



### MARKETS BIG AND SMALL

Come one, come all – just keep your distance!

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### OUR LADY'S SCHOOL

125 years of education and community

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### WESTBURY, NATURALLY

Birralee reserve land reveals its wonders

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# Meander Valley Gazette

Free every month

October 2020

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper

## TasWater inquiry – Meander Valley small businesses take the plunge

by Sharon Webb

CAFÉS AND coffee shops in the Meander Valley have made submissions to a Legislative Council inquiry into TasWater, protesting at the corporation's demand that they pay up to \$80,000 each for grease traps.

Advocate for Deloraine businesses on water issues, Malcolm Eastley, says water tariffs have risen fourfold for residential customers since TasWater took over from councils, but rose tenfold and more for cafés and restaurants.

Local Legislative Council member Tania Rattray said TasWater wrote to other legislative councillors telling them to reject her inquiry. But with the help of the Labor Party she was successful and hearings will begin at the end of October.

Three of the committee's members are from Tasmania's north: Tania Rattray from McIntyre, Ivan Dean from Windermere and Jo Palmer from Rosevears. The other member, from the south, is Sarah Lovell from Rumney.

'Tasmanian small businesses were telling me they were affected by TasWater's trade waste requirements, and I was never satisfied with TasWater's explanation for why they were necessary', Ms Rattray said.

According to Mr Eastley, TasWater has an obligation to parliament to provide services that are fair and competitive.

'But Melbourne tariff comparisons show we pay much more because TasWater continues to use a fixed sewage treatment charge rather than volume charges', he said.

(story continued on page 2)

## Big hearts can come in little packages



A very cold, sunny Freshmans' Day at Westbury Showgrounds in August saw a full range of the young, old, big and small challenging themselves and their horses. Millie Cuthbertson of Scottsdale and Charlie show off their jumping skills. Photo by Hayley Manning

## TasWater inquiry – small business has a say



Local McIntyre Legislative Councillor Tania Rattray will lead an inquiry into TasWater to protect small Tasmanian businesses. Photo supplied

(story continued from page 1)

'An average residence pays about \$200 per year more than a Melbourne counterpart, with lower volume users like pensioners paying \$300 more.'

TasWater requires businesses producing waste, cafés and restaurants, to install grease traps. Small and large business requirements are the same.

'Melbourne cafés are regarded as low risk and their trade waste is billed as non-residential sewage, a category we do not have', Mr Eastley said.

'Deloraine was at one point chosen as a test area for grease content. TasWater assumed grease traps could be installed for \$3,000, saying all cafés

must have one, so no financial advantage was involved.

'But it became clear some sites were more difficult.

'Deloraine businesses faced installation costs between \$11,000 and \$80,000, with maintenance costs of \$1,000 a year.

'TasWater offers four year interest free loans of up to \$60,000 to encourage installation but by taking such a loan a small business faces water bills of \$19,000 a year.'

The situation is compounded by a resounding lack of interest in the issue by the state and local governments, who benefit annually from TasWater dividends that TasWater borrows to pay.

And the churn of senior TasWater staff has made negotiations difficult.

'Malcolm has been a champion of small business', Ms Rattray said. 'Having him in their corner has been invaluable and I can't thank him enough for continuing to raise the issue.'

TasWater has said it will fully co-operate with the enquiry.

CEO Michael Brewster said, 'I am confident the committee process will highlight how the business is working hard to provide customers with essential water and sewerage services'.

### Terms of reference for the TasWater inquiry include

- operations in regard to the impact on business required to comply with Trade Waste regulations
- the opportunity for re-use water expansion for irrigation
- the management of sewage treatment including the disposal of the treated waste biosolids
- the effect of TasWater's dividend policy on local government revenue
- the delivery and timeliness of water services to Tasmanian communities
- the effectiveness of business operations since the State Government became a shareholder in early 2019.

## Council boosts residential land for more than 200 houses in Westbury

by Sharon Webb

WESTBURY RESIDENTS have until 13 October to comment on a plan for around 20 hectares to be added to their town's residential zone.

In September, Meander Valley Council voted for a number of

Westbury land rezonings to facilitate home building, with no public discussion from councillors for or against the proposal.

Cllrs Andrew Sherriff and Susie Bower led the rezoning of 15 hectares to the north of the town and 3.8 hectares to the south.

Cllrs Rodney Synfield, Frank Nott and John Temple tried to gain more time for residents to consider the proposal, but all other councillors voted against a time extension.

The rezoning plan is in an amendment to Westbury's Urban Residential Growth Strategy. It claims there is insufficient land supply to accommodate future urban residential growth at Westbury.

Landowner Dale Badcock told councillors that he owns a large portion of the land proposed for rezoning from Rural Resource to General Residential, bounded by Taylor, Lyttleton and Waterloo Streets.

'The land has become too high a value to continue farming. It's an odd shape to put irrigation on', he said.

'On behalf of my family I want to go ahead and develop some sort of succession plan successfully if I divest myself of that block of land.'

Cllr Synfield argued that residents should have longer to comment on the proposal.

'I support an extension because of the volume and significance of this issue.

'Some residents are expressing concern about the time they have to address this issue among all the other issues going on in Westbury as well.'

After input from planner Jo Oliver (which was largely unintelligible on the council meeting recording because of poor audio quality) councillors voted against extending public time

more than the required 28 days.

Mayor Wayne Johnston was unsympathetic. 'There are lots of things going on everywhere', he said.

The Tasmanian Planning Commission must assess the zone changes and has the power to approve or reject the amendment.

The council is required to advertise the amendment in two Saturday newspapers and exhibit the documents for public comment for an 8 day period.

It must also consider public representations and report to the commission, who will hold hearings into the representations before making a decision.

### Proposed Westbury rezoning locations include these land parcels:

#### **A** Land bound by Lyttleton, William, Taylor & Waterloo Sts

Rural Resource Zone to General Residential Zone to create approximately 170 housing lots.

#### **B** Land at 12 Lyttleton St

Rural Resource Zone to Rural Living Zone to create two additional lots for houses on two hectare lots.

#### **C** Land at 1 William St

#### **D** 9 and 10 Quamby St, 113A Meander Valley Rd

Rural Resource Zone to Low Density Residential Zone providing for uncomplicated approvals for additions & alterations to existing dwellings & home based businesses.

#### **E** Land at 115 Meander Valley Rd

Rural Resource Zone to Village Zone allowing additions & alterations to existing dwellings, with potential for commercial & retail uses.



#### **F** Land bound by Dexter, Jones, Taylor & Shadforth Sts

Low Density Residential Zone to General Residential Zone to create 33 housing lots.

Map is based on publicly available rezoning information – boundaries are approximations only © Meander Valley Gazette

## Safer Prospect crossing

by Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY Council will investigate a safe crossing of Westbury Road near Prospect Market Place and propose a project for its 2021–22 Capital Works Program.

Cllr Frank Nott said residents had told him there was a significant need for a safe crossing with pedestrian traffic lights.

'Currently there is no safe lighted pedestrian crossing on Westbury Road but there is a lighted pedestrian crossing operated by Launceston Council at Ralph Street adjacent to Prospect High School', he told the council.

'Traffic levels on Westbury Road are continually increasing and proposed developments at the Casino precinct together with Blackstone Heights, Panorama Road and Tasland Developments, in addition to proposed work at Tyler Village, will add considerably to this traffic in the future.'

Cllr Nott said he was especially concerned about residents

using mobilised wheelchairs and mobility scooters to cross to the supermarket and shops.

'It's time we provided a safe method of crossing the road. My motivations are the safety and inclusion of frail and elderly people, mothers with prams and young children and students.

'The high traffic volume and 60 kph speed zone presents a significant challenge for those attempting to cross Westbury Road.

'The crossing should be straight through with no centre refuge as I believe it is dangerous to be parked in the centre of a very busy arterial road.'

Council officers noted approval for installation of a signalised crossing would be subject to up-to-date traffic and pedestrian data.

They said traffic counters on Westbury Road in the vicinity of Vale Street would soon be installed and estimated a signalised pedestrian crossing may cost \$60,000 to \$80,000 for poles, lights and electrical works.



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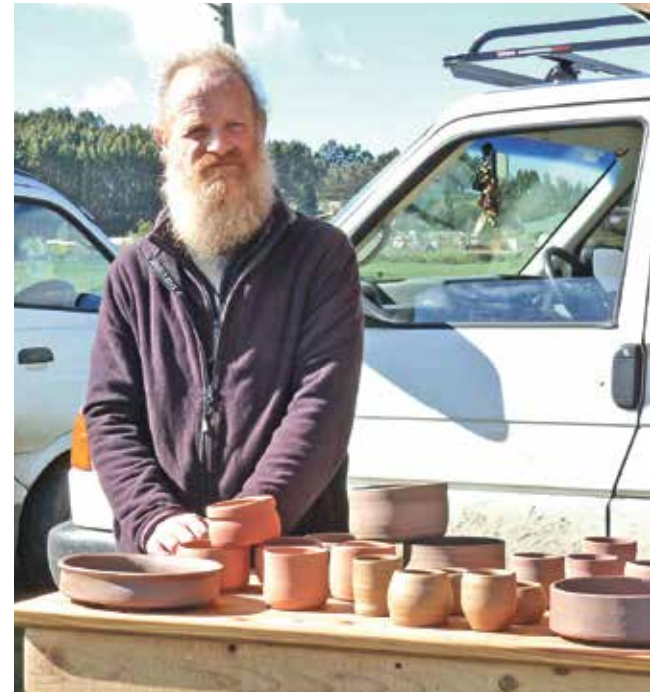
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# To market, to market



Meander Valley markets are open again – a great excuse to get out and about for monthly bargains, good food and a chance to catch up with locals. Clockwise, from top left:

At Mole Creek, Westbury locals Roger and Wendy Travis with Tally the dog, sample the gourmet delights while Ken Philpott flips the burgers. *Photos by Hayley Manning*

At Deloraine Market, Tim the Potter connects with customers and friends. *Photo supplied* Eddie Tuleja entertains the Deloraine Market goers, safe from the elements under the new awning. *Photo by Hayley Manning*

Westbury Market, inside and out – always a chance to catch up with the locals. *Photos supplied*



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## Letter from the Editor

IT'S EITHER a famine or a feast with letters to the Gazette.

Any form of letter-writing might seem anachronistic or just pointless to some people, especially those who prefer the immediacy of social media.

But many Gazette readers are still prepared to take time to gather their thoughts, write them down and then send them off to the paper to share their views with others.

Letter-writing can also be a cooling-off period, allowing the writer to set out their viewpoint

but then have second thoughts about what they need to say or whether they need to share those views at all.

Here's a handy tip. When writing emails, always remove any addresses from the header bar when writing something angry or in haste, until you are absolutely sure you are going to send the email to anyone.

Especially, if like me, you are prone to accidentally hitting 'send' before you are finished!  
*Liz Dougllass, Managing Editor, Meander Valley Gazette*

## Letters to the Editor

AH! WESTBURY, big old historic trees that spread their branches wide across the Village Green, surrounded by homes that were young at the time of white settlement.

Radiating out from the Green are more old homes dotted with newer ones, mostly on larger blocks than the average Australian enjoys.

To most people Westbury is simply a place the Bass Highway bypasses but to those of us who choose to call it home, it is a peaceful village with just enough services to provide for all our needs.

There appears to be a plan in place to change all of this. The plan is to find every single piece of land and jam as many dwellings as possible in. Infill housing is the term.

I wonder what Westbury will start to look like should these developments go ahead.

Like Legana? Like Prospect?

Westbury will become just another satellite suburb of Launceston with the history and space once enjoyed forgotten in a sea of rapidly built, cheap dwellings.

THE CHOSEN site for the high security prison is adjacent to one of the most dangerous sections of Birrale Road, a major thoroughfare that connects the Frankford and Meander Valley Highways.

