



### IT'S A WILD LIFE IN WESTBURY

Cockies, frogs and bandicoots

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### LIGHTING UP THE PAGES

Farewell to a great photographer

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### THE GRASS IS GREENER!

Tas Alkaloids opens up new cannabis facility

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# Meander Valley Gazette

Free every month

September 2020

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper

## A quiet springtime in the sunshine



With recently hatched goslings and confirmed joeys of Tasmanian devils, quolls and bandicoots, there will be a lot to see at Trowunna Wildlife Sanctuary over the warmer months. Overseas and interstate visitors are locked out so Trowunna is having a quiet time. Tasmanians should take the opportunity to have a close encounter with the residents, before the crowds come back. Trowunna at Mole Creek, is open daily from 9am–5pm, with free tours as part of the entry fee. *Photo by Hayley Manning*

## Westbury historic trees chainsawed by neighbour

By Sharon Webb

THE LIVES of six heritage trees at Fitzpatrick's Inn in Westbury may be drastically shortened after a neighbour took to them with chainsaws.

Resident Robert Grey decided to rid himself of trees on the adjoining boundary of his property and Fitzpatrick's Inn which were standing in the way of his development project.

He called in HST tree specialists to take advantage of a Heritage Tasmania blunder in accidentally not listing the 150 year-old trees, labelling his actions as being 'for safety reasons'.

When asked for comment, Meander Valley councillor Frank Nott said he was not happy with Mr Grey's actions and that it was 'a bad outcome for Westbury'.

'It's a bit of overkill, not a good look – and it won't make Westbury residents happy.'

Police said they could do nothing and Fitzpatrick's Inn owner Pam Swain was in tears as the sound of three chainsaws reverberated at the end of her garden for about seven hours.

'I'm passionate about sharing and protecting the history of this building and its gardens while I'm here,' she said.

'I think there's no retrieval from here. Taking off the limbs from one side of the trees will make them dangerous so they will have to come down. That will be at my cost because they are on my land.'

The trees were the subject of vigorous discussion at the Meander Valley Council August meeting because Mr Grey has applied to subdivide his property at 34 Marriott Street and build three extra residences on the land.

The trees are in the boundary area of the two properties but councillors learned that neither owner knew exactly where the boundary was.

In addition, one of the three proposed residences was only 1.75m away from the boundary area – more than the prescribed 1.5m distance but still bound to affect the roots of the trees.

For that reason councillors rejected the planning application, with the clear hope that Mr Grey would rethink his plan and build only two extra residences on his block.

Instead, Mr Grey decided to axe the branches of the trees overhanging his land because, as councillors had heard from Mrs Swain, Heritage Tasmania had 'bungled' the heritage listing of the trees and they were not protected.

The time gap between Mr Grey's planning application going to council and Heritage Tasmania rectifying its listing gave Mr Grey legal leeway to arrange for the tree lopping.

'This is nothing to do with the development proposal,' Mr Grey said as he watched three men with chainsaws do their work up the trees. 'This is a safety issue. In 2017, my tenant's carport was destroyed by limbs falling from these trees.'

Mr Grey was clearly uncomfortable about his action.

'I won't come out of this well, will I?' he asked.

[More on this story – page 2](#)

# Dispute likely over units adjoining historic Westbury property



Left off the Heritage Tasmania register by mistake, historical trees at Fitzpatrick's Inn in Westbury have their branches lopped by the owner of the adjoining property, an action that was justified as a safety issue. Photo supplied

By Sharon Webb

AN APPLICATION to build three modern units on a Westbury block with historic trees on its boundary will go to Tasmania's planning tribunal after Meander Valley councillors blocked it.

The dispute underlines Meander Valley municipality's lack of protection for heritage items in its current and future planning schemes.

Robert Grey, the owner of the block at 34 Marriott Street applied to Meander Valley Council to subdivide and build three units (in addition to the existing house), one of which will be 1.75m from Fitzpatrick's Inn boundary with six historic trees.

The boundary line is unclear and Heritage Tasmania is said to have 'bungled' heritage listing of the trees, which for 30 years were presumed to be protected.

After hearing from the Inn's owner, Pam Swain, councillors voted to block the application.

Puzzlingly though, they also blocked planning officers' recommendations to keep the privet hedge which would have hidden the units from Meander Valley Road.

Mrs Swain said she didn't object to the development but wanted to protect the trees, now 100-150 years old.

'Unit one is 1.78m away from the boundary and if branches and roots are removed in the building process the trees may die – or are likely to come down in a storm and fall on a house and its occupants,' she said.

'These trees are there now and according to the arborist they have a long lifespan.'

'Surely there is room for change to allow for the trees and the development? I am looking for a win-win solution to this.'

Councillors Kelly and Sherriff supported the development, while Cllr Cameron said a

better configuration for the units was needed.

Cllr Rodney Synfield would not support the development and Cllr Frank Nott was of the same view.

'It's totally out of character and we've now removed protection for the hedge which may have partially hidden the site,' Cllr Synfield said.

'The local area objective says any new development is to be designed such as it does not dominate or detract from heritage character or adjoining residential character.'

Cllr Nott said, 'The character of the area is important and I am conscious of Fitzpatrick's Inn's status not only in Westbury but in northern Tasmania.'

'I'd be more likely to support two units on the block but my key point is I need to know exactly where that boundary is.'

A Heritage Tasmania spokesperson said Fitzpatrick's Inn is entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register as a place of historic cultural heritage significance to Tasmania.

'A stand of mature trees on the property's eastern boundary was believed to be included in the listing but further investigation found them to be on a separate property title that is not currently subject to the provisions of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*.

'The fact these trees are not heritage-listed does not reduce their importance or heritage value.'

'Heritage Tasmania will review this matter, in consultation with the owner, and determine if the entry for the Fitzpatrick's Inn should be amended to include the property's historic trees to give them due recognition as a heritage feature of this place.'

Cllrs Johnston, King, Kelly and Sherriff supported the development while Cllrs Nott, Synfield, Temple, Cameron and Bower rejected it.

## Councillors excited by new butcher/café for Mole Creek

By Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY councillors have told seven Mole Creek objectors and 78 residents opposing another café in the small town that a \$360,000 new butchery café is 'fantastic' and 'exciting for Mole Creek'.

At the council's August meeting Cllrs Susie Bower and Stephanie Cameron enthused over the planning application by wealthy Sydney landowner Denis Durham, with Cllr Bower commenting, 'Research in small towns found having more cafés brings a sense of excitement and more people stop there. Let's hope for Mole Creek it's a positive effect!'

Cllr Michael Kelly agreed with them.

But other councillors hearing Mr Durham's application recognised that a town of only 200 people may not be able to support so many cafés and a new one might affect the livelihoods of others.

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

Cllr Frank Nott acknowledged the concern of those who had petitioned against the butchery café, which is part of Mr Durham's larger plan for an abattoir to supply the butchery with meat from his Mole Creek property, The Den.

'I think personally this may affect the value of neighbouring properties and competition policy but they're not planning

matters. If one business is in town and another comes in that can have an effect but it's survival of the fittest,' he said.

Cllr Rodney Synfield said he was not convinced the planning scheme got matters like this right 'but it's how we assess it at the moment'.

The application was passed unanimously with amendments to pedestrian access and parking, and the addition of a landscaping plan, a drainage plan and privacy screening.

Planners also stipulated that if stormwater is to be managed onsite, discharge is to be located outside of the identified karst buffer zone and is to be fitted with a spreader or similar dispersal system designed to mimic overland flow.

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Authorised by Rebecca White MP 33 Cole St Sorell



# Pretty fly, in any language

Casting his line in the Meander River, Mungunkhuyag Adiya, a keen fly fisher from Mongolia, took part in the 39th FIPS-Mouche World Fly Fishing Championship held in Tasmania at the end of 2019. For current fishing information download the free InFish app, visit [www.ifs.tas.gov.au](http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au) or head to Sherriff Fishing and Outdoors on Facebook. *Photo by Hayley Manning*

By Hayley Manning

KEEN FISHING enthusiasts grab your rods and tackle – there are prizes to be won!

The Inland Fisheries Service has released brown trout into popular Tasmanian lakes for two fishing competitions around the state.

A total of \$50,000 can be won in the Tagged Trout Promotion, with five blue-tagged trout worth \$10,000 each, released into Lakes Burbury, Pedder and Rowallan, Arthurs Lake and yingina/Great Lake.

Also underway at Huntsman Lake in Meander, Sherriff Fishing and Outdoors' Tagged Trout Competition received five tagged trout. A prize pool of \$3,500 is up for grabs, along

with a bonus second chance prize draw for those who catch a fish that is not tagged.

Matt Sherriff said he was keen to promote the Huntsman Lake as a beautiful, low pressure fishing area with ease of access.

'Tasmania is unique, with so many good things to enjoy.

'With everything that has gone on this year, people need to get out and see what's about. Fishing in a place like this can help clear the mind by allowing us to take a breather away from our everyday life,' he said.

'We love fishing here in lower light first thing in the morning or leading into dusk on cloudy days with a slight breeze. Fishing on warm, sunny days is very hard work.

'Happy fishing everyone!'

## Former Ashley detainees claim abuse

By Sharon Webb

MORE THAN 100 former detainees from Ashley Detention Centre have come forward to claim abuse by staff or other detainees in the hope of gaining more compensation than the National Redress Scheme would have provided.

Hobart lawyer Sebastian Buscemi will run a class action and individual cases, the first of which may be brought to court before the end of this year.

Mr Buscemi, of the Hobart office of Victorian law firm Angela Sdrinis Legal, said the class action claims related to isolation of detainees, use of strip searches and use of a scabies cream that caused burning.

'Former detainees came forward during the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, giving evidence in a private session,' he said.

'The individual cases relate to detainees' claims of specific acts of sexual or physical assault by detention centre staff or residents.'

Mr Buscemi said former detainees have only come forward with claims recently because until July 2018 there was a limitation period to pursue this sort of action.

'There was a national limitation period of three years from the injury but that has now been removed. In cases of physical and sexual abuse of children we now know that on average it takes 33 years for people to understand the effect of abuse on them.

'As we've begun to prepare the case, the number of people coming forward has grown. We're now at the stage of building the finer details of the case.'

Former detainees are taking legal action rather than

seeking compensation through the National Redress Scheme for institutional sexual abuse because the scheme 'doesn't provide the level of compensation of legal action' according to Mr Buscemi.

Mr Buscemi said his Victorian legal firm is doing the work because Tasmanian firms hadn't taken on this kind of case yet.

Currently run by the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services, Ashley Youth Detention Centre on the Meander Valley Road outside Deloraine began unsuccessfully in 1914 as an experimental agriculture school. It reopened in 1922 as the Ashley Home for Boys using farm work as a reform method.

In 2000 it was named the Ashley Youth Detention Centre, gaining the high fence perimeter, security measures and staffing of a youth prison.

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## Letter from the Editor

ONLY TWO letters this month, so hopefully everyone is taking a well-earned break and looking forward to the warmer weather.

I doubt that the lack of correspondence is because all the contentious issues in the Valley have gone away.

Some of the stories in this edition would seem to indicate that when old problems are resolved, they are just replaced by new ones.

One always hopes that polite debate and intelligent action can resolve most conflicts. But the world at large demonstrates every day that this is not the case.

On a positive note, there has been a good response to our first Gazette give-away offer, a stay at Somerset on the Pier down in Hobart.

The competition closes on September 18, so don't forget to send in an entry form before throwing out the August edition of the Gazette.

Springtime has also brought the Gazette some good news, with the Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications awarding

the Gazette a grant through the Public Interest News Gathering Program (PING).

