shorter. My graphs illustrate the strong correlation between the time of first song and light levels (*see below*).

In a US study about the impact of artificial night lights on dawn song, researchers compared the behaviour of birds living deep in a forest to those living close to roads with streetlights.

Males of several species near streetlights started singing significantly earlier than those in the forest.

Early dawn singing is known to indicate a bird's quality to father offspring, so earlier singing because of artificial light falsely indicates a bird's fitness for breeding and may falsely advertise an inferior bird.

Females of another species started laying earlier in the season, possibly resulting in chicks being hungry before food is available, i.e. too early for invertebrates, or the availability of nectar, seeds or fruits.

I often hear flocks of migrating Silvereyes flying over our place well before dawn.

This raises another concern – the significant impact of 24-hour lighting on migratory birds. Birds use visual clues such as the position of the moon and stars when they migrate.

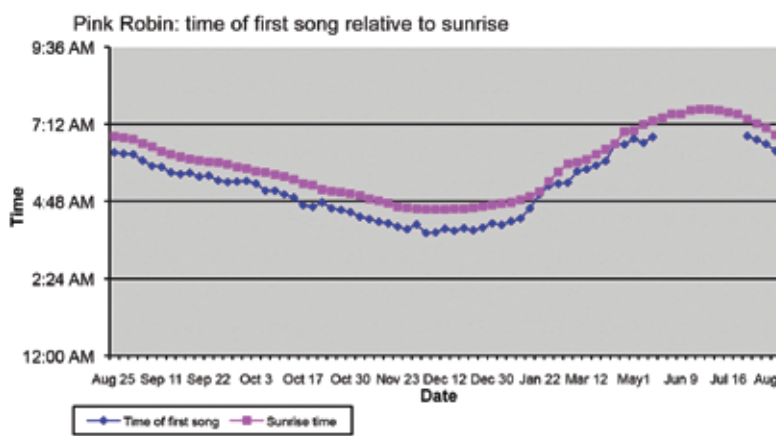
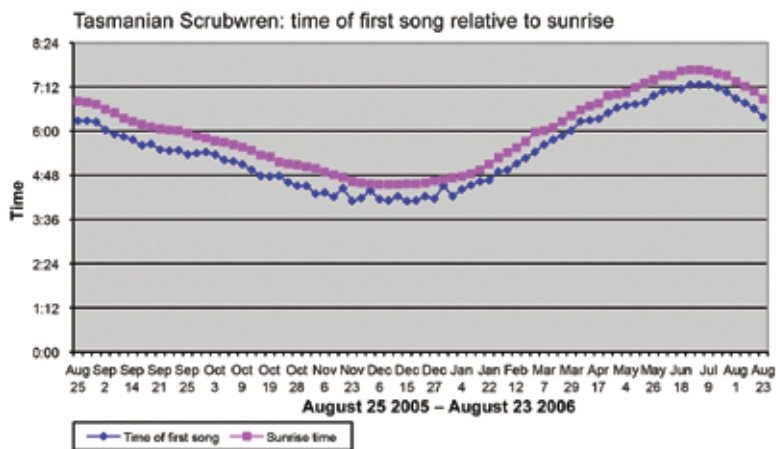
Imagine the distress of teachers and students in the US when they arrived at their well-lit school to be confronted with hundreds of dead birds scattered around the school grounds. It turned out that the birds were migrating from north America to south America and were confused by heavy fog and the illuminated school.

We take dark nights for granted, but in many parts of the world citizens have never seen a starry sky, such is the impact of light pollution.

Lighted buildings can attract, confuse and/or kill birds, and 24-hour lighting can have more subtle effects such as interfering with natural timing patterns on which all life depends.

**From top: Pink Robin, Grey Fantail and Bassian Thrush. Photos by Sarah Lloyd**

*Sarah Lloyd is a well-known Tasmanian naturalist, writer and photographer, awarded the OAM for her lifelong services to conservation and the environment.*



**The divisive social media response to the Northern Regional Prison development – page 23**



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# Purple Thistle flowers in Deloraine



Gayle Pollock, Maria and the fashion on display at the Purple Thistle. Photo by Hayley Manning

By Hayley Manning

THE OWNER of a new fun and fabulous ladies fashion shop on Emu Bay Road invites you to come in and experiment with some colour!

The Purple Thistle is named to reflect Gayle Pollock's favourite colour and her Scottish heritage.

Initially from Scotland, then WA for 35 years, Gayle moved to Westbury, a place she fell in love with the place while on holidays a year ago.

Gayle's creative flair for colour coordination and accessorising stems from an extensive background in art and design, interior design, men's and women's retail, and a 'memorable' stint in bridal wear.

'It has always been my dream to have my own business.

We have a beautiful dressing room with plenty of room to move and lots of mirrors because in many shops you just go into a cramped, dark corner,' she said.

'I encourage customers to let me come in and allow me to spin my magic – to gather garments and help you put together a unique outfit.

'We start with the basics of leggings and skivvies, and then I like to introduce colour for people to try with layering.

'I will never forget my first day at Sportscraft in Cottesloe. It was a particular company where if you sold a lot, you got a commission. At the end of the

day my manager said to me, "I am very happy with the way you conduct yourself Gayle, however, and I'm not saying you do it, but never ever say someone looks good in something if they don't look good in something because it all depends on the colour, style and fit."

The Purple Thistle features easycare, Tasmanian designed, ethically-made garments, in prints reminiscent of yesteryear, but produced in bold colours with a modern twist.

Local fashionista Maria said, 'Deloraine has been waiting for the Purple Thistle. It is an up-to-date shop with a remarkable degree of variety at a reasonable price.'



A giant COVID clear out of local wardrobes has launched Village Central Westbury in style! Photo supplied

# Recycled fashion glamour comes to Westbury village

NOW OFFICIALLY open for business, the evening of July 31 saw the start of an exciting new fashion retailer on William Street in Westbury.

Village Central Westbury is a fashion reseller established by Westbury Health for the benefit of the community.

Guests at the opening were greeted by a stylish selection of good quality secondhand and vintage mens' and womens' clothing, shoes and accessories at affordable prices.

Champagne and nibbles circulated while opening speeches thanked the Westbury Health committee members, donors and key contributors to the start-up. In the background, some serious shopping had already begun.

Florida Rickard has tastefully curated Village Central Westbury's collection. 'Many of these gorgeous clothes have come from California in the United States and some gems have come from here in Westbury. We have some truly classic pieces from the 1950s and 1960s which I am sure will be snapped up,' Florida said.

Village Central Westbury will bring additional vibrancy to William Street and will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday, from 10am-4pm.

Dinah FitzGerald, Chairman at Westbury Health explained the purpose behind the new business.

'The shop will be run by a team of dedicated volunteers and all proceeds will be channelled into community initiatives in Westbury.'

If you have some beautiful, good quality clothing that you would like to donate to Village Central, contact Florida Rickard at florida.rickard@bigpond.com or Jill Cunningham at jillcunningham1@bigpond.com.

Donations can be dropped in to the shop when it is open.

Call in and inquire about volunteering or to talk about projects for Westbury that could be considered for funding.

Find and follow Village Central Westbury on Facebook and Instagram or simply drop in to 55 William Street, Westbury and have a look around.

You'll find it hard to go away empty-handed!

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## Waterfall Valley Hut – new rest stop for walkers

BUSHWALKERS TREKKING the Overland Track within the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park can now rest overnight in a new, simple, energy efficient hut at Waterfall Valley.

Funded through the Tasmanian Government's \$16 million Improved Statewide Visitor Infrastructure Program, the Waterfall Valley Hut will accommodate 34 walkers.

The hut was designed and built Tasmanian companies Green Design Architects and AJR Construct, supporting local jobs and our economy. It features improved bushfire protection, thermal efficient design, solar power and low emission lighting.