A widening of Birrale Road will be required so that trucks and semi-trailers can access the 'development footprint'.

Not only will this be disruptive to trucks and commercial vehicles, but as Birrale residents, major works over many years will mean our regular trips to Westbury could be delayed by hours. And what happens if there's a fire in the area and we all have to use the road to evacuate? Birrale Road is a main tourist route into and out of the historic township of Westbury. What impression will this make on visitors to Tasmania?

*Sarah Lloyd and Ron Nagorcka, Birrale*

Is this the Village the current residents want to live in? Has the Meander Valley Council consulted with us?

Funny that the Council's slogan is 'Working Together'. Working together with whom? Certainly not the majority of residents in Westbury.

As I jogged past a site that is currently slated for development on Dexter and William Streets this week, a song started to play in my mind, 'Little boxes on the hillside, little boxes made of ticky tacky, little boxes, little boxes all the same ...'

My family moved to Westbury because the Village isn't a crammed and slapped together place, it's a village of space, history and beauty. Will we be the last Westburians to enjoy it like this?

Meander Valley Council, it's time for proper consultation and transparency. Westbury is sick of things being done behind closed doors.

You are our Council, it's high time you started working with us.

*Anne-Marie Loader, Westbury*

I AM concerned that the changes initiated by Ms Jo Oliver at Meander Valley Council will irretrievably change the village of Westbury so much that it will lose its attractiveness to tourists and other visitors.

It will certainly impact on Westbury as a place to live for locals. Discussions with numerous people show that same concern of locals is shared by others from as far away as Hobart, Qld and NSW.

Comments to Meander Valley Council on these changes close on the 12th October 2020.

However, I would appreciate a chance for all the people of Westbury to be consulted in an open forum by Council on this issue, before any more planning decisions are made, because many people are wanting to be fully informed and to have a chance to be listened to.  
*Karen Mackenzie, Westbury*

ON SEPTEMBER 30th, Westbury's *annus horribilis* ended with no real answers, but also with no real progress on a prison.

Thanks to the Gazette and its excellent journalist, Sharon Webb, for representing the voices of their community so well, without fear or favour.

We will continue our struggle to protect historic Westbury for as long as it takes.

*Chris and Heather Donaldson, Westbury*

CONGRATULATIONS TO Agfest chairman Ethan Williams and his Rural Youth team on the news that Agfest is set to return to the paddock from 5-8 May 2021.

Agfest normally attracts about 60,000 patrons and was one of the first major events impacted this year by the COVID pandemic.

The Tasmanian Government was proud to help Agfest with a \$65,000 grant to assist the 2020 event to operate 'in the cloud' and they were pioneers for many other events to do the same.

Rural Youth showed innovation and determination in the face of adversity – great qualities that will be needed as the Tasmanian economy rebounds.  
*John Tucker, Liberal Member for Lyons*

ON 30TH September 2020 we passed a significant milestone in the battle over Westbury's future. This date is the anniversary of Elise Archer's unheralded announcement that Westbury had been selected as the site for the Northern Regional Prison.

A lot of troubled water has since passed under the bridge.

With other members of the community, I have fought tooth and nail against the improper process leading to Westbury being selected for this prison.

Locally, the battle has been philosophical as much as political. It has been waged between those who love Westbury just as it is, and those who welcome the major changes that would inevitably flow from a project of this type and size near our small town.

No lasting truce was called throughout COVID-19, merely a short-lived ceasefire.

And one year on, we're still fighting. Because even though the stench of impropriety hovering over the selection of the industrial site drove the Government off it, there is something about Westbury that the Government cannot bring itself to relinquish.

Unluckily for the Government, there is something about Westbury that we will not relinquish either.

Recently we had our first members' meeting in Westbury for a very long time. Our

A LOT has been said on social media about who is the 'majority' or 'minority' when it comes to 'the Westbury Prison Issue', but one simple fact remains.

At the last election, the Liberal Party pulled a whopping 747 first preference votes at the Westbury booth, as opposed to Labor who only received 297 first preference votes. Based on that data, you could say that the Liberals received the 'majority' of the votes.

Two petitions have now been submitted to council: one opposing the prison, the other calling on council to hold a public meeting on the prison issue. Each petition has had more than 700 signatories (whether council recognise them all or not).

Council can choose to bury its head in the sand, and say that there are people in Westbury both for and against the proposed prison, but this fact remains: if the Government build the prison at Westbury, we know who will get the 'majority of votes' at the next election – and it won't be the Liberal Party!

*Emma Hamilton, Westbury (Data taken from the Tasmanian Electoral Commission website [https://tec.tas.gov.au/House\\_of\\_Assembly\\_Elections/StateElection2018/Results/Lyons/index.html](https://tec.tas.gov.au/House_of_Assembly_Elections/StateElection2018/Results/Lyons/index.html) 2018 first preferences by polling place spreadsheet)*

Council wouldn't make the Town Hall available, but fortunately two of our members opened up their beautiful historic property for the meeting. That property and their gesture symbolise what is so special about Westbury.

As the meeting opened, I stood up to address the members but found myself struggling for words. This community campaign has been a war of attrition that has taken its toll on so many. In that moment, I was overwhelmed.

Why you might ask, do we put ourselves through this? For myself, I fight because I still believe that in Tasmania we live in a Society and not in an Economy. We are people, not numbers.

I was lucky enough recently to come across the expression 'Ubuntu' used by Nelson Mandela. Loosely it translates as 'I am because we all are'. In other words, alone we are nothing: we only achieve ourselves by sharing with others.

In Westbury I have found this sense of community and sharing. Such a thing is worth fighting for, and we will fight for it until the end.

We owe a depth of gratitude to everyone who has supported us in our journey so far.

Thank you from the heart for your support to date, and in the future.  
*Linda Poulton, Westbury*

EST. 2013

# Meander Valley Gazette

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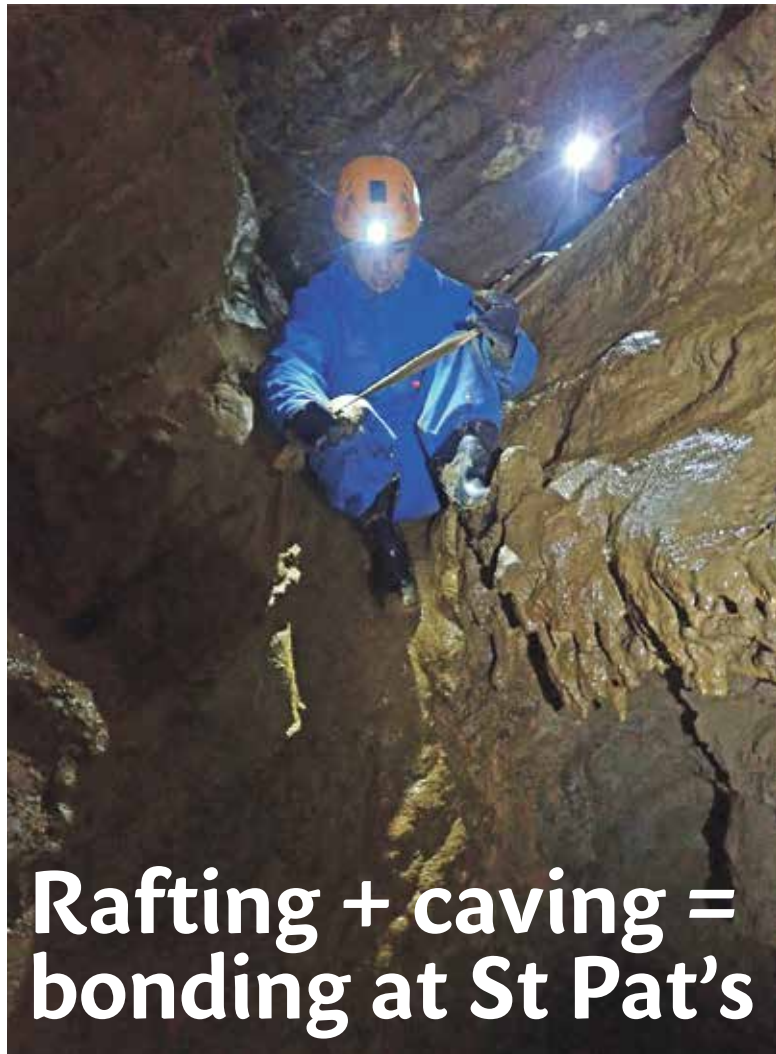
Current stories can be read online or readers can search for older stories they may have missed.

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# Rafting + caving = bonding at St Pat's

by Sharon Webb

ST PATRICK'S College students have ridden the highs of white-water rafting and the lows of deep caving in the Meander Valley as part of a pre-tertiary course in outdoor leadership.

Student Callan Ryan of Prospect Vale said he was blown away by the technical difficulty of caving in the fragile environment of Honeycomb and Baldocks Caves at Mole Creek.

And Eleanor March of Launceston said that whitewater rafting on the Mersey, with guides who made everyone feel safe, was fun and thrilling.

Teacher Alistair Biffin said 14 students, from years 11 and 12, experienced the four-day camp including caving, rafting and bushwalking to Lees Paddocks as part of their full-year course.

'This last unit is about human/nature relationships, where students learn about the ways we interact with nature', he said.

Aaron Rigby discovering the slow, deliberate delights of caving.

'With rafting it's about how society has harnessed the power of water through dams, and transformed it into electricity. A wild, untamed force transformed for energy production.

'For us, the way we interact with it, in rafting, is a loud abrasive experience.'

Mr Biffin said caving was a huge contrast.

'The cave formations have developed over millions of years and are incredibly fragile and vulnerable. Caving is therefore slow, deliberate, quiet and respectful in terms of preservation.'

Callan, 18, said he'd found the bushwalking challenging because the 5.5 hour walk had involved students navigating, negotiating and leading from the front in different roles.

'And I learnt a lot from the caving. Some of the holes we climbed through looked so small, impossible.



From left to right: Jackson Armour, Izaak Austen, Aaron Rigby and Callan Ryan, on the Mersey River, bonding through the challenges of outdoor activities at St Patrick's College. Photos supplied

'The knowledge of our caving leader, Deb Hunter, was outstanding and I can see how important it is to be led by an experienced caver.'

Eleanor, 16, is aiming to study tertiary science or paramedicine and has done a lot of caving.

'I had an assignment where I led a group through a cave and I wanted to watch how a great caving person like Deb would lead.

'When I go to uni I want to do guiding with Cradle Huts so I'm hoping this experience will be transferable to a job like that.'

Ultimately, the four day camp was a bonding experience for college-level students who have had a tough year because of COVID-19.

'We've been close the whole year and it was great to have these experiences out of the classroom to put the theory of outdoor leadership into practice', Callan said.

## Government moves on bushfire measures

A NEW Draft Bushfire Mitigation Measures Bill is now out for consultation which will make it easier to reduce fuel and mechanically clear vegetation for a fuel break, while balancing environment and community concerns.

In addition, in preparation for the fire season, 30 of Tasmania's newest remote area firefighters are being put through their paces.

Premier Peter Gutwein said the moves will help ensure the State is as well prepared as possible to work with greater speed and responsiveness to address bushfire risk.

'The legislation will make it easier for landholders to reduce fuel loads by allowing approvals to be granted in a shorter time frame, when a bushfire hazard management plan is in place.