The objective of the PING Program is to support regional broadcasters and publishers to maintain or increase their production and distribution of public interest journalism in regional Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On behalf of all who contribute their time and experience to the Gazette and Meander Valley Connect, we would like to say thank you very much.

We also need to say a second sincere thank you to the Federal Government for a second grant, made available through the Regional and Small Publishers Innovation Fund.

This is a competitive grants program designed to support regional and small publishers to transition to and compete more successfully in the evolving media environment.

And I would also like to say thank you to the Gazette staff and volunteers who helped us put together our successful grant applications.

Liz Douglass,  
Managing Editor,  
Meander Valley Gazette

## Letters to the Editor

WHAT CAN explain the wild disparity between the wild duck populations claimed by Minister Guy Barnett and his DPI/PWE boss Tim Baker, who claim ducks are doing well, and those of eminent UNSW waterfowl expert Professor Richard Kingsford who reported that the duck numbers are about 10% of what they were in 1983 (*Guy Barnett a target over duck shooting*, *MVG* p. 21, 08/2020)?

According to Guy and a boss in his portfolio, the birds were relatively unfazed by the mainland bushfires, which killed an estimated 3 billion animals in SE Australia, combined with

a severe drought, and didn't deserve any break from people who most appreciate water birds as recreational moving targets.

It's hard to tell if Guy is motivated most by a yearning to see more Tassie wildlife consigned to the same fog of nostalgia as the Thylacine, which was the subject of a large bounty falsely put on it probably for the sheep predations of far more numerous feral dogs, or if Guy is simply aping Donald Trump, who is trying to woo a similar demographic by revoking nearly a hundred wildlife protection orders.

John Hayward, Weeena

EVEN IF one believed Meander Valley Council's claim of having only spent \$60,000 on legal fees defending teen challenges ill fated take over of the Old Meander Primary School, ratepayers will be pleased to know that if Teen Challenge had remained leasing the property

for \$1 per year, then the legal costs would be fully paid back in sixty thousand years!

With financial management like that, under Mayor Johnson's tenure, ratepayers can look forward to many years of steady rate rises.

Kim Booth, Meander

**Noisy, destructive and a delight to watch. No, not the neighbours! Experts say it's a myth that black cockatoos are harbingers of bad weather. They are just out and about more often in autumn and winter months. A large flock has been making their presence known across Westbury recently. Photo supplied**



There's a cockatoo in the garden!

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

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## Four generations of Deloraine's racing history

By Sharon Webb

WHETHER YOU'RE talking horse or greyhound racing, it all started four generations ago in Fred Eade's blacksmith shop in Emu Bay Road.

The blacksmith shop is still there today, complete with horseshoes and sundry metal bits. As you drive past Gayle Gerrard's home next door to Deloraine House, you'd never guess the significance of her old shed in Deloraine's racing history.

As Fred's great grandson Stephen Gerrard tells it, Fred still shod horses there into his 80s. Many of the wrought iron fences and gates around Deloraine were made there by Fred's son, William (Cobber). Fred's second son Graham, Stephen's grandfather, drove Tasmania's trains for 40 years.

'Fred had trotters, and Graham and Cobber drove and trained trotters,' Stephen said.

'They raced in Carrick and Sheffield and at Elphin in the days before horse floats. They walked their horses to the races.'

The two sons' mother, originally Lila Oliver from Beulah, was also a horsewoman with trotters, attending Deloraine's famous thoroughbred Easter Races well into old age. She died 12 hours before her 107th birthday in 1991.

Train driver Graham Eade married Vonnie Kelly from Ulverstone and their daughter and Stephen's mother, Gayle, carried on the racing interest when she married a trainer of gallopers, Mal Gerrard.

'Mal came from NSW and was originally a jockey,' said former Deloraine Rotary president Gayle.

'We met after he rode in the Easter Races in Deloraine, at an Easter Monday dance at Red Hills.'

The rest is history as they say. Mal retired as a jockey and moved to Deloraine to train

thoroughbreds in the stables near the football ground – with great success, according to Stephen.

'Robin's Boy was Dad's first good horse. He won the Queen's Cup in 1968 and named the stables Robins Lodge after that win. Those stables floated down the river after a big flood and were rebuilt.

'Dad was the best of the best and his horses won every big race in Tasmania except the Hobart Cup.

'Win the Trick owned by local Geoff Atkins won the Devonport Cup in 1969, Red Tornado won the Launceston Cup in 1970 and Ebon Beat won Easter Monday's Grand National Steeple Chase in 1972 at Deloraine.

'After a race win in 1970, Dad met Queen Elizabeth at Mowbray. He said they spoke for a long time about horses.'

Well-known Deloraine trainer Terry Roles learned from Mal Gerrard when he was young and Stephen grew up around horses with his dad and Terry.



Top: Great grandfather Fred Eade, blacksmith and trainer of trotters, shod horses into his 80s.

Middle: Lila Eade, a young horsewoman in 1909.

Bottom: Matriarch Lila Eade aged 100 at her final Deloraine Easter races in 1984.



One of Tasmania's current three top trainers, Barry Campbell, also began with Mal Gerrard.

The Deloraine Races were the big event of the year, said Stephen. Racegoers dressed up to the nines, queued up back to the Deloraine Police Station to get in the racecourse gates.

And those gates are significant in the Gerrard family because they were made by 'Uncle Cobber'.

Family matriarch Lila Eade wouldn't miss the races, last



# It runs in the family!

Above: Gayle and Stephen Gerrard with recent Launceston winner, Little Miss Asha. Photo by Hayley Manning

Left: Gallops trainer Mal Gerrard, his son Stephen and Launceston Cup winner, Red Tornado. Black and white photos supplied

attending on the day before her 100th birthday in 1984.

These days the Easter steeplechases are no more because the Deloraine track doesn't meet occupational health and safety requirements.

According to *The Examiner* racing writer Greg Mansfield, its closure meant that one of Tasmania's great sporting traditions was lost.

In 2006, the meeting moved to Longford and since then the Deloraine Cup has been run at Spreyton.

After Terry Roles gave up horse training, Stephen's interest moved to greyhounds.

He wonders whether his daughter, Olivia, now in the Navy in Sydney or his Devonport based son Luke, will carry on the family racing passion for the next generation.

Will they look at the shed that was Deloraine's blacksmithing hub, examine the grooves of the horse brands in its door, and know their children could next be a part of Deloraine's racing history?



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# Prison plans delayed as designers wrangle dodgy site

By Sharon Webb

MINISTER FOR Corrections Elise Archer's plans for a northern prison on the second site are looking precarious as experts grapple with rocky terrain and lack of allowance for a fire zone, sewerage and electricity.

Senior public servants from Corrections and DPIPWE have told neighbouring landowners of the Birralee Road site they won't finish their 'due diligence' research on the site before the end of December, blowing out Ms Archer's timetable to have the planning application heard by Meander Valley Council before Christmas.

Justice Department director of strategic infrastructure projects Brad Wheeler told representatives of 11 Birralee families who formed Concerned Residents Opposed to the Westbury Prison Site (CROWPS) the site 'is a complex piece of work and we are finding more complexity as we work through it'.

CROWPS spokesperson Aaron Reader said, 'Many of

the complexities stem from the fact that it is hilly and solid rock in places, despite Minister Archer claiming that one of the primary factors in choosing the first site was because it was "nice and flat".

'Was more proof needed that the announcement of the proposed new Northern Regional Prison site was hasty, botched and made without due process?'

'They are still nowhere near having an idea of how they're going to build a prison there. Their initial research has just turned up more questions.'

A site map given to CROWPS in June shows the nature of the unexpected problems encountered by Corrections.

It indicates a fire zone around the prison bleeding substantially into properties owned by the neighbouring Archer family and tree plantation company Forico.

'Corrections now realises they're not going to get an agreement with those landowners,' Mr Reader said. 'Will the government forcefully

acquire the land? People wouldn't be happy about that.'

The fire zone may be less of an issue than under previous planning rules as formulators of Tasmania's incoming planning scheme quietly weakened fire zone requirements for 'vulnerable uses' such as prisons and hospitals.

Previous tough fire zone requirements were the reason Teen Challenge's use of the Meander Primary School site for drug rehabilitation was thrown out by the Supreme Court.

But sewage disposal is another hurdle prison planners will need to leap with the Birralee prison site, because sewage must travel 4-5kms from the site to the nearest treatment plant, ironically near the first choice of prison site at Glen Avon Farm.

'They'll need to pump it over land owned by others,' Mr Reader said.

'At our meeting the public servants said they'll try to get all the services into the road easement but there's just no way. There's no space.

'They'll need to take it over neighbouring properties, across the Meander River and then across two more properties, even though Mr Wheeler stated that all services will be placed within the road reserve and not encroach onto neighbours' property.'

Access to electricity is also a barrier for the prison planners - mainly because they seem not to know there is none. The nearest is a couple of kilometres away.

'The Corrections Minister stated, in her media conference with the Premier on 18 June, that the proposed new prison site "has electricity running past",' Mr Reader said.

'This is completely incorrect as there is no power running past this site.'

By August 19 Mr Wheeler was still adamant that there was power going past this proposed new site.

'How, after seven months, are they still unaware that there is no power going past this site is shocking. The community

trusts this team to competently undertake due diligence.

'And despite previous assurances to us from the premier and Corrections, Mr Wheeler could not guarantee that the prison would not be seen from the road,' Mr Reader said.

Birralee residents are embittered by recent revelations via Right To Know documents that the bush block selected by the government for the prison site was to have been allocated to the Tasmanian Land Conservancy.

Fred Baker, who has a view of the first prison site from his living room, believes he will still have a view of the prison if it is built on the second site.

'We want Westbury free of all this,' he said.

**Facing page: Map of the Birralee area showing the second proposed Northern Regional Prison site, adjoining property boundaries and overlays of the areas impacted by environmental concerns.**  
© Meander Valley Gazette

## Archer's adoption of 19th century prison model is toxic, says Barns

By Sharon Webb

A NEW prison in the Meander Valley will be built on the cheap by the Tasmanian Government when it has the opportunity to create a prison that could make a real difference in the State.

The chair of the Prisoners Legal Service Greg Barns said there was an opportunity to do something really different in the north rather than adopt 19th century infrastructure.

'My organisation would welcome the opportunity to work with any group in the Tasmanian community to convince the government to change direction on the type of prison to be built,' the outspoken barrister said.

In contrast to Corrections Minister Elise Archer's 2019 vision of a state-of-the-art prison, Mr Barns said the

prison planned for Birralee Road would be 'grey brick, low-slung and built on the cheap'.

'Don't think it will be aesthetic and architecturally pleasing,' he said, as information emerged that the building will be close to Birralee Road.

'It will be a toxic make-work scheme that the Meander Valley will never be able to get rid of.'

'It's sickening that the government sells a prison on the basis of jobs for the Meander Valley, as if the deprivation of people's liberty is something to celebrate.'

'The failure of Ashley Detention Centre is because it's a make-work scheme for people in Deloraine.'

'Once prisons are built they make work, the workers' relatives get jobs there. The local economy becomes dependent on those jobs and there's corruption involved.'

Mr Barns said he had no idea why Ms Archer was fixated on building a prison in the Meander Valley but another prison like Risdon would be a drain on the economy.

'It's simple economics. If you want to reduce offending, have a secure environment that rehabilitates prisoners to return to the community and not reoffend.'

'It needs to be a therapeutic prison where health and education are the focus.'

'Currently there is high recidivism in Tasmania because of the poor conditions in prison and the lack of rehabilitation. We've been saying this for a long time.'

'A northern prison needs to be completely different from the one in the south. This is a real opportunity for northern Tasmania.'

'It makes sense to have a facility in the north but I have no confidence that the government will do it. Why? Because there's no votes in prisons.'