There are also more areas for social gathering and opportunities to appreciate the stunning world heritage landscape, both during the day and at night.

Design materials have been carefully selected to blend with the landscape and complement the colours and textures of this extraordinary alpine region.

To meet COVID-19 physical distancing requirements, accommodation in the hut will be limited to 16 walkers for now.

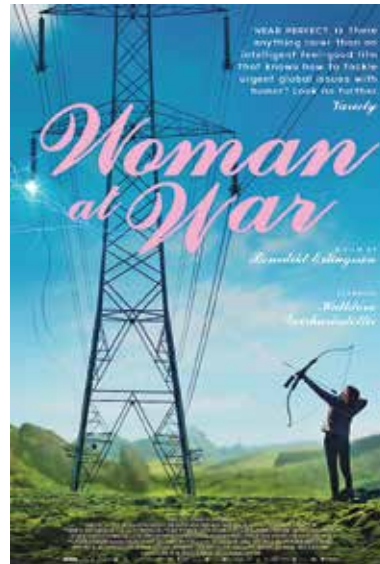
## At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society By Clare Andersen

### July movie review **WOMAN AT WAR**

M Drama 2018 Iceland/Ukraine 101m

This Icelandic drama reflected the many strong female models found in current Icelandic society. Eco-activist, Halla, single-handedly sabotages power pylons and demolishes drones with crossbow and wire, while grappling with the unexpected approval of her application to adopt an Ukrainian orphan.

Combining environmental themes with issues of sibling relationships and single parenthood, with random appearances of whimsical background music providing comic relief to the stark Icelandic landscape, the storyline held the interest of a wider audience. Worth viewing for the difference.



### August 8 **PARASITE**

MA+ Comedy/drama/thriller South Korea 132m

Directed by Bong Joon Ho, winner of the Palme d'Or 2019, *Parasite* was voted best film in the competition; the one with the most to say about how we live now.

Set in Seoul, it's about the working class Kim family and the privileged Park family, whose lives they begin to invade.

While often hysterically funny, *Parasite* also inches slowly but inexorably, into more painful territory; the final scenes pack an emotional wallop all the more powerful because you never saw it coming.

This reviewer deemed *Parasite* to be, unmistakably, art. (From the review by Shane Danielsen, *The Monthly*, July 2019.)



### August 22 **THE RIDER**

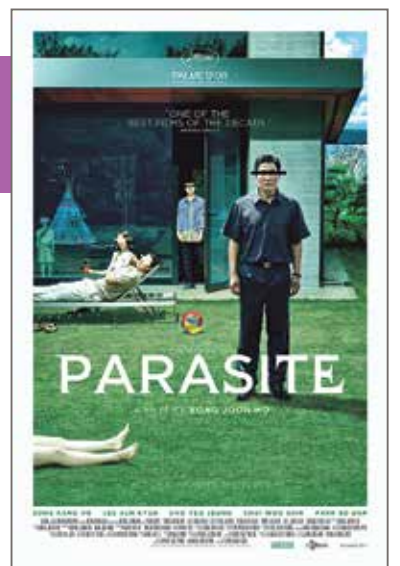
M Documentary/Drama USA 104m

Set in South Dakota's Sioux community, *The Rider* is a powerful work that looks at identity and a precarious way of life.

Once a rising star of the rodeo circuit and a gifted horse trainer, young cowboy Brady is warned that his riding days are over after a horse crushes his skull at a rodeo.

Brady undertakes a search for new identity and what it means to be a man in the heartland of America.

*Parasite* – six Academy Awards in 2020, including Best Picture



For information about the WTFS, email them at [westerntiersfilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:westerntiersfilmsociety@gmail.com) or call 0418 389 868 for a membership application and program

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# Meander Valley Council fobs off its community

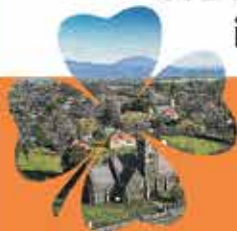
Thank you to everyone who signed the petition calling on our Council to hold a public meeting about the proposed Northern Regional Prison.

You signed in good faith that our Council would listen and hold a meeting.

In fact, nearly 800 Meander Valley residents signed the petition but it was rejected by our Council at its last meeting, for the want of a meagre 86 signatories without full addresses.

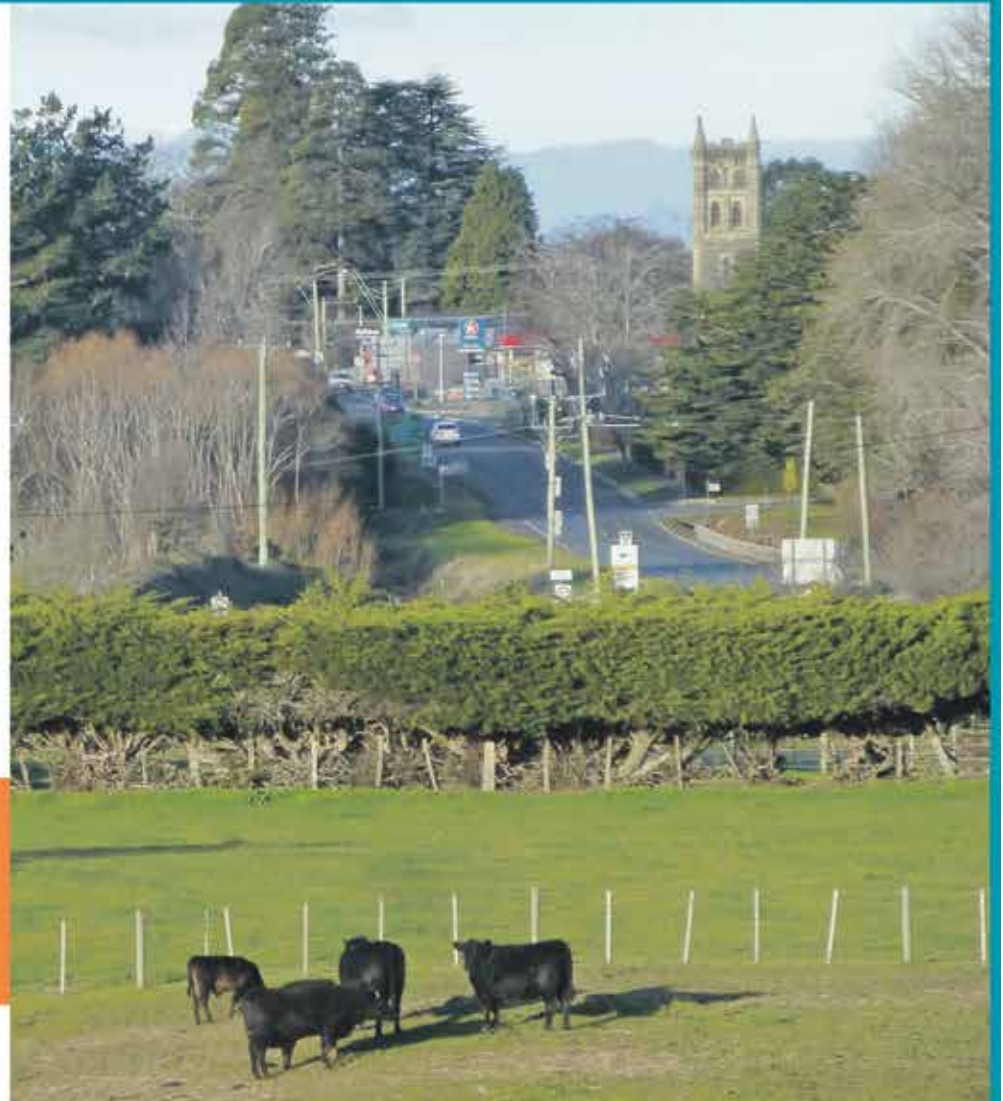
The Council has never consulted its ratepayers on this prison. The Minister held one public meeting, but will not hold another.

