



STEAMY PHOTOS FOUND HERE

Pearn's Steam World, of course!

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Mum's milk is best, says expert

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CAST FROM NATURE

John Parish, his creations and inspirations

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Meander Valley Gazette

Free every month

November 2020

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper



All cars great and small

The 2020 Westbury Rotary Club Car Show was a roaring success, filling the Village Green with around 400 cars. Visitors made the most of the sunny day to admire all cars bright and beautiful. Taking in the sights with grandparents Jim and Jenny Abela, were Cooper and Essie Carter from Spreyton – Essie in her very own custom hotrod. *Photo supplied*

Big changes for Blackstone Heights

by Sharon Webb

THE COUNTRIFIED nature of Blackstone Heights could be forever changed following local councillors' backing of three major developments for the suburb.

Recent Meander Valley Council decisions have the potential to more than double the number of residences at Blackstone Heights, dramatically increasing the 478 dwellings of the 2016 census to more than 1200.

The suburb currently has no shops, cafes or restaurants but the council's September decision to back rezoning a 6.5ha Panorama Road site from Low

Density Residential Zone to Local Business Zone paves the way for an \$8m commercial Tasland development.

In October the same Tasland developer gained approval for another rezoning from low density to a Specific Purpose Zone to pave the way for a \$149m residential development of 650 homes on 12 Neptune Drive.

Both rezonings need the approval of the Tasmanian Planning Commission but councillors are enthusiastic in their anticipation of the Tasland developments, describing them as 'visionary' and 'creative'.

October also brought a third development approval, this one

much closer to fruition and causing anxiety among some current residents.

Meander Valley councillors approved a subdivision for 95 homes on 68 hectares at 1 Panorama Road, a development by Victorian company Bass Strait 8 Pty Ltd.

While residents aren't necessarily against the development, many have taken the short window offered to them to voice their concerns about it in letters to the council.

The letters cover bushfire and traffic issues, density of homes in a low density zone, lack of safe footpaths, drainage, unsafe roadside ditches and destruction of wildlife.

The main strategy of council officers, in reports on these issues to councillors, is to gloss over problems, based on reports from the Tasmanian Fire Service, traffic authorities and a natural values expert.

Residents' fears are palpable – of being trapped in a bushfire because of traffic bottlenecks, caused by higher resident numbers, in a location with only one entrance and exit route.

Cllr Stephanie Cameron said staged development gave time 'hopefully for the issues of residents to be addressed as it goes on'.

But the council appears to have few concrete plans to deal with residents' concerns,

leaving residents such as Darren and Sally Perry of Panorama Road to request more effective and transparent communication.

'We are feeling concerned that in the absence of reasonable and open communication around this, that residents' views have largely been ignored', they wrote.

Communication between Meander Valley Council and residents on the two Tasland developments is yet to come, after the rezonings have been approved by the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

For more on planning see pages 2, 6, 9 and 13

650 extra homes planned for Blackstone Heights

by Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY Council has approved an amendment to its planning scheme which would allow a \$149m residential development on 115 hectares of land at Blackstone Heights.

The development proposal by Tasland Developments at 12 Neptune Drive includes 650 residences, open space, community facilities and eco-cabin tourist accommodation.

But the area's current Low Density Residential zoning does not allow for multiple dwelling residential development under a community development strata scheme. The amendment will create a Specific Purpose Zone.

The developer maintains the amendment will not increase the total number of dwellings that can be developed on the property. 'Rather it seeks to allow clusters of higher density development within large areas of open space and native vegetation.'

Typical lot sizes are 660sq metres in size. The land is currently owned by Torque Holdings Pty Ltd, whose director is Ross Harrison.

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 it for public comment for 28 days.

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

All councillors except Rodney Synfield supported the amendment at the council's October meeting.

Cllr Kelly said, 'It's great to see developers with faith in Meander Valley Council. We need more of these developments on our patch.'

Cllr King said the proposal was unique and inspiring. 'This is the first stage of a long-winded process.'

Cllr Nott, the only councillor living at the Blackstone Heights

end of the municipality, had confidence in Ross Harrison's 'creative thinking'.

'I'd like to see some of his more whimsical ideas pruned but he has the right ideas for the location.'

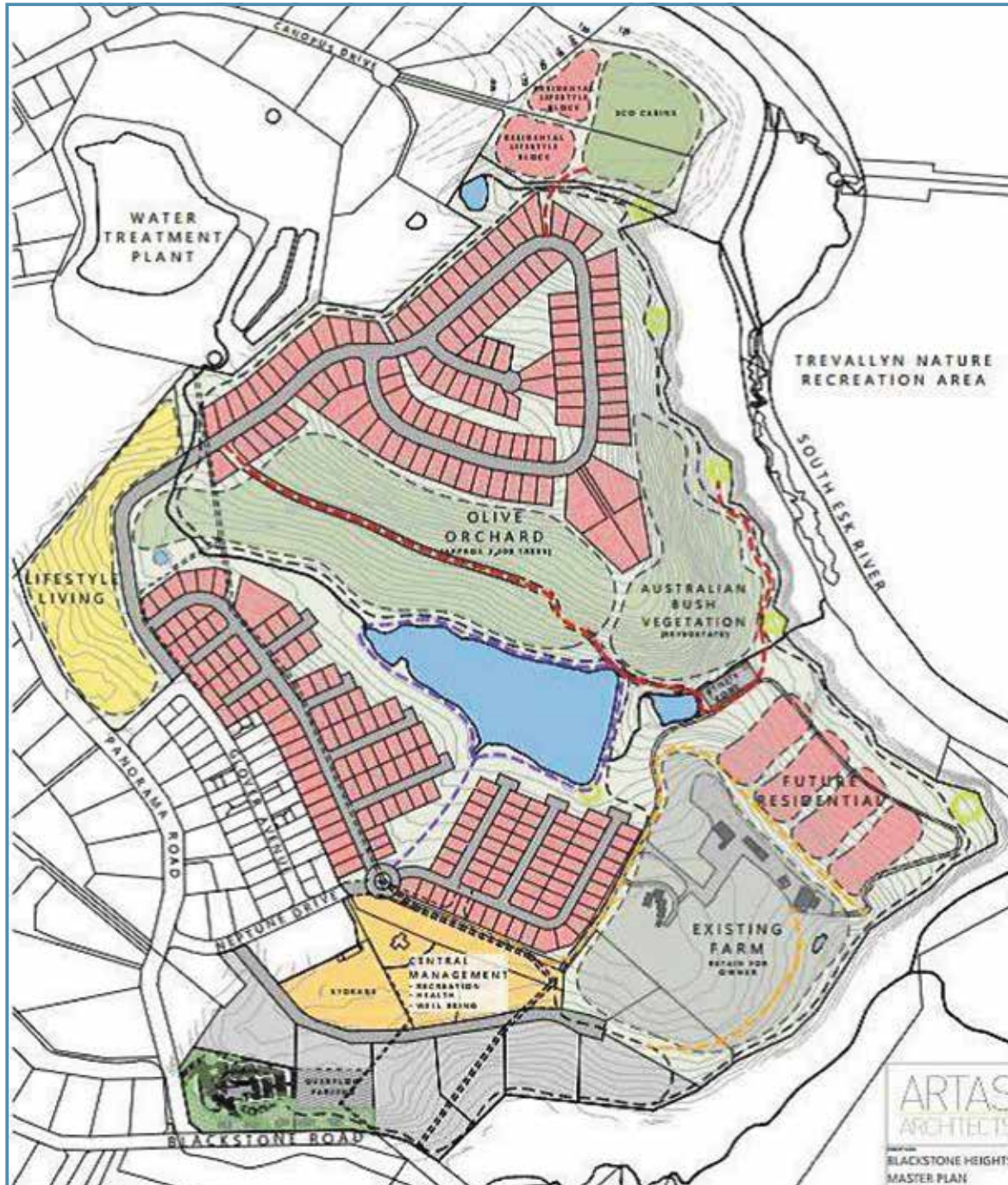
Neptune Drive's master plan outlines a distinctive approach to infrastructure provision. 'Roads and infrastructure such

as sewer and power will be constrained and maintained in a body corporate ownership model and will be self-sufficient', the planning application reads.

'This reduces pressure of council, TasNetworks and TasWater to provide and upgrade infrastructure and, ensures infrastructure will be

designed, constructed and maintained to a desired standard. A micro-grid across the site will provide for power generation leading to significant cost savings to residents and lead to environmental gains.'

The master plan includes extensions of Neptune Drive and Glover Avenue into the proposed road network with five residential nodes established in separate stages.



- 1 An extension of Glover Avenue: 87 lots with density similar to the existing Glover Ave plus 62 more lots east of the current extent of Neptune Drive.
- 2 115 lots along a looped road with one cul de sac, accessed by an extension of Glover Avenue.
- 3 Lifestyle living units targeting the over-55 market via an integrated residential community such as St Ann's Living at Old Beach.
- 4 Residential development accessed from Canopus Drive, with a small area of visitor accommodation development.
- 5 Land with views over the South Esk River set aside for future residential development.

Traffic and bushfire reports indicate the development will not create traffic safety issues, but the area is bushfire prone.

There is also a risk to eight threatened animal species including devils, quolls, the Eastern barred bandicoot and nearby eagles.

The proposed development by Tasland on 115 hectares at 12 Neptune Drive, Blackstone Heights will include 650 residences. *Image supplied*



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All steamed up!

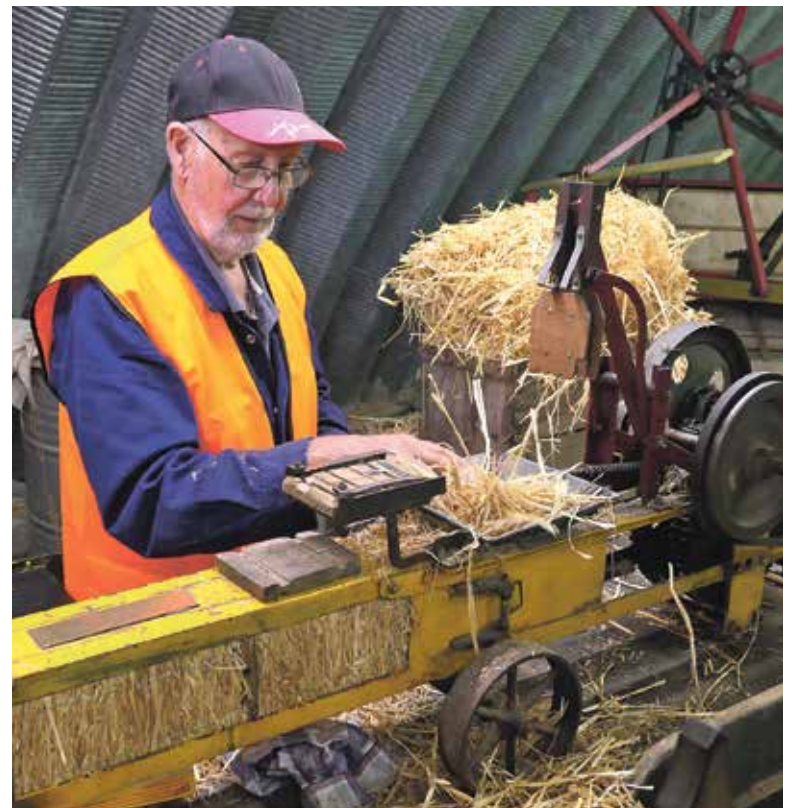
SUNSHINE AND steam power made an industrious and fascinating destination of Pearn's Steam World over the November long weekend.