'There will also be clear accountability for landowners

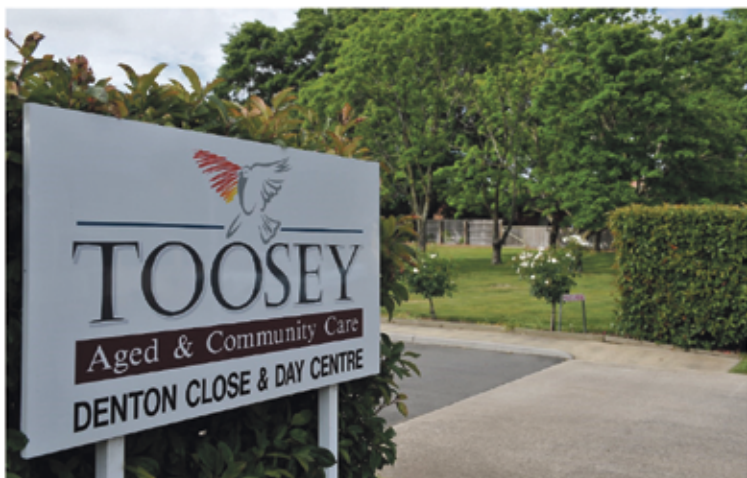
and occupiers, both public and private, in regards to bushfire mitigation.'

The first cohort of firefighting volunteers, selected through an expressions of interest process, is now training to enhance the State's specialist remote area firefighting capability.

Mark Shelton, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, said their training will be completed during the spring months, with the volunteers adding to the existing personnel in the TFS, PWS and Sustainable Timber Tasmania before the summer season.

'Remote area firefighters access difficult terrain by helicopter or on foot, and use special light weight pumps or hand tools to protect our iconic natural assets or to fight bushfires before they spread and impact our cities, towns and critical infrastructure', he said.

# 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

## Book Week should be every week for curious creatures!



### Letters to the Editor continued from page 4

WHILE ELECTED officials should expect to receive their fair share of scrutiny and constructive criticism, the assertions made by former Meander Valley Council Deputy Mayor Kim Booth, (Meander Valley Gazette, September 2020), need a response.

The repurposing of the Meander Primary School site to benefit the community remains a focus of Council. While there will always be the voice of irrational criticism, reasonable people will understand that since 2014 when the school was closed, a string of elected Councillors have pursued a worthwhile use of the site. Mr Booth's inference that legal costs are the sole responsibility of me and the current Councillors is misleading. Let's also not forget that choices on the school site were informed by consultation, including a survey of Meander people. Amongst mixed views, the Teen Challenge proposal was favoured by the community and a lease awarded two years before the election of the current Council.

Teen Challenge proposed a worthy community use for the site and in addition to helping those most in need, were to spend upwards of \$1 million in the local community to repurpose the school

site and renew the Meander church. This opportunity has now been lost because of the actions of Timber World Pty Ltd, a company linked to Mr Booth. Challenging the planning decision of Council over a legal point that has now been changed because of its unworkability has driven the very costs that Mr Booth criticises. The real financial loss is the \$1 million dollar private investment in the renewal of the school, not to mention the human cost of lost assistance to those in need. Let's hope any future use of the site provides these same opportunities.

The current situation of the Meander school site is born from scaremongering and division. Let us not forget some of the other irrational criticism of the past, where the 'Meander Dam would not produce one potato' and that 'the Huntsman Lake would be nothing more than a stinking mud hole in summer'. Reality has proven such views to be wrong.

At a time when there is a need to heal the community, Mr Booth's letter perpetuates division and breeds cynicism. Meander deserves a better class of public debate to achieve social cohesion and collective benefit.

Wayne Johnston,  
Mayor

EVERY WEEK is book week at your library with beautiful picture books to borrow any time.

Book Week arrives once a year, providing the opportunity of week-long celebrations of Australian children's literature.

Monty checks out four of the Children's Book Council of Australia's Early Childhood shortlisted picture books:

**When Billy Was a Dog**, Kirsty Murray and Karen Blair; **Hello Lighthouse**, Sophie Blackall; **Three**, Stephen Michael King; **Nop**, Caroline Magerl. Photo supplied

Due to Covid-19, Book Week has been slightly delayed this year and is now scheduled for 17 to 23 October.

This year, a special pop-up Story Time is planned for Monday 19 October at 10am at Deloraine House, for pre-school children and their parents and carers.

And what delights are in store? With the 2020 theme of *Curious Creatures*, *Wild Minds*, Deloraine House and Deloraine Library have put their heads together to devise a beautiful program that will delight children and adults alike.

Grandparents are especially invited to come and join in with their grandchildren.

Why do we read to children? To share the love of reading and books, to inspire creativity and to develop oral language. These are the first steps to children becoming competent readers and writers.

A child's first and most important teachers are the adults who care for them. To reserve your place at the Book Week Pop-Up Story Time call Deloraine House 6362 2678. You are invited to come along dressed as your favourite book character.

## Selling in Westbury – money, but not in a hurry

by Sharon Webb

HOUSE PRICES in Westbury have jumped a whopping 47 per cent in 2020 this year, but they're on the market twice as long.

Statistics from the Real Estate Institute of Tasmania show that people assuming the proposed new prison means Westbury houses are selling within the rumoured three days are wrong.

What the trends do show is a jump in the median price for a house from \$278,000 in 2019 to \$408,500 in 2020.

The maximum sale price until August this year was \$900,000; the minimum, \$229,000.

And more houses will be sold in Westbury in 2020 than in 2019. By the end of August, 16 had been sold compared with 18 for the full year of 2019.

But houses are hanging around on the market longer,

with an average of 29 days this year compared with 15 days in 2019, and 20 in 2018.

In comparison, Westbury's unit sales, land sales and rentals are similar to 2019.

Trends in unit sales are difficult to compare because until August only one was sold, but the price of residential blocks has dropped by 13 per cent, taking the same time to sell as last year.

Rental numbers are roughly on a par with 2019 but 8.3 per cent up in price.

While Westbury is all about increased house prices, Deloraine is about land sales.

Residential block prices are up 38 per cent and 18 were sold up to August 2020 compared with only 12 in the whole of 2019.

Blocks are also selling faster in 2020 than in 2019, although still relatively slowly. Blocks took an average of 382 days in

2019 compared with 205 days this year.

In Deloraine house prices are up only 5.9 per cent this year, with a median price of \$341,500 – but ultimately more houses will sell there this year compared with 2019. Already 36 houses have been sold in Deloraine in 2020, compared with a total of 37 in 2019.

Deloraine houses are taking longer to sell in 2020, averaging 53 days compared with 26 in 2019.

The top price for a Deloraine house up to August was \$621,000; the lowest, \$229,000.

Deloraine rentals appear to be down on 2019, with 36 houses and units rented until the end of August compared with 67 for the whole of 2019. Prices are similar to those of 2019.

This information is taken from Real Estate Institute of Tasmania data.

Westbury median house price movement – REIT statistics



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# Rainbow Room's big TV



Westbury Community Health Centre's Michelle Igor and the Rainbow Room's giant TV. Photo by Hayley Manning

by Hayley Manning

PLAUDITS MUST go to the Westbury Health committee members, donors and volunteers who have already raised enough funds through the recently opened Village Central recycled fashion shop to make a significant purchase for Westbury Community Health Centre.

The Westbury Community Health Centre has welcomed the installation of a brand new flat screen television in the Rainbow Room. Nurse Unit



Manager, Michelle Igor, said she put the suggestion to the committee to replace the 'miniscule' TV in the dementia specific Rainbow Room.

'Our visitors can now watch old style movies that help them reconnect with their longterm memory.

'In standby mode, it has a beautiful backdrop display of scenery. You can add photos and or have seasonal scenes such as a crackling fire in winter,' she said.



Congratulations to Deloraine's Ulla Smaller and her partner Gerry. Ulla is the winner of the Gazette's Somerset on the Pier Giveaway, which featured in the August edition. The prize offers one night's accommodation at the luxurious hotel on the Hobart waterfront. Photo by Hayley Manning

## Minister sticks with Birralee after offer of Rocherlea

by Sharon Webb

A LAUNCESTON man says Corrections Minister Elise Archer is flouting her own stated rules in rejecting his offer of land at Rocherlea as an alternative prison site.

Andrew Nowakowski and his two siblings offered 100 hectares at 278 Lilydale Rd, but it was after the due date for expressions of interest and Ms Archer told Mr Nowakowski that he was too late.

'In reply, her letter to me said no places were being considered outside the expressions of interest process.

'Then, lo and behold, she moved the prison site from 135

Birralee Road to the Brushy Rivulet site further down Birralee Road, which was definitely a site outside the expressions of interest process', he said.

'I reoffered my site, thinking that they might look at it again, but no.

'I believe that even if the government doesn't take our site seriously they should open up the expressions of interest process again', he said

The government is still carrying out due diligence research on the 70 ha Birralee Road site on the Brushy Rivulet Crown Reserve, including statutory and master planning, assessment of environmental

impacts, heritage, service infrastructure, traffic impacts and access provisions.

Senior public servants have told the site's neighbours they are encountering problems with steep rocky terrain and don't envisage completing due diligence until late December. This would throw out the government's schedule of making a planning application to Meander Valley Council by December.

But a spokesperson said, 'The government has commenced work on the planning application process as per the schedule, which continues to be informed by the further investigations being undertaken.'

A Launceston small business owner, Mr Nowakowski said Launceston's Planning Scheme access rules mean his family can't build a house on his property.

Bounded on three sides by forestry operations, the land is 3kms outside Lilydale. The nearest house is 1.5kms away.

'It's close to Launceston but in a valley so you can't see it from the road', he said.

The State Government's expressions of interest process ran from 20 September 2018 to 22 November 2018.

A government spokesman said it was 'a targeted expressions of interest process to all north and north west local councils and stakeholders that did not include press advertising'.

But he said the process 'was publicly announced' through media releases to ensure anyone wanting to submit a property could.

## Council appointments

MEANDER VALLEY Council has appointed former Victorian legal aid lawyer Jacqui Parker as governance coordinator.

According to a June 2020 council organisation chart, Ms Parker's appointment takes council staff numbers to 64 – plus two works crews for Deloraine and Westbury.

Most recently Ms Parker had an eight-month role as senior legal practitioner in the Tasmanian Safe at Home program. Before that, she was an event manager in the Blue Mountains for four years.

Ms Parker's new role is to work with the general manager to 'manage the formal conduct of council business and support councillors to ensure compliance with legislation'.

This month, council advertised for a fourth town planner, a one year appointment, with a salary of \$75,000-\$88,000.

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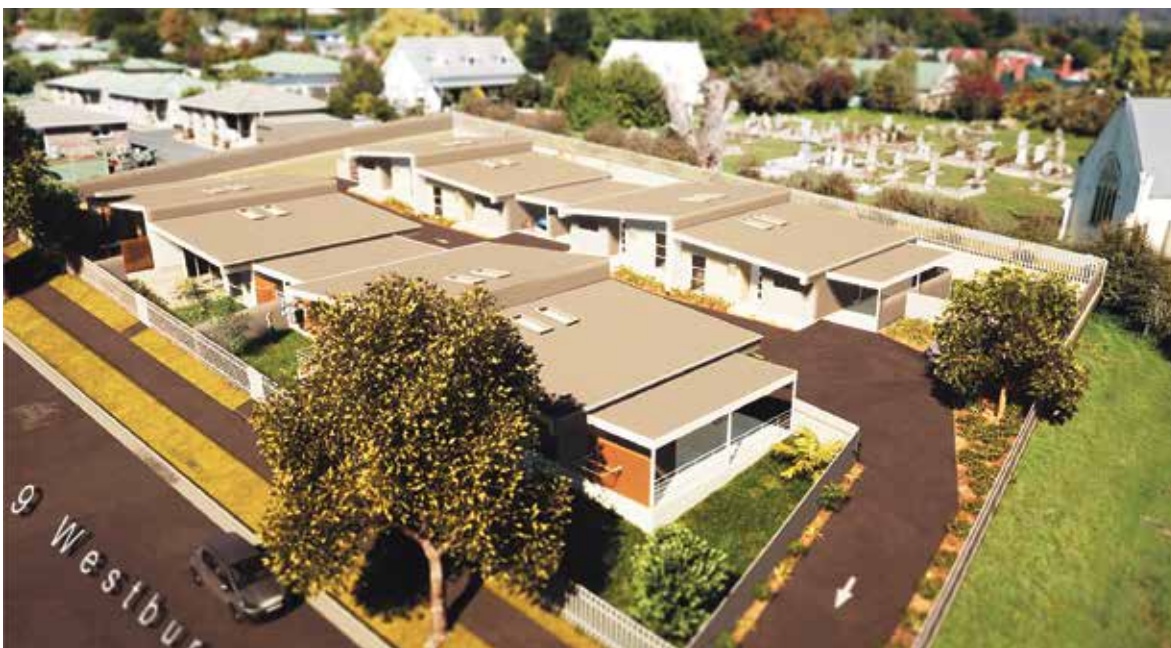
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# R U OK?