**We need the Council to meet with its ratepayers face to face.**



Please support our new petition asking for a public meeting. For details, visit [www.westburyregionagainstthepison.org](http://www.westburyregionagainstthepison.org)

**Unless we compel a public meeting, there may not be another one. This is the only chance you may get to ask questions in a public forum.**



To support Westbury, please visit: GoFundMe: Save Historic Westbury  
Advertisement authorized by the President, Westbury Region Against the Prison Inc. (WRAP), contact details here: [www.westburyregionagainstthepison.org](http://www.westburyregionagainstthepison.org)



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# Northern Regional Prison Project

## Update August 2020

### A new site for the Northern Regional Prison Development

This new site is Crown land on Birralee Road, located 5.2 kilometres from the Westbury town centre. The Government will not be pursuing the previous preferred site.



#### Environmental management

The Government understands the importance of protecting and managing the environment, while progressing major infrastructure developments.

The Northern Regional Prison is no exception and we will be fully cognisant of the local environment during this process. It is important to note the prison is likely to only require a footprint of approximately 15 hectares of the 70 hectare site, providing opportunities to manage environmental features on the site.

Further studies of the natural values present on the Crown land site are currently underway and the project will also be subject to all applicable environmental approval processes.

#### What did the Social and Economic Impact Study (SEIS) tell us?

The Northern Regional Prison will deliver more than 1,000 jobs and provide an economic boost of more than \$500 million to the region.

The SEIS shows that a Northern Regional Prison will deliver the following for the Northern region of Tasmania:

- an increased economic output of \$280 million due to the construction of the prison, and a further economic output of \$268 million from prison operations;
- a broader economic benefit to the region of \$92 million due to construction of the prison, and a further \$168 million from prison operations; and
- a total of 739 additional full time equivalent jobs supported during construction and an additional 372 ongoing jobs supported by prison operations, with a further 40 ongoing jobs supported indirectly.

The SEIS shows the proposed Northern Regional Prison will generate a range of other benefits to the north and north-west of Tasmania, including improved inmate rehabilitation driven by increased connectedness between inmates and their families during incarceration, leading to a reduction in crime and an economic benefit of \$29.4 million to the north and north-west regions.

The SEIS can be found on the Department of Justice website: [www.justice.tas.gov.au/strategic-infrastructure-projects/new-northern-prison](http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/strategic-infrastructure-projects/new-northern-prison)

#### What happens now?

Due diligence of the new site is currently underway. This includes investigations regarding natural values on the site, a traffic survey and identifying infrastructure requirements associated with the development.

The Government has listened carefully to the Westbury community and local businesses during an extensive community engagement and consultation process. A clear theme reiterated by community members during this process was that building the prison at a site further away from the town centre of Westbury would be preferable.

Discussions with neighbouring landowners have also been taking place and will continue to occur as work progresses.

We encourage anyone with questions to email [northern.prison@justice.tas.gov.au](mailto:northern.prison@justice.tas.gov.au)

For more information, visit [www.justice.tas.gov.au/strategic-infrastructure-projects/new-northern-prison](http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/strategic-infrastructure-projects/new-northern-prison)



## Voices of Us

HOW OFTEN have you told your story, even to sympathetic ears, but felt it had no real impact?

Disability Voices Tasmania is reaching out to Tasmanians with disability to join in building a collective voice. If you ever have been denied access, felt your views and hopes have not been respected, been excluded from education or employment opportunities or found it hard to exercise your rights, please speak with us.

Disability Voices Tasmania has been created and is managed by people with disabilities. We exist because there continues to be many systemic barriers to access and inclusion that are common to us all.

By identifying these common barriers, and harnessing the power of one common voice, we can inspire and effect meaningful change.

Last year, the pilot project Disability Voices Tasmania

conducted workshops 'Using your story to influence decision makers' and 'Developing your pitch.' What was most interesting was the commonality of issues and experiences raised, regardless of specific disability.

People with disability are no less animated, excited, thoughtful, strategic or determined to work together than any other community group. But like any group of people, our power to effect change lies in a united, collective voice that will add value to the whole community.

Disability Voices Tasmania will be holding free workshops in the near future via Zoom.

If you have a story to tell, please join us in these workshops and connect with others who have similar stories.

Please register interest by contacting Disability Voices Tasmania's Project Coordinator, on 0428 612 299 or [projects@disabilityvoicestas.org.au](mailto:projects@disabilityvoicestas.org.au).

*Disability Voices Tasmania is funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency*

## Disability employment provider APM – here to help in Deloraine

APM IS Australia's biggest provider of Disability Employment Services (DES) and has many years' experience helping Tasmanians with disability find great jobs with local employers.

DES not only gets people with disability jobs that change their lives, it also assists with educational training to further help them in the job market.

State Manager Tasmania of APM John Klug said this means APM understands job markets and how to match great job seekers with local employers.

'People with disability make excellent employees, research shows they take fewer holidays, fewer sick days and make first rate staff. A job changes everyone's life, and people with disability are no different.

'There are also a number of Federal Government wage and other adjustment subsidies available to local employers

who employ people with disability and our expert consultants know what local businesses are entitled to.'

Mr Klug said APM continued to work closely with the job-seeker and employer to ensure everything went smoothly and seamlessly through the entire employment process.

'We're here to show Deloraine businesses what fantastic employees people with disability make. We find that many businesses will come back to us again and again when they have a vacancy because they know what great staff they are,' Mr Klug said.

APM is at Shop 2, 53-55 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine and local businesses wanting more information on DES, NDIS and other employment programs APM offers can call Naomi on 0417292309 or Alison on 0436522238.

## Weaving his magic!



Jim Deghand, working at the loom in his studio space at DCS in Deloraine. Photo supplied

JIM DEGHAND is a spinner, dyer and weaver who has been a fixture at Deloraine Creative Studios for many years.

Arriving in Tasmania many years ago from the USA, Jim has lived and worked at his bush property in Jackey's Marsh in the Meander Valley for most of his life.

A drawback for anyone interested in the art and craft of textiles – a special collection of

Jim's marvellous work has been gathered together to showcase the work of a lifetime.

Bought, commissioned and collected, Jim's woven creations have been scattered far and wide around the world.

His work is represented in many public and private collections including the National Gallery in Canberra and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston.

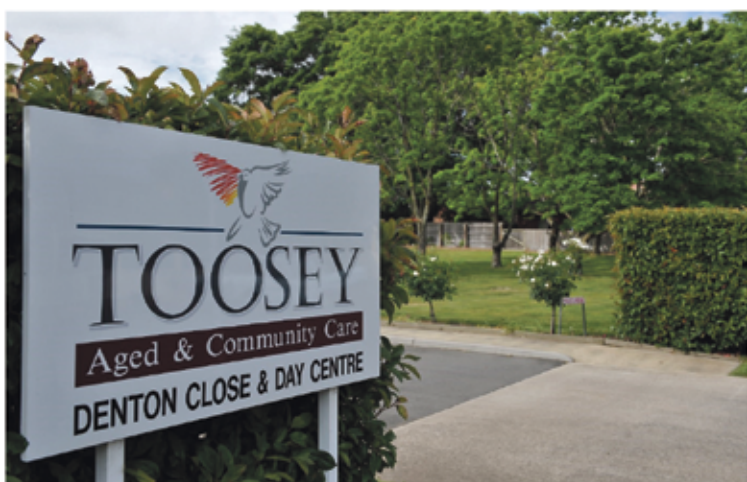
Jim's retrospective exhibition is on display this August, in the DCS gallery from Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-3pm.