'We will support it if it's essentially a place for prisoners' mental and educational rehabilitation, but that's diametrically opposed to the model the government is proposing.'

Mr Barns said his type of prison was commonplace in Europe and Scandinavia.

'The cost to the community is so much less. Why would you adopt a 19th century piece of infrastructure? That's a dumb idea.'

'European prisons are innovative designs that draw people like teachers and doctors to live in those communities because they work in those prisons.'

'The irony is that most prisons built in rural locations in

mainland Australia are low security, designed to transition people back into the community. Putting a maximum security prison in a country area like the Meander Valley is really odd.'



Greg Barns, Chair of the Prisoners Legal Service.  
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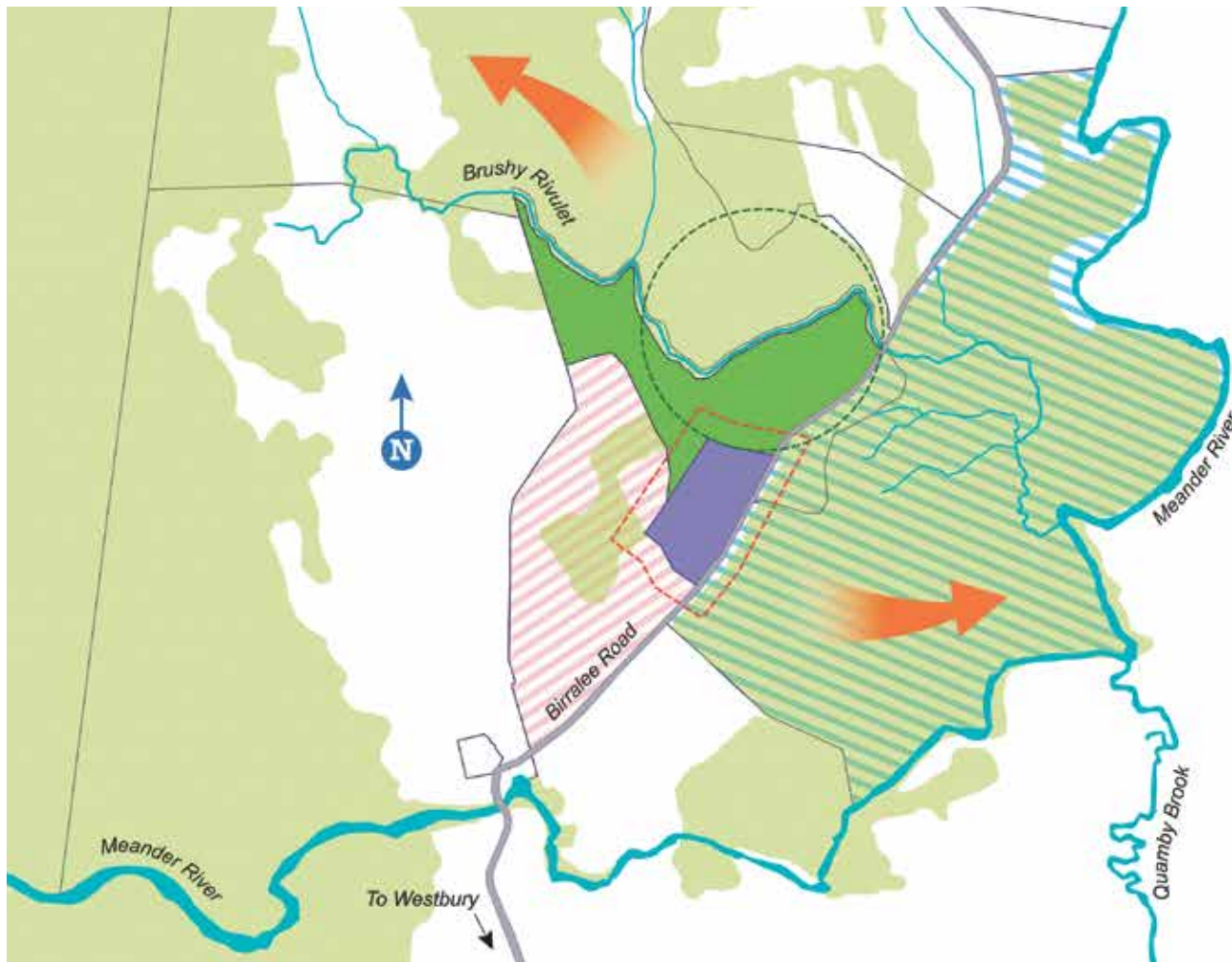
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6212 2225  
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Authorised by REBECCA WHITE, 33 COLE ST, SORELL

**Labor**



# The bandicoot and the frog

By Sarah Lloyd OAM

MANY WESTBURY residents are justly proud to share their town with two very special animals, the Eastern Barred Bandicoot and Green and Gold Frog.

Eastern Barred Bandicoots (*Perameles gunnii*) thrive in Westbury because the town has everything they need – open grassy areas where they can search for food (insects, spiders, fungi and earthworms) close to dense vegetation where they can shelter, build nests and hide from cats and dogs.

Sadly, in the rest of the country, this pointy-nosed marsupial is now among our most endangered animals because of habitat destruction and predation.

Once widespread across eastern Australia, it is now extinct in the wild on the mainland

but has fared better in fox-free Northern Tasmania where it is mostly found on private property.

Bandicoots have a high reproductive rate with females theoretically able to produce 3–4 litters of 1–4 young each year. Potentially 16 offspring annually!

Although this means their population can increase rapidly, they have a high mortality rate caused mostly by predation, disease and collisions with cars.

The modification of habitat that caused the bandicoots' decline, also contributed to the local extinction of the Green and Gold Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) in areas where it was once common, including the Midlands, Derwent Valley and north-west coast. The frog and bandicoot are now legally protected under state and federal legislation, and their 'vulnerable' status means that

populations will continue to decline if habitat continues to be cleared.

Many people think (wrongly) that frogs live in water. Tasmania's frogs breed in water, and tadpoles stay there until they turn into frogs. Adult frogs live where vegetation, rocks and logs provide shelter and their food of skinks, insects, and other frogs.

The Green and Gold Frog is also known as the Growling Grass Frog because of its distinctive guttural call and its liking for grassy areas. It often basks in sunny places well away from water.

In early July 2020 members of the Central North Field Naturalists visited Westbury Reserve to add to the list of plants and animals we've found at the site. On this sunny afternoon we observed a green and gold frog on the proposed prison's 'development area'.

In August 2015 NRM officers from Tamar NRM and the Meander Valley Council initiated 'Westbury Backyard Birds'.

This project supplied residents with locally grown native plants to encourage native birds to their gardens.

As advisor to the project I wrote *The Feathered Tribes of Van Diemen's Land*, a book about Tasmania's birds and

what we can all do to ensure their long term survival.

Considerable time, energy, and funding was expended to see this project to fruition. It therefore seems contradictory – and outrageous – that part of the Westbury Reserve, a repository of birds and other animals that can repopulate areas now devoid of these species, is destined to be cleared for a prison.



The Green and Gold Frog (top) and the Eastern Barred Bandicoot (above) both thrive in Westbury. Photo of frog by Sarah Lloyd, photo of bandicoot reproduced courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

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# Better communication leads to a better life

PEOPLE WITH a communication disability are twice as likely to be unemployed

1.2 million Australians are currently living with a communication disability which can affect relationships, employment, education and social inclusion.

Research from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows only 38% of people with communication disabilities participate in the workforce, compared with 80% of people without one.

This is an alarming statistic that will no doubt be worsened

as a result of the recession, which is why Speech Pathology Australia put a spotlight on this 'hidden' disability during Speech Pathology Week in August.

Speech Pathology Australia's National President Tim Kittel said successful communication is a basic human right and the key to quality of life across all ages, particularly at a time when we're all feeling more socially isolated.

'The pandemic highlights the importance of connection and communication. For those

living with communication disabilities, social isolation presents a daunting challenge.

'Communication disabilities are commonly misunderstood and remain undiagnosed, often because they are unseen and out of sight,' he said.

'When someone has difficulty comprehending information or getting their message across, it's not immediately clear speech pathology is an option. But the treatment can be life changing. Helping people build connections in a meaningful way.'

There are many types of communication disabilities across the life span, and speech is just one form in which we connect.

For some people, their communication disability means they get their message across through other means such as electronic voice output devices, word-based or picture-based communication boards or books, sign, gesture and writing.

In recent years there have been increasing efforts to raise awareness, and develop programs, resources, standards

and guidelines to improve communication access for people with communication disability.

'People with communication disabilities are at a disadvantage when it comes to employment, education and independence,' added Mr Kittel.

'It's simple. Better communication leads to a better life. Everyone in our community can help people lead better lives by being more aware and accepting of communication disabilities.'

For more information on communication disability, go to [speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://speechpathologyaustralia.org.au).

## Winter fuel bills take a toll on Tasmanians

THE STATE Government should provide a winter energy supplement to Tasmanians struggling to pay their energy bills, the Labor Party said.

Shadow Minister for Energy David O'Byrne said the Liberal's ongoing refusal to provide relief to Tasmanians is causing avoidable distress in the community and must be reversed.

'Labor has been warning for months of the looming impact of winter energy bills on already-stretched household budgets,' Mr O'Byrne said.

'Many bills issued in the last quarter were estimated as a result of energy companies deciding it was a health and safety risk for meter readers to attend properties during the early days of COVID-19.'

'That means the bills that are arriving in people's letterboxes right now include catch-up charges, which are causing severe bill shock.'

The government said customers needing help with power bills should contact Aurora, phone 1300 13 2003.

## A little book still speaks to those in need of hope

*STOP SUICIDE, A book of Hope* has been reissued 23 years after its first publication, still free and available to anyone who needs it.

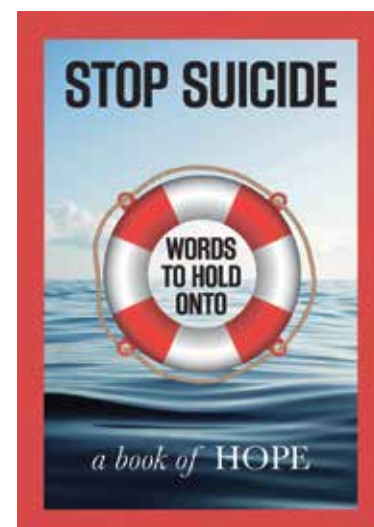
Westbury author Heather Donaldson put the original edition of the book together following a tragic series of youth suicides in the 1990s that had a huge impact on the Meander Valley community.

Concerned that very little advice was directly aimed at young people, Heather made a collection of the words people

wished they had said or would have wanted to hear.

Originally launched by then Premier Jim Bacon and distributed across Tasmania and the rest of Australia, the book has always been in demand.

Funded by the Rotary Club of Westbury and Relationships Australia, copies will be provided to libraries, high schools and colleges and made available at health centres and community houses. All Neighbourhood Houses across Tasmania will receive 100 copies each.



For more information or to obtain a copy of *Stop Suicide*, please contact Primary Health North, on 6777 4551.

For some Australians communication can be a puzzle.

Speech pathologists work to ensure all Australians can communicate with confidence.

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[www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/week](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/week)



By Sharon Webb

IN EARLY August, two empty rat poison packets were placed precisely side-by-side on a mat near the verandah of the Wileman's Westbury home, labelled sides up, undamaged.

If someone had thrown them over the 150cm fence, chances are they would not have fallen so neatly so Peter Wileman took it as a threat, that someone had trespassed on his property to leave a pointed message.

Peter has been outspoken in his objection to the proposed site for the State Government's new prison, continually writing letters to Tasmania's newspapers.