The Blue Farmer at Exton was joined by some large R U OK? hay bales to mark the National Day of Action on 10 September 2020. The Day is a reminder to 'Ask, Listen, Encourage Action, and Check In'. For more information, go to [www.ruok.org.au](http://www.ruok.org.au).  
Photo by Hayley Manning



Deloraine's St Mark's Church parish council is building eight new villas on church land to be ready by August 2021. Image supplied

## St Mark's Church – villas go on market

By Sharon Webb

TWO OF eight villas to be built by St Mark's Anglican Church in Deloraine are already sold and the others are available for sale off the plan.

The project was established as a fundraiser to cover the church's funding obligation to the National Redress Scheme for children sexually abused in

institutions. The villas will be built on the land adjacent to the church.

Project manager Nigel Morrison said the parish council had contracted local firm Beardwood Pty Ltd to build the villas, working with Launceston's CMK Architects.

The villas already have development approval from Meander Valley Council.

'The build will take six months and we estimate they will be complete by around August 2021.'

The site on East Westbury Place historically was known as the Saleyards. Along with St Saviour's Church in Meander, it was originally listed for sale by Tasmania's Anglican Diocese to cover the parish's obligation.

St Mark's council paid the redress money out of parish funds to have time to make considered decisions about the land and St Saviour's.

They decided to develop the Saleyards land and to consult the Meander community on the future of St Saviour's Church.

## Meander business looks to council for court costs

by Sharon Webb

MEANDER BUSINESS, Timber World, believes it will recover at least \$50,000 in costs from Meander Valley Council after a four-year fight over a plan to use Meander School for drug rehabilitation.

The business will also pursue the council for additional legal costs for four appearances in the Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning Tribunal to support the local ratepayers' group to move drug rehabilitation group Teen Challenge off the site.

It is believed that Teen Challenge director Peter Ferrall is resisting leaving the school site while the organisation has almost a year of its lease left.

'Why is the property still being occupied by people who are not doing what they said they'd do there?', asked Meander local Kim Booth.

Following the council's recent reversal on allowing Teen Challenge's permit to use Meander School, Meander Area Residents and Ratepayers Association has written to the council asking about the council's plan for the site.

'We ask the council to instigate an open and transparent

consultation process involving the whole Meander community, in order to reach consensus on a new use for the site', wrote MARRA president Bodhi McSweeney.

'Meander Primary School used to be the "social glue" for Meander's extremely diverse community. Everyone came together for the good of the school.

'If handled well, the consultation process could start healing the rift in the Meander community caused by the Teen Challenge matter, and the new use could reestablish the "social glue" role of the school site.'

But Mayor Wayne Johnston reiterated that Teen Challenge retains a current lease, with options over the site.

'When Teen Challenge advises of their intent, the council will consider our position', he said.

The legal costs apply from two appearances in the Supreme Court and four appearances before RMPAT.

MARRA's legal bills of \$140,550 plus 18 per cent GST were funded by Timber World.

Meander Valley Council admits to paying \$60,000 and Teen Challenge paid no legal bills.

The two-bedroom villas are the result of an innovative colusion between St Mark's and Traders in Purple, the company behind Ridgeside Lane in Evandale and Kingston Park in Kingston.

Traders in Purple, along with Rytenschild Traffic Engineering, MRC Engineering, Lange Design, Michael Jirku Architecture, PDA Surveyors, have worked pro bono to deliver the project.

Traders in Purple director Charles Daoud said last year that he believes the project is sensitive to its surroundings and sense of place and will not visually impact St Mark's Church.

'The proposal respects the significant historic value to the point that the single-storey villas have been designed to retain important view corridors to the church.'

Mr Morrison said minor design improvements had been made to the villas throughout the planning process.

'The roofs were steeper pitched and they had different windows. In the final design the villas have light wells to increase light and sun into them. The claddings have also been refined.'

The villas are being sold by Quamby View Real Estate in Deloraine.



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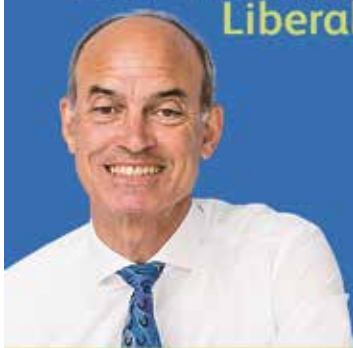
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# Our Lady 125th anniversary and Mercy Day celebration

Our Lady of Mercy students and teachers gather together to celebrate the school community and their long history. *Photo supplied*

DELORAINE'S OUR Lady of Mercy Catholic School celebrated its 125th Anniversary on Thursday 24 September as part of celebrations held for Mercy Day.

Mercy Day is the day on which Catherine McAuley first opened the House of Mercy in Ireland and dedicated it to Mary, Our Lady of Mercy.

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School was established by the Sisters of Mercy in 1895, in what was a local hotel opposite the Holy Redeemer Church

The school has been providing a Catholic education to families in the Meander Valley region for the last 125 years.

The Sisters of Mercy ran the school for 100 years, from 1895 to 1995, when the first lay principal was appointed.

Throughout its history, the school has catered for students from kindergarten through to today's HCS equivalent.

Whilst the current school teaches Kinder to Grade 6 students, it also welcomes families of children from birth to five years who attend the Curious Kids sessions on Monday and Thursday mornings.

The day's celebrations commenced with Mass. This was then followed by guest speakers sharing their memories, stories and experiences of the school from the 1930s through to the 2000s.

Students then participated in rotational 'olden day' activities including calligraphy, marching, hopscotch, egg and spoon, and sack races, and had a sausage sizzle lunch.

It was a wonderful day of celebration. It is hoped that past and present members of the school community will be able to come together and celebrate once restrictions for COVID-19 allow this to occur.



## Westbury Primary School honours world Peace Day

WESTBURY PRIMARY School students conducted a ceremony on Monday September 21, to celebrate the International Day of Peace.

The ceremony was held in the school grounds around a 'Peace Pole' donated and installed by the Rotary Club of Westbury.

The Peace Pole carries the bold inscription 'May Peace Prevail on Earth' written in a different language on each of the four sides of the Peace Pole: English, Japanese, French and Dutch.

The International Day of Peace is an initiative of the United Nations. The Rotary Peace Pole message states the very goal for which the United Nations was created 75 years ago.

The ceremony was capably led by members of the school's SRC executive and fellow

pupils, with the entire school in attendance.

President of Westbury Rotary Club, Harley Nicholls read a message from the UN Secretary General at the ceremony.

The key line from the UN Secretary General's message was, 'In these days of physical distancing, we may not be able to stand next to one another. But we must still stand together for peace.'

Mr Nicholls praised the school community for acknowledging the importance of world peace and commended the students for the manner in which they had conducted the brief but important ceremony.

He said that Westbury Rotary Club looked forward to this ceremony being conducted at the school each year, beside the Rotary Peace Pole, on the International Day of Peace.



From left: Westbury Primary School leaders Layla Sheppard, Henry Marston, Charley Rock, Gus Perkins and Harley Nicholls, President of the Rotary Club of Westbury. *Photo supplied*



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# Birralee residents denounce government hypocrisy over wildlife

by Sharon Webb

BIRRALEE RESIDENTS have decried the hypocrisy of the State Liberal government in boasting about its high spending on wildlife conservation while preparing to obliterate wildlife habitat for a new prison.

The latest in series of government announcements is from local Lyons member Guy Barnett, in September announcing the success of spending \$100,000 on a wombat mange treatment.

'The Tasmanian Government is supporting ongoing efforts to find the best way to treat wombats afflicted by sarcoptic mange', Mr Barnett declared.

'We will continue working with researchers and the community to manage the impacts of sarcoptic mange on our wombat population.'

Wombats, which DPIPWE lists as declining in number from Deloraine to Narawntapu National Park area in the decade to 2019, have been seen on the 70 hectare Birrlee Reserve site planned for the prison, along with endangered Wedge-tailed eagles and Tasmanian devils.

In September also, Parks and Wildlife Minister Roger Jaensch used the occasion of Threatened Species Day to announce a review of the Tasmanian Threatened Eagle Recovery Plan.

'We are continuing to work with all levels of government and with universities, wildlife parks and research institutions to identify potential new threats and respond appropriately', Mr Jaensch said.

In addition, a government spokesman said over the past six financial years to 30 June, the Tasmanian government invested a total of approximately \$12 million into the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program.

'Over the past two years, this investment has included an additional allocation in 2017-18 of \$450,000 per annum over four years to help offset the

cessation of the Australian government's funding contribution for the program', the spokesman said.

Spokesperson for the Birrlee neighbours of the site, Aaron Reader, said, 'On one hand, the Government assures Tasmanians it is spending a vast sum of money trying to save our threatened and endangered species. Then on the other, it's prepared to bulldoze this unique site and destroy habitat of the very same flora and fauna it claims to protect.'

'Publicly available information available on the government's own website, The List, shows existing natural values on Brushy Rivulet Crown Reserve.'

Birrlee naturalist, Sarah Lloyd OAM said she has also seen endangered birds such as the masked owl and the grey goshawk on the reserve.

'Birdwatchers will fly anywhere in the world to see endemic species and this government wants to demolish their habitat', she said.

'This is Tasmanian biological heritage, not a place to put a prison.'

A government spokesperson pooh-pooed the idea that the government's stand was hypocritical.

'Any attempt to link our ongoing investment in treating wombat mange to the Northern Regional Prison is simply ridiculous and has no basis in fact', he said.

'The Tasmanian Government understands the importance of protecting and managing the environment, while also progressing infrastructure developments which assist our communities.'

'The Northern Regional Prison is no exception and we will be fully cognisant of the local environment during this process.'

'Due diligence and further investigations are continuing on site, including work around statutory and master planning. This also includes assessment of any environmental impacts.'



Local Lyons member Guy Barnett MHA recently announced his support for research on treating sarcoptic mange on wombats. Photo supplied

## Minister may meet new prison neighbours

by Sharon Webb

CORRECTIONS MINISTER Elise Archer may meet neighbours of the proposed new prison at the end of this month.

The group will also meet Lyons politicians Guy Barnett and Mark Shelton in Deloraine on October 9.

For months, the group Concerned Residents Opposed to the Westbury Prison Site (CROWPS), has been trying to meet the politicians deciding on the prison proposed for the Brushy Rivulet Crown Reserve site at Birrlee.

According to CROWPS spokesperson Aaron Reader, Ms Archer initially told members of the eight families living around the Brushy Rivulet Crown Reserve that they should travel to Hobart for a 30

minute meeting if they wanted to see her. 'That wasn't going to happen because we all work', CROWPS spokesman Aaron Reader said.

'It is simply not good enough that the people who would be directly affected by a maximum security prison cannot have a meaningful and transparent consultation process with the Minister about such an important and life changing decision.'

'Minister Archer stated in Parliament recently that she had visited the site. This would have been the perfect opportunity to meet with the site's neighbours to have genuine discussions and listen to our concerns.'

'What is she afraid of and why is she avoiding us?'