Jim is usually resident on weekends, so there is an opportunity to see him at work.

The gallery collection is for display only, but Jim continues to offer new work for sale.

DCS, at 59-61 Emu Bay Road, is also home to other craft and art on display, and for sale.

# TOOSEY Caring for our community



Toosey offers Meander Valley and Northern Midlands community residents and others from surrounding areas the opportunity to stay close to their families and friends and to age in the community they have lived and worked in during their life.

Services offered to the community include:

- Residential Care
- Respite Care
- Day Centre
- Home Care/Commonwealth Home Support Services/DVA Nursing

- Rural Medical Beds
- Toosey Catering and Meal Delivery
- Independent Living Units
- Allied Health Services such as podiatrists, physiotherapists and exercise physiologists are available by appointment in the Toosey allied health room.

Contact reception, phone 6391 1202 or email [reception@toosey.org.au](mailto:reception@toosey.org.au)



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





**Gondwana**

Ancient Gondwana comprised the land masses of India, Southern Arabia, Africa, South America, Australia, New Zealand, and New Guinea.

Around 130 million years ago, this supercontinent was beginning to break up, each land mass drifting on its own plate, leaving Australia, South Africa and South America the only conjoined land masses.

With changing climates and the eventual drift northwards of South America and Australia, the rainforests of Antarctica were replaced by ice.

In the other two continents, many of the species which could not adapt to drier conditions died out, or were confined to the wetter sections.

In Australia, these were most notably the western and south western parts of Tasmania.

Our state can boast much more rainforest as a proportion of its area than any of the

others. This is not so much a matter of congratulation, as one of deep regret for the mainland states, where so much rainforest has fallen prey to development.

Information supplied by Dr MJ Brown, native species botanist.

**Economic advantage past and present**

The descendants of these historic species have, since the earliest days of European settlement, contributed enormously to Tasmania's economy.

The convict settlement on Macquarie Harbour was established to gain access to the extensive resources of the Lower Gordon and King River valleys, and exploitation of the resource continued long after the cessation of transportation.

The special qualities of Huon Pine (*Lagarostrobos franklinii*),

made the species a prime target for wholesale harvesting with the logs being floated down the rivers to the port of Strahan from 1822 onwards.

Huon Pine's prize attributes of close grain, softness and extreme durability, plus the ability to float while still green, meant that most of the West Coast's accessible pine forests were cut out by 1982.

Logging of large forests in that area was suspended at that time to allow further research into forest conservation and regeneration.

In recent decades, society's appreciation of the character of all the age-old plants has encouraged less destructive exploitation.

Over the same period, honey production, tourism, and the nursery industry have done much to establish the preservation of pure rain forest stands.

Those rainforest conifers and beech trees are still vulnerable however, when they are in unreserved forests mixed with Eucalyptus species.

Trucks may be seen bearing logs with sawn ends that show

**Wollemi Pines, living fossils**

The story of this tree, *Wollemia nobilis*, is now well known.

David Noble, a National Parks field officer, was following a creek in a hidden valley in the Blue Mountains in NSW when he noticed unusual foliage floating there. This led to the discovery of a group of previously unknown trees.

Now many thousands of trees are propagated via tissue culture, and were available in Australia, Western Europe, and the USA by the end of 2006.

I include it with the trees of Meander Valley, because they are available in some native plant nurseries in giant pots.

Given the tree's original location, it has proved to be remarkably adaptable to a range of climates from -5°C to 45°C.

Sadly, some of the trees in the site of its original discovery, which is off limits to members of the public, have been found to be infected by the fungal pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, possibly from the boots of unauthorised visitors.

A little group of these pines can be seen on public land at the Tasmanian Arboretum at Eugenana.

The original tree is surrounded by a group of young seedling trees, growing on a bank beside the pathway up to the Tasmanian collection.



Top left: Leatherwood, (*Eucryphia lucida*) is a major source of income for Tasmania and is noted for its beautifully scented blossom. Photo supplied

Left: Wollemi Pine trees, *Wollemia nobilis*, have proved to be adaptable to a range of climates. Photo by Lois Beckwith

Below: Broad beans may be sown in August and September. Photo supplied

the distinctive red colouring of Myrtle Beech (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*).

These beautiful trees are quite prolific in local river valleys around the base of the Great Western Tiers.

Tanglefoot (*Nothofagus gunnii*) is Tasmania's only deciduous native tree and sets the alpine regions ablaze, particularly around Cradle Mountain in the Autumn months.

An eminently exploitable native species, Leatherwood,

(*Eucryphia lucida*) is a notable source of income for Tasmania's economy.

Its beautifully scented blossoms (pictured) are, or were, common in Tasmania's rainforests.

Bush fires earlier this year destroyed many plants and it will be years before they can be restored in their habitat.

In fact, global warming might spell the end to these uniquely beautiful and valuable rain forest species.

SENATOR WENDY ASKEW  
LIBERAL SENATOR FOR TASMANIA

LIBERAL

*Thank you!*

Your hard work has helped to limit the spread of Coronavirus.

Please stay vigilant to keep our community safe.

46 Cameron Street  
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

**In the vegie garden**

Broad beans may be sown in August and September. Even seeds of dwarf varieties can fall victim to late spring winds.

To stabilise plants, sow them in double rows 20-30 cms apart, and 80-90 cms between each double row. They will withstand winds more if stakes are firmly driven in at each corner, and thin rope tied round the bed 20 cms from the tops of the stakes,

Peas may be sown in August, also lettuce, spring onions, cabbage, parsnips, and pumpkins in seed boxes - which can be shifted into a sheltered spot after they germinate if a late frost is predicted.





# Soul-satisfying soup

Thai style pumpkin and sweet potato soup and the many other variations on pumpkin soup are all healthy and warming winter meals.  
Photo supplied



By Wendy Hays

MY PARTNER reckons a good winter soup is the elixir of life and a cure all for all ills. While his theory may be a little far-fetched, a hearty, well made soup does have a lot going for it.

At a time when many of us are tightening our purse strings at the supermarket and loosening the belts around our waists, soup can provide much comfort and excellent nutrition at a modest cost.

Most of the recipes I will share with you over the coming months are tried and true favourites sourced from family, friends and past colleagues and students.

There are countless recipes for pumpkin soup, but this recipe, obtained from my sister, is inspired by Thai flavours

and has a sweet, robust flavour and smooth texture due to the inclusion of sweet potato.

A serve of this soup contributes significant amounts of fibre, vitamin A, iron and potassium to your daily diet.

You can vary the proportion of ingredients to suit your taste and what you have available.

Roasting the vegetables in a little olive oil until brown and tender will further develop the depth flavour.

A healthy, homemade stock will give subtlety to any soup, but stock cubes and water, liquid stock or even a cheap packet of chicken noodle soup make quick and convenient alternatives.

This soup freezes well so if you like the first batch, double or treble the recipe when next you make it and freeze for later.

## Thai style pumpkin and sweet potato soup

### Ingredients

2 brown onions – chopped  
2 tbs olive oil  
2 tsp Thai green curry paste  
2 medium carrots – peeled and chopped  
1 kg pumpkin – remove skin and seeds and cut into chunks  
2 medium sweet potato or kumara – peel and cut into chunks  
1 litre/4 cups stock – chicken or vegetable works well  
400ml canned coconut cream  
1 tbs soy sauce  
coriander to serve

### Method

- 1 Heat oil in a large saucepan and sauté the chopped onions over medium heat until soft – about 5 minutes.
- 2 Stir in green curry paste and fry stirring to coat the onion for a few minutes – take care it doesn't burn.
- 3 Add the prepared vegetables and stock, bring to the boil then simmer over low heat for 50 minutes or until vegetables are tender.
- 4 Puree the soup with a stick blender, in a food processor/blender or pass through a sieve.
- 5 Return soup to the pan and add coconut cream and soy sauce.
- 6 Taste to check seasoning and texture. Serve piping hot with a little chopped coriander if desired.