'We've told the police about the rat poison boxes, and the phone calls we get, some days up to five times a day,' he said.

'Whoever it is doesn't speak, just holds the phone for 20 seconds, then puts it down. It's not happening just to us, other anti-prison campaigners have had this treatment too.'

'One night on the highway a landcruiser ute with a 'Just build it' pro-prison sticker overtook a car with an anti-prison sticker on it, the occupants yelling abuse. They pulled in front of the car and slowed right down to make their point.'

These actions indicate the depth of the rift in Westbury between people for and against the prison.

At least one pro-prison campaigner has complained on Facebook about being targeted but has not spoken directly to the Gazette.

Mr Wileman, who has lived in Westbury for 16 years and formerly ran Hobnob's Café believes the rat poison packets may be a threat to his two energetic Australian Terriers.

'It's OK to make me the target if that's the way they want to play it but my wife Doreen is nervous and I'm nervous about the dogs,' he said.

'I was initially upset and angry but I realised that if you're arguing with these people you have to expect some retaliation, but not a cowardly threat to a pair of innocent young dogs.'



## Rat poison message a sad symbol of prison rift in Westbury

Australian Terriers Gilly and Skipper were the most likely targets of a threat made by a trespasser who carefully placed rat poison packets (see left) on the Wileman property.  
Photos by Hayley Manning

## Teen Challenge walks – applauded by Meander residents and ratepayers

By Sharon Webb

TEEN CHALLENGE says it has backed out of its plan to run a drug rehabilitation facility in the former Meander Primary School. It's believed they want three months notice to quit the site.

Teen Challenge did not instigate the backout. Rather, the council revoked its planning permit, a fact acknowledged by Teen Challenge director Tanya Cavanagh.

After secret discussions with Teen Challenge representatives in a July workshop, councillors made the decision in a closed session of council last month.

Mayor Wayne Johnston said the council had backed out

'because we were not going forward to support Teen Challenge at the planning tribunal.'

When asked why councillors had made this decision, Cllr Johnston said he wasn't obliged to give a reason.

It's likely that councillors became aware of the possible political fallout of continuing to fund the long-running legal battle with the Meander Ratepayers and Residents' Association (MARRA).

General manager John Jordan has admitted the council has spent \$60,000 on legal costs.

But with MARRA's bills at around \$165,000, ratepayers may be paying even more as MARRA applies for legal costs against the council.

Cllr Johnston said he was disappointed the Teen Challenge proposal had 'polarised' the community, adding that a 'small group' had 'pursued a war of attrition', fighting the council's decision in Tasmania's planning tribunal and in the Supreme Court.

He implied that MARRA's 85 financial members were a small unrepresentative bunch in a town of 326 people.

In a council media release, the mayor, who lives in Meander, said, 'While many in the community were supportive of the proposal, it was opposed by a small group of residents organised as The Meander Area Residents and Ratepayers Association.'

But a northern lawyer said council had taken a typical SLAP approach (Strategic Litigation Against Public Interest) where a large organisation with huge financial resources continually takes legal action to wear down a smaller group with lower financial resources.

In this case the strategy backfired because MARRA is funded upfront by Meander business Timber World, with MARRA running fundraisers to repay them.

MARRA president Bodhi McSweeney said that Teen Challenge's decision to pull out was great news for Meander.

'We look forward to the council instigating a process ensuring the school site is used

for the benefit of our local community, open to the enjoyment of all and growth of the local area,' she said.

'We just wish so much time and effort wasn't needed to have our community's wishes recognised. We spent four and a half long years campaigning and fundraising to get to this point.'

'Everyone agrees rehabilitation services are desperately needed for women and children. But they need to be well-regulated, medically-based programs, and Teen Challenge is not such a program.'

'Nor was the main street in the middle of a small town ever the right place for a rehab facility, no matter who runs it.'



Thane Bardenhagen

Sophie Poke



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# Every picture tells a story



Mike with three of his cameras that span a life time career – the family Box Brownie, a Mamiya twin lens C-220 reflex camera first produced in the 1970s, that uses a 6x6cm negative film roll and the modern era's digital SLR Canon EOS 5D Mk IV.

Photo by Andrew Shepherd

By Lorraine Clarke

MIKE MOORES was born in the UK, in the Cheshire village of Bowdon Vale. He was unsure about which career path to follow, until a trip to Switzerland changed his life.

'I bought a camera to record the amazing scenery and decided that photography was what I wanted to do,' he explained.

'I still have my original camera, which is three years older than I am, the family camera, a Kodak Box Brownie.'

Mike has since used and collected numerous sophisticated cameras, but things were more primitive in the early days.

'We used glass plates back in 1955, when I was 17. We used to have vans fitted out with a darkroom so we could go out, take black and white pictures, process them and show them to the clients.'

Today a digital colour image appears instantaneously on a camera's screen, but during his cadetship with a news agency, Mike had to learn many photographic techniques that are now redundant.

'We worked in and around Manchester, which was the second biggest newspaper area outside Fleet Street.

'Brennard Press specialised in airport news. They had offices in all the major airports.

'We used to check flights for personalities going in and out. I photographed Prime Minister Harold Wilson, entertainers, sportsmen, TV faces and the like.

'My first big assignment was in 1958 when Manchester United's plane crashed on takeoff during a snowstorm in Munich as they were flying home from the European Cup qualifiers. Photographers came from all over Europe.

A photographer from Paris Match showed me his three Leica cameras which really got me interested. I wanted to do what he did.'

At that time Mike was working for the small local newspaper, the *Altrincham Guardian*.

One of the major events Mike covered was the Suez crisis. But the advent of television news had a terrible impact on newspapers.

'It put a lot of us out of work. The only work I could get was as a navy on a road gang. I decided to come to Australia. Brisbane's *Courier Mail* miraculously had a vacancy for a photographer and I had all the right experience, so was fortunate enough to get the job.'

Mike's portfolio is filled with images of famous faces and memorable events.

'I've seen more royalty in Australia than ever I did in England, where I only saw them twice. But here I was involved in the Commonwealth Games where I photographed Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip, Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

'I was in Brisbane when Prince Charles' navy ship docked

there. The media was crowding around but the police threatened us with speeding tickets.

'I went back to the office. Then it dawned on me that I knew where he was going! One of Prince Charles' Timbertop teachers lived in Mooloolaba so I took a reporter and went to that address.'

Police bodyguards tried to stop Mike, but he replied that he was on a public road and would take photos of them obstructing him. They asked him what he wanted, and he said, 'A photo of the Prince swimming at the beach'. The police relayed the message, and Prince Charles agreed. Mike's photos went around the world.

The life of a news photographer can be a dangerous one.

'I've been shot at several times. Driving to work one day, police stopped traffic by Chermide Hospital. A psychiatric patient had a rifle and was shooting down at cars on the highway. I've been lowered out of helicopters.

'I photographed the Brisbane floods, bushfires, cyclones, street riots, the Pope's visit.'

It wasn't all hard slogging.

Life was sweetened by an office romance between Mike and the lovely Phyllis.

'I was headhunted by *The Sun* as Chief Photographer and Deputy Pictorial Editor for the *Sunday Sun*. When *The Sun* was closed by Murdoch, I opened my own news photography agency in Brisbane.

'We had been to Tasmania on holiday quite a few times, and decided to take early retirement down here in 2005. The local scenery reminded me very much of where I was born in Cheshire, with its rural and dairying countryside, so I felt at home here.

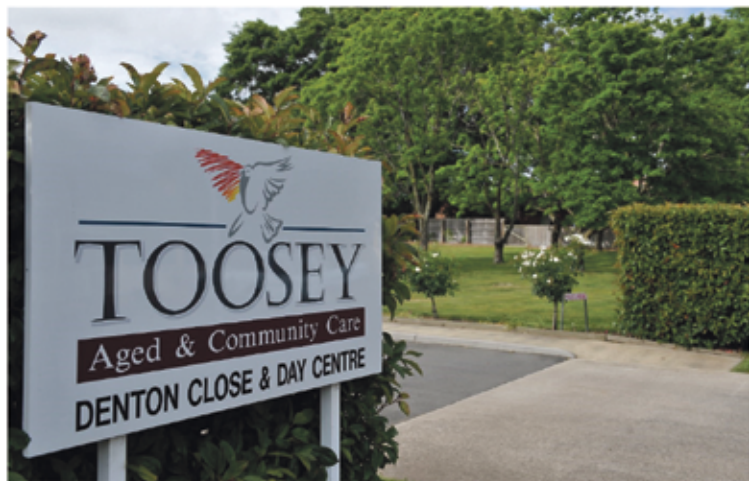
When the *Meander Valley Gazette* was founded, Mike commented 'I could tell they needed some help, so I offered my services!'

Since the 1970s, Mike Moores has been showered with industry awards honouring the quality of his work, including the Nikon Photographer of the Year Award, Rothmans Press Awards, Walkley Awards and most recently, awards from the Rural Press Club of Victoria for his work for the *Meander Valley Gazette*.



Demonstrating Mike's rare talent for spotting a small and intimate image – Kate Clarke (4) of Hagley with Lizzie Lizard the skink. Kate won first prize as best pet handler at the 2016 Westbury Show.

## 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.

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

EVER SINCE Mike Moors walked into the office of the *Meander Valley Gazette* and offered his services, the paper and readers have been privileged to have been informed and delighted by his images of dazzling quality.

Mike's contribution of a superior standard of professional photography has profoundly improved the quality of the paper.

Thanks to his generous and tireless efforts, Mike's professionalism and experience has also been an invaluable asset to the *Gazette*.

We will always be grateful to Mike for his sensible advice and seemingly endless patience that helped us find our way through many crises, big and small.

But Mike has now decided it is time to retire once again so that he can pursue his other interests.

Everyone at the *Gazette* is missing him already, and we all wish him the very best for the future.

Hopefully we have not yet seen the last of Mike's photos! Enjoy your well-earned retirement, Mike and Phyllis.



Top: At the 2018 Deloraine Show, Kerry the Rooster and his proud owner Tony Sherriff took the Best Bird in Show Award for the second year running. Beautifully lit, this image showcases Mike's ability to compose a photo, create a great portrait and capture the emotion of a moment.

Right: In February 2020, Mike attended the Tasmanian Mountain Cattlemen's 33rd Annual Get Together. Isabella Gleeson and Sunny tackled the barrel race while Mike took his gorgeous photos, all in the pouring rain.



The images chosen here are just three of the editor's favourites taken by Mike for the *Gazette*. In October, Pixels Gallery at the Deloraine Online Centre will be showing a retrospective of Mike's best *Gazette* photographs.

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### Westbury limited edition prints

This is a fantastic opportunity to purchase signed and numbered limited edition prints by award-winning Westbury artist, Judy Nelson.

*Lock Our Doors* won the Great Western Tiers Art Award in 2020 and *Historic Westbury* is the companion painting, also completed by Judy in 2020.

Each print is approximately 400 mm square and can be purchased for \$350 unframed, or \$600 framed.

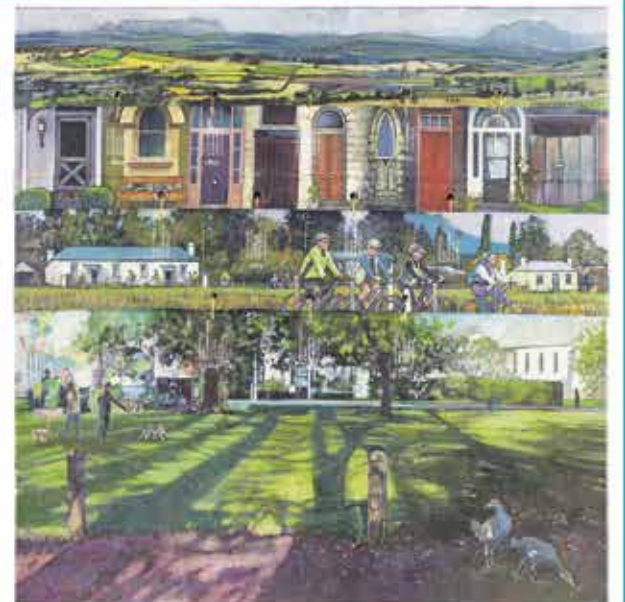
If both prints are bought as a set, a \$100 discount will be applied to the whole purchase price.