Mr Reader said the group is now discussing two dates in late

October to meet Ms Archer but nothing is finalised.

'We are baffled that Ms Archer could not take one day to meet us when a decision to build the prison on this site will be a life sentence for neighbouring residents and the wider Westbury community.'

'Whilst politicians are democratically elected "of the people, by the people, for the people", it should not be too much to ask for a transparent consultation process to be followed with the people it affects the most.'

Mr Reader said CROWPS members believe Ms Archer does not want to be confronted by overwhelming and compelling evidence from so many varied sources consistently affirming why Brushy Rivulet Crown Reserve site is obviously not suitable to build a prison.



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by Sarah Lloyd

THIRTY ENTHUSIASTIC members of the Central North Field Naturalists Inc. attended our September outing to Westbury Reserve on Birralee Road.

As we congregated at the southern entrance, we were delighted to spot breeding activity of two cavity-nesting species, the endemic Green Rosella and migratory Striated Pardalote, co-habiting in the same tree.

The constant, some would say monotonous, singing of the Striated Pardalote indicate the high number of suitable breeding cavities at the Reserve.

The presence of so many large trees with hollows of all sizes would alone justify reservation status given that they're fast disappearing from the surrounding landscape.

Westbury Reserve is 70 hectares of Black Peppermint (*Eucalyptus amygdalina*) dominated forest that was purchased in 1999 by the State Government with commonwealth government money during the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA). It remains part of the National Reserve Estate.

On July 2020 the Tasmanian government announced that they plan to build the high security northern prison on the site, though where they're actually going to place the building had us all guessing.



# Westbury Reserve a field day for naturalists

Not only is the 'development footprint' on a hill of dolerite (known in the mining industry as Tasmania's curse because it's so hard), but our surveys strongly suggest it is possibly the most botanically rich area on the block.

One of the aims of the day was to extend our species list, and to map the distribution of the rare blue pincushion *Brunonia australis*.

Our investigations revealed that not only is *Brunonia* concentrated on the 'development footprint', but there are extensive colonies of small gnat orchid (*Cyrtostylis reniformis*) currently in flower, and leaves of orchids and other small herbaceous plants that are not possible to identify until they flower.

Of interest is the likely presence of two additional threatened plant species.

We will be revisiting the Reserve later in the year to continue our surveys of this important Westbury site.

**Above: Moss and *Cladonia* sp. lichen, small discoveries at the Westbury Reserve.**  
Photo by Hayley Manning



**Right: *Brunonia australis*, the rare blue pincushion, is found at the Reserve**  
Photo by Philip Milner



Left: Rod McQueen of Westbury and Sarah Lloyd of Birralee, members of the central North Field Naturalists Inc.  
Photo by Hayley Manning

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**Deloraine Online Access centre is open Mon–Fri, 10am–4pm and in October, will be open on Saturdays, 10am–4pm**

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# Northern Regional Prison Project Update - October 2020

This month we are focusing on some of the questions that we've been asked recently in relation to the project.

**Q. What has been happening on site in recent weeks?**

**A.** During September PDA Surveyors have been on site to undertake a land survey. This work includes formal identification of the land contours and will be instrumental in planning how the buildings can be designed and laid out across the site. Geotechnical investigations are continuing on the site. From Monday 12 October, drilling of core investigation holes will commence to enable soil and rock core testing.

It is important to note that no work will be undertaken within the 500 metre no disturbance zone that is in place for the duration of the wedge-tailed eagle breeding season.

**Q. What will the prison look like?**

**A.** It is not possible to say at this early stage what the prison might look like on this site. The due diligence investigations currently underway will inform the scope and design of the Northern Regional Prison.

The detailed design work which will be undertaken as the project progresses, will take into account the characteristics of the site in determining the most appropriate design for the development.

**Q. How will you manage the extra traffic on Birralee Road as a result of the prison?**

**A.** The Government understands the importance of ensuring the safety of the community within the context of this project, and road safety will be an important consideration during the design, construction and operation of the Northern Regional Prison. Birralee Road will be widened to accommodate the entry to the prison site. Further, a traffic survey will be completed as part of the current due diligence process, and any other work on the road network identified by the traffic survey as being required, will also be undertaken.

**Q. Is the site a formal reserve?**

**A.** No, the site is not reserved under either the *Crown Lands Act 1976* or the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*. The site was originally purchased by the Tasmanian Government because it was believed it contained a specific forest type which had been significantly reduced by agricultural development and was not well reserved. However, subsequent investigation revealed that the site did not contain this forest type.

Furthermore, the site shows evidence of a long history of timber harvesting and, more recently also illegal firewood collection, stock grazing, rubbish dumping and shooting. Its status as an informal reserve has not been changed in the last decade because the values for which it was originally purchased are no longer considered to be a high priority for reservation, and indeed for more than a decade consideration has been given to allowing the land to be sold, with the intention of allowing a portion of the land to be cleared for a residence.

**Q. Are there wedge-tailed eagles on the site?**

**A.** There are no known eagles' nests on the site. There is an eagle nest on an adjoining property and a buffer zone has been established to prevent disturbance to any eagles that may be using the nest. Establishing buffer zones around active nests is common practice.

**Q. When will the community have an opportunity to provide feedback on the project?**

**A.** The Government has engaged in a comprehensive community engagement process over the life of the project to date. At this point our focus is on engaging with the neighbouring landowners to discuss their specific questions and concerns in relation to the project. The Government remains committed to engaging with stakeholders and the community as appropriate as part of the required planning processes.

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 [northern.prison@justice.tas.gov.au](mailto:northern.prison@justice.tas.gov.au)

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# The closeness of women reaps Archibald success

by Sharon Webb

TWO WOMEN who have been friends for 20 years share a bundle of secrets.

And they know each other profoundly.

So it's inevitable that deep in the portrait Susannah Curtis painted of her friend and fellow artist Tara Badcock are knowings and wisdoms that regular art gallery goers may never divine.

But the judges of Australia's most famous portrait prize, the \$100,000 Archibald, obviously rummaged around in the painting's richness and understood its worth.

In the 99th Archibald Prize, the trustees of the Art Gallery of NSW decided that of the record 1068 entries, Susannah's painting would be one of the 55 chosen finalists.

She didn't win. Vincent Namatjira's portrait of footballer Adam Goodes took the prize.

Sitting in the Spring sunshine on Deloraine's riverbank Susannah said, 'I'm proud of the work and I'm particularly pleased it's of Tara because I've wanted to paint her for a long time.'

The two became friends after meeting at the TAFE print-making studio in Launceston. Susannah had recently moved to Tasmania and Tara, whose fabric art is delicate and distinctive, had just returned from an art residency in Paris. (People phoning Tara hear voicemail in English and French!)

Ms Curtis' comment, 'We hit it off', is an understatement, as the two glance at each other to formulate replies to questions and finish each other's sentences.

You sense these women have bonded over many cups of tea, over years of discussions on raising children, art and creativity.

What is the significance of the plait wound around Tara's throat in the portrait? And the old-fashioned black hat?

There was only one sitting of a couple of hours for the painting.

'Tara was playing', said Susannah, and Tara finished, 'When I have a plait I tend to wind it around my neck and as I did it, "Yes, that!" I thought'.

The black hat relates to the theme of colonial women in Chudleigh-based Tara's creations.

Susannah doesn't generally have a tight intention for a painting at the beginning. The work reveals itself gradually.

The painting's submission for the Archibald was even an afterthought, especially taking into account COVID-19.

'It was a synchronicity of events,' she said.

'With the Archibald you need to physically deliver the work to the gallery. I have childhood friends living in Sydney and

when the Archibald organisers extended the date because of COVID, I sent it to them.'

After finding out Susannah was a finalist, the hard part was a month of keeping the secret.

Did they celebrate?

'We did a quiet woohoo! We're not heavy drinkers so there wasn't any of that,' said Tara.

Susannah appears not to have given deep consideration to whether such a prestigious shortlisting will make a difference to her art and life.

Certainly her kindergarten teacher aide job at Westbury Primary and bringing up two teenagers will go on as normal.

As will life on the half acre bush block at Birralee.

"I need nature around me to feel good, and living there gives me that," she said.



Above: Susannah Curtis' portrait of Tara Badcock is one of the finalists in the 2020 Archibald Prize. Photo supplied by Susannah Curtis  
Below: Susannah (left) and Tara (right) on the riverbank at Deloraine. Photo by Hayley Manning



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## No new prison - a smart justice perspective

A community talk by Greg Barns, Chair of the Prisoners Legal Service Tasmania, Australia



Greg Barns SC is Chair of the Prisoners Legal Service and is a Patron of the recently launched national campaign, the Justice Reform Initiative.

He practices in administrative law, criminal law and human rights around Australia, and has Chambers in Hobart.

Greg is a former senior political adviser to a number of state and federal leaders and ministers. From 2011-2012, he was National President of the Australian Lawyers Alliance.

**When:** Sunday 18 October, 2.30pm

**Where:** Western Tiers Community Club (formerly Deloraine Elderly Citizens Club), Parsonage Street, Deloraine (opposite Woolworths)

**There are two ways to book**

**Eventbrite:** <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/no-new-prison-a-smart-justice-perspective-tickets-122220369415>

**Email:** [wrap.sec@gmail.com](mailto:wrap.sec@gmail.com) (in your email, please include the full names of all those attending)

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For more details about the risks of the prison development and information on Westbury's heritage value, please visit: [www.westburyregionagainstthepreison.org](http://www.westburyregionagainstthepreison.org)  
To support Westbury, please visit: [GoFundMe: Save Historic Westbury](https://www.gofundme.com/c/save-historic-westbury)  
Advertisement authorized by the President, Westbury Region Against the Prison Inc. (WRAP).  
Contact details: [www.westburyregionagainstthepreison.org](http://www.westburyregionagainstthepreison.org)

# Sydneysider's abattoir plan for Mole Creek approved

by Sharon Webb

An abattoir on Mole Creek karst land was approved by Meander Valley Council in September with no councillor speaking in its favour and two councillors strongly objecting to the project.

Sydney developer Denis Durham proposes to process 90 tonnes of pigs, sheep and cattle a year in the abattoir.

He will spread animal stomach contents and treated water on the property's limestone karst land, a plan strongly objected to by neighbours.

In August, the council approved a Mole Creek butcher shop where Mr Durham proposes to sell the meat.

While they did not voice support for the abattoir, Cllrs Cameron, Johnston, Sherriff, King, Bower and Kelly voted for it, because council planner Justin Simons advised it complied with the Meander Valley Planning Scheme.

'I'm not confident we'd be able to defend a refusal', Cllr Susie Bower said.

Cllr Michael Kelly warned that objecting to a compliant

project in the State's planning tribunal could be expensive for ratepayers.

Four of the nine objectors to the abattoir, neighbours Michael Channing, Carol Douglas, John Howe and Roger Lane voiced sometimes emotional appeals to the councillors to consider their homes, some within 300m of the proposed abattoir.

Mr Channing told councillors, 'This is not just a house, it is our home'.

'The paunch will be spread on a hill where we have observed

soil washed out in rain. There is risk of contamination to our grazing paddocks.'

Mrs Douglas, whose living room window will look directly at the abattoir maintained it was 'totally unsuitable for such an industry to be on karst land' and that recommendations by highly qualified experts such as local Deb Hunter had been ignored.

The residents, along with Cllr Frank Nott, pointed out that had the decision been made under the incoming Tasmanian Planning Scheme, the abattoir location would have needed to be different because regulations stipulate a 500m distance from surrounding properties rather than 300m.

They also pointed out that geologist Phillip Cullen's report indicated a geotechnical survey needed to be carried out because only two shallow pits had been dug and two soil samples taken to determine what was beneath the ground.

When Mr Simons described Mr Cullen's comment as a 'disclaimer', Cllr Rodney Synfield disagreed.