A WARM winter welcome to our new contributor Wendy Hays, who has offered to share her recipes and knowledge with readers.

Wendy has also expressed her willingness to track down requests for hard to find recipes from reader's childhoods.

In her own words, 'One of my hobbies is collecting old recipe books including handwritten ones. Some of the books in my collection date back to the 1800s.

'I enjoy these from a sociological view point in terms of the role of women in households as well as from practical perspectives.

'I am also happy to answer food, cooking and household questions that readers may have.'

## KEEP YOUR HEALTH ON TRACK



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

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

PHONE YOUR GP OR HEALTH SERVICE



[www.primaryhealthtas.com.au](http://www.primaryhealthtas.com.au)

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# Poetry Slam rocks Deloraine again!

POETRY SLAM returns to Deloraine at the Empire Hotel on 3 September.

Poetry Slam is competitive performance poetry – a thoroughly entertaining and fun event, with judges randomly chosen from members of the audience.

Heats are being held in rural and urban communities throughout Australia, with all contestants vying for a place in the Australian Poetry Slam National Final in October.

The ultimate prize, for the National Winner, is an all-expenses-paid international tour, performing at arts and writers festivals around Australia, Southeast Asia and North America.

The Deloraine Heat is free to attend and easy to enter. Contestants sign up on the night, are given two minutes to impress the judges with their own original work. No props are allowed.

If there is a placegetter tie, a second piece will be needed for a 'slam off'.

Placegetters will be awarded prizes and will compete at the Tasmanian Final in Launceston in mid-September, where two contestants will be chosen to take part in the National Final in October.

Slam Heats have inspired a love of poetry, given emerging poets a chance to expand their talents, and catapulted Tasmanians onto state, national and international stages.

The Tasmanian Heats and Final of the Australian Poetry Slam, held annually since 2007, are coordinated by Yvonne Gluyas and Joy Elizabeth.



**Top: Andi Stewart, National runnerup in 2018 and 2019. Bottom Rohan King who won the state final in 2019**  
Photos supplied

There have been many participating Tasmanian poets who have gone on to achieve successes that would not have been possible without their involvement in these events.

Last year Rohan King, who placed in the 2019 Deloraine Heat after only his second time reading his poetry in public, won the Tasmanian State Final. Within a couple of months he was in Sydney, giving a brilliant performance at the Sydney Opera House in the 2019 Australian Poetry Slam National Final, to wild applause from the appreciative audience that filled the venue!

Another high achieving local poet is Andi Stewart, who has competed in three consecutive APS National Finals at the Sydney Opera House.

Andi was awarded 'National Runner-up' in both 2018 and 2019 – a huge achievement for this former Riverside High School student!

The 2020 Deloraine Heat of the Australian Poetry Slam is being held from 7.30pm at the Empire Hotel, 19 Emu Bay Road Deloraine, on Thursday 3 September. Dinner bookings are available from 5.30pm.

All are welcome, either as a participating poet, or as a member of the audience. This is a free event, thanks to the support of Mark and Amanda Flanagan of the Empire Hotel.

As numbers are limited, please book early for dinner to ensure a seat! For more information, please contact Yvonne 0413 321 834 or email yvonne-gluyas@gmail.com.

# Forager Foods' 26TEN Grant



**John Ranicar and Tony Wright of Forager Foods.**  
Photo by Andrew Shepherd

By Lorraine Clarke

RED HILLS processor Forager Foods has secured a Tasmanian Government 26TEN Employer Grant designed to increase literacy and numeracy skills in the workplace, contributing to increased business success and productivity.

Nine organisations across the state benefited from this year's \$415,000 purse.

Forager Foods was begun in 2009 by John Ranicar. He converted the former trout, salmon and eel smokehouse built by his father Piers Ranicar, into a facility which now processes a dazzling array of fruits, vegetables, dairy, meats, pharmaceuticals, and dehydrated meals.

Tony Wright helps to write the lengthy, detailed procedures for their product range, now nearing 200. 'Our Standard Operating Procedures are quite convoluted programs. So 26TEN is helping to simplify them for all our employees.'

'In the past, we haven't had good enough systems to identify problems, so hopefully this program will allow us to identify them sooner.'

'All employees will be involved to give feedback on the process. We want to have it implemented within six months.'

The project will result in a wide range of benefits for the business and individual workers.

Improved technical writing skills will enable staff to develop workplace documentation, resulting in better workplace performance and compliance in relation to quality and food safety requirements.

Forager Foods' diverse product range can be found online at <https://www.foragerfoods.com.au/retail/>.

Employers interested in building stronger businesses, communities and skills can find 26TEN at <https://26ten.tas.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>.

## Birralee Scratchit win helps with new house

A BIRRALEE man has won \$100,000 from a \$5 Instant Scratch-It lottery ticket bought in Invermay.

Initially he thought he'd won \$10,000 but when he later checked it was \$100,000.

'I love the Crosswords Instant Scratch-It tickets. I always get them because they're entertaining,' he shared.

'I was at work having a cup of tea, about to start the day, and thought I'd quickly scratch it before I had to start.'

'Initially I thought I won \$10,000. I told one of my colleagues and he couldn't believe

it. I finished my cup of tea and decided to have another look at it. That's when I realised I'd actually won \$100,000.

'I told my colleague I'd made a mistake and in fact had won \$100,000. He almost fell out of his chair! I was over the moon. It was an incredible feeling.'

'Unfortunately, I couldn't take off the day to celebrate. I still had to work but I celebrated by going out for a nice dinner.'

When asked how he planned to enjoy his instant windfall, the elated winner said the timing couldn't be better.

'Well I am currently building my house, so timing is impeccable,' he explained. 'It will go towards the house.'

## Rates on hold and rubbish costs up in council budget

By Sharon Webb

MOLE CREEK residents who resisted joining the Meander Valley Municipality's wheelie bin collection service in March last year will be grinning while most other residents pay an extra \$18 a year increase for kerbside rubbish collection.

The 2020-21 budget kept the council's COVID-19 promises to not to increase rates, planning, building and licensing fees.

One of the few things left was rubbish collection fees, with a regular 140 litre bin increasing from \$210 to \$228, including the fixed charge of \$56 a household which did not increase.

Mayor Wayne Johnston said waste continued to be 'a challenging space'.

'Due to market driven changes, the costs associated with recycling collection and processing have risen by over 70 per cent in the past two years and as a result kerbside

collection charges have had to increase by a small margin,' he said.

'The council is continuing to be proactive in our response to this issue and as part of our annual plan we will undertake a review of waste management services to determine the best way to manage costs, meet service expectations and limit the level of waste going to landfill,' he said.

The council has an operating budget of \$21.5m, partly funded by a total of \$13m in rates, \$1.2m in fees and user charges, and grants and subsidies of \$4.4m.

It will operate at a \$2,064,800 deficit, caused mainly by its \$1.7m COVID-19 package and loss of dividends from TasWater. Pre COVID-19 the council anticipated a \$398,900 surplus.

In addition to adopting the 2020-21 budget, the council also approved its annual

capital works program, providing for \$11.5m in infrastructure projects.

Road and bridges account for \$5 million of the overall spend, with investment in recreation facilities at Prospect Vale, Hadspen and Deloraine.

Cllr Johnston said the council had been conscious of keeping costs of living down. Meander Valley's residential rates are lower than all northern neighbouring municipalities, and primary production property rates are lower than all neighbours except for Northern Midlands.

'Despite increases to our operational costs, we have fully funded our COVID-19 Community and Business Support Package, maintained capacity for capital works projects and service delivery and continue to have the lowest General Rate in Northern Tasmania,' he said.