These giclée prints are made on 100% cotton, acid-free paper using 12-pigment inks, to museum and gallery standards for archival printing. For more information, or to buy a print, call 0412 294 779 or email [westburytas@gmail.com](mailto:westburytas@gmail.com).

All profits from the sale of these prints will go to Westbury Region Against the Prison Inc. To support Westbury, please visit: [GoFundMe: Save Historic Westbury](http://GoFundMe: Save Historic Westbury). Advertisement authorized by the President, Westbury Region Against the Prison Inc. (WRAP). Contact details: [www.westburyregionagainstthepreison.org](http://www.westburyregionagainstthepreison.org)



Lock Our Doors



Historic Westbury

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# Northern Regional Prison Project

## Update September 2020

### Progress of due diligence investigations

Since the announcement of the new site for the Northern Regional Prison, a range of investigations have been underway on the site as part of the due diligence process.

During this time we have had a number of technical specialists undertaking a range of work, including:

- assessments of flora and fauna;
- consideration of bushfire risk;
- geotechnical investigations;
- an initial Aboriginal Heritage desktop assessment, which has been completed with further work to follow;
- a traffic management survey to gain a greater understanding of any road upgrades that may be required; and
- identifying infrastructure upgrades required to service the site including communications (NBN), high and low voltage electricity, water, stormwater and sewerage.

The findings of these investigations will inform the next stages of the project, which will focus on refining the scope, master planning of the site and preparation for an application for rezoning of the land.

### Planning and Design

A specialist land use planning consultant has been engaged to oversee and advise on the planning requirements for the project. The project will require two planning approvals to proceed, with approval required for both the creation of a Particular Purpose Zone, as well as a Development Application. The public will have an opportunity to make representations in response to these proposals.

Early concept development and analysis is being undertaken to identify potential options for the location and layout of the Northern Regional Prison on the new site.

### Stakeholder Engagement

We have also continued to engage with the neighbouring landowners, both individually and as a group, to discuss the project and respond to any specific questions or concerns they have in relation to the development.

Discussions with relevant government agencies are also occurring in relation to various aspects of the project, including the specific approvals that may be required.

### Site for the Northern Regional Prison Development

This 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.



### Next Steps

The findings from the due diligence process will inform the master planning of the site, as well as the initial work on specific design requirements and development of an operating model for the Northern Regional Prison.

### Where to find out more

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).

Or you can register to receive project updates by emailing the project team at [northern.prison@justice.tas.gov.au](mailto:northern.prison@justice.tas.gov.au)

For more information, visit  
[www.justice.tas.gov.au](http://www.justice.tas.gov.au)



Mel Hills Wild Art and other Tasmanian exhibitors from past years, will have the show to themselves while Covid-19 restrictions keep mainlanders at a distance. Photo supplied

## 40th Tasmanian Craft Fair – all systems go!

THIS YEAR, the Rotary Club of Deloraine has announced that the Tasmanian Craft Fair will take place as usual during the long weekend from October 30 to November 2, but with COVID-19 safety regulations in place.

Changes to interstate infection levels have required the club to rethink how the Craft Fair can continue to support the local economy as well as the Tasmanian exhibitors that rely on it.

Craft Fair Director Rob van der Elst said, 'We're making the most of a challenging situation. It's been important to create a Plan B to ensure that all of the small Tasmanian businesses who traditionally earn a part of

their annual income from the Fair will still be able to do so.'

Interstate exhibitors will not be at Fair this year, but there is an online plan.

The decision was made early, to be fair to interstate exhibitors who would otherwise be planning, creating stock and making travel arrangements.

All exhibitors this year will be able to put offers on the Craft Fair website, so those stranded on the mainland can still support their favourite artisans.

This year the footprint of the fair will be smaller and the entrance fee will be reduced to a flat fee of \$13 – high value for up to 4 days attendance.

There will be over 160 artisan stalls to browse, as well as

the gourmet food marquee to indulge and delight in.

Director Rob indicates that the Rotary Club of Deloraine's focus is clear.

'This is our 40th year and we are determined to give Tasmanians a high quality, enjoyable and safe event to enjoy and celebrate local talent.

'We encourage all Tasmanians to support us by making the effort to attend this year.

'The Tasmanian government is to be commended for providing additional financial resources to assist in making the smaller event viable.'

For the latest information and updates on the 2020 Craft Fair, visit the website at [www.TasmanianCraftFair.com](http://www.TasmanianCraftFair.com).

## Insurance advice you can count on

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When it comes to insurance, it's all about peace of mind, and making sure you have the right cover for your needs.

That's why it's important to get the right advice when reviewing your insurance cover, and there is no team more experienced than INTAS Insurance Services.

INTAS are a locally owned insurance brokerage who have been servicing Central and Northern Tasmania for over 20 years.

INTAS general manager Todd Daking, and senior account managers Callum Woolley and Colin Gomez are among the business' general insurance experts, servicing clients in all types of insurances, whether it be for your business, farm or domestic policies.

Mr Woolley has been in the Insurance industry for 25 years, and has built up a loyal following of customers in the agricultural industry and business sectors.

Callum says, 'Regardless of the type of insurance you need, INTAS is here to make things as simple as possible. We pride ourselves on offering the highest service and advice for our clients. Whether it be sitting down with them to review their covers at renewal time, or helping them out with claims when the unexpected happens.'

Mr Daking, who joined the INTAS team in 2015, came with a background in commercial

General Manager Todd Daking and senior account managers Callum Woolley and Colin Gomez – your local INTAS team.

property and running his own small business.

'When you run a business, there are countless headaches for you to worry about and insurance shouldn't be one of them,' Mr Daking advised. 'As an insurance broker, unlike dealing directly with an insurance company, we are working on the customers' behalf and providing the specialist and tailored advice that the insurers can not give.'

Senior account manager Colin Gomez joined INTAS in November last year, after 8 successful years working for a direct rural insurer and has brought with him a wealth of knowledge and professional service standards particularly in the farming sector and small to medium enterprise.

'It's a great move for me to be working as a broker and being able to assist my clients with all facets of their insurance needs,' explained Mr Gomez.

INTAS understands and is actively involved with Tasmanian communities, and over 20 years of service is a testament to that. INTAS love dealing directly with the business owners and families, and working for them to find the most competitive and tailored insurance solutions that works for them.

So when your insurance policies are next coming up for renewal, why not give the team at INTAS Insurance Services a call and support one of the few 100% Tassie owned insurance brokers left in our state.

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# THE ISLAND PROJECT



## Island Project still recruiting!

DEMENTIA IS now the second leading cause of death in Australia.

Not many people are aware that they can reduce their risk so Tasmanians over 50 years of age are being asked to sign up to the ISLAND Project, the largest dementia prevention project in the world.

Through the ISLAND Project we know that approximately one third of dementia cases can possibly be prevented if people attend to a range of risk factors from middle age onwards.

These risk factors can be modified. You can reduce your own risk and improve your overall wellbeing by making some changes to the following:

- reducing your blood pressure
- managing your weight
- lowering your cholesterol
- controlling diabetes and blood sugar levels
- following a healthy diet
- learning new things and doing activities that challenge your brain

- increasing the amount of physical activity you usually take
- reducing the amount of alcohol you consumed
- stopping smoking

When you join the ISLAND Project, you will learn about your own levels of modifiable risk and receive some advice on any changes you could make to your own risk profile.

You might also wish to discuss your results with your GP or other health advisors.

The ISLAND Project is seeking to reduce the incidence of dementia in the whole population of Tasmania.

Over 10,000 people have signed up to the Project so far and we're amazed at the support we've received.

We're still recruiting and have raised our target to 20,000 Tasmanians aged 50 and over, or 10% of the state population in this age bracket. Covering this proportion of population would help make the ISLAND

## Emergency hours cut at Mersey Hospital

MEANDER VALLEY residents needing after-hours accident and emergency treatment will need to head for the Emergency Department of Launceston General Hospital, supported by Ambulance Tasmania and aeromedical support where necessary.

Emergency hours at the Mersey Hospital have been cut to 8am–6pm because of a shortage of medical staff.

Health Minister Sarah Courtney said that the hospital is normally staffed by interstate locums who cannot get into Tasmania because of COVID-19 travel restrictions.

'Due to current quarantine requirements and travel restrictions, finding locums to staff

Project one of the most important health studies in the world.

Please help reach this target. Spread the word and ask your friends and family to be part of the ISLAND Project.

You can sign up, or get more information by going to <https://island.mooc.utas.edu.au>.

The Project hopes to reach all Tasmanians over 50 years of age, especially those who are concerned about dementia and the impact it has on individuals, families and communities.

the emergency department has become extremely difficult,' Ms Courtney said.

'We have explored all options to avoid having to reduce hours at the Mersey but no safe, viable alternatives were determined.

'This decision has not been taken lightly and I acknowledge that this will likely cause some anxiety in the local community.

'Unfortunately the pressure placed on locum resources nationally is out of the Tasmanian Health Service's control.'

Labor Member for Braddon Shane Broad said Health Minister Sarah Courtney had failed to provide certainty about a date for the emergency department to return to full operation.

'The Minister says she cares about the North West and the Mersey Community Hospital yet is continually downgrading services and failing to answer basic questions,' he said.

'Sending vulnerable patients further away to emergency departments that are already facing their own pressure isn't demonstrating care. It is treating them with contempt, and increasing pressure on health services right across the north of the state.

'The government needs to commit to a date to restore the emergency department to full operation. The community has been calling out for, and deserves, answers.'

Ms Courtney said her number one priority was the safety of staff and patients.

'To ensure high-quality care for our patients it is imperative we only provide services in situations where appropriate staff levels are available.

'As soon as we are able to safely staff the Mersey's emergency department for a longer time we will not hesitate to increase the opening hours again. I remain committed to returning the Mersey ED to a 24 hours service as soon as we are safely able to staff it. Concerted recruitment efforts are continuing for a number of positions in an effort to relieve the current situation, and these include permanent roles for medical professionals.'

Braddon MHA Anita Dow said downgrading hours at the Mersey was causing distress in the North West community.

'We are hearing alarming stories from members of the local community who are impacted by reduced hours at the Mersey Community Hospital's emergency department,' she said.

# REDUCE THE RISK

Keeping the community safe is in our hands. You can help protect yourself, your family, friends and neighbours by following just a few simple steps.

COVID-19  
INFO

## COVID-SAFE BEHAVIOURS

- 1
Stay at least 1.5 metres away from others when outside your home.
- 2
Wash your hands often with soap and warm, running water. Use alcohol based hand sanitiser when out.
- 3
Stay at home if you are unwell and always cover coughs and sneezes.
- 4
Get tested for COVID-19 if you have any cold or flu-like symptoms.
- 5
Be aware of, and follow, current gathering, business and travel restrictions.

“Protect lives and livelihoods by maintaining ‘COVID-safe behaviours’—it is really that simple, and yet incredibly effective.”

Dr Scott McKeown  
Tasmanian Deputy Director of Public Health

www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/COVID-safe  
Tasmanian Public Health Hotline 1800 671 738

Tasmanian Government

By Sharon Webb

TASMANIAN ALKALOIDS has employed 11 extra staff and 20 local contractors to establish a new medicinal cannabis facility at its Westbury site.