With no Westbury Show, Pearn's Steam Up! was the place to spend a leisurely Westbury afternoon, suitably distanced, of course.

Clockwise from left: Johnny Jacobs astride the Wallis & Stevens model traction engine, could be seen slowly touring around the forecourt.

Built by Verdon Pearn, the model baler is put through its paces by Brian Phillips.

Hobby blacksmith, Nathan Dunning of Elizabeth Town, was hard at work, demonstrating his craft. *Photos supplied*



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Letter from the Editor

AN INTERESTING issue has cropped up recently in federal and state government.

Do governments and other publicly funded organisations need to be transparent about how they operate, how much their executive receives in bonuses, expenses and salaries, and how they distribute funds, contracts and grants?

These matters may be scrutinised by the Senate Estimates Committee or ASIC, or by journalists asking questions.

To be human is to be curious and secrets attract attention. 'Nothing to see here!' implies the exact opposite.

Most people want to know how their taxes or rates are being spent. In times of hardship, a surprising number of citizens care a great deal about how much their public servants earn and how they distribute the funds at their disposal.

Public service – the definition is in the title.

Liz Douglass

Letters to the Editor

SOME OF the most repressive countries in the world have fashioned their national titles into a form of a sick joke, such as China entitling itself the 'People's Republic of China'. Far from being a republic or 'the people's', it is an authoritarian dictatorship.

North Korea's official title is 'The Democratic People's Republic of Korea'. Obviously, there is nothing democratic going on there.

Here in Tasmania we have a 'Liberal' government. Definitions of the word 'liberal' include 'one who is open-minded or not strict in the observance of orthodox, traditional, or established forms or ways'. Which is the antithesis of what we have here.

Our government is authoritarian, paternalistic and very conservative. So conservative in fact that they appear to be incapable of embracing new ideas. Their embrace of a justice system firmly rooted in the 1800s is a good example.

Risdon Prison is so poorly designed because Tasmanian architects refuse to design prisons, arguing that prisons are unethical, and so the design is left to government.

Our government, in looking backwards instead of forward, wants to build another Risdon Prison here in Westbury.

Another warehousing institution based on punishment and revenge rather than punishment linked to opportunities of redemption through education and training towards becoming a positive member of society.

Currently in Risdon, three people are crammed into cells designed for a single prisoner,

and some are even sleeping in corridors, the overcrowding is so bad.

So bad that the prisoners are locked down in the cells for twenty-three hours a day. Imagine, three people, in a tiny space with a shared, single toilet, for twenty-three hours per day – and illegally, for consecutive day after day!

The 'Liberal' government, in copying Risdon Prison is being 'strict in the observance of orthodox, traditional, or established forms or ways,' by ensuring that the old way is adopted.

There are 308 prisoners identified as 'Northern' amongst the almost 700 current prisoners.

The government's advisors regarding the prison build is a company named SGS, and they forecast there will be 1200 prisoners by 2030.

So, what does our backward-looking government plan to build? An old-style prison warehouse designed for 270 offenders to accommodate the 308 prisoners of today, thereby ensuring overcrowding, misery, tension and an inability to offer programs in education and training.

They plan to spend \$270 million, which is guaranteed to blow out, building an inadequate institution, ensuring overcrowding, inefficient, and ultimately hugely expensive 'justice'.

And eventually spit out released prisoners who are understandably brutalised and embittered with nothing positive gained from their incarceration. Surely, a modern government can do better.

Peter Wileman, Westbury

Response to Mayor Johnston's letter, October 2020

IT WAS June 2016 that council voted to lease the old Meander School to Teen Challenge with disregard to the majority of Meander Residents.

The first meeting in the village hall at Meander regarding the use of the school was extremely flawed with a busload of Teen Challenge supporters making the meeting a fiasco.

The survey the mayor mentioned to be conducted with Meander residents and ratepayers only showed 36% of the residents and ratepayers were in favour, leaving 64% not in favour.

Hopefully, the next consultation regarding the Meander School will be inclusive of all the Meander Area Residents.

Ann Cunningham and Sue Evans, Meander

Reference is made to Mayor Wayne Johnston's letter, October 2020

HE IS certainly correct that the initial insult to the community was delivered by the previous council with regards to Teen Challenge's occupation of the Meander Primary School. The casting vote was made by then Mayor Craig Perkins. Notwithstanding this fact, most of the Mayor's subsequent remarks require a response.

He states that the choices made about the school were 'informed by public consultation, including a survey of Meander people'.

What he failed to recognise was that according to the survey undertaken by council at the time, only 36% of the respondents were of the opinion that Teen Challenge's proposal would be of benefit to the community.

Public benefit was deemed to be a binding condition of the handover. So council ignored that survey and acted against the majority view.

Contrary to the Mayor's statements, the Teen Challenge proposal was not favoured by the community. The meeting in the Meander Hall which instigated the next four years of antagonism was a concocted deal orchestrated by supporters of Teen Challenge.

The overwhelming majority of attendees to that meeting did not live anywhere near Meander and should have had absolutely no influence over

what happens in our town. Those opposed were effectively presented with a fait accompli. Teen Challenge had stacked the hall and bussed in supporters to give the false impression of public support.

The Mayor further insults us by characterising our criticisms of council's actions as 'irrational'.

There is nothing irrational about protesting a drug rehab in the very centre of Meander run by an organisation with no credentials, except some vague notion that they must be all right because they call themselves Christians.

Maybe they should go review their Ten Commandments, particularly the ones about not bearing false witness and coveting what rightfully belongs to others.

As far as TC offering to spend \$1 million on the site – that is just fanciful nonsense. In the four years of their occupation there is no evidence that a solitary penny has been spent on the upkeep of the site. Council itself had to do a slap dash paint job on the building because it looked so shabby and neglected.

The Mayor does himself no credit by alluding to past objections to decisions made by council, again characterising such views as 'irrational'. It is comments like this that perpetuate division and cynicism and do far more harm than the personal views of Kim Booth.

Ed Tuleja, Meander

Response to Mayor Johnston's letter, October 2020

THE ORDINARY elector is entitled to the fair-minded consideration of all matters before Council without pecuniary interest or bias or the perception of bias from elected members.

It appears from public statements made by Mayor Johnston, including his bizarre letter to the editor, October edition of Meander Valley Gazette, that he does not understand the obligations of his office.

The fact is that the overwhelming majority of Meander Area residents want the old school to be available for public use. Not leased to a cult, for \$1 per year, that bussed people in to stack a community meeting!

As for the alleged \$1m investment, that was public money Teen Challenge was after, but did not have.

It was Council that went to the Supreme Court after Timberworld (on behalf of MARRA) won the first hearing.

It was Council, under Mayor Johnson's tenure, that tried to blow up its own planning scheme by claiming that the law protecting vulnerable persons from bushfires was invalid.

This was despite approving the development under the

same clause and subjecting every other development application over the years to the same rule.

Timberworld (OBO MARRA) appealed and the Supreme Court's judgement against Council was damning. It's worth a read!

It was Council and so-called Teen Challenge that finally withdrew, stating that they were incapable of meeting the bushfire code.

Pity the Council failed to assess it in accordance with the law in the first place. It would have saved a lot of public money and heartache.

Timberworld and MARRA simply engaged in the proper and lawful process of public participation which thankfully the planning system provides. To assert otherwise is downright dishonest

To quote the Mayor's letter, 'Meander deserves a better class of public debate to achieve social cohesion and collective benefit'.

Ball's in your court Mr Mayor! Time to forget about potatoes growing in the Meander Dam.

Call a community meeting and have real public consultation and see what great ideas the community has for this wonderful public resource.

Kim Booth, Meander

EST.
2013

Meander
Valley
Gazette

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by Sharon Webb

IN HER room in a Deloraine nursing home, artist Val Whatley is surrounded by Tasmanian wilderness.

When poor health dictated she move from the Deloraine home she had built and lived in for 20 years, Val took her precious paintings. Visiting her at Grenoch Home is like walking into a small art gallery.

From her easy chair the 79-year-old can gaze directly into the depths of *Mt Geryon from the Labyrinth*, a silent place in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park.

There, beech trees dazzle in the autumn and walkers are captivated by exotic alpine vegetation surrounding a maze of glacial tarns and lakes.

'A wonderland of nature', Val calls it.

Val Whatley grew up in a time when Tasmania's wild scenery was rarely seen in 'popular' art.

After her first Launceston exhibitions in the 1960s, she said a gallery owner tried to

convince her to paint 'what people wanted to buy'.

'I wanted to paint scenery. There was so much out there that people had no idea about. Just beyond the roads it was wilderness. They had no idea of the beauty and magic of it.'

At that time, Val said, popular landscapes needed to have cows and pigs running around in the foreground, barns behind and mountains relegated to the far distance. But her wilderness paintings were a hit.

'Bob Brown and people from the Wilderness Society were invited and the paintings sold out. The gallery owner wanted more wilderness exhibitions after that!'

Val discovered drawing when she was about ten.

'I tried to paint a simple picture on my grandmother's calendar. My aunt's boyfriend bought it for 10 shillings and sent it to his sister in Melbourne for Christmas, so when my mother found out she arranged for me to paint pictures for the relatives.

'She decided I'd be a famous artist and while I was still at school she took me around the commercial artists in Launceston and got work for me.

'One of them was David Scholes and he gave me bits of work for *The Examiner*.'

But Val cites Aleks Szolomiak, the artist well-known for his sculpture at Binalong Bay, as perhaps her strongest influence. 'A real joy', she said.

He taught her at Community School (now Brooks High) and later, after a soulless year in a 'fine art' class at Launceston Technical College, she joined Aleks' life drawing night class.

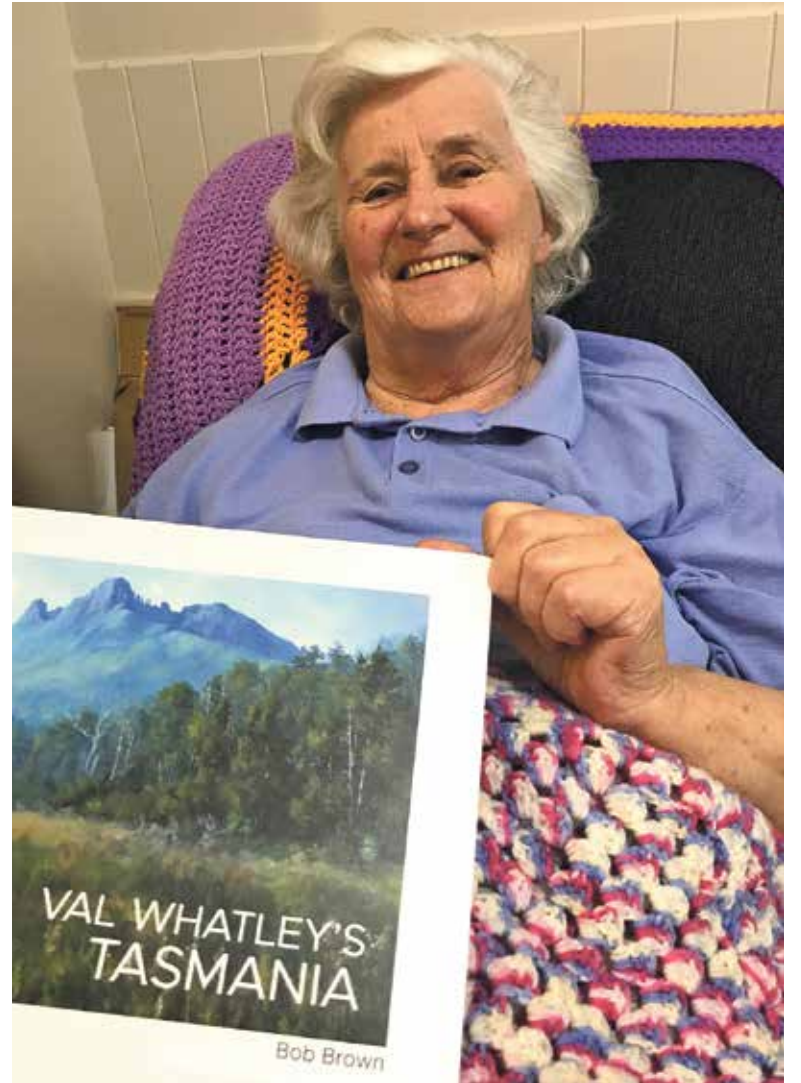
After a life of painting Tasmania, Val Whatley's environmentalist friends came to her aid as her health declined.