'We are budgeting for an operating loss for 2020-21 which cannot be sustained in the long term, but consider this an appropriate measure given the difficult position many in our community find themselves.'

Senator Claire  
**CHANDLER**  
Senator for Tasmania

Get in touch with your ideas  
about how we can get...

Tasmania  
BACK IN BUSINESS

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Authorised by Senator Claire Chandler, Liberal Party of Australia, 12 Bridge St, Richmond TAS 7025





The new Deloraine Showgrounds building in progress. Photo supplied

## Organisers disappointed to cancel rural shows

RURAL GET-TOGETHERS are set to stay off the calendar for 2020 with Deloraine, Westbury and Longford Shows cancelled.

Organisers say the uncertainty of possible break-outs of COVID-19 make it impossible to organise the events.

Stacey Tweedale from Westbury Show Society said the plan to cancel its November 7 Show was disappointing but the right decision. The society recently was granted \$1200 by the RACT Community Support Fund to help make up for income lost due to COVID-19.

For Deloraine Show Society the cancellation is doubly disappointing because by the Show date of November 21 its new \$300,000 facilities would have been ready.

'Our committee made the decision after four meetings in a month,' Deloraine president Lynette Gleeson said.

'We thought it may have been possible but it was too difficult to plan. We have no staff to monitor hand sanitising and social distancing.

'Hopefully we'll be back next year, bigger and better than ever when we're not still in this predicament.'

Deloraine Show Society is hoping to attract users for its new 17m x 25m pavilion, which will include a new commercial kitchen and dining area, toilets, showers and a baby change room. It will have a capacity of around 250 people.

'The project would not have been possible without the funding we received from the Tasmanian Community Fund, the Deloraine and Districts Community Bank, the Tasmanian Government, Meander Valley Council, Rotary Club of Deloraine, Tasmanian Junior Beef Expo, as well as

funds that the Show Society have raised through our fundraising efforts,' Mrs Gleeson said.

'Thousands of people visit the show grounds each year to attend the annual show, Tasmanian Craft Fair, Deloraine Markets, Winter Fire, Tasmanian Junior Beef Expo and other shows and field days, and these are necessary improvements needed to ensure the facilities remain attractive and usable for current and potential users.'

## Valley's short term accommodation bucks state trend

A REPORT has revealed that most of the Meander Valley municipality's short stay accommodation is in ratepayers' primary residences, bucking the state trend.

The CBOS report for the first quarter of 2020 shows 61 Meander Valley accommodation venues are in primary residences and 39 are not.

Statewide, of Tasmania's 5054 accommodation venues 47.5 per cent are in primary residences with 52.5 per cent in other locations.

In surrounding municipalities the report shows Latrobe has 40 venues, Launceston 486, Northern Midlands 65 and West Tamar 164.



Geoff Richards' contribution to Westbury Show is acknowledged with the presentation of a Life Membership by Westbury Show President Kevin Lattin. Photo supplied

## Westbury showjumping legend is awarded a Life Membership

GEOFF RICHARDS is widely regarded as the best showjumping rider that Tasmania has produced.

He commenced his showjumping career at Westbury Show in the 1950s and went on to compete with great success on many different horses throughout Australia.

At a recent function to celebrate his 81st birthday at the Westbury Showgrounds, he made his last appearance on horseback when he rode his favourite mount, one of the many showjumping horses he has bred in recent years, to deliver his memoirs to the guests seated on the grandstand.

Geoff's father Frank Richards was instrumental in introducing Olympic Showjumping to the Westbury Show in 1954.

Geoff would help his father transport the jumps and build the showjumping courses.

His ambition was to make Westbury Show the best for showjumping in the state, a goal that has well and truly been realised.

Geoff was very proactive in the 1980s, acquiring sponsors, securing television coverage and inviting mainland course designers and competitors to lift the profile of showjumping at Westbury Show.

As a competitor he won the Showjumping Championship at Westbury Show on numerous occasions.

He was a wonderful role model to young riders whose participation he encouraged with the Ansett Young Riders Award.

## Showjumping days at Westbury Showgrounds

A WONDERFUL opportunity for showjumpers to train over a full course will be provided at a Freshmans' Day that will be conducted at the Westbury Showgrounds on Saturday 29 August.

With the starting height at 45cms, progressing during the day by 10 cm increments up to 1.15m, each horse will be given 2 minutes to practise on the course either at two different heights or twice at the same height.

An accredited showjumping coach will be available to volunteer assistance if required.

This user-friendly day will be of great benefit to young or inexperienced horses and riders, and also to more seasoned combinations preparing for forthcoming competitions.

One such competition will be the Gala Day that will be conducted by the Northern Branch of Showjumping Tasmania at the Westbury Showgrounds on Saturday 12 September.

COVID-19 protocols will apply with details available on the entry forms. Entry for both days will be through nominate.com.au. For enquiries, contact Judy Kilby on 0439 334 663.

## RETAIL DIRECTORY

Advertising enquiries to advertising@meandervalleygazette.com

Phone 6286 8216



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**MEANDER VALLEY Community Radio**  
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**Memberships now due!**

It's time to renew your membership for 2020-21. Your support is needed more than ever as we consolidate broadcasting and expand what we do in the community. We are always looking for new presenters and station staff.

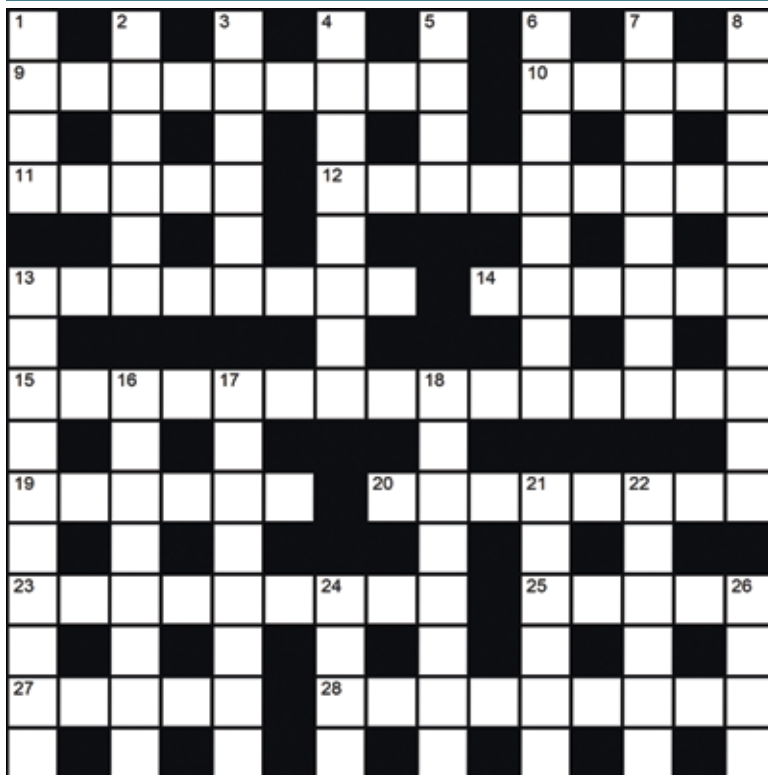
Our 2020 AGM will be held at 5pm on Thursday 24 September at 60 Emu Bay Road - members only. We welcome nominations for committee positions and motions for consideration.

To renew your membership, application forms can be picked up from the Bendigo Bank, Mummabuzz Café, Wholesome House or the MVFM studio at 59-61 Emu Bay Road.

You can also call us at 6362 4969 or download a form from mvfm.com.au.