Built with a \$10m loan from the Tasmanian Government, the new facility can extract 90 tonnes of biomass a year, equating to around nine million bottles of medicine.

The company's goal is to become the largest licensed, and fully commercial, botanical extraction company in the nation.

At the launch of the Tas Alkaloids facility, Tasmanian Minister for State Growth Michael Ferguson said 10,000 patients were already receiving the Tas Alkaloids medicinal cannabis product. The aim is to reach 30,000 by the end of 2020.

But media reports suggest Tasmanian patients are angry because they find it difficult to obtain medicinal cannabis.

Tas Alkaloids executive manager Colin Ralph suggested this would improve as Tasmanian GPs and pharmacists became more used to the system.

Labor leader Rebecca White said it was inconceivable that at the same time as Tas Alkaloids' development, prescribing and accessing medicinal cannabis in the state was almost impossible.

'Labor welcomes investment in producing medical grade cannabis here in Tasmania but regulation for prescribing and accessing medicinal cannabis in Tasmania needs to be evidence based and consistent with other states,' she said.

'Or are we expecting vulnerable patients to move interstate to access Tasmanian produced medicinal cannabis? It just does not make any sense.'

At last month's official launch of the facility, Mr Ralph described the production of medicinal cannabis as a 'synergistic partner to our alkaloid business'.

The world alkaloid market is declining because the need to reduce overuse of prescription



drugs has led many countries to impose tighter restrictions on narcotic imports.

Tasmanian poppy growers are now growing crops less than half the size of their 2013 crops and Tas Alkaloids is looking to the growing medicinal cannabis industry.

In January 2019 the company's director of agricultural research Les Baxter told Deloraine Rotary Club members Tas Alkaloids was growing cannabis for medical use at Westbury, allowed by 2016 Australian legislation.

He said cannabis usage focused on childhood epilepsy, nausea in cancer and HIV patients and palliative care, confirming it could also be used for pain management, particularly for multiple sclerosis and neuropathic pain.

'Its advantages are in decreasing nausea, increasing appetite, managing chronic pain and managing muscle spasms,' he said. 'Possible side effects are memory loss and schizophrenia.'

In April this year amid rumoured job cuts of 20 personnel, Tas Alkaloids announced an agreement to sell medical cannabis to Melbourne based Avecho Technologies.

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

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

Colin Ralph, Tasmanian Alkaloids executive general manager of operations, shows off the new crop at the official launch of the facility. Photo by Hayley Manning

### New agricultural skills up for grabs

A NEW agricultural skills program developed by TasTAFE and Fruit Growers Tasmania is now open to enrolments.

Jeremy Rockliff, Minister for Education and Training said the Agriskills Entry Program will build skills in Tasmania's fruit growing, vegetable, livestock and dairy workforces.

'The course includes three groups of skill sets, with the price for each skill set considerably discounted to be attractive to new entrants to this industry,' he said.

Skills Set One includes first aid, manual handling methods, operating quad bikes, operating

side by side utility vehicles, and operating and maintaining chainsaws.

Skills Set Two includes forklift licence, tractor and front end loader operations.

Skills Set Three includes training in the transportation and storage of chemicals and how to apply and prepare chemicals for pest, weed and disease control.

Participants will receive a statement of attainment for the skill sets and credit if they enrol in the Certificate II or III in Agriculture.

For more information go to <https://www.tastafe.tas.edu.au/agriskills>.

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Lino print by Fritz Robinson  
Photo supplied

## Twice as good – WOAD 2020 & The WOAD Less Travelled

WOAD 20 and The WOAD Less Travelled are two exhibitions that will be in Deloraine during the Tasmanian Craft Fair. Organised by Arts Deloraine, these exhibitions will support local artists and local shops and businesses.

The WOAD Hub will be situated in the gallery of Deloraine Creative Studios at 59-61 Emu Bay Road.

The Hub will be open from Monday 26 October until the Friday 6 November.

This will be the heartbeat of WOAD 20 and The WOAD Less Travelled.

The WOAD Hub is where Arts Deloraine volunteers will welcome contributing artists for WOAD 20 as they bring in their work to be installed in the business and shop windows of Emu Bay Road on Tuesday 27 October.

Arts Deloraine volunteers will man the WOAD Hub for the duration of WOAD 20.

The WOAD Less Travelled exhibition will be installed in the DCS gallery and will display the COVID Winter projects by local craftspeople and artists.

Arts Deloraine anticipates work exhibited in the gallery may be for sale and also that art works displayed for WOAD 20 will be for sale.

The word is out there. Letters have been sent out to contributors for both exhibitions.

Shops and businesses along Emu Bay Road have been visited and are being very supportive and generous with their window space.

Arts Deloraine hopes that readers will share the WOAD details with all the creative people they may know.

It will be a delightful, artistic and positive way to celebrate the local community.

For information on WOAD, contact Annie Robinson on 0419 134 946, email [birdwing@activ8.net.au](mailto:birdwing@activ8.net.au) or [artsdeloraine@gmail.com](mailto:artsdeloraine@gmail.com).



SEARCHING FOR botanical names in the gardening dictionary sometimes turns up some odd information. The entry above 'Snowdrops' (*Galanthus nivalis*), is 'Snotty Gogs', (*Taxus baccata*) which is a 20m high Yew tree from Europe. Presumably the 'Snotty Gogs' are the red berries borne by the female of the species.

This particular variety of Snowdrop pictured, is also

called 'Snow Piercer', reflecting its extreme cold tolerance.

Snowdrops don't appear to have the longevity of other breeds of spring flowering bulbs like Daffodils and Narcissus. Daffodils particularly can be seen around sites where century-old cottages once stood. Stock will not eat them, but cropping the surrounding pastures aids in their survival by removing competition.

Jonquils (*Narcissus johnquilla*) are the most hardy survivors in the home garden. The one in the picture developed in just a few years from a single bulb to this sun loving clump which will continue to flower until well into September.

Daffodils come in a huge variety of shapes, colours and sizes with centres of various shapes and colours, from the big single King Alfreds to the minute and appealing Hooped Petticoat (*Narcissus bulbocodium*).

### In the vegie garden

September is the last month for sowing broad beans, Brussels

sprouts, cabbages and caulis in well manured soil. Sow carrots in beds used last year for Brassicas. Manure at sowing time results in forked roots.

Celery's minute seeds should be sown sparsely in seed boxes or pots for planting out in enriched soil when 2 or 3cms high.

**Above: Jonquils are hardy survivors in the home garden. Photo supplied**

**Below: Snowdrop 'Snow Piercer' has extreme tolerance to cold. Photo by Fritz Robinson**



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Follow us on Facebook, phone 03 6362 4242 or find us at 13-15 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine

Seppenfelts' purchase of the Rangeview Seed stock and stand was done with money from a Meander Valley Council Small Business Recovery Grant



By Wendy Hays

THIS MONTH'S easy recipe has been around for decades and was increasingly requested by my parents as they progressed through their nineties.

They always kept a big glass jar of this delicious concoction macerating in their fridge. The rate of its consumption was sometimes staggering.

Any dried and canned fruit can be used, so adjust the basic recipe to suit your taste and budget.

Dried apricots, peaches, pears and apples work well as does fruit brandy.

You can omit some of the sugar and substitute fresh fruit juice for the brandy to make it child friendly but the fruit salad won't keep for quite as long.

One of the beauties of this recipe is that it keeps well in the refrigerator for several months and storage only enhances its flavour.

It makes an excellent quick, convenient dessert if there are unexpected guests or you are short on time.

Refrigerator Fruit Salad is equally delicious served warm with custard and at room temperature or straight from the fridge with vanilla yoghurt, whipped cream or a scoop of ice cream.

In my parents case, it never lasted very long because our dear old Dad was discovered sneakily mounding it onto his cornflakes with cream for breakfast.

Probably not the most sensible and nutritious breakfast, but when you're 92, you're probably entitled to eat whatever you like.

I hope you enjoy it as much as he did.

# A delicious standby dessert



Easy and delicious, this fruit salad is made with store cupboard ingredients, keeps well in the refrigerator and can be served hot or cold with icecream, cream or custard. It sounds like the perfect recipe for our lock down times.  
Photo supplied

## Refrigerator fruit salad

### Ingredients

- 1 x 425gm can pitted cherries
- 1 x 440gm can pineapple pieces
- 1 x 415gm can sliced peaches
- 1/2 cup sultanas

- 1 cup prunes – cut in half
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4–1/2 cup brandy

### Method

- 1 Strain the juice from the cans of fruit and place into a saucepan with the dried fruit and sugar.
- 2 Bring to the boil slowly then reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes.
- 3 Allow syrup/dried fruit mixture to cool then add the canned fruit and brandy.
- 4 Place in in a sealed container and refrigerate for 2 weeks before using.

**SENATOR WENDY ASKEW**

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# Boags clone brews



FOR THOSE of us either lucky or unlucky enough (depending on how you look at it) to remember the local beer in the 70s and 80s, I was convinced Boags Draught was the best beer in Australia.

After a working holiday circumnavigating the continent, it appeared I was correct. The only beer I could obtain in every state that was at all sassinable was Victoria Bitter.

It wasn't just my opinion. Every third carton sold in the country in the late 80s was VB.

But even that paled in comparison to a good old Jimmy.

And I also remember the fierce loyalty that Taswegians showed supporting their local brand. With Northerners and Southerner divided over which brewery made the best beer, many an argument escalated into a drunken brawl with Tassie's best drinkers defending their beloved beer.

The Ross pub was always the first port of call on the way to Hobart, as it was the last pub to have Boags Draught on tap.

These days I would prefer a can of Cascade Draught to a Boags Draught

As time went by and the big multinational conglomerates swallowed up all the Aussie commercial breweries (except Coopers), the first thing they had to do was start showing profits to shareholder.

Something had to give! The one thing that made them all special in the first place – the recipe!

Boags release the commemorative cans every AFL finals

season, but it sure isn't the same beer inside the tin as when they were making the white cans years ago.

Thank goodness for the modern age of home brewing and author Peter Symons.

For those of us that just want to reminisce, or simply don't like the hop-driven IPAs and APAs we are bombarded with nowadays, or just want a better drinkable clone of what we are served at the local – have I got something special for you!

*Bronzed Brews* and *6 O'CLOCK Brews* (a reference to the six o'clock swill) are two books containing recipes and anecdotes from most larger breweries in Australia going back as far as the late 1800s.

Peter Symons has gained access to all the old brewers' notes that were still available, then did the painstaking task of condensing, testing and refining the recipes down to an average home brewers batch, with ingredients that can be purchased from a home brew store and supermarket.

Out of the half a dozen or so recipes I have tested and tinkered with so far, the standouts are the 1937–1942 Boags Special Bitter and the 1942 Boags Draught (pages 344 and 345, *6 O'CLOCK Brews*).

Some ingredients can be a little tricky to obtain (i.e. White labs 830 German Lager Yeast), but substitution still gives overwhelmingly positive results.

Some of the recipes call for white sugar. I suspect the breweries at the time calculated this as a cost cutting measure, when all-grain brewing

Sugar isn't quite the enemy here, unlike when extract can brewing. It actually helps give the beer that crisp and dry mouth feel that Aussie lagers are renowned for.

With the author's full permission, I am able to share my version of some of the recipes I've made so far, in particular, the 1942 Boags Draught.

Note that back in 1942, hops were simply called 'straights' which in layman's terms were either East Kent Goldings or Fuggles, before Pride of Ringwood dominated the Australian hop scene.

I chose EKG for my first 1942 and Fuggles for my first 1937–42 special bitter with exceptional results. I believe the hop timings to be somewhat more critical with these two recipes than is typical.