Bob Brown and his partner Paul Thomas packed up her house this year, cleaned it and put it on the market. It sold on the first day, to Val's disbelief.

Val approved the dispersal of her belongings, mostly from hospital beds.

Val Whatley

An artist who dared to bring wild places to Tasmanians



Deloraine artist Val Whatley with a new book of her works, *Val Whatley's Tasmania*. Photo by Sharon Webb

Above left, the view from Val Whatley's chair at Grenoch Home, her painting of *Mt Geryon from the Labyrinth*. Below left, Val's painting of one of her favourite places, *Cascades above Liffey Falls*. Photos supplied

'Bob said the paintings were first', Val said.

'We collected them, then he said, "What about the rest over here?" I'd forgotten them.

'He collected every painting I had – even a bit of a painting I'd torn off another one and work I'd not been able to finish.'

In late September all 43 paintings, spanning 1973 to 2001 were sold in an exhibition at Launceston's Red Dove Café and Gallery.

Bob and Paul also published a limited edition book, *Val Whatley's Tasmania*, which also sold out. It contains 58 of Val's paintings, with subjects including the Franklin River, Lake Marion, Meander Falls, Lake Pedder Beach and Bruny Island.

Bob Brown's email about the book and exhibition to wilderness lovers started like this: 'Val Whatley is a legend in our household. Here's your invitation to see why.'

He believes Val's recognition is belated, although many fortunate Tasmanians and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery have Val Whatley treasures proudly on show.

'Val has been a friend to me for many years', he said. 'She is a remarkable, quiet achiever.

'She helped me during the tough times of the Franklin campaign.

'Val rafted the Franklin twice, as well as the Denison and Lower Gordon Rivers. Her riverine exhibitions sold out.

These paintings lifted the spirits of campaigners across Tasmania and beyond. In 1983 the dams were stopped and the rivers saved.

'In 1989 Val organised a rally in Hobart of 10,000 people against the Wesley Vale pulp mill. The mill was stopped three months later.'

Val Whatley's life has been as an artist and Tasmanian wilderness adventurer.

But her main role has been to love the Tasmanian wilderness and dare to bring its beauty to those who didn't know it existed.

These days in her room at Grenoch, Val smiles at what her friends call 'the Valerie Gallery'.

One of her favourite paintings hangs on the wall behind her head – Liffey Falls, just a few kilometres from her former Liffey home of 14 years.

'I'd just walk down through the scrub to the Liffey River and follow it along to the waterfall ...'

New Westbury units cater for older residents

by Sharon Webb

A PLAN for 20 units on the south side of Westbury is a fantastic opportunity for people to live and age in Westbury, a Meander Valley councillor said.

Cllr Susie Bower, who lives in Westbury, said the units approved by the October council meeting for 150-152 Dexter Street had the potential to attract a different demographic to the town.

'With an ageing demographic there is a real requirement for units in Westbury,' she said.

The \$3.7m stratum subdivision on 1.12 hectares is proposed by SPR Investments, based in Ringwood, Victoria, and owned by Sam and Alan Preston

Of the 20 brick units, 14 will have three bedrooms and six will have two.

Cllr Bower said the development was responsible because it hadn't crowded in too many houses. Cllr Michael Kelly congratulated the developer on reducing the unit numbers from 33 to 20.

But Cllr Frank Nott said he would have preferred 12-15 units. 'That would still have provided enough space between them - but not as much profit,' he said.

'Is this a sign of things to come? Will lots in Westbury continue to be divided?'

Nineteen residents wrote 14 letters about the development. Several supported the project.

Five letters had concerns about infrastructure, six queried the project on density and amenity grounds and four had boundary and other questions.

Cameron Oakley and Mark Kolodziej of Dexter Street questioned the capacity of existing stormwater and sewage facilities to cope with developments.

Council officers wrote that development provides stormwater management within the property boundaries but officers are currently working on the design of downstream stormwater upgrades in William Street. The upgrades will provide more capacity in the piped network, reducing risk of future flooding.

On parking and traffic queries, council officers reported that each unit has two car parking spaces.

A Traffic Impact Assessment concluded that with recommendations, the development would not create traffic issues. Increased traffic would easily be accepted by Dexter Street.

On density and amenity issues, Anne-Marie Loader of King Street wrote, 'An outbreak of high-density housing in a village of dwellings that are on larger blocks will destroy the amenity of the village.'

'I am not anti-development. I am anti-high density development in a small village.'

Karen McKenzie wrote, 'I am very concerned that the nature of Westbury as an historic village will be damaged forever by these types of developments.'

She said the development would 'undermine the very good things about Westbury which include sense of place, tourism and heritage'.

Officers wrote that being an internal lot, the proposed units would not impact on the streetscape vista.

The development's surrounding area contains 'residential development in a largely suburban style, albeit at densities that range from urban to rural lifestyle lots.'

'Development within the area is understood to range from the 1800s to the current time.'

'The proposal is in keeping with the zone purpose for the

General Residential Zone. The property and adjoining properties are not heritage listed.

'There are no local heritage precincts, local heritage places or archeologically significant sites in the planning scheme.'

'There are no specific heritage standards for Westbury.'

The motion was passed by Councillors Bower, Cameron, Johnston, Kelly, King and Sherriff.

Councillors Synfield, Temple and Nott voted against it.



The site plan of 20 residential units approved for 150-152 Dexter Street, Westbury. Image supplied

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

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Rising to the top!



A dairy dynasty! Above, back row from left: Richard Gretschmann, Emma Catt, Gareth Shapiro, Tonia Gretschmann, Joe Gretschmann, Antonia Gretschmann, Joe Gretschmann (son), Naomi Scott, Andreas Gretschmann, Jacob Anderson and Ariel Tonihi. Front from left: Andrew, Ida and Teddy. Right: Antonia and Joe Gretschmann came to Tasmania from Germany with a plan to produce the best organic dairy products, based on traditional methods, pristine farmland and relaxed cows!
Photos supplied

Elgaar Farm's relaxed cows take out national dairy award

by Sharon Webb

A MEANDER Valley farm with just 80 cows and seven employees produces the best cream in the country, according to the nation's top chefs.

Elgaar Farm at Moltema closed six years ago after falling foul of Tasmanian bureaucracy but again has risen to the top.

The producer of cream, milk, yoghurt, cheese and mascarpone has won the trophy for the national 'From the Dairy' award held by *delicious* magazine.

'There were definitely some marvellous products in the dairy section of the awards and we were surprised our simple cream won', said owner Joe Gretschmann.

The thing is, the judges believed it was not just a 'simple cream'.

Like wines grown on the north slope with the flavour of the prevailing winds, Elgaar Farm's cream has the flavour of the herbaceous fields on which Elgaar's cows graze.

The judges commented, 'There's a beautiful clean flavour here thanks to the grass-fed cattle that graze on pristine Tasmanian farmland'.

According to Joe, there's another reason. Relaxed cows. 'The way we handle them, there's no stress', he said.

Joe said the chefs are looking for 'pure, original products'.

Unlike some other awards, producers cannot nominate themselves for *delicious* awards.

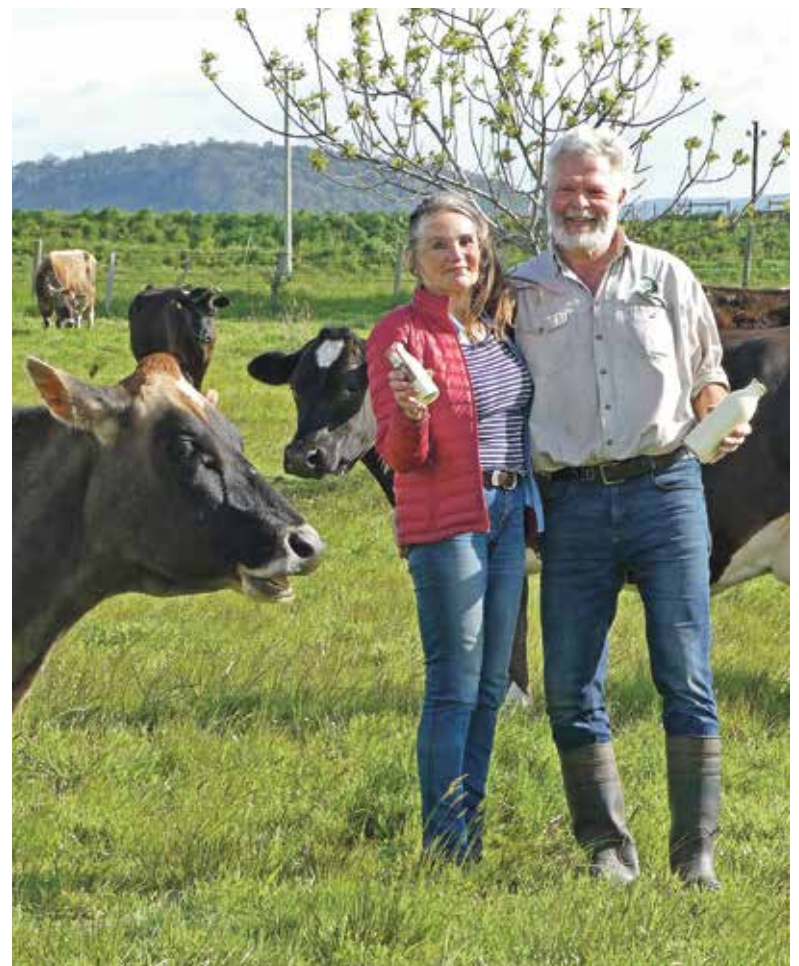
They must be nominated by an accredited chef and their product is blind tasted by a team of seven or eight chefs. Joe and Antonia Gretschmann can only guess who nominated their cream.

Seventeen trophies were awarded in 2020 by some of Australia's most renowned

chefs including Guillaume Brahimi, Maggie Beer, Peter Gilmore, Christine Manfield, Matt Moran, Neil Perry, Danielle Alvarez and Colin Fassnidge.

Elgaar Farm was the only Tasmanian producer to win a trophy, topping the 'From the Dairy' section. The Bruny Island Cheese Company was one of its 13 national gold medal competitors in the section. Sixty-one producers received gold medals.