'I definitely disagree that Mr Cullen's comment is a disclaimer. Modern technologies can go some way to investigating what's underground', Cllr Synfield said.

'I cannot support this. There are too many unknowns.'

'In my view the planning scheme requires us to fully consider the impact of this.'

Both Cllrs Synfield and Nott said that abattoirs inevitably smelt, to which Mr Simons replied, 'If any aspect of this isn't working it can be looked at from an environmental health perspective'.

He said that the council would monitor the abattoir twice a year and that if Mr Durham wanted to increase abattoir output he would need to get approval from Tasmania's Environmental Protection Authority.

Cllr Nott said biannual testing concerned him and that he was disappointed not to see an abattoir management plan before voting on the issue.

Cllr Bower told the objectors, 'I understand your strong attachment to the sensitive nature of the land at Mole Creek and I have a strong empathy for your views and how this has affected you personally.'

'But an abattoir is a permitted use in this zone and it complies with the current planning scheme.'

Cllrs Rodney Synfield, Frank Nott and John Temple voted against the proposal.

## Not so grate at Four Springs Lake

JETTY GRATING recently stolen from the jetty at Four Springs Lake has been replaced and the jetty has been reopened for use.

The thieves caused the jetty to be closed for use for at least

a fortnight because it was dangerous to use, after Inland Fisheries Service staff noticed the grating was missing on September 10.

It appeared the brackets were deliberately unscrewed and a

police investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information should contact Deloraine Police on 131444 or report anonymously to Crime Stoppers at [crimestopperstas.com.au](http://crimestopperstas.com.au) or on 1800 333 000.



Metal grating from Four Springs jetty was stolen recently, making the jetty temporarily unusable. Photo supplied

## COVID-19 Small Business Energy Support Grant Program

This grant program will assist Tasmanian small businesses impacted by COVID-19 with their electricity, water and sewerage costs.

One-off grant payments of \$1,000 are available to eligible businesses in embedded networks, and those businesses who have not been eligible for the COVID-19 electricity, water and/or sewerage waiver available from service providers from 1 April 2020.

Applications are now open and will close at 12 noon on Monday, 26 October 2020.

For more information visit [www.business.tas.gov.au](http://www.business.tas.gov.au) or contact Business Tasmania at [ask@business.tas.gov.au](mailto:ask@business.tas.gov.au) or on 1800 440 026.

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Rebecca, Launceston (Pictured): Rebecca's dream and passion was to work with animals. Maxima helped her find work at 'Yours in Paws Dog Daycare and Training' - and now she loves spending every day with her furry friends!

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JOB LINK

# Karl's best home brew!

by Hayley Manning

WHEN A local home brew enthusiast took up the hobby 20 years ago, he never imagined his efforts would draw accolades in a prestigious Tasmanian competition.

Deloraine resident Karl Gammler, took out Best Beer in Show at the 2020 Tasmanian State Home Brew competition with a Mexican Cerveza.

The brew is a Corona style light bodied lager with a citrusy flavour extracted from the hops.

He also received a first place medal with his International Pale Lager, and scored high enough with another bottle to get silver.

But while Karl is delighted with his triumphs, he said it

was a bit of a fluke he entered the competition at all this year, because he'd assumed it had been cancelled.

'A mate of mine invited me to a pizza day at his place one Sunday, so I took all my best bottles of home brew for people to try.

'The guests loved my delicious clone beers. But four days later I went into a brew shop in Launnie and was asked if I was going in the comp this year.

'I explained I didn't have any bottles left to enter after the pizza day and he said, "Well you've got about two weeks left!"

'Usually when you know the date of the competition, you have two or three months to brew a few batches of something special.

'The bottle that won, I ended up taking out of a keg. I didn't even know if it was going to be carbonated enough.'

The competition was held in August at the Hobart Brewing Company, where a judging panel had the enviable task of sampling 101 entries from 32 brewers.

Place winners qualify to enter the national competition in Canberra this October.

Karl only started all grain brewing from scratch a few years ago. He won his first brewing award in 2018 with an India Pale Ale.

'A lager is the hardest style to make because there is nothing to hide behind.

'Any off flavours can be detected by the judges straight away, so I am even more proud of the fact that I won with a lager.'

Karl Gammler, Deloraine's champion home brewer (and Gazette columnist) bottling his award-winning beer.

Photo by Hayley Manning



# Little Laneway lights up Deloraine

by Lois Rasmussen

DESPITE THE loss of the Craft Fair, the Little Laneway Festival will be going ahead this year.

Local individual and duo artists will bring their works to the Little Laneway during the November long weekend.

This light version of Little Laneway Festival will showcase local and original acts for the entertainment of culture-starved Deloraine and districts.

All of Meander Valley is welcome to come by, not all at once though, to delight in the different artists performing in the Little Laneway between Seppenfelts and the Empire Hotel.

The event will be operating under COVID-19 regulations. Each performer will have their hat ready for tokens of appreciation.

Kat Jeffreys, festival organiser promises a diverse lineup.

'We are still working on the lineup but hope some will be playing the blues and there may even be some reggae.'

There will be ukulele skills showcased, many a song and some original compositions will be premiered.

Old favourite harmonies will be part of this cultural event for all to enjoy.

The Little Laneway Festival is in the open air and supports the Meander Valley community's local artists at a time when they are short on opportunities to display their skills.

Come for the afternoon or just a spell and get your fill of local musicians and singers.

The Little Laneway Festival is on Saturday 31 October and 1 November 2020.

Performances will run from midday to 6pm in the evening.

## At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society

by Clare Andersen

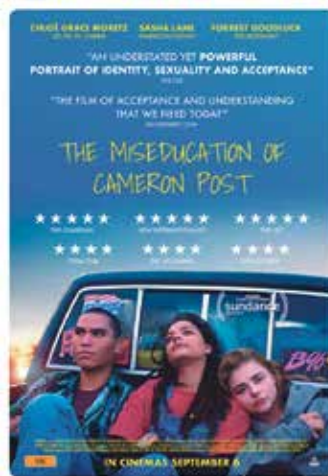
### October 24 THE MISEDUCATION OF CAMERON POST

2017 NR Drama USA 92m Directed by Desiree Akhavan

Cameron Post is caught with another girl in the back seat of a car on prom night and is shipped off to a conversion therapy centre. She is subjected to outlandish discipline, questionable 'de-gaying' methods, and earnest Christian rock songs. However, for the first time, Cameron connects with peers, and she's able to find her place among fellow outcasts.

This film which won the Sundance Film Festival's US Grand Jury Prize in 2018, strives for a delicate balance between satire and polemic.

'Moretz delivers a powerhouse performance in a movie that brings a surprising degree of nuance to a story that could easily have played as a straight polemic.' *Rotten Tomatoes*



### November 14 ARCTIC

2019 PG13 Drama/Adventure Iceland 97m Director Joe Penna

Arctic premiered in 2018 at the Cannes Film Festival being selected for the Camera d'Or.

Mads Mikkelsen's Overgard, is a man stranded in the Arctic after an airplane crash and must decide whether to remain in the relative safety of his makeshift camp or to embark on a deadly trek through the unknown in hopes of making it out alive.

Though a decidedly minimalist action picture, *Arctic* achieves maximum impact thanks to Mikkelsen's rugged, yet tender portrayal of a man whose only choice is to chill, or be chilled.

'Arctic proves that a good survival thriller doesn't need much in the way of dialogue to get by, especially when Mads Mikkelsen is the one doing the surviving.' *Rotten Tomatoes*



### September movie review YESTERDAY

M Comedy/Romance/Music UK 116m

Many patrons exited after seeing *Yesterday* with a Beatles-inspired spring in their step, singing along (*Hey Jude*) with the credits of this light-hearted and wonderfully scripted film.

Our bean counter rating system is providing a bit of fun and conversation as well as good feedback about the variety of films being shown, with an audience rating for *Yesterday* of 4.0/5.

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



Doing a four day trip around Tassie, these Hobart girls were lucky enough to visit Ashgrove and road test the new Tasmanian made Everyday Cheddar. From left, Hayley Oswin, Bec Lucas, Raelene McIntyre and Mandy Vanselow. *Photo by Hayley Manning*

## Ashgrove every day!

by Hayley Manning

One of Tasmania's premier dairy producers, Ashgrove, has released a new, family-friendly Everyday Cheddar range, in two styles, Mild and Milky or Smooth and Tasty

This is the first everyday cheese block to be made in Tasmania since Fonterra stopped producing Table Cape cheese in 2013.

Richard Bennett, Ashgrove CEO, said unexpected border closures this year highlighted the importance of self-sufficiency and Tasmanians having the option to choose a locally made cheese.

'Unlike our premium cheeses which are available nationally, the Everyday Cheddar will only be available for purchase in the state', he said.

Local Four Roses Flour identity, Sandra Atkins, has provided two recipes for children to try.

### Sandy's quick lunch

*Nutritious and filling*

#### Ingredients

1 free range egg  
1/2 cup grated Ashgrove Everyday Cheddar  
salt and pepper  
toast

#### Method

- 1 Break the egg into a small bowl, give it a beat with a fork and add the cheese.
- 2 Microwave for about 1 minute on high. Remove and stir, microwave for about another minute until all set.
- 3 Turn onto toast, add salt and pepper.

### Sandy's tasty cheese straws

*Great for the lunch box, after school or with dips*

#### Ingredients

1 1/2 cups grated Ashgrove Everyday Cheddar  
1 tsp salt  
1 1/2 cups plain flour  
2 tbs water  
1/2 cup oats  
1/2 cup melted butter  
1/2 tsp cayenne pepper  
1 free range egg  
1/2 tsp baking powder

#### Method

- 1 Sift flour, baking powder, salt and cayenne into a large bowl, and then mix in the cheese and oats.
- 2 Break the egg into a small bowl and mix with the water. Keep up the mixing as you add the melted butter.
- 3 Pour this liquid mixture into the flour mix and combine.
- 4 Gather and combine into a ball, add a little water if too dry.
- 5 Place the ball onto floured baking paper and press with hands into a rectangle.
- 6 Roll until 2cms thick, then cut into 3 pieces and slice each piece into 2cm wide straws.
- 7 Use an egg slice to transfer onto a greased oven tray.
- 8 Put into a moderate oven for about 15 minutes but check after 10 minutes. The straws should be slightly golden.
- 9 Remove from oven and cool on a rack.

## Find the guy who stole our truck – garden shop appeals to public



Allan's Garden Centre truck, seen pouring smoke as a robber drove it towards the NW Coast in the early hours of a Thursday morning, has been recaptured – but not the thief. *Photo supplied*

by Sharon Webb

ALLAN'S GARDEN Centre in Prospect Vale has retrieved a truck stolen from its premises in September, but the thief is still on the run.

After the second time in a fortnight that Allan's was robbed, the business has appealed to anyone who 'saw the truck or any strange things happening in or around that area' to contact Launceston or Longford police.

The truck, described on Allan's Facebook page as 'our old truck, a white Mazda T3500 which is very unique with Allan's Garden Centre Prospect written all over it', was stolen on September 16 at around 3am.

The thief also helped himself to AEG power tools, a Rover mulcher, a Honda 30EUis generator, a Stihl Professional brush cutter and assorted other power tools and hand tools.

Allan's said the truck had been seen 'steaming smoke' along the highway, heading towards the NW Coast in the early hours of the morning.

At the time it was full of bulk potting mix, some of which was

spilt leaving Allan's gate, then more was spilt up the road at the entrance to Tyler Village and again on the Prospect roundabout slip lane.

According to Allan's, the truck was found at the back of the power substation near the 90 degree bend in Pateena Road, near the start of the 'flying mile' leading to Longford.

The bandit was caught on CCTV, memorably described by Allan's as '21-27 with long blondish wavy hair, a big nose and a smoker as he dropped a new cigarette he had behind his ear and must be strong to lift the heavy generator onto the truck by himself'.