The yeast for the 1942 was simply Saflager 34/70, fermented at lager temperatures.

On a warm early March day, I pitched US-05 for the 1937–42 bitter. Well if we didn't get that early snow on the Tiers late that night, I could have used a dedicated lager yeast.

Too late! The 05 chugged away at 15°C and produced a wonderful dry, crisp and clear beer, that I didn't have to lager or wait for anyway.

So, without further rambling, here is my version of Peter Symon's 1942 Boags Draught.

## 1942 Boags Draught

Note that I added the wheat malt, as it is not called for in the recipe. Also, I made no water additions, but do carbon filter the Deloraine tap water.

*Mash temp 67°C for 1 hour*

### Fermentables

3.5kg pale ale malt 81% EBC 6.0  
0.105g wheat malt 2.4% EBC 2.6  
0.655g white table sugar 15.1% EBC-1.5  
0.060g crystal 0.60 1.4% EBC 141.8

### Hops

16g EKG @70min IBU 9.9  
11g EKG @50min IBU 6.7  
6g EKG @35min IBU 3.2  
3g EKG @7min IBU 0.5  
TOTAL IBU 20  
ABV 5.1%  
Yeast Fermentis 34/70

My efficiency suffered when making this particular batch and only acquired 74% at an OG 1.044, FG 1.005 EBC (colour) 8.2.

This is for a 23 litre batch.

Sugar and whirlfloc were added 15 minutes toward the end of a 70 minute boil.

Ferment for 14 days.

I also added finings for the last two days (Brewlosophy method).

### Book details

tritun.books@gmail.com  
Posted in Australia –  
Signed copy of *6 O'CLOCK Brews* \$35.00  
Signed copies of *6 O'CLOCK Brews* and *Guile Brews* \$65.00

### Bottles for sale

Since I have been primarily kegging these days, I will be selling my 750ml bottle collection for \$10.00 for a baker's dozen.

Interested buyers – please leave your contact details at the Deloraine Online Access Centre, 21 West Parade.

## Anyone for tennis?



Deloraine Tennis Club is a hit with the ladies, for fun and fitness.

Photo by Andrew Shepherd

DELORAINE TENNIS Club recently held an Open Day to attract new members. The winter weather turned on the sunshine as lots of ladies enjoyed a morning of convivial social tennis, followed by a wonderful spread of refreshments in the Tasmanian country tradition.

Club President Beryl Sturzaker keenly encourages anyone who may be interested in playing or learning to play tennis, to join the club.

Everyone is catered for. Social tennis is played on Sundays and Mondays from 10am. The ladies' midweek pennant starts on September 2. A farmers' group hires the courts and plays on Wednesday nights.

For individual tuition, small groups or group sessions, a professional coach is available, by appointment, from 9.30am to 5.30pm on Saturdays.

Through school term 4, the Tasmanian Tennis Association intends to run another series of 'Open Court Sessions'.

This is an initiative of Tennis Australia, aimed at giving novices the opportunity to get

into tennis. Lots of balls are hit, laughs shared and great company is enjoyed after the sessions.

The motto is 'No skill, no mates, no racquet required', with an emphasis on fun, friendship and healthy exercise.

Deloraine members are proud of their excellent facilities. The Clubhouse is very comfortable, overlooking the three courts including one with an artificial grass surface which is great to play on.

'We are very lucky that the Meander Valley Council has helped us with grants to renovate the Clubhouse,' said Beryl.

She recalled earlier times when there were many more players and frequent interclub competitions.

As early as 1892, 'Arcoona' was built in Deloraine by Dr Frank Cole, with a tennis court and clubhouse on the grounds, so Deloraine has a long history of the game that has been maintained by many enthusiastic players ever since.

For more information, call Beryl Sturzaker on 0427 636 146.

## New fuel price app for cheapest petrol sites

A NEW fuel price app will soon be available to indicate the cheapest petrol prices in Tasmanians' localities.

Building and Construction Minister Elise Archer said legislation recently passed ensuring retailers report accurate and up-to-date prices to the Fuel Check Tasmania app.

When final testing is complete the app will be released free of charge to Tasmanian motorists.

'This scheme will deliver a more competitive retail fuel industry to help Tasmanian consumers find the cheapest fuel in their area, in real time,'

Ms Archer said. 'The app will enable consumers to search easily for the cheapest fuel by location, price, fuel type or brand in the state.'

'Retailers will be required to update fuel prices as they occur, providing better transparency which will help put downward pressure on fuel prices.'

The app will be available via Apple iOS or Android operating systems and is based on a New South Wales Department of model downloaded by more than eight million drivers there.

Ms Archer said the government would closely monitor the provision of price information by retailers to ensure that the price on the app is the same as the price on the bowser.

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By David Claridge

# Hadspen Brigade looking for volunteers

DO YOU enjoy helping others and learning new skills?

How about being available at a moment's notice and heading into a hot situation?

If this sounds like you, and you live in the Hadspen area, then the local fire station might be the place for you.

The Hadspen Brigade of the Tasmanian Fire Service is looking to bolster the number of volunteers it can call on to help them fulfil their responsibilities.

An information session was held in August to give members of the community an idea of exactly what a volunteer fire-fighter's role is.

Brigade Chief Wayne Preston hopes that there are more people out there in the local area who can give up their time and become volunteers.

'It's open to all demographics. People as young as 17 can become cadets and work their way up to volunteers.

'There are even people in their sixties still responding at some brigades,' he explained.

'New candidates will have to go through a brigade induction then basic training provided by the TFS to bring them up to an acceptable skill level so that they can be utilised on the fireground.

'Call outs in Hadspen range from urban response, structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, and of course, vegetation fires.

If anyone in the local area is interested, they are encouraged to email Wayne at wayne.preston@v.fire.tas.gov.au.

The Hadspen Brigade training sessions are on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 8-10 Main Street, Hadspen.



Hadspen Fire Brigade Chief Wayne Preston with son Luke (18 months old) and Third Officer Scott Aalbrecht – looking for more volunteers until Luke is old enough to join! Photo by Andrew Shepherd

## Rebuilding your super after a COVID-19 withdrawal

THE ABILITY to access super-annuation through the Federal Government's COVID-19 early release super scheme may have just been the lifeline some Tasmanians needed.

However, the longterm loss of interest earned on super could potentially have a large impact on the amount of super available at retirement. For a thirty-year-old, taking \$10,000 of super now could potentially mean around \$50,000 less in retirement.

As Tasmania emerges from the most immediate threats of

COVID-19, there will be many people looking at the longterm effect of their early super withdrawals and what they may be able to do about it.

According to the ASFA Retirement Standard, a single person will need a lump sum of \$545,000 in savings to fund either a comfortable or modest standard of living at the retirement age of 65,

The MoneySmart website shows how to calculate super balance at retirement, based on current employment and contributions (www.moneysmart.gov.au).

One of the most practical steps is budget management. COVID-19 has meant a big cut in spending for many people. As incomes and lifestyles recover, keeping some of those saving measures to put towards extra super savings.

There are also a variety of direct ways to make additional contributions to super on top of what an employer contributes.

An individual can make concessional or before-tax contributions in the form of salary

sacrifice. You can organise your employer to pay this out of your before-tax income.

Tax-deductible personal contributions are payments that you can make with your after-tax dollars and then claim a deduction at tax time.

Non-concessional, after-tax contributions are payments you make to your super account using after-tax dollars and don't claim a tax deduction on.

If your partner or spouse is in a better position financially than you and if you meet the eligibility criteria of earning less than \$40,000 a year, they may be able to help you rebuild your super through additional spouse contributions.

With secure employment and a low-to-middle income, you can make your after-tax contribution to super and may be eligible for the government to match that up to \$500.

The government also offers another type of super assistance in the form of low-income super tax offset (LISTO). If you earn \$37,000 or less a year and receive concessional super

contributions, the government may refund the tax you pay on those contributions back into your super account up to a maximum of \$500 a year.

Another way to ensure you're getting the most out of your super and avoiding any unnecessary fees is to find and combine your super accounts.

COVID-19 has had a once in a generation impact on our economy, greatly disrupting many Tasmanians' immediate and long-term financial goals.

In times of such uncertainty it's difficult to know what the future may bring but by taking measures to restore your super balance now, you'll have the best chance of reaching your retirement goals.

*This information has been taken from material provided by Tasplan. Tasmanian based Tasplan is a profit-for-members super fund which has grown to be the state's largest and only locally based super provider, with some \$9.4 billion under management and over 126,000 members which makes up around 50 per cent of the Tasmanian workforce.*

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# Cool as!



The Library's heritage fridge in 2017, shortly after the service began. Photo supplied

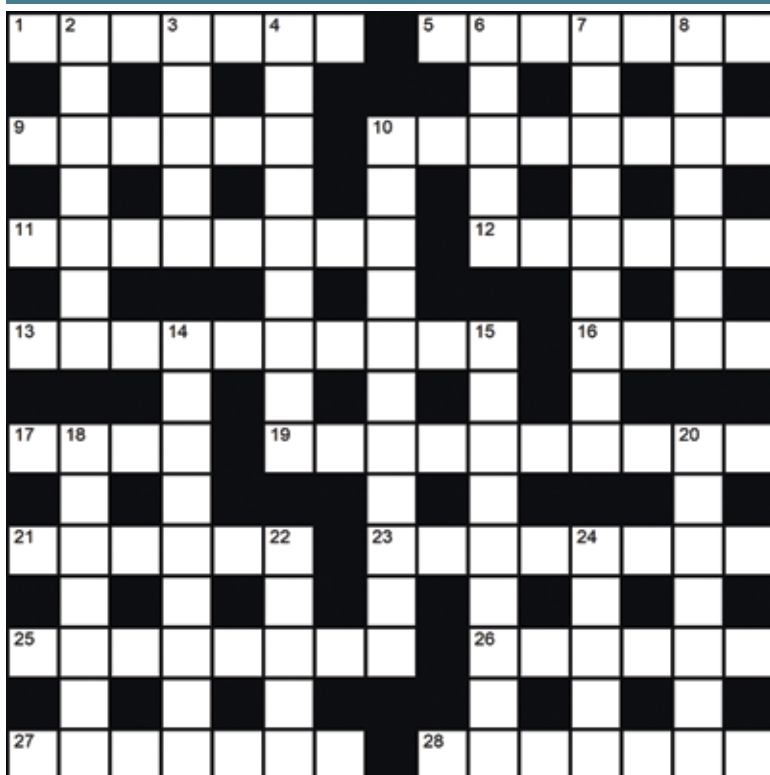
WESTBURY STREET Library at the gate of Pearn's Steam World has been an outstanding success, with books travelling throughout Australia and all over the world.

However, the service needs to expand and the heritage fridge that stores the donated books is no longer big enough to accommodate all the donations.

The Street Library volunteers are appealing to Gazette readers to help find them another suitable storage container that would allow them to display more donations and allow a bigger choice for readers.

For more information on what is required, or to donate suitable storage, contact Anne Heazlewood at Pearn's Steam World or call 63973313.