Other Tasmanian gold medal winners were in the 'From the Earth' section: Eladnelle Farm saffron (Ellendale), Felds Farm seasonal annual vegetables (Baghdad) and Kindred Organics' certified organic wholemeal spelt flour (Kindred). Arundel Farm's lamb (Derwent Valley) was a 'From the Paddock' category gold medallist.



SENATOR WENDY ASKEW
LIBERAL SENATOR FOR TASMANIA



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WE'LL KEEP DOING THIS TO KEEP ON TOP OF COVID

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Please get tested if you have any of these symptoms, even mild ones:

- Cold or flu symptoms, including:
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 - cough
 - shortness of breath
- Loss of smell or taste

Arrange a test by calling the Tasmanian Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738 or your GP for more information.

COVID-19 can also sometimes present with the following symptoms on their own or combined with the symptoms above: headache, muscle and/or joint pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite, fatigue. If you experience these symptoms you should talk to your GP and discuss the need for a COVID-19 test.

www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au

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Award underlines pharmacy's dedication to training

Deloraine's Amcal pharmacy's commitment to training its staff has paid off handsomely with a state award win that will take it to national finals.

The pharmacy has been named Tasmanian Small Business of the Year by the National Training Authority.

Owner Ian Huett estimated that in the 50 years the business has existed, around 200 people have trained there.

'We need well-trained staff who not only have a good knowledge of products but can communicate well with customers. We want staff to be able to take time to talk

to patients. I see training our staff as a commitment to our profession.'

The pharmacy offers two types of training: traineeships for school leavers and internships for university pharmacy graduates.

'If I can see a young person has the capacity to complete a traineeship in community pharmacy, that can lead to further certificate levels', Mr Huett said.

'It's always our intent with trainees to give them brilliant knowledge and empathy. And working in a pharmacy can be a stepping stone. Currently we

have a staff member who is going to be a paramedic.'

Mr Huett said Deloraine Amcal has produced 48 trainees over the 15-20 years the Training Authority has existed, with a success rate of 80 per cent – significantly higher than the national average.

Currently, of the pharmacy's four pharmacists, two are UTAS pharmacy graduates completing their one year internships – one from Hong Kong and the other from Borneo.

'They're still doing exams and assignments and are keen to become longterm residents', Mr Huett said.



From left: Amcal pharmacy owner Ian Huett with trainee Emmy Long from Don, who has signed on to complete a Certificate 3 in Community Pharmacy, and store manager Maria Newsum. Photo supplied

Blackstone bushfire exit risks 'tolerable'

by Sharon Webb

A 95 home subdivision on 68 hectares in Blackstone Heights will go ahead despite current residents' fears of being trapped in a bushfire because of traffic bottlenecks.

Meander Valley councillors supported the six stage subdivision at 1 Panorama Road in an application by Victorian company Bass Strait 8 Pty Ltd.

Cllrs Susie Bower, Wayne Johnston, Mick Kelly, Tanya King, Stephanie Cameron and Andrew Sherriff supported the subdivision, John Temple, Rodney Synfield and Frank Nott voted against it.

Supporting councillors gave no public reasons for their decision. Cllr Cameron said staged development gave time 'hopefully for the issues of residents to be addressed as it goes on'.

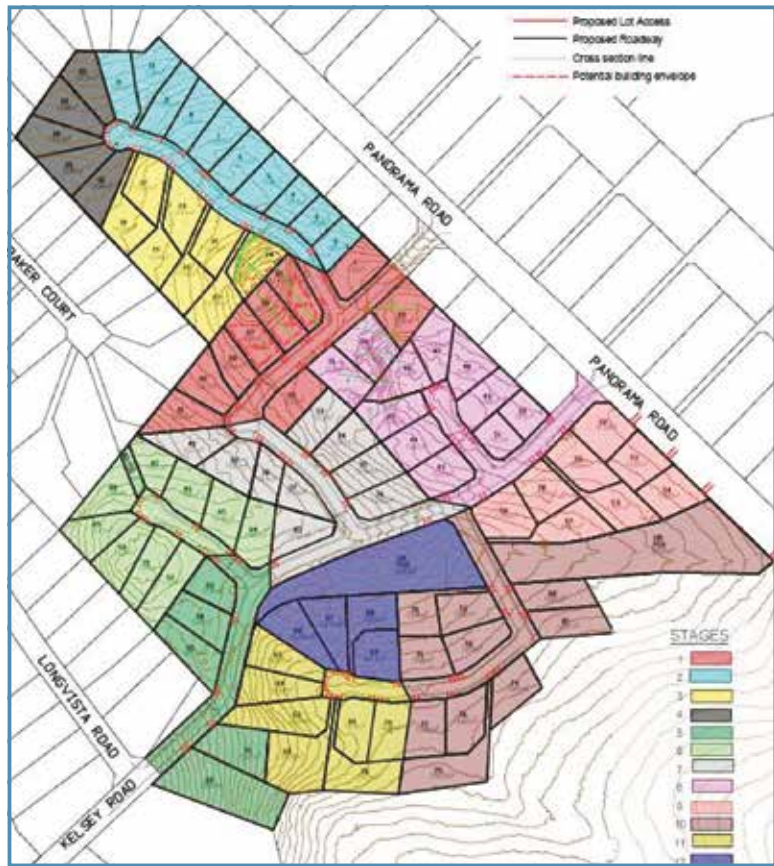
Cllr King said, 'I envisage that with the revenue that will be generated from the subdivision, there will be capacity for the necessary infrastructure improvements to be made with regard to stormwater management, pedestrian safety, and traffic management.'

Comments by Blackstone Road residents Jamie and Katrina Davies were typical of 14 residents' worries about there being only one road in and out of the area. 'Our biggest concern is that if traffic flow is impeded in the event of an emergency such as a bushfire, bottlenecks at the junction of Panorama and Blackstone Roads could be potentially catastrophic.'

Resident Evan Hughes commented on 'the deadly consequences of an evacuation scenario'. But the Tasmanian Fire Service said the risks are 'tolerable'. An alternative access was desirable but not fundamental to the proposal.

The council intends providing 'an additional road link through to Mount Leslie Road to provide a second entry/exit into Blackstone Heights', addressed in the Prospect Vale-Blackstone Heights Structure Plan.

The approved development by Bass Strait 8 at 1 Panorama Road, Blackstone Heights.
Image supplied



General manager John Jordan confirmed there was no timeline for this actually to happen.

Cllr Frank Nott accused the council of 'sitting on its hands' on the second exit issue. 'We're increasingly aware of more fires throughout Australia. Since the 2015 Structure Plan there's been no action.'

A total of 18 letters objected to the proposal, from 28 residents.

Darren and Sally Perry of Panorama Road said the process around the development lacked transparency. 'Many residents submitted feedback in January and after no response for seven months have recently had council make contact to inform they only have a few days to respond. 'Many residents believe this and other developments managed by Meander Valley Council are a fait accompli.'

Blackstone residents also believe the development is not low density housing as dictated by its zoning. Luigi and Deb Spangaro said 77 per cent of the blocks are smaller than the necessary 1600 square metres. Others commented on the second and third stages being higher density, not in keeping with the character of the area.

Cllr Rodney Synfield said he would not support the sub-minimal lot sizes. 'In my view Blackstone Heights has a certain character. We ought to maintain that or have a significant discussion with the

community about whether they want that to change.'

But officers said 92 lots are more than 1500 square meters while 22 of those comply with the acceptable 1600m² size. The average lot size is 1562m².

'Future development of the lots will not be out of character with the surrounding area,' they wrote. 'While a large portion of the lots are less than 1600, the variation will not be distinguishable on the ground.'

Other traffic concerns of residents were glossed over in the council's response.

Residents say traffic counts on relevant roads were done on January 3, peak holiday season, and did not take into account high traffic events created by concerts at the Casino.

The council's infrastructure department said the current road network is adequate, with additional treatment for existing intersections at Blackstone Rd/Panorama Rd and Casino Rise/Country Club Ave.

'Early January is not an ideal time of year to conduct traffic count surveys however bearing in mind time constraints, surveys were conducted to progress the project.'

'The recommendations of the report would be the same if traffic surveys were conducted at more typical times of the year. The recommended junction improvements would be the same.'

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Photo by Sarah Lloyd

The mysterious Masked Owl

by Sarah Lloyd OAM

THE TASMANIAN Masked Owl's silent flight, infrequent calling and highly mobile nature makes it one of our most mysterious forest birds.

Being nocturnal and with a huge home range of about 2000 hectares, Masked Owls are highly unlikely to be found during field surveys, so scientists are trying a different approach.

They're using specially trained dogs to sniff out piles of pungent pellets under their roosting or nesting trees.

These pellets can reveal a lot about the lives of these formidable hunters.

Most birds expel pellets in a process akin to vomiting. Pellets contain the bits of food they can't digest such as bones, feathers, hair or invertebrate remains.

Studies of Masked Owl pellets indicate their preference for small mammals, especially rats, mice and rabbits, but also native animals like bandicoots, birds and possums.

These efficient hunters kill their prey with their raptorial (grasping) talons.

Owls have three remarkable traits that enable them to function in the dark.

Their eyes absorb 100 times more light than human eyes so for them the darkest night is like early dusk and dusk is like bright daylight.

A Masked Owl's hearing is equally acute. They have large ear openings on their facial disc and flaps of skin on each side of their head.

These features direct the sounds to the inner ears, amplify the sounds and enhance the birds' ability to determine direction.

Owls have large broad wings and uniquely structured feathers that means they can move slowly and silently through the forest.

The leading edge of their wing feathers have comb-like serrations that break up the turbulent air that typically creates the swooshing sound.

The smaller streams of air are further dampened by the feathers' velvety texture and by a soft fringe on the wing's trailing edge.

The Tasmanian Masked Owl – along with Tasmanian Devil and Wedge-tailed Eagle – is an 'apex predator', a species at the top of the food web that preys on other animals but has no predators itself.

Masked Owls are naturally rare and vulnerable to persecution because they often come in conflict with humans, e.g. by taking livestock.

However, they are extremely important because they control populations of introduced pests such as rats and rabbits whose numbers can reach plague proportions.

Rabbit plagues can strip the land of vegetation leading to massive erosion.

Predators also remove old, injured, sick, or very young animals so they help to keep populations healthy.

Apex predators are also important in controlling populations of 'mesopredators' such as feral cats and foxes.

The Tasmanian Masked Owl inhabits mostly lowland forests like those that extend from Reedy Marsh to Birralee.

Some residents (myself included) have been lucky enough to have a memorable encounter with this elusive bird.

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John Parish – art by nature under the Bluff

by Sharon Webb

SOME MORNINGS, the electronic sounds of Tangerine Dream drift across the foothills of Quamby Bluff.

Thirteen native hens draw near, spellbound.

The music of the 1970s German band's Moog synthesiser mysteriously captivates the birds living on artist John Parish's property Cloud 13.

'I noticed whenever I played it they would stop nearby and listen. They seem to love it', John said. 'They're inspiration for all my bronze native hen sculptures. You never get lonely with them around.'

On a sunny morning as John steps out of his foundry workshop the immediate view is of the forested rear of Quamby Bluff. He's surrounded by towering eucalypts and curvy wattles.

'The beauty is in the shadowy gulches and the wallabies taking the sun with their tails between their legs. Every now and then you'll hear a tree fall in the forest. We try to create a feeling in our place that's not threatening to wildlife.'

And why wouldn't he?

Wildlife on Cloud 13 – animals, plants, insects – is John's source of inspiration.