**We would love to hear from you!**

## Crossword



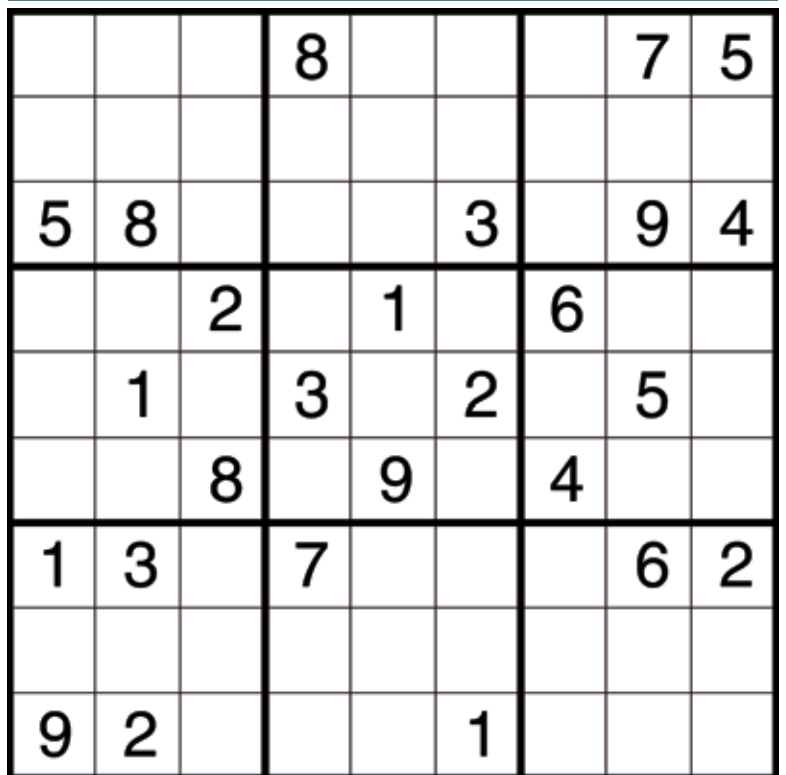
**Across**

- 9 Independent kind of writer (9)
- 10 Broadcasting (2, 3)
- 11 Hold sway (5)
- 12 Immigrant-processing island (9)
- 13 Somewhere unimportant (4, 4)
- 14 Geniality (6)
- 15 Flinders Island climbing challenge (10, 5)
- 19 Teach bit by bit (6)
- 20 Egg-laying mammal (8)
- 23 Widespread shrub with petal-less flowers (9)
- 25 Gesture of indifference (5)
- 27 Frequently (5)
- 28 Clover bush (6, 3)

**Down**

- 1 At a distance (4)
- 2 South North American republic (6)
- 3 Completely redone (3-3)
- 4 Short true story (8)
- 5 Mean (4)
- 6 Mallee archaeological site (3, 5)
- 7 Meryl Streep musical (5, 3)
- 8 Product of an arms factory? (10)
- 13 President saw nothing wrong (10)
- 16 Honours (8)
- 17 Variants (8)
- 18 Pro golfer known as 'The Pymble Crusher' (3, 5)
- 21 Prepares a salad (6)
- 22 Equivalence (6)
- 24 Corporate image (4)
- 26 Plot holes (4)

## Sudoku



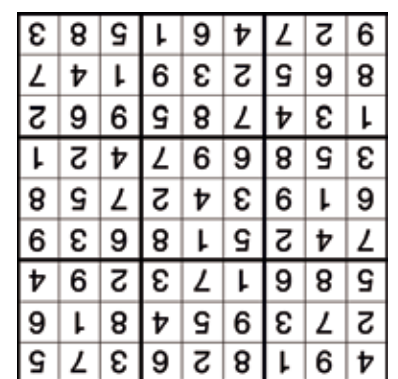
© 2020 Syndicated Puzzles

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

Crossword August 2020 solution



Sudoku August 2020 solution



## Meander Valley Gazette is now accredited for Centrelink.

If you are thinking about volunteering and have some useful skills that could help produce our paper, then please get in touch. Call 6286 8212 or email us at [general@meandervalleygazette.com](mailto:general@meandervalleygazette.com). You can find us at the office we share with the Deloraine Online Access Centre, 21 West Parade, Deloraine.



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Events or reopenings back on the calendar or postponed until 2021? Email the details to [advertising@meandervalleygazette.com](mailto:advertising@meandervalleygazette.com) and we will add them to our list.

Date	Event or business	Details
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
Any time	Bonorong Wildlife Rescue	Call to report finding injured and orphaned birds and wildlife 0447 264 625
Every Monday, 1.30-3pm	Music therapy for NDIS participants	Magic of Music Deloraine High School Music Room (enter via East Church St) Info Dee 0499 179 055 or Alex 0409 891 118, booking essential
Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm	Community House	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd Call 6362 2678 for advice on a wide range of services and programs
Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm	Community Health Centre	Westbury Community Health Centre & Day Centre Call 6701 2150 for health and community services
Most library services resumed	Deloraine Library	2-4 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine, Ph 6701 2180 <a href="http://www.libraries.tas.gov.au">www.libraries.tas.gov.au</a> for hours
Most library services resumed	Westbury Library	33 William St, Westbury, Ph 6701 2189 <a href="http://www.libraries.tas.gov.au">www.libraries.tas.gov.au</a> for hours
Every Tuesday, 10am-12 noon	Hadspen Playgroup	During school term Uniting Church Hall, corner of Clare and Main St Contact Andrew Keena 6393 6324
Every day 1am-3pm	Pearn's Steam World	Reopening in August, Winter hours as usual.
Sat 8 August, 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>Parasite</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine MA+ Comedy/Drama/Thriller 2019 South Korea 132m Info 0418 389 868
Sat 22 August, 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>The Rider</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M Drama/Western 2017 USA 104m Info 0418 389 868

### COVID-19 event changes

<b>Westbury Show</b>	Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 the Westbury Show committee has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Westbury Show.
<b>Deloraine Show</b>	Deloraine Show has been cancelled due to the impact and uncertainty created by the coronavirus pandemic but will be back in 2021.
<b>Tasmanian Craft Fair</b>	Scheduled for Friday October 30 to Monday 2nd November with Tasmanian exhibitors only but interstate exhibitors will have an online presence.
<b>Agfest 2021</b>	The 2021 Agfest Committee are planning a socially-distanced event next year Information: Dylan Bellchambers 0448 344 380 Email: <a href="mailto:media@agfest.com.au">media@agfest.com.au</a>
<b>Westbury Market</b>	Reopening likely to be in September, but not before Contact Rob Menzie 0417 931 619 for more information



# Guy Barnett a target over duck shooting

By Sharon Webb

DUCK SHOOTING has landed local Lyons MHA Guy Barnett in choppy waters after it appeared he allowed the 2020 season to go ahead even though he was advised it was a bad idea.

Greens leader Cassie O'Connor released details of a draft Parliamentary minute gained under Right To Information advising the Resources Minister that the eight locations traditionally opened for duck hunting should remain closed.

The locations included the Meander Valley's Rushy Lagoon Reserve and closure aimed to protect a core part of the Tasmanian and eastern Australian wild duck population.

Duck numbers in SA, Victoria and NSW had been affected by prolonged drought and Tasmanian breeding ducks were needed to replace them, the minute read. Those states were also reducing duck shootings this year.

'The Tasmanian wild duck population is an integral part of the eastern Australian wild duck population that is considered to be an important source of breeding stock to repopulate wetlands in mainland states following drought and should therefore be managed consistently across eastern Australia,' it said.

Despite this, Mr Barnett allowed the season to go ahead from March 7 until June 16. It's unknown exactly how many

ducks were killed but in 2019 licenced hunters shot around 49,000.