Allan's manager Mark said the truck's retrieval paid testament to the power of social media, with 3000 hits about the theft on the company's facebook site in less than a day.

'We are a small Tasmanian-owned business that relies on a good honest customer base. Someone knows this man', he said.

Allan's was burgled the first time on August 31. The thief filched expensive plants and ornaments.

## New events funding grants available

NEW GRANTS of up to \$5000 are available through the Events Tasmania Event Ready Grant program.

The Tasmanian Minister for Small Business, Hospitality and Events, Sara Courtney said the grants are available to organisers of new or upcoming

events for the remainder of 2020 through to the end of 2021, and to organisers who are developing or have developed COVID-19 safety plans.

'COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the events schedule in Tasmania and reduced demand for marketing and other support activities, has enabled \$200,000 to be redirected to this new scheme', Ms Courtney said.

'As part of the assessment criteria, organisers of events seeking to attract visitors from outside their region and to contribute to the cultural and social fabric of the community are encouraged to apply.'

Applications close Sunday 15 November 2020, with assessment on a competitive basis. More information on the grants is available at [www.eventstasmania.com](http://www.eventstasmania.com).

the scheme and have already begun reporting fuel prices.

'We are confident the scheme will put downward pressure on fuel prices, create more competition among fuel retailers and improve price transparency for Tasmanian motorists.

'Tasmanian fuel retailers are urged to ensure that any global price reductions are passed on to motorists as a matter of priority', Ms Archer said.

To use the app go to [www.fuelcheck.tas.gov.au](http://www.fuelcheck.tas.gov.au).

### Tas fuel price check app

MOTORISTS CAN compare fuel prices in their local area through FuelCheck Tas, a free app and website.

Minister for Building and Construction, Elise Archer, said fuel retailers are now required to update fuel prices in real time, providing a vastly enhanced level of transparency for consumers.

'More than 230 fuel retailers have now registered for

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TASMANIA IS well endowed with native ferns. *The Ferns of Tasmania* (Michael Garrett, The Tasmanian Forest Research Council Inc., 1996) lists 39 separate families and some of those families have numbers of different species.

They range from 8m high Rough Tree Ferns (*Cyatheas*) to the tiny ground hugging Maiden Hair Fern (*Adiantum aethiopicum*), which is so popular with florists, and the free floating aquatic fern *Azolla filucoides*, which doesn't appear to have a common name. It is frequently mistaken for algae. It is pictured below on a pond on the Bengeo Road near Deloraine.

By far the most numerous ferns in Tasmania are the Tree Ferns (*Dicksonia antarctica*).

Only an area in the dry and treeless Midlands and on the SW coast appear to be free of them, as they need shade and moisture to survive.

Their sheer abundance is a consequence of the fact that a single plant carries 8 million reproducing spores on the undersides of its fronds.

They will also grow if cut off at ground level, but nothing is worse than the sight of poor sad Tree Ferns standing in full sun on lawns.

There is a group at the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre, Deloraine.

The ferns which grow on the trunk and on the ground below it are commonly known as Kangaroo Fern (*Phymatosorus pustulatus*).

The King Fern (*Todea barbara*) pictured above, in the headwaters of the Rubicon at Dunorlan, bears fronds similar to the Dicksonias, but its gracefully arching fronds spring from the ground, rather than from a trunk. It is much more sparsely distributed around our state than the Dicksonias.

**In the vegie garden**

There are very few vegetables that cannot be sown in October.

There should be no danger of frosts by the time they have germinated (although a rare November frost has been recorded).

Dwarf and climbing beans, beets and silverbeet – add a little boron. All brassicas need a well-manured soil. Carrots, capsicums and cucumbers can be sown this month.

I have never grown capsicums, but the Garden Guide says they require similar conditions to tomatoes, and like tomatoes have only a short growing season.

Seeds should be raised in pots under cover, or in a sunny position, and planted out in enriched soil when they reach 15cm and when soil is sufficiently warmed by late spring sunshine. Keep them moist.

They should be ready to harvest in 10 to 16 weeks from sowing.

**The King Fern (above) and the aquatic *Azolla filucoides* are two of Tasmania's native ferns. Photos supplied**



**Spectacular savoury toast**



By Wendy Hays

VERY FEW of the recipes I will be sharing with you can genuinely be called my own, but this one is the exception.

That said, it was inspired by the Cheese Devils recipe found in Miss Irvine's 'Central' Cookery Book which was the main text used in Home Arts classes in Tasmanian high schools for several decades.

I'm sure many readers will have a well-thumbed, ingredient stained copy of this book tucked away in their kitchen drawers.

As this recipe was a mainstay for many functions whilst I was teaching Catering, it does make a large quantity.

Halve the recipe if you like but it freezes well both cooked and unbaked.

The secret for success is to really pile on the topping and spread it right to the edges.

You can, use thick slices of bread, English muffins or bread rolls for a substantial soup accompaniment, snack, meal in itself or French stick cut cross-wise for daintier finger food. Whatever you choose for your base, it is sure to be popular.

**Ingredients**

- 1 loaf of unsliced bread or
- 1 loaf of thick sliced bread
- 100 g butter – soften in the microwave on medium for 30 seconds
- 2 eggs, beaten in a mug
- 4 tbs fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 large or 2 small onions, peeled and grated
- 5 rashers of bacon or ham, remove rind, any gristle and chop finely
- 1/4 tsp minced chilli
- 1/4 tsp minced garlic
- 1/2 cup tomato sauce
- 1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tbs soy sauce
- 6 cups tasty cheese, grated
- 1/4 tsp freshly cracked black pepper

**Method**

- 1 Cut bread into 16 thick slices or use thick sliced bread.
- 2 Spread butter right to the edges of the bread.
- 3 Mix all the topping ingredients together in a bowl.
- 4 Place slices of bread onto oven trays.
- 5 Pile the topping onto the bread and spread to a thick layer.
- 6 Bake at 200°C for 30 minutes or freeze, covered tightly with cling wrap, for later use. Make sure to move the trays around the oven to allow for even browning.
- 7 Cut slices in half and serve hot or cold.

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# The long and the tall of basketball!



Local basketball history was made last month when the starting 5 for the Huskies B Grade men's team was a father and his 4 sons. Nathan Chilcott and his sons Kye, Colby, Jaylen and Jett all started the game together.

Above from left: Colby, Nathan, Jett (in front), Kye and Jaylon.

Below: Father and son, Nathan Chilcott (No 5) and Kye Chilcott (No 11) on the court. *Photos by Andrew Shepherd*



# Deloraine Bowls Open Day welcomes visitors

ON SEPTEMBER 20 Deloraine Bowls Club had its annual Open Day, at the start of the new bowls season.

President Keith Davis welcomed both the Hon. Rebecca White and the Hon. Guy Barnett as well as Greg Thomas who represented Bowls North.

Rebecca White noted, 'Sporting clubs like Deloraine

Bowls play such a vital role in our community as a place that brings people together to forge friendships that last a lifetime but also to help people maintain good physical and mental health'.

Guy Barnett added, 'The Open Day was a fun day out with the locals, with essential coaching from my partner

Cheryl Gleeson and highlighting the important role sports clubs offer especially during the COVID-19 pandemic'.

The new season starts 10 Oct for Saturday divisions and 15 Oct for Thursday divisions.

Contact secretary.dbcinc@gmail.com or call in on a Friday afternoon from 4pm. Visitors and new members welcome.



Above: Guy Barnett and Rebecca White both took on the locals at the Deloraine Bowls Open Day in September. *Photo supplied*

Below: Ms White also enthusiastically joined the teachers to play netball against Westbury Primary School students, during a visit to the school last month. *Photo supplied*



# Westbury Primary School netball faces up to a strong opposition!

LABOR MEMBER for Lyons Rebecca White MP visited Westbury Primary School in September to meet with staff and students.

'It was terrific to see first-hand how strong and positive the relationships and respect is between the students and the teachers', Ms White said.

Ms White was invited to join in a game of netball at lunch-time in a match between the students and the teachers.

'It has been a long time since I played netball, but I very proudly lined up with the teachers to take on the students.

'It might seem like a bit of an unfair advantage to have all of the adults line up against the students, but the reality was that the students had us on the back foot very early.

'The game was very friendly, but also quite competitive. I thank all the students and

teachers for welcoming me and inviting me to join in.

'A special thank you to principal, Christine Brown.

'The game was fair and, in the end, it was decided we would call it a draw.'

Ms White paid tribute to Westbury Primary School and remarked on the strong parent engagement and very close connection with community-based organisations that are all working together in Westbury to give children the best start.

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**Labor**

**Brian Mitchell MP**  
*Your Federal Member for Lyons*

Authorised by Rebecca White MP 33 Cole St Sorell

# Blackstone Heights rezoning for an \$8m business precinct

by Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY Council has voted to rezone Blackstone Heights land to allow an \$8m business precinct to be built at 2 Panorama Road.

The rezoning is subject to the approval of the Tasmanian Planning Authority.

Meander Valley residents wishing to comment must apply in writing by October 13.

Prospect-based developers Tasland Development say the project will generate significant employment during construction and generate ongoing employment of 11 full-time positions.

Initially the project will create a café and local shop, already approved and under construction.

The development's master-plan for Blackstone Heights Market Place will include a fresh produce market, an event and meeting space, self-storage sheds and storage for vehicles, boats and caravans.

The future facility may include a tennis court, pool and common recreation areas.

A new road off Neptune Drive will provide vehicle access to the precinct, together with existing road accesses from Panorama Road and Neptune Drive.

Councillors voted to rezone the 6.5ha site from Low Density Residential Zone to Local Business Zone in the Meander Valley Planning Scheme but only two councillors commented publicly on the proposal.

Cllr Susie Bower said it would be a 'unique development for Australia' and 'a gamechanger for our municipality'.

Cllr Frank Nott said, 'I've looked at the ideas the developer has put forward. Given the innovation and vision it will be an asset to our municipality'.

Currently no commercial or community services are available in Blackstone Heights for its population of 1270 people (2016 census).

# Appeal for Marriott Street units in Westbury is still in the early stages

TWO DIRECTIONS hearings at Tasmania's planning tribunal have been held after Meander Valley Council blocked an application to build three units at 34 Marriott Street, Westbury in August.

Following the council's rejection, the block was the site where the branches of six neighbouring heritage trees aged 100-150 years old were removed by the prospective developer, Robert Grey.

Mr Grey appealed in RMPAT after the council rejected his planning application.

He said the trees' branches, overhanging from the historic Fitzpatrick's Inn garden, were a safety risk and had them lopped. This was legal because Heritage Tasmania had bungled the trees' heritage listing.

RMPAT has advised that Mr Grey's appeal is in the early stages and yet to be listed for mediation or a full hearing.



# Double the ambos for Deloraine

DOUBLING THE number of paramedics at Deloraine's ambulance station has made a big difference to paramedics and patients.

Since early this year the station is staffed by four paramedics instead of two, along with a team of unpaid volunteers.

Paramedic Joel Thompson said before 2020 the shifts had been demanding and tiring.

'We worked a four-day roster, each available for 24 hours.'

'Now we still work a four-on, four-off roster but it's two

10-hour day shifts and two 14-hour night shifts.'

Most people would still find working those shifts demanding but Joel said paramedics are less fatigued under the new arrangements.

'It's working out well, and since the new system began we've recruited new volunteers so the shift coverage is even better.'

'The volunteers play an important role because they drive Deloraine's two ambulances and help carry equipment.'

Deloraine ambos take their jobs seriously, but now that Deloraine shifts are less demanding and tiring, it makes it easier to enjoy their work.

From left: Joel Thompson and Craig Broomhall, Deloraine paramedics and lying down on the job, Alistair Shephard, Regional Duty Manager. Photo by Hayley Manning

Volunteers initially train over one weekend then continue with fortnightly training sessions, Joel said.