Every time locals and tourists glance at the native hen family on Deloraine's fountain near the library, or a bronze devil along the riverbank, they absorb a tiny dose of Golden Valley inspiration.

But the process of creating art is not at all ethereal.

A furnace used to heat metal for sculptures needs fuel. Aluminium demands 600°C, bronze 1200°C and cast iron 1300°C.

John's a bit of a Renaissance man. He makes all his tools, builds kilns and furnaces. His workshop is far from being an airy-fairy, arty place. It's all blokey tools hanging on the walls and piles of black masculine metal and leather on long complicated-looking benches.

'I spend as much time making the tools to make art as I do creating the actual works,' he said.

Outside the foundry in a specially created area is John's latest achievement, a process where he makes biodiesel from used fish and chip oil from Deloraine's School Shop.

A process of tanks is used to heat the oil with hot water, then he filters and separates it into glycerine and biodiesel. More clearing tanks, including one in a tower six metres high, then the end product is biodiesel to fuel the furnace.

'I collect a trailerload of about a dozen drums of fish and chip oil a fortnight,' John said.

But the process of making a different type of art can be even more earthy.

In 2012 when John gained his PhD from the University of Tasmania at the unconventional age of 70, he exhibited work he characterised 'mark-making by nature'.

Half a day's walk from Cloud 13 are the ancient cliffs of the Western Tiers with their overhanging rocky cliffs and mysterious caves.

John put down sheets of paper sprinkled with soot to gain evidence of which animals visited at night. He gained it, and the work of devils, quolls and snakes became art.

At the time he said the devils in particular didn't just leave their footprints but scratched over and over, seemingly enjoying themselves.

'Curiosity? Aggression? The intriguing marks seemed to embody intent, as if they were experiencing something they'd not done before.'

These days John sprays the soot to fix it and presents what he calls scratchings as abstract art.

'The marks record little dramas in animals' lives. You can tell when it's a quoll, the pattern is different from a devil.'

'You get echidnas and snakes too,' he said, showing marks he interprets as a devil taking a snake.



Above: a wing cast for one of John's bronze sculptures.

Right: John's tools, furnaces and kilns are all hand made, as is his biodiesel process to fuel the furnace. John displays the armature (framework) for a bird sculpture alongside two small bronze sculptures of Tasmanian devils.

Photos by Hayley Manning



Mark-making by nature – animal prints and scratchings are fixed on paper to become abstract creations.

Photo by Sharon Webb

'Doing this, I present something to nature and get something back.'

Inevitably things go wrong – the time he used a camera and a devil ate the lead from the camera's battery.

'It's a process. I can't actually say I know where I'm going. A strange way to work but satisfying.'



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Northern Regional Prison Project Update - November 2020

The Tasmanian Government is committed to building the Northern Regional Prison to enhance the capacity of the Tasmania Prison Service (TPS) while also allowing prisoners to be rehabilitated and located closer to their friends and family when they are in prison, which brings many benefits including in relation to rehabilitation and reduced recidivism.

As the Social and Economic Impact Study (SEIS) regarding the Northern Regional Prison confirmed, proximity to social networks is a significant determinant of prisoners' successful reintegration into the community following their release. With approximately 46% of Tasmania's current prison population coming from the North and North West regions of the State, construction of the Northern Regional Prison will provide an opportunity for a significant number of inmates from these regions to be located closer to their friends and family.

This will significantly improve the chances of successful rehabilitation for these individuals, which is a key objective of correctional centres.

Lower rates of recidivism and enhanced opportunities for rehabilitation in purpose-built facilities are beneficial to inmates, their families and the community.

Benefits to the individual include reduced involvement with the justice system, improved social skills and community networks, improved employment prospects, improved income levels and improved health outcomes. While benefits to government and the community include reduced costs to the courts and justice system, reduced police costs and reduced welfare costs.

The SEIS found that a Northern prison would greatly improve the ability for prisoners from the North to receive visitors, and their visitation rates would likely increase from about seven to 26 visits per annum.

The SEIS cited previous studies which found that each visit a prisoner receives may lower the chance of recidivism by 3.8% for each individual, and found that this could save a conservatively estimated \$5 million per annum.

The SEIS found the construction of a Northern prison will deliver a benefit of \$29.4 million from improved inmate rehabilitation, and reduced costs of recidivism, driven by improved social connectedness between inmates and their family and/or friends during incarceration.

This was amongst the broader benefits the SEIS found a Northern prison will deliver for Northern Tasmania/Tasmania which also included:

- an increased economic output of \$280 million from construction of the prison, and a further economic output of \$268 million from prison operations;
- a broader economic benefit to the region (gross regional product) of \$92 million due to construction of the prison, and a further \$168 million from prison operations;
- a total of 739 additional full-time equivalent jobs supported during construction; and
- an additional 372 ongoing jobs supported by prison operations, with a further 40 ongoing jobs supported indirectly, many of which would likely be held by residents in the area.

Anyone who is interested in reading more on these points is encouraged to read the Social and Economic Impact Study completed in relation to the project, which can be found on the Department of Justice website - www.justice.tas.gov.au/strategic-infrastructure-projects/new-northern-prison#The-Social-and-Economic-Impact-Study.

Construction of the Northern Regional Prison is just one element of the Government's comprehensive corrections infrastructure and rehabilitation framework, which includes over \$350 million of investment in infrastructure development, along with enhanced operational approaches, which seek to improve outcomes for both prisoners and the Tasmanian community.

For more information visit 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

For more information, visit
www.justice.tas.gov.au



Council steps back from zone requirements for Reedy Marsh

by Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY Council has approved subdivision of a Reedy Marsh block which is already smaller than the 15 hectare minimum, despite the council planner's recommendation to reject it.

In an emotional plea to October's council meeting, Chris Brown, who lives on 10.12 hectares at 209 Farrells Road, asked councillors to approve the subdivision because it would be 'lifechanging'.

He said that he wants his son to live on the property in a second house because Mr Brown's partner is disabled after a stroke and he needs his son to help manage the property.

He argued there were already comparable sized blocks elsewhere in Reedy Marsh.

Council's Senior Strategic Planner Jo Oliver said the subdivision's resultant two blocks would be 'a significant departure from the 15 hectare minimum', 5.08 and 5.04 hectares respectively.

She reported that the development would have adverse impacts on natural values and the habitat of threatened species, as well as on the visual character and the objectives of the Rural Living Zone.

Reedy Marsh resident Andrew Ricketts objected to the development. He noted that the original lot was already only 67 per cent of the recommended land size for the area, and the resultant blocks would be only 32 per cent.

'The obvious and uncontentious intent of the 15 hectare minimum lot size standard was not to allow all the titles in Reedy Marsh to be subdivided down to five hectares or so. Yet, that is what is being engineered. This approach has no social license.

'If the council approves this subdivision, it will be a clear demonstration that it cannot uphold its own standards that were reached in consultation with the community.'

Neighbour Peter Elkin also objected, writing that he would be detrimentally impacted by the development and that the suggested dwelling would be prominent and obtrusive from Farrells Road.

Mr Elkin was critical of the natural values report by Scott Livingston and was concerned about the effects on forest and habitat for threatened species, including the recovering local devil population.

The objectors urged Council to maintain the character of the

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area – the bushland amenity, natural values and low density residential development.

Councillors Nott, Synfield and Temple, while sympathetic to Mr Brown, commented that the subdivision would set a dangerous precedent.

But the six other councillors agreed that Mr Brown should be allowed to split his block of land, so they voted to approve the subdivision.

Funds available to eliminate weeds

\$200,000 IS available to farmers, community organisations and land managers to tackle weeds on their properties.

Primary Industries Minister Guy Barnett said the funds target high priority weeds across the state. 'The initiative supports the eradication and control of priority weeds posing a

threat to agriculture and the environment', he said.

Eligible activities include on-ground weed management, education, extension and support activities, and planning to underpin effective management and control of priority weeds.

For more information about the Tasmanian Weeds Action Fund go to nrmnorth.org.au, phone 1300 109 676, or email waf@nrmnorth.org.au.

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Exciting Opportunity for Meander Valley Community!

The Old Meander Primary School provides an exciting opportunity to become a multi-use Community facility! There are lots of great ideas to unleash the potential that the site holds for a variety of uses.

We are looking forward to Council taking a leading role in bringing the community together by calling for expressions of interest and holding public workshops to get the best ideas out front.

The possibilities are endless as there are many innovative ideas in the community that just need a space to operate from. We've already had some great ideas put forward, some are listed below, but we want everyone to be involved in establishing an exciting new community facility.

As rural communities are losing their facilities and identity, this could be our opportunity to develop multiple-use spaces, particularly for young people, to achieve a sense of place and purpose and a reason to remain in the area.

We see the old Meander school becoming the hub of the community again creating jobs, culture, support networks and opportunities for everyone.

Expressions of interest and good ideas are sought from the whole community, to put forward to the Council, once the process starts for the new use of the school in the coming months.

This is a chance to be part of something very exciting!

Send your ideas or expressions of interest to:
secretary@marra.net.au

Meander Area Residents and Ratepayers Association (MARRA) will present these to Meander Valley Council to assist in the development of a community facility at the Old Meander Primary School site.

People have already shown interest in setting up the following:

Farmers market, community garden, orchard	Men and women's shed, handyman register	Performing spaces/theatre workshops	Community or state school
Safe crèche for kids	Still life/life drawing classes	Painting classes, landscape and portrait	Spinning and weaving
Historical society/room, data base	Computer access/technology advisors	Ceramics/pottery/mosaic workshops	Yoga/tai-chi classes
Small nursery plants and seedlings. Local produce for sale or swap	Music practice, voice and instrument. Music lessons	A shop for local Arts and Crafts sales and a Gallery for local exhibitions.	Computer workshops/lessons, Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, data cataloging
Lead light workshops, mixed craft groups	Information Centre for the Meander area	Writers group	Building/carpentry workshops
Cafe/picnic lunches, catering, wood-fired pizza	Local bands concerts/festivals	Bush-walking club and sightseeing	Film group movie nights

Rehabilitate criminals at a Launceston prison, says Barns



Greg Barns, Chair of the Prisoners Legal Service
Photo by Hayley Manning

by Sharon Webb

NORTHERN TASMANIA should have a prison, the chair of the Prisoners Legal Service Tasmania Greg Barns told an audience of 50 people in Deloraine last month.

At an event at the Western Tiers Community Centre organised by Westbury Region Against the Prison, Mr Barns said prisoner families should not have to travel hundreds of kilometres to Hobart, often to be told there's a lockdown.

'But we are totally opposed to the Westbury site. It will end up

in the federal court. There is no social licence for it', he said.

'It's outrageous that the government will go ahead with this with no deliberative community consultation.

'Where did the idea of Westbury come from?

'The prison needs to be close to a major centre, probably Launceston, where there is public transport, so prison families can catch a bus. Launceston would also attract people to work in the facility.'

Mr Barns told the audience the State Government was touting a 'failed model'.

'More than 47 per cent of prisoners land back behind bars within two years. It was 39 per cent five years ago. Why would you replicate a failure?

'We want a prison but we don't want a failure. We want a health focus and a rehabilitation focus so people can come back into the community, have a place to live and a job.'

In Norway, where prisons are viewed as rehabilitative rather than punishment, recidivism is less than 20 per cent. There, inmates can do courses, work and cook their own meals.