The Liberal bureaucracy has waded in to Mr Barnett's defence, with newly-appointed DPIPW boss Tim Baker saying it's his job to make the hunting call, not Mr Barnett's.

'The draft minute was under development and produced prior to further survey results being compiled which subsequently showed no significant decline in wild duck counts for 2020,' he said.

'I received formal advice on 25 February 2020 confirming that survey results showed no significant decline in wild duck counts for 2020.'

Mr Barnett maintains 25 years of DPIPW surveys on wild duck populations show no evidence of long-term decline in numbers.

In March he commented in Parliament on duck shooting: 'It is an important part of the Tasmanian way of life. It is part of what makes Tasmania great.'

At the time the Greens' Rosalie Woodruffe said, 'That the Liberals see killing native animals as fundamental to the "Tasmanian way of life" is revolting.'

'Birdlife Tasmania has notified the Government that mainland ducks are flying to Tasmania to seek shelter from this year's worst drought in recorded history, and from the devastation wrought by climate change-induced bushfires.'

'Instead of finding shelter, those birds will be live targets for the next three months.'

By David Claridge

WHAT WAS meant to be a promising year for Deloraine Football Club turned into a waiting game. Waiting for answers. How bad was COVID-19 going to get? Would there be any matches played in 2020?

The club's fighting spirit endured as players found ways to maintain fitness in restricted circumstances, keeping playing hopes alive.

Lochie Dornauf, the Senior's Coach, explained how players set their own training programs and followed COVID-19 rules. 'Forty-five turned up at our first official training. With no commitment to play, no games set, it was extremely encouraging.'

'We built up from groups of ten to groups of twenty and later unrestricted. The players completed fitness work in the form of pushups and running, as a way of raising awareness and supporting families who have given so much to the club. Together they raised \$2320.'

The chosen charities were for Motor Neurone Disease and Lyme Disease, the latter for Georgia Eastley, daughter of former U19 coach and senior assistant coach David Eastley.

All of the hard work paid off as the NTFA deliberated on matches to be played but not for premiership points. The season officially kicked off with a series of games on July 18.

Deloraine's U21s defeated Bracknell 86-53 while the seniors also beat Bracknell 82-46.

Deloraine then went on the following week to face the Meander Valley Suns. A match up of two different divisions, their first match against the former Westbury FC since 1983 saw the Kangaroos bounce home 151-1.



Deloraine Kangaroos are flying high this season with a decisive win over the Meander Valley Suns. Photo supplied

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## Trees spiked in the Central Highlands

THE STATE Government has accused environmentalists of targeting McKay Timbers with more than 30 spikes being found in logs harvested from a Permanent Timber Production Zone in the Central Highlands.

Resources Minister Guy Barnett said apart from costing the timber mill about \$17,000 in damaged equipment, it had the potential to cause grievous injuries to mill workers.

'These spikes have now been removed and today we can see these cleared logs being processed into high quality Tasmanian timber products for construction and appearance grade timber,' Mr Barnett said.

'The Tasmanian Government supports the right to peacefully protest but we must also ensure hard-working Tasmanians can go to work and run their legal businesses free from threats and disruption, which is the reason for our Workplace Protection Laws.'

## Free naloxone trial will save lives

THE STATE Government has begun a trial of free take-home naloxone to help combat opioid-related overdoses.

A fast-acting nasal spray reversing the effects of opioid overdose, naloxone is safe to use and side effects are rare.

Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, Jeremy Rockliff said 'The trial will be available through primary Needle and Syringe Program providers across the State.'

For more information contact Tasmanian Alcohol and Drug Services, on 1300 139 641.

# Antisocial media fuels Northern Prison divide

By Sharon Webb

COMMENTS POSTED on two Facebook sites, the Northern Regional Prison Information Page and *The Examiner*, indicate the depth of the rift among Westbury residents on the prison proposal and the delight taken by people in both the north and south of the State in ridiculing others' views.

One of the lighter issues canvassed in a competition on the NRP Information Page is alternative meanings of the anti-prison acronym WRAP.

Westbury resident Grace Rock, who posts media stories about the prison on the site, ran the competition offering a winner prize and listing some suggestions: We Rage Against Progress, We Really Are Painful, We Rarely Act Positive.

Anna Hayward of Launceston won with her entry, Westbury Residents Against Progress – but not before entries descended in smutty name-calling such as We R Arse Pains was posted by Grace Rock.

A more serious issue was triggered by a letter by Ms Rock printed in *The Examiner*. Also printed on the NRP Information Page, the letter accuses prison objectors of treating children cruelly. The *Gazette* cannot repeat the accusation as it is defamatory.

Ms Rock says objecting to the prison is 'white collar criminal behaviour', before, inexplicably, her letter strays onto the subject of organ donation.

The letter was one prompt for WRAP president Linda Poulton to announce she was leaving leave the site, to the jeers of prison supporters.

🙄 *Robert Anderson:* Isn't she precious? So sad to see you leave sweetie! Gets a bit of heat in the kitchen and does the bolt.

😏 *Karen Williams Baker:* Lol oh lookie someone who feels she has to make an exit speech...don't let the door hit you on the way out, go spread your bs elsewhere...

😭 *Meg Youd:* Just built it already so many cry babies

😂 *Kerrie Austin:* Taken her bat and ball and going home

WRAP's failed public meeting petition with repeated signatures and missing signature addresses was also denigrated.

😏 *Nadine Anthony:* They're clutching at straws and deceitfully falsifying petitions? I'm giggling alright

😡 *Kerrie Austin:* I'd love to ring every person on the petition and see if they actually provided their details

😱 *Grace Rock:* As much as I support recycling, the recycling of signatures is an illegal activity

Ms Rock continues, 'that type of activity borders a crime called scam and / or identity theft. I don't know why you were not taken to court for that.'

WRAP president Linda Poulton replied that the remark 'crosses a significant line. In essence you have asserted that I, as a legal practitioner, have engaged in quasi criminal conduct.

'I require that this post be removed immediately.

'This comment joins many others defamatory posts on this page. This is something that everyone who posts and the page administrator need to be mindful of. I am leaving this page because it is populated by intolerable and unsubstantiated content.'

Writers on the NRP and *Examiner* Facebook pages also ridiculed wildlife arguments.

😏 *Nadine Anthony:* Endangered species? Maybe the Wedgies are....but I have the grey AND white Goshawks here, along with the owls? Just ask my chooks....

😏 *Em Jay:* Don't forget to add half a dozen spotted frogs and a previously unknown bird that lays rainbow eggs

😡 *Roly Rolstar, Claremont:* When this fails, it'll be time for the sacred aboriginal stories that, even though untold until now, will demand the halt to any kind of development

On both sites, abuse and name-calling is rife among commenters as far away as Hobart.

😏 *Shane Andrews:* winging Westbury woswers wouldn't be happy if it was at Port Davey. I was thinking Macquarie Island might be more suitable

Which received the following reply from a Hobart resident.

😏 *Vanessa Sabiurroff:* they just eradicated all the vermin on Macquarie. Don't send down more

😡 *Lesley Anne Loone:* This mainland, pot stirring cow at Westbury just needs to shut the hell up!! Lets face it Westbury is no quaint little country hamlet, they have their fair share of junkies and thieves and police intervention, certainly not the quiet pristine place these idiots are making it out to be!! And before all you keyboard warriors start yes I have seen it first hand!!

Karen Williams Baker calls WRAP members 'some clowns at westbury' and 'despicable people'; Rhonda Floyd labels them 'bloody ostriches' and Kathleen Cooper 'small minded people'.

Mystifyingly, the Westbury resident Andrea Coopman Badcock blamed WRAP members for making her look 'ridiculous and petty' in her workplace.

Please note that all spelling and punctuation mistakes in this story are copied directly from the Facebook pages. All comments were made by adults.

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