## Crossword



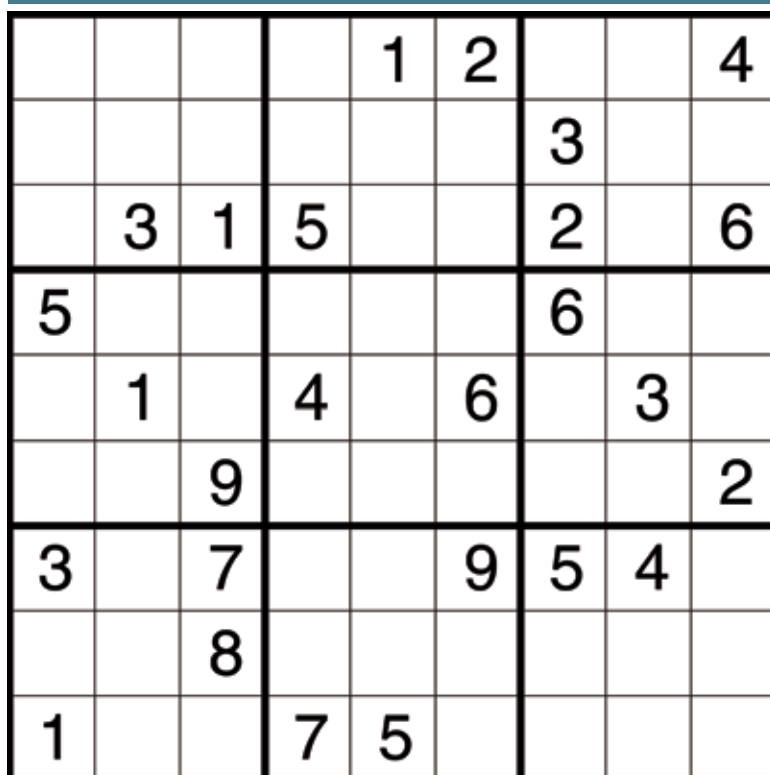
### Across

- 1 Gulp of air (7)
- 5 Assistance for the needy (7)
- 9 Big commotion (6)
- 10 Exploit (3, 2, 3)
- 11 In an emergency, it doesn't come second (5, 3)
- 12 Small wave (6)
- 13 Field hockey player with Olympic gold and bronze medals (5, 5)
- 16 Land of ayatollahs (4)
- 17 It may be half-baked (4)
- 19 Corresponding (10)
- 21 Sunk (6)
- 23 It goes, according to Cole Porter (8)
- 25 A dishonest flyer, by the sound of it (8)

### Down

- 2 Knockoff (7)
- 3 Tiny particles (5)
- 4 White-flowered NE Queensland rainforest tree (4, 5)
- 6 Go in (5)
- 7 Clue in the dirt (9)
- 8 Parrot variety (7)
- 10 Burnett River dry spot? (5, 6)
- 14 Directly (2, 1, 6)
- 15 Bellarine Peninsula swamp (5, 4)
- 18 Genuine (5-2)
- 20 Catholic welfare organisation (7)
- 22 Subject of Professor Higgins' experiment (5)
- 24 A lot (5)

## Sudoku



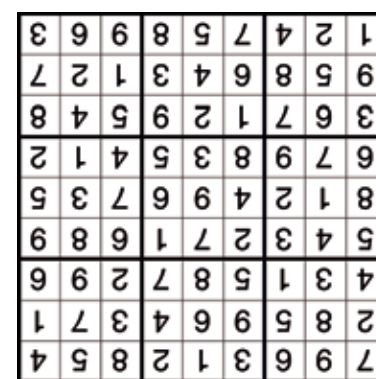
© 2020 Syndicated Puzzles

**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 September 2020 solution



### Sudoku September 2020 solution



## Meander Valley Gazette is looking for writers, editors and

proofreaders. We are now accredited for Centrelink, so if you are thinking of

volunteering and have some useful skills to help produce our paper, then please

get in touch. You can find us at the office we share with the Deloraine Online Access Centre,

21 West Parade, Deloraine. Call 6286 8212 or email us at [general@meandervalleygazette.com](mailto:general@meandervalleygazette.com).



## Openings & closures

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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 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 Thursday, 10-11am	CHAT Westbury Play Gym	During school term Westbury Sports Centre, Franklin St 0-5yr olds \$3.50 per child (under 12 months free) 1st visit free
Every day 1am-3pm	Pearn's Steam World	Reopening in August, Winter hours as usual.
Sat 5 Sept and 3 Oct 9am-1pm	Deloraine Showground Market	Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Road, Deloraine Bodhi McSweeney 0409 695 321
Sat 12 Sept, 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>Yesterday</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M Comedy/Music 2019 UK 101m Info 0418 389 868
Saturday 19 Sept 9am-1pm	Mole Creek Market	Join the Market Day fun @ Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drv & Caveside Rd Contact Ross Quick 0413 681 252
Sat 19 Sept 9am-2pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Promenade, Westbury Rob Menzie 0417 931 619
Sat 26 Sept, 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>Portrait of a Lady on Fire</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M Drama 2019 France 121m Info 0418 389 868
Sat 10 Oct, 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>The Children Act</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M Drama 2017 UK 105m Info 0418 389 868
Fri 16 and Sat 17 Oct	Festival of One Act Plays	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine Deloraine Dramatic Society Patricia Woods, Festival Director 0409 568 291



## Afternoon film fund raiser

**THREE BILLBOARDS Outside Ebbing, Missouri** is a 2017 black comedy drama which has received many awards, including Academy Awards for Best Actress for Frances McDormand and Best Supporting Actor for Sam Rockwell, and Golden Globe and BAFTA Awards for Best Picture and for Best Screenplay.

It will be shown at a special screening on Sunday 11 October at 1.30pm in the Little Theatre at the Meander Valley Performing Arts Centre, 2 Meander Valley Road, Deloraine (near the police station).

Presented by the Rotary Club of Deloraine, proceeds from the screening, will be used to provide microfinancing to eligible applicants in island nations

such as Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Microfinancing provides loans to unemployed or low-income individuals or groups who otherwise would have no other access to financial services.

Microfinance allows people to take on reasonable small business loans safely, and in a manner that is consistent with ethical lending practices.

For \$20 you can see a great film and at the same time help people who really need assistance.

Tickets can only be bought on-line. Go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BLAYB> or type in 'Film Afternoon Fund Raiser by Rotary Club' on the TryBooking site.

## A festival of one act plays

THE DELORAINE Dramatic Society is planning their annual drama festival, subject to conditions and restrictions necessary for Covid-19.

Entries are already in from the Devonport Repertory Theatre Society, five different groups in Hobart and two are expected from Deloraine members.

The festival will be held at the Little Theatre on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 October.

The festival is nearly forty years old, a major accomplishment for Deloraine.

So, mark the dates in your diary and be ready to enjoy a fantastic weekend.

Clubs and organisations might like to organise attending the festival as a group enjoying a social night out.

For more information, contact Patricia Woods, Festival Director on 0409568291.

## At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society

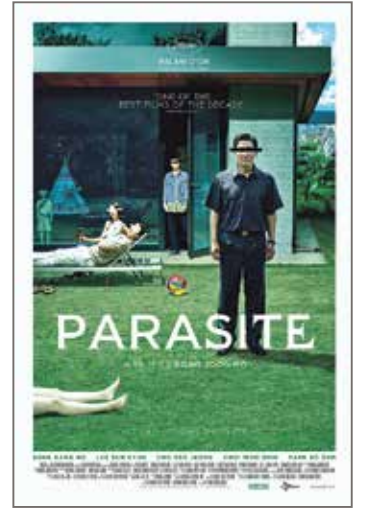
By Clare Andersen

### August movie review **PARASITE**

MA+ Comedy/drama/thriller South Korea 132m

This award winning South Korean dark comedy thriller held the audience in rapt silence throughout. Whilst having a basic storyline of the poor, disillusioned, opportunistic Kim family versus the relatively naïve and privileged Park, it continued to surprise.

With themes of dreams for a better life, the need for young reassurance and the painful consequences of deception, fraud, and petty discrimination leading to unintended violence, there is 'a justice of sorts' dealt out. Still, a youth retains hope and plans for a brighter future. Indeed an artful, thoughtfully challenging film. Our audience rating 3.5/5.



### September 12 **YESTERDAY**

M Comedy/Romance/Music UK 116m

With direction by Danny Boyle and script by Richard Curtis (*Love Actually*), *Yesterday* is where we meet Jack Malik, a struggling singer-songwriter.

During a mysterious global blackout Jack suffers a freak bus accident and awakens to a world where The Beatles never existed. Supported by Ellie, his agent and devoted childhood best friend, Jack capitalises on this 'happening' and performs songs by this great band, becoming an overnight sensation.

However, he discovers life rarely is uncomplicated nor runs smoothly.

### September 26 **PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE**

M Historical drama France 121m

Winner of Cannes Best Screenplay and nominated for the Palme d'Or with direction by Celine Sciamma, this film set on a remote Brittany shore in 1760 France, tells the story of a forbidden affair between Héloïse, an aristocrat newly freed from the convent and a painter, Marianne, commissioned to paint her wedding portrait.

It follows their subtle growing relationship of observance, intimacy and attraction. Artfully using cinematic elements texture, mood and sound, the central apt portrait theme is 'on fire'.

Rotten Tomatoes website's critical consensus: 'A singularly rich period piece of stirring, thought-provoking drama within a powerfully acted romance.'



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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## Annual General Meeting for Meander Valley Connect Inc.

To be held at 7pm on Tuesday 15 September at Deloraine Creative Studios, 59-61 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine

Election of office bearers, presentation of reports, appointment of auditor.

All welcome but numbers will be restricted to a maximum of 15, due to Covid-19.

Sandra Atkins, Public Officer



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## Hagley Farm Visitor Centre re-opens

HAGLEY FARM School Visitor Centre has reopened, along with four other field study centres across the state.

The centres provide opportunities for students to engage in the environment through hands-on experiences in specialist learning facilities, purpose built with expert support for learners.

Tasmanian students will once again be encouraged to explore, experiment and learn at Hagley along with Molesworth Environment Centre, Mount Cameron Field Study Centre, Sustainability Learning Centre, and Woodbridge Marine Discovery Centre.

For more information go to [www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/programs-and-initiatives/field-study-centres/](http://www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/programs-and-initiatives/field-study-centres/)

## School levies axed next year for many low-income families

WHEN THE State Government expands the Student Assistance Scheme in 2021, the move will waive levies for more low-income students, with around 9,000 students benefiting.

Eligibility for the scheme will use the Health Care Card or equivalent as the assessment mechanism, replacing previous income thresholds tests.

Education Minister Jeremy Rockliff said, 'This will make a significant difference to families. For example, for a family with three school age students this could provide a saving of over \$1,000 per year.'

For more information go to [www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/parent-fact-sheets/fees-levies/](http://www.education.tas.gov.au/parents-carers/parent-fact-sheets/fees-levies/)

# Soccer Gala Day at Prospect



By David Claridge

JUNIOR SPORT is alive again in Meander Valley, with Prospect based soccer team Launceston City hosting a gala event at Prospect Park in August.

Olympia FC Warriors and the Devonport Strikers were invited from the South and North West of the state to encourage grass roots level sport and nurture future stars.

Meander Valley councillors Frank Nott and Susie Bower

were present with Mayor Wayne Johnston, elbow bumping with locals and sharing their thoughts on developing soccer in Meander Valley.

Councillor Nott spoke of the ongoing attention the grounds received back when he was the deputy Mayor of Launceston. 'It has been a continual process to keep the grounds at a standard where everyone can enjoy them,' he said.

Mayor Johnston explained that around \$500,000 will be

spent in coming months to add drainage and other features to adjacent grounds to bring them up to a better standard to allow more games to be played.

This follows a grant from the Meander Valley Council to purchase two new sets of portable goal posts.

On their Facebook page, Launceston City FC commented that the Gala event was 'a great opportunity for us to discuss future plans for this precinct and how further development

of our facilities will help us to host more of these types of events in the future.'

**Above: Soccer teams from across the state demonstrated their skills on the ground at the Gala Day.**

**Below, from left: Luigi Gugliotti, Danny Linger, Frank Nott, Susie Bower, Wayne Johnston, Rosemary Armitage MLC and Mark Shelton MHA**  
*Photos by Andrew Shepherd*



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