'Some of the most vocal opponents of prison in the US are on the right of politics. It's

fiscal irresponsibility, they say, because prisoners cost money and don't work.'

'This government hasn't got the guts to say what they're doing doesn't work. Peter Gutwein says he's a great budget manager. So why would he spend millions on a project that's a surefire failure?'

Meander Valley Councillors Rodney Synfield, Frank Nott, Susie Bower and John Temple attended.

Local Legislative Councillor Tania Rattray said Mr Barns' presentation was enlightening and invited him to speak to her colleagues in the Legislative Council.




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Two nest checks and a bogged truck – prison site surveys begin

by Sharon Webb

TWO EXPERTS say Wedge-tailed Eagles nesting near the Birralee land chosen for the State's new prison site are not breeding.

Last month neighbours saw a fixed wing plane and a helicopter fly over the nest within two days of each other.

The Justice Department has confirmed it requested the helicopter used on 21 October by the Forest Practices Authority's raptor expert to check the status of the nest.

In addition, wildlife expert Nick Mooney, working as a consultant in retirement, confirmed he used the Cessna plane on 19 October to check nests around the State and thought he'd check Birralee's 'in passing'.

Mr Mooney is also consulting for EcoTas, the company completing the natural values report on the site for the Justice Department. He cannot comment directly on the nest in question because he has signed a non-disclosure agreement about the prison site.

Westbury Region Against the Prison (WRAP) president Linda Poulton described neighbours saying eagles circled over the plane as it checked the nest.

Mr Mooney commented, 'Such territories and home ranges are occupied even if breeding doesn't happen, the adults being omnipresent. Soaring and other high flying is mainly "flag flying", a statement of occupation'.

In October, the Justice Department ramped up its 'due

diligence' on the prison site.

On again, off again geodrilling began, described by the Concerned Residents Opposed to the Westbury Prison Site (CROWPS) as 'a comedy of errors'.

Drillers that were due to arrive on 9 October were postponed because Federal Environment Minister Susan Ley required the Justice Department to review how the Federal *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) applied to its plans and do a self-assessment.

A rainy week later, drillers arrived and left again, with the Justice Department publicly blaming the delay on a few members of WRAP standing at the gate waving banners.

Police confirmed that the work had stopped because of the wet.

Next day, Tasmanian Drilling Services arrived again, got bogged and transformed the first 150m of the site's track into a mud churn.

CROWPS spokesman Aaron Reader said, 'Minister Archer's office had not informed contractors about the complexities of the site.'

'CROWPS members, being farmers and site neighbours, had voiced extreme concern on how wet the site is and suggested not bringing in machinery due to recent heavy rains.'

But the same day, Justice Minister Elise Archer described the events as 'drilling works have been able to safely begin with contractors able to work in a way that ensures disturbance

to vegetation and soil is kept to a minimum'.

In addition, Mark Wapstra from EcoTas arrived on site to survey for the government's natural values report on flora and fauna. He cannot comment on how long he plans to be on site, how long the report will take or when it's due to the Justice Department.

The government's public communications on the origins of the helicopter flight do not augur well for transparency in the coming prison process.

On 26 October, Ms Archer's office fudged the issue of the flight's origin, saying 'the Forest Practices Authority, on behalf of the forestry industry, undertook eagle nest activity checks in Tasmania's north on Tuesday 20 October, including in the Westbury area. This work ... has not been initiated as part of the Northern Regional Prison project.'

FPA chief forest practices officer, Peter Volker added, 'The FPA checked the nest in question at the request of the Meander Valley Council.'

The council denied this and Volker's hurried check confirmed the nest check was requested by someone whose name he could not disclose.

On 30 October Ms Archer's department confirmed, 'The Department of Justice, in consultation with an environmental consultant, requested that the eagle nest ... be included in the annual checks, and this was undertaken on Tuesday 20 October'.



Above: An eagle nest near the Birralee proposed prison site is not being used for breeding this season, say raptor experts after fly-overs by plane and helicopter.



Right: Following days of heavy rain, drilling vehicles became bogged after entering the site, churning up the track. Photos supplied

Mr Volker said the nest is not being used for breeding this season. According to Nick Mooney, 'for eagles, seven times in 10 years would be a very good run'.

Mersey emergency back to 24/7

24 HOUR service is back at the Mersey Community Hospital Emergency Department.

Health Minister Sarah Courtney said three permanent senior staff specialists and five longterm locums have been appointed to support delivery of ED services across the North West coast.

'Concerted recruitment efforts are ongoing for permanent roles but we know that rural and regional health services recruitment is an ongoing challenge around the country. COVID-19 has made this even more difficult,' Ms Courtney said.

Labor Braddon members Anita Dow and Shane Broad said the State Government needs to work harder to recruit and retain staff to meet required levels on a permanent basis.

'For too long the health and medical needs of the North West Coast have been treated in a piecemeal manner with a heavy reliance on locums.'

'The pandemic has exposed the weaknesses in the system but they were there long before COVID-19 hit.'

Emergency operating hours were reduced to 8am-6pm in August because of a shortage of staff during COVID-19.

Minister meets anti-prison group CROWPS

ON 1 November, Corrections Minister Elise Archer met neighbours of the proposed prison site, for two hours in Birralee.

CROWPS told Ms Archer many community members were disillusioned with the lack of transparency and that the government appears not to be listening to important issues affecting the Tasmanian taxpayers.

Representatives from the Department of Justice and DPIIWE were unable to provide answers to a myriad of questions but Ms Archer assured CROWPS she would follow these up and find answers.

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HERE TO HELP

Rebecca White MP

Labor Member for Lyons

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rebecca.white@parliament.tas.gov.au

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Authorised by REBECCA WHITE, 33 COLE ST, SORELL

Labor



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Asters, Shastas and many, many more

MORE THAN one tenth of the world's flowers belong to the Daisy (*Asteraceae*) family.

Their family name was originally *Compositae*, which was particularly apt, as the flowers are a composite of numerous separate flowers.

The outer petals are known as ray florets, while the centres, often of a different colour, are also a tightly packed cluster of individual flowers.

These characteristics have helped to perpetuate most species, as many flowers can be pollinated by a single insect.

In addition, many of the genera have seeds which are spread by means of a downy pappus, so we have nuisance weeds such as thistles *Cardus* spp. and the dreaded Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*).

Fortunately, no doubt due to the strenuous efforts of rural people and agricultural authorities, this pest is no longer so evident in our landscape, except for a few plants in bush along the roadside and on railway embankments.

Natives

Many members of the *Asteraceae* family are natives of Australia. The daisy bushes and everlastings which abound in the native understorey are



Lilac Felicia likes a sheltered, well drained and sunny position. *Photo supplied*

Olearias and Helychrysms. One of the largest, *Helychrysm bracteatum*, is native to all states. It grows to 1m and its yellow flowers are popular in dried flower arrangements.

The Euryops daisy (*Euryops chrysanthemoides*), thrives on neglect, persisting through drought and the downpours this area has suffered this Spring.



To keep it tidy, the Euryops Daisy only needs a trim and regular dead heading.

The Canary Island Pyrethrum (*Chrysanthemum pтарmicae-florum*) has silver foliage, and in October/November bursts forth into a great froth of tiny white daisies.

Cultivars of original species don't appear to be as robust as their parents.

Whereas the single white Shasta Daisy persists through the years, and tends to be invasive, the double Shasta, which was mixed with red Geums in this garden, has disappeared, while the Geums remain.

The Lilac Felicia (*Felicia amelloides*), flowers through October/November, likes a sheltered, well drained position against a sunny wall.



The Euryops Daisy thrives on neglect. *Photo supplied*

In the vegie garden

Those residents of the Valley whose gardens are placed on well drained sandy soil are fortunate indeed.

At Dunorlan, we are enjoying (?) persistent downpours, and have of necessity had to delay sowing spring vegetables until conditions improve.

At time of writing, the Dunorlan district has had 124mm average for October

with more than 80mm more rain forecast on the day this article was written.

There are very few vegetables which cannot be sown in November.

All of the Brassicas, cauliflower, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts need very well manured soil. Sown in boxes until about 10cm high, then planted out between 50 and 75cm apart, they should be ready to harvest in about 16 weeks.



2020 HAS been a great year for Meander Valley Community Radio – MVFM 96.9.

Several new presenters have joined the station, one of them based in Victoria. This means that the range of music genres played continues to widen. There is rock to reggae, 'strange' to wacky, comedy to country, jazz to Christian, stage musicals to world music and Caribbean to classical.

New equipment has been acquired, which means that, in the very near future, it will be possible for interviews to be conducted in places other than the station, at public events, celebrations and the like.

This will mean more community involvement in the station, alongside the ongoing community announcements. News is broadcast twice each day.

Since the station has been streaming, responses have been received from around Tasmania or Australia, but also from around the world.

Some recent contacts have been received from Canada, South Africa and Russia. The world is learning about the Meander Valley.

Appropriately for a community station, Meander Valley residents are becoming even more involved.

The station needs more members, sponsors and supporters than ever before.

Volunteers are always welcome, as presenters, technical help or in any other suitable role. Just contact the Station Manager at the station (0473 232 030).

The station is undertaking a 'visibility blitz' with a presence at local markets. If you see the MVFM gazebo, you are welcome to have a chat with representatives, join the station or even buy an ancient record or two.

The station is run by a committee of local people. At the recent Annual Meeting, most of the retiring members were reelected – Noelene Hanson, Linda Irwin, Marijke McGough, Richard Colman, Tim Biggs, Nick Weare, John Kenzie and John Phelps. Newcomers to the committee are Deb White and Dr Susan Angel. Contact any of them for more information.

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Rotary Club of Deloraine

TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIP

The Rotary Club of Deloraine invites those students commencing Tertiary Education from the Deloraine and Westbury districts, to submit applications for a Tertiary Scholarship being offered by the Club, to the value of \$3000.

Written applications outlining academic record, intended study programme, and other relevant information to be forward to Andrew Johnston by Monday 11th January 2021.

Interviews of short listed applications will be held late January, early February 2021.

Please post applications to
Rotary Club of Deloraine
Attention Andrew Johnston
P.O. Box 85, Deloraine, Tasmania 7304

More information can be made available by contacting Andrew Johnston 0418 131 218

2020-2021 – Rotary Opens Opportunities



Stillsmiths Tasmania at home in Westbury

WITH A long history in stainless and mechanical fabrication, Kolmark, Stillsmiths' parent company, is recognised as the leading stainless steel fabricator in Tasmania, taking on complex and difficult projects from the food and beverage to the industrial and mining industries.

Mark Kolodziej established Kolmark in Westbury in 2001 on the Meander Valley Road. In 2016 Kolmark's growth enabled the company to construct purpose built premises at Gatenby Drive, Westbury.

Mark is a dedicated community member who supports many local events including Westbury Primary School's Westbury180 event in 2019, the Westbury Show, Meander Valley Suns Football Club, Rotary, Maypole Festival, St Patricks Day and other events.

Tim Freeman is Kolmark's Operations Manager and has been with the company for almost 20 years.

Tim is qualified in project and business management and has developed extensive skills in managing large scale projects from inception through to completion. Tim is directly responsible with the day to day operations of Kolmark as a company.

In 2017 both Mark and Tim saw the opportunity to establish a high-quality copper still manufacturing operation in Tasmania to support the Australian distillery industry. From this opportunity Stillsmiths was born with Mark and Tim as co-founders.