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# Tasmanian Women in Agriculture

ARE YOU interested in agriculture and rural life?

Are you interested in meeting like-minded women in our community?

The Meander Valley group of Tasmanian Women in Agriculture is getting together to visit some farming enterprises near Deloraine and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant on Thursday 12 November.

For more details, contact Bev Phelan on 0437 098045 or email [phelantb@gmail.com](mailto:phelantb@gmail.com).

## Drama in one act

THE DELORAINE Dramatic Society's Festival of One Act Plays will be held at the Little Theatre on Saturday 17 October with sessions at 2pm and 8pm.

So far, nine plays are entered, with Devonport, Burnie, Hobart and Deloraine all represented.

Presentation of awards and trophies will be held at the Empire Hotel after the Saturday night session.

Supper will be provided and drinks will be available for purchase from the bar. Audience and participants are invited to attend.

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

### Crossword

**Across**

- 9 Like Little Boy (1-4)
- 10 Clearing (4, 5)
- 11 Begin (4-3)
- 12 Cooling drink (4, 3)
- 13 Disputed region between Pakistan and India (7)
- 14 Waldorf salad necessity (7)
- 15 Juggler banished Cal to a settlement in Nepean Bay, SA (6, 5)
- 19 Lewd (7)
- 21 Affair of the heart (7)
- 23 Misery (7)
- 25 Iconic Volkswagens (7)
- 26 Former national rugby player and heavyweight boxing champ (4, 5)
- 27 Adult insect (5)

**Down**

- 1 Hawaiian surfing site (7)
- 2 Compels (6)
- 3 Irregular (8)
- 4 Association of sports teams (10)
- 5 Pickle place (4)
- 6 Additionally (2, 4)
- 7 Old Man \_\_\_\_, edible shrub (8)
- 8 A word to the whys? (7)
- 14 Worn by those over the eight? (6, 4)
- 15 Those in the know (8)
- 16 Don (8)
- 17 Designer of 25 across (7)
- 18 On thin ice (2, 1, 4)
- 20 Sizing up (6)
- 22 Ottoman ruler (6)
- 24 Free from doubt (4)

### Sudoku

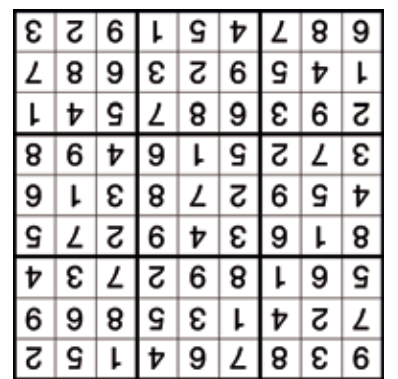
© 2020 Syndicated Puzzles

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

*Crossword October 2020 solution*



*Sudoku October 2020 solution*



# Meander Valley Gazette is looking for volunteers. You can find us at

Deloraine Online Access Centre, call 6286 8212 or email at [general@meandervalleygazette.com](mailto:general@meandervalleygazette.com).



## Events diary

**GREAT WESTERN TIERS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE**  
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**NOTE** that events listed here may be cancelled or changed after publication if Covid-19 restrictions are tightened. If you have an event you wish to publicise, email the details to [advertising@meandervalleygazette.com](mailto:advertising@meandervalleygazette.com) and we will add them to our list.

Date	Event or business	Details
Any time	Bonorong Wildlife Rescue	Call to report finding injured & orphaned birds & 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 & programs
Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm	Community Health Centre	Westbury Community Health Centre & Day Centre Call 6701 2150 for health & community services
Every Tuesday, 10am-12 noon	Hadspen Playgroup	During school term Uniting Church Hall, corner of Clare & Main St Contact Andrew Keena 6393 6324
Every Thursday, 10-11am	CHAT Westbury Play Gym for 0-5yr olds	During school term Westbury Sports Centre, Franklin St \$3.50 per child (under 12 months free) 1st visit free
Sat 17 Oct 9am-1pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drv & Caveside Rd Ross Quick 0413 681 252
Sat 17 Oct 8am-1pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Promenade, Westbury Rob Menzie 0417 931 619
Sat 10 Oct & 14 Nov 9am-1pm	Liffey Valley Market	Old Liffey School Phone (03) 6397 3670 or email <a href="mailto:quentonhiggs@gmail.com">quentonhiggs@gmail.com</a>
Fri 16 & Sat 17 Oct	Deloraine Dramatic Society Festival of One Act Plays	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine Patricia Woods, Festival Director 0409 568 291
Mon 19 Oct, 10am	Pop Up Story Time	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd Call 6362 2678 (Deloraine House) or 6701 2180 (Deloraine Library) for more info
Sat 24 Oct-Mon 9 Nov	Artist in Residence Trail, Tasmanian Exhibition	3 venues: Art As Mania; Empire Hotel; Highland Felting & Fibre Supplies, Shed 11a/155 Mole Creek Rd
Sat 24 Oct, 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>The Miseducation of Cameron Post</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine NR Drama 2017 USA 92m Info 0418 389 868
Thu 29 Oct-Wed 4 Nov	WOAD & The WOAD Less Travelled	Street exhibition of local artists & artisans WOAD hub at Deloraine Creative Studios, 59-61 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine
Sat 31 Oct & Sun 1 Nov	Little Laneway Lite - Music Festival	From 12 noon to 6pm in the laneway between Seppenfelts & the Empire Hotel, Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine
Sat 31 Oct to Mon 2 Nov	Pearn's Steam Up!	Pearn's Steam World Meander Valley Rd, Westbury See Pearn's Facebook page for further details
Sat 7 Nov & 5 Dec 9am-1pm	Deloraine Market	Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Road, Deloraine Bodhi McSweeney 0409 695 321
Sat 14 Nov, 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>Arctic</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine PG Drama/Adventure 2019 Iceland 97m Info 0418 389 868
Sat 28 Nov 9am-1pm	Carrick Community Market & Garage Sale Trail	Carrick Public Hall Follow the sale trail around the town Info <a href="mailto:carricksocialgroup@gmail.com">carricksocialgroup@gmail.com</a>
Sun 29 Nov, 27 Dec, 13 Feb 2021	Carrick Harness Racing	East St, Carrick For information call 0400 635 070
Sat 12 & Sun 13 Dec	Apex Club of Deloraine Red Hills Tractor Pull	In conjunction with the Tasmanian Tractor Puller's Association Red Hills Apex Memorial Park

# WOAD yes, Craft Fair no

THE DECISION to cancel this year's 40th Tasmanian Craft Fair was made when organisers were advised of new distancing and COVID-19 prevention measures.

The TCF website states, 'We understand this has the biggest impact on our suppliers relying on the work, local charities who usually raise funds through our event, and all of the artisans who will have been working hard to create items to be purchased. Indeed the longer we may wait for answers, the more investments our suppliers and exhibitors would be making.'

The TCF's marketing sponsor, Effective Naturally will be creating a virtual page for each of the 260 approved 2020 exhibitors. Shoppers will be able to browse online from October 18 and click through to contact details or online stores.

'We encourage you to do your Christmas shopping to help support our artisans. Most of them are sole traders or family businesses and have been hit hard through this year', said Rob van der Elst, Craft Fair Director.

Tickets already purchased online will be refunded automatically. Exhibitors will also receive refunds.

Arts Deloraine is still holding the WOAD and THE WOAD LESS TRAVELLED exhibitions from 29 October to 5 November, supporting artists, businesses, shops and the community.

By 29 October, Emu Bay Road will transform into one long art gallery where artists' paintings and objects will be exhibited in many windows.

The WOAD HUB at Deloraine Creative Studios Gallery will

be surrounded by the creative works of Meander Valley artisans as part of THE WOAD LESS TRAVELLED.

Artwork in both exhibitions will be for sale, with Arts Deloraine able to take credit card payments.

Arts Deloraine would like to acknowledge Deloraine Rotary and the Director of the Craft Fair for the enormous effort and energy put into the Craft Fair, and respect how hard it was to cancel the Fair this year.

The Craft Fair inspired the beginning and ongoing planning for WOAD. Arts Deloraine and WOAD will continue to support all artists and artisans in the future.

For information, please contact Annie Robinson on 0419 134 946. Email artsdeloraine@gmail.com or birdwing@activ8.net.au.



Margaret Tabor working on a hook rug for display in the WOAD LESS TRAVELLED exhibition. Photo supplied



Pearn's Steam World Museum and 'Steam Up!' are ready for this year's influx of Tasmanian visitors, using the Covid-19 lockdown to spruce up the Museum and exhibits. Photo supplied

## Full steam ahead for Pearn's

MEMBERS AND volunteers of the Westbury Preservation Association were slowed down by COVID-19 restrictions, but not stopped. The enforced public closure of the museum gave them time to rearrange exhibits and improve the displays.

Robert Hill, secretary of the community group which owns and operates the Pearn's Steam World Museum, said, 'We had planned to do the rearrangement during the middle of winter, but when we had to close to the public we decided to use that time to our advantage.'

COVID restrictions meant that the work could only be done by volunteers in small groups of 2 or 3, so it was a long drawn-out process. There are still some parts of the plan that will have to wait until next winter now the museum is open to the public again.

The Pearn brothers of Hagley gifted their collection of steam and agricultural equipment to the community, in the form of the Westbury Preservation Association, in 2002. The not-for-profit group has maintained the collection ever since.

New items have been added to the collection over the years, one of the latest being a massive TD24 bulldozer that was the first piece of machinery of the now well-known Shaws Contracting company, often seen at major road works in the north of the state.

The new 'horse-drawn' section of the museum brings together carts, ploughs and other horse-drawn agricultural equipment including a rare World War 1 tipper cart, a hay cart built in Hagley and an original saddle from the Australian Light Horse.

The museum's workshop has also been busy with projects such as a steam traction engine from the 1920s, a rare Clyno car engine, tractors and various smaller engines used on farms, orchards and homesteads.

The annual Pearn's 'Steam Up!' is still going ahead this November, unless there is further tightening of COVID-19 restrictions.

This year will see the return of a popular steam engine that has been away for major maintenance work. Train and traction engine rides will be limited but there will still be plenty to see at the event which takes place from Saturday 31 October to Monday 2 November. Go to Pearn's Steam World Facebook page for further details.

The museum is open to the public every day, and new volunteers are always welcome.

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# Jumping for joy – Roos and their fans celebrate!



Pollies on parade at the NTFA Grand Final. From left: Guy Barnett, Lyons MHA; Greg Hall, former Western Tiers MLC; Meander Valley Mayor Wayne Johnston, Premier Peter Gutwein and Mark Shelton, Lyons MHA. Photo courtesy Guy Barnett

By David Claridge

THE DROUGHT broke when Deloraine stormed home to defeat Rocherlea in the 2020 NTFA Grand Final.

With a strong lead after the first quarter, the Roos fought off a comeback, keeping the Tigers scoreless in the third quarter before coming home strong in the fourth, winning 11.9 (75) to 5.7 (37)

Coach Lochie Dornauf credits its continuous player training since the end of last season with giving the Roos the edge when it mattered.

'It's an amazing feeling being able to give this back to the fans who have supported us all year. We couldn't be more excited for the whole team.

'Rocherlea have a very experienced team. They've got some real gun players that really came to play in the second quarter. We couldn't stem the bleeding, but we went into half time in front.

'Last time we played Rocherlea it was lost in the midfield, so it's pleasing to see the turnaround and that the shoe was on the other foot.'

For Lochie Dornauf, the win ends his drought of 11 grand final losses.

The win caps off a spectacular career for Kangaroo Matthew O'Donoghue who was chaired off into retirement.

The U21 team couldn't get the same result against a much stronger George Town, going down 5.8 (38) to 14.10 (94).

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On their home ground, the Roos flew high to trounce the Tigers. Photo by Andrew Shepherd

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