Stillsmiths were chosen by Callington Mill Distillery in Oatlands to manufacture their automated distillery solution, handcrafting the custom copper pot stills that will be the 'heart and soul' of the operation.

Mark and Tim have a love of whisky and the Tasmanian whisky industry, so with the experience they have gained from manufacturing copper stills at Stillsmiths, the two of them have embarked on another project together.

2021 will see the establishment of the Western Tiers Distillery at Kolmark's original site on Meander Valley Road.

Western Tiers Distillery will produce, premium, triple distilled whisky, gin and vodka in their state-of-the-art fully automated distillery. A cellar door café, featuring Tasmanian produce will also be built.

For further information visit www.stillsmiths.com.au or contact Stacey Tweedale on 0413 453 567.

Healthy seed crackers



Top left: Press mixture into biscuit cutters to create decorative shapes for Christmas platters. Above: Healthy, seedy crackers are the perfect accompaniment to cheese. *Photos supplied*

by Wendy Hayes

WITH THE approaching festive season, this month's recipe is timely.

It is courtesy of my Canadian friend Kath, who became stranded in Tasmania for several months over the winter due to Covid-19.

Now that she is back safely in Saskatchewan, Kath will be chuffed to learn that her recipe has gone global.

These seed crackers will make a fabulous, healthy addition to cheese and dip platters.

On mixing the ingredients, you will fear that the recipe will never work. However, after an hour or so standing, the chai seeds will become glutinous.

This is because chai seeds are high in the soluble fibre mucilage which can absorb 9-27 times its weight in water. When baked, chai seeds act as a binding agent.

Kath cooks this recipe as a 5mm thick slab on a tray lined with baking paper then cuts or breaks the biscuit into squares when baked.

I prefer to cook it in rounds using a biscuit cutter or egg ring as a guide. This is a little fiddly but well worth the time and effort.

Over the coming weeks, I hope to experiment with the basic recipe by using different seeds and by adding parmesan cheese, garlic or onion powder and even some herbs and spices.

I hope you might come up with some interesting variations too.

Ingredients

1/2 cup sunflower seeds
1/2 cup green pepitas or pumpkin seeds
1/4 cup flax seeds
1/4 cup chai seeds
3/4 cup water

2 tsp soy sauce
1 tsp vegetable or chicken stock powder
1/8-1/4 tsp dried chilli powder or chilli flakes

Method

Mix all the ingredients in a bowl and leave for at least 1 hour to allow the chai seed to 'puff'.

Stir again, then spread onto a tray lined with baking paper.

Alternatively, press the mixture firmly into biscuit cutters with the back of a spoon to make rounds.

Make the biscuits about 4 to 6mm in thickness.

Bake at 160°C or (150°C fan forced) for about 1 hour or until dry to touch and beginning to brown around the edges.

Reduce the oven temperature if the biscuits are browning too much.

Cool on the trays then carefully lift off and store in an airtight container.

TOOSEY Caring for our community



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

Services offered to the community include:

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

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

Contact reception, phone 6391 1202
or email reception@toosey.org.au



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

Mole Creek auction

MOLE CREEK community groups are getting together to hold an auction on 14 November, to be held on the grounds of Mole Creek Hotel, Pioneer Drive.

This event is an opportunity for the groups to work together with a common goal. They have been meeting regularly to arrange this event, with Mole

Creek community being the beneficiary.

Registration for the auction starts at 10:00am and closes at 10:30am. The auction commences at 11:00am and will be run by Dean Chamley. Payments can be either cash or eftpos.

A free barbecue will follow at 12:00

Proceeds from the auction will be distributed among the various community groups in Mole Creek. Mole Creek Swimming Pool has just been resurfaced and the buildings refurbished, and will receive the bulk of the proceeds.

Some items being auctioned are: 4 bucket-raised calves, 2 sides of Dorper lamb, 2 loads of wood, a ute, 4 hours' excavator hire, power tools, an organ, and much more.

Big fish, big prize

A 12-YEAR-OLD Westbury Primary School student from Selbourne has reeled in the first \$10,000 trout in the government's tagged trout promotion.

Fiona Batterham reeled it in at Lake Rowallan, the first of five tagged trout released to encourage anglers to visit regional areas and support the post-COVID economy. Each tag is worth \$10,000 when the fish

is returned, tag intact to the Inland Fisheries Service.

The Westbury Fishing Club organised a competition at Lake Rowallan, giving Fiona the opportunity to reel in the trout. The good news is that four tagged trout can still be found in the Great Lake, Arthurs Lake, Lake Burbury and Lake Pedder.

There is still plenty of time for Tasmanians to buy an angling licence and potentially reel in a \$10,000 trout.

Psychological services at Deloraine Medical

DELORAIN MEDICAL Centre is now providing psychological services via telehealth.

Sandi James is a registered psychologist working with the Deloraine clinic to provide counselling and psychological interventions for individuals, couples, and young people.

This service is bulk billed via Medicare and there are no out of pocket expenses unless you fail to attend an appointment without giving notice. The service is available online to meet with Sandi from home or at the clinic with an appointment.

Medicare recently announced that people with a Mental Health Care Plan from their GP can access up to 20 sessions with a psychologist.

Psychologists are mental health experts who provide psychological therapy to help people overcome a range of difficulties.

You might not know what to expect if you've never been to a psychologist before.

You may be nervous about talking to a psychologist.

You may be experiencing sadness or anxiety, or having difficulty doing activities you previously enjoyed.

You may want some help to get things in order or regain some control over your life.

This article may help if you want to know how to find a psychologist, how to make an appointment and what seeing a psychologist will involve.

What is a psychologist?

Psychologists are mental health professionals who have completed a minimum of four years at university plus ongoing clinical supervision. (This means working under, and reporting to, a supervisor.)

They must be registered with the Australian Health Care Registration Agency (AHPRA) to be able to practice.

To be registered, they must have completed a 2-year minimum supervised internship and/or a master's degree in Psychology.

Why would I want to see a psychologist?

There are many reasons why you might see a psychologist. For example, anxiety, depression, stressful life events or any other mental health difficulty.

You might not even know what's going on, but just feel that you haven't been 'right' or that your life has become more difficult.

You might be finding it hard to concentrate or focus, not be enjoying doing the things you used to enjoy, or just feeling lost and don't know what to do.

A psychologist is trained to perform a detailed assessment of your mental health and to identify what's going on for you.

No matter what your reason for seeking help, it's important to find a psychologist you can connect with and trust.

You may have to meet a few before you find one that clicks for you.

Psychologists specialise in different areas, so one may refer you to a different psychologist if they feel that someone else can better treat your needs.

How do I make an appointment?

The best place to start is with your GP, who can provide you with a Mental Health Treatment Plan and refer you to a psychologist.

Your GP should know of psychologists in your area or may recommend contacting a psychology clinic directly for more information about an appointment.

With a referral from your GP, some, if not all, of your costs should be covered by Medicare.

What's it like to see a psychologist?

The first time you see any psychologist they should always talk to you about confidentiality.

This is your right to privacy, and basically means that anything you discuss with them will remain private between the two of you.

The next thing a psychologist will do is complete an assessment of your mental health, by asking you a series of questions about what's happening in your life, as well as asking for details about your background, family life and personal history.

The assessment is an important first step, as it will help your psychologist understand what's troubling you and, more importantly, how to help you.

They'll discuss with you a plan for continuing, including how often they recommend you visit them, and for how long.

Normally, they will recommend that you see them weekly or fortnightly. The length of time for treatment can vary from a few weeks to many months, depending on what you need. An appointment usually lasts about 45 minutes but can sometimes go for longer.

How much does it cost?

Some psychologists, like the one available through Deloraine Medical Centre, have no fees because Medicare covers their bill.

Others might charge you a 'gap' fee, depending on the amount that Medicare covers.

If you're seeing a psychologist as part of a Mental Health Treatment Plan (mentioned above), the psychologist will have to send a report to your doctor every few sessions.

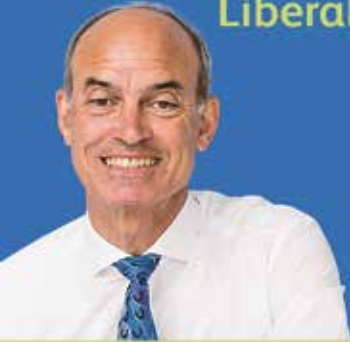
You can talk to the psychologist about what the report will say.

It's also important to know that a Mental Health Treatment Plan is usually restricted to ten sessions a year, although this has recently been increased to 20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you're unsure about the cost or think you might have difficulty paying when Medicare runs out, ask your psychologist if they can recommend any other options for you.

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DELORAINE MEDICAL Centre has been planning renovations for some time to enhance patient experience and improve work flow for staff.

The changes are expected to make life easier for the team members and will allow centre staff to live up to their mission and vision of making the workplace a fun place to be in.

Some of the changes are:

- a self-opening door on the allied health building
- a self-opening door on the side entrance of the main building
- a self-opener fitted to the original front door.

The front office has been completely changed, with a wall opened up, new desks, drawers and cupboards.

The team now all face the front, with the reception counter and all visitors in plain view, and with proper social distancing now possible.

Behind the scenes, there is a new staff kitchen and storage cupboards. The whole building is newly painted and there are new carpets throughout.

The medical centre team really appreciated the helpfulness of local builder Haydn Brewer Construction from Westbury. Responsible for the main renovation work, they were willing to bring in crews to work weekends and nights.

Darryl Sheehan Painting was equally accommodating with work arrangements. Normal business was able to continue, with patients and staff able to freely access the medical centre throughout the day.

And the finishing touch! The enormous chandelier in the reception hall – a nice bit of bling to offset the seriously efficient good looks of the office and reception space.



Customers, staff, and centre owners Dr Johannes Schonborn and Goran Mujkic are all thrilled with the new look Medical Centre. Photo supplied

THE ROTARY Club of Deloraine recently donated \$6000 to Giant Steps Tasmania as a contribution for a new Fuso Rosa 25 seat diesel bus.

The bus is now taking children from Launceston to Giant Steps in Deloraine and has removed the need to run two buses from Launceston.

The Principal of Giant Steps Tasmania, Tim Chugg said, 'Children are supported on the bus by our staff and the new bus is very safe and comfortable. 'Parents have the peace of mind that their children are supported and cared for on the journey to our specialist school.

'The support of the Rotary Club of Deloraine has once again allowed us to maintain a quality service for our children.'

Giant Steps Tasmania began in June 1995, as a non-government special school for children with autism spectrum disorders. It was the first satellite school of the Canadian Institute for Neuro-integrative Development. The Institute was founded by Darlene Berringer in Montreal in 1981.

Giant Steps' opening was the culmination of an enormous

amount of work from dedicated parents and community supporters who refused to accept the lack of services for children on the autism spectrum.

The Rotary Club of Deloraine made one of the largest single donations by a service club to any one project in Tasmania at this time with their donation of \$50,000 in cash. The club has continued to make numerous other donations. The Deloraine community, especially service clubs, has made very generous donations to Giant Steps.

This year, the Rotary Club of Deloraine members had a great time volunteering at the Mole Creek Hotel Day at the Creek 2020 to earn most of the money that enabled them to make another valuable donation into the community of Deloraine.

Information on the Rotary Club of Deloraine is available at www.rotaryclubofdeloraine.org.au/.

For Rotary Function Centre bookings call (03) 6362 2325 or go to www.rotaryfunctioncentre.com.au/.

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New wheels for Giant Steps

Deloraine Rotary has contributed to the purchase of a new 25 seat diesel bus for Giant Steps. Photo supplied

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Westbury Day Centre is looking for volunteers

to join our team on Mondays at **Westbury Community Health Centre.**

Volunteering allows you to connect with your local community and can make a real difference to the lives of others.

We require some volunteers to assist with meal service, and also someone to drive our bus on Mondays.

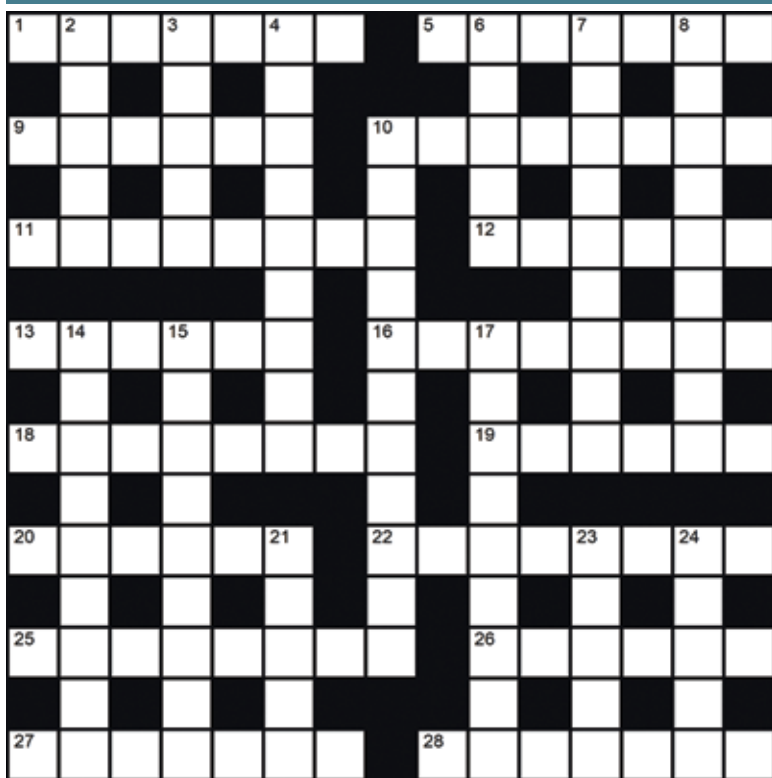
If you would like to know more or are interested in joining our team, please contact Diversional Services Coordinator Esther on **03 670 12150**

Woolmers Estate

Annual Art Exhibition
21 November, 10am-3pm, Thursday to Sunday, 658 Woolmers Lane, Longford. Entry by donation. Information: (03) 6391 2230 or www.woolmers.com.au

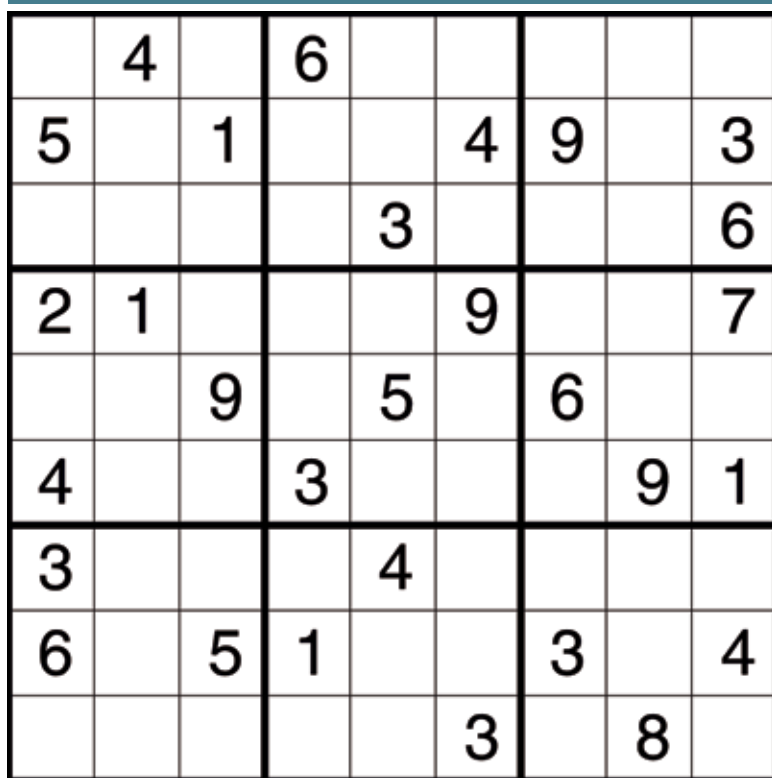
Open Garden
Sunday 15 November, 500 people at one time to enjoy a self-guided tour. Tickets \$10 at www.launcestontickets.com.au. Information: Helen Fletcher 0419 233 516

Crossword



- Across**
- 1 Short prayer (7)
 - 5 Bounded (7)
 - 9 Underlying structure (6)
 - 10 Football's 'Captain Blood' of yesteryear (4,4)
 - 11 Sole wetland in Central West Queensland (4, 4)
 - 12 Tallied (6)
 - 13 Keynote (1,5)
 - 16 Rhett's belle (8)
 - 18 Software (8)
 - 19 Last movement (6)
 - 20 Designer McCartney (6)
 - 22 Group of spectators (8)
 - 25 Olive-green, black and white avian with a distinctive call (8)
 - 26 Chamber music instruments (6)
 - 27 Preparing for publication (7)
- Down**
- 2 Japanese port city (5)
 - 3 Substantial (5)
 - 4 Red-flowered leafless shrub (6, 3)
 - 6 Obtained on Route 66? (5)
 - 7 Small brush wallaby (9)
 - 8 Primitive (9)
 - 10 Baird Bay, SA, pelican breeding site (5,6)
 - 14 Out of the race (9)
 - 15 Sydney electronic music band (9)
 - 17 Sworn statement (9)
 - 21 One of 4.5 billion or so (5)
 - 23 Small German WW2 marine raider (1-4)
 - 24 Pursue (5)
 - 28 3D artworks (7)

Sudoku



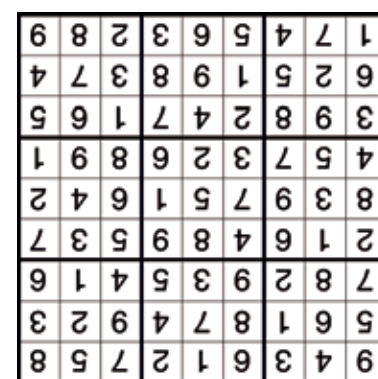
© 2020 Syndicated Puzzles

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 November 2020 solution



Sudoku November 2020 solution



Meander Valley Gazette is looking for anyone with suitable office or administration skills. We are accredited for Centrelink, so if you are thinking of volunteering then please get in touch. You can find us at the office we share with the Deloraine Online Access Centre, 21 West Parade, Deloraine. Call 6286 8212 or email us at general@meandervalleygazette.com.



Events diary

GREAT WESTERN TIERS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE
Incorporating Yarns Artwork in Silk and Deloraine & Districts Folk Museum
98-100 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine, Tasmania 7304
Phone 03 6362 5280 www.greatwesterntiers.net.au



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 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 14 November, 9am-1pm	Liffey Valley Market	Old Liffey School Phone (03) 6397 3670 or email quentonhiggs@gmail.com
Sat 14 November, 10am	Mole Creek Community auction	Registration 10-10.30am, auction commences 11am (see page 23 for details) Mole Creek Hotel grounds, Pioneer Drive
Sat 14 November, 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society Arctic	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M Drama 2019 Australia 110m Info 0418 389 868
Sat 28 November, 7.30pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society Hearts and Bones	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine PG Drama/Adventure 2019 Iceland 97m Info 0418 389 868
Sat 21 November, 9am-1pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drv & Caveside Rd Ross Quick 0413 681 252
Sat 21 November, 9am-1pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Promenade, Westbury Rob Menzie 0417 931 619
Sat 28 Nov, 9am-1pm	Carrick Community Market & Garage Sale Trail	Carrick Public Hall Follow the sale trail around the town Info carricksocialgroup@gmail.com
Sun 29 Nov, 27 Dec, 13 Feb 2021	Carrick Harness Racing	East St, Carrick For information call 0400 635 070
Sat 5 December, 9am-1pm	Deloraine Market	Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Road, Deloraine Bodhi McSweeney 0409 695 321
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
Sat 12 December, 7pm music	Combined Churches Carols by the River	Deloraine Rotunda local performers and carols cancelled if raining, picnics but no BBQ John Phelps 63023379
Sat 12 December, 7pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society Ryuichi Sakamoto: Coda	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine Documentary 2017 Japan 102m Info 0418 389 868



Courses for horses

Meander Valley Showjumping Festival at Westbury

THE WESTBURY Show Horse Committee are running the 'Meander Valley Showjumping Festival'.

The Festival will cater for all showjumping horses from Pony Club mounts to Tasmania's top show jumpers. Several Championship Classes will be contested, also held at the Westbury Showgrounds.

**Westbury Showgrounds
Westbury Show Day
Saturday 7 November**

FightMND 27 Challenge open showjumping twilight event

DELORAINE IS hosting a twilight open showjumping event, being held as a fundraiser for Motor Neurone Disease through the FightMND 27 Challenge.

Participants will be able to refine their showjumping rounds with accredited EA Level II Coach Judy Kilby.

Judy will coach riders over 1st rounds and jump off courses. The emphasis will be on ring craft, riding your line and skills to win at your level.

The event will commence at 30cm and build in 10cm increments to 90cm.

Riders may participate in three height rounds or same height.

The FightMND 27 Challenge aims to bring the FightMND Army together, physically or virtually, to be active and healthy while having fun during these challenging times.

In doing so, they hope to raise greater awareness and funds for the fight against Motor Neurone Disease.

Participants in this event can register their challenge and fundraise through hub.fightmnd.org.au/27-challenge/join.

On social media include #27challenge.

**4pm on Friday 27 November
Deloraine Showgrounds**

**Cost \$27 per horse
\$54 per family
for 3 rounds of 9 jumps**

Entries on nominate.com.au

\$10 day insurance available for non-PC or EA members

All funds raised go to the FightMND Foundation

Supported by:

- Deloraine District Pony Club
- Deloraine Lions Club
- Tasmanian Mountain Cattlemen's Association
- Deloraine Womens Football Club.

**Showjumping enquiries to
Judy Kilby 0439 334 663**

At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society

by Clare Andersen

Our audience rating system asks the patrons at the end of each show to place one large bean seed into jars marked 1 to 5.

The rating is averaged out by our maestro bean counter and advertised at the beginning of the next show with 5 being the highest score.

Thus far, 4.0 has been a steady positive indicator as to the interest in and quality of films presented.

We look forward to comments and ratings for the final two films for 2020.

November 28 HEARTS AND BONES

2019 M Drama Australia 110m Director Ben Lawrence

Hugo Weaving plays Dan Fisher, a famous photographer who suffers panic attacks in increasing frequency; he has witnessed terrible scenes in war zones.

Returning from an overseas assignment and intent on an exhibition of his work, Sebastian, a South Sudanese cab driver, turns up at his front door, appealing to Dan to exclude a photo of a village massacre from the upcoming show.

An unlikely friendship develops between the two, but it is severely tested when Dan makes a shocking discovery. *Hearts and Bones* centres around the relationship of these two men, from very different backgrounds, who both share common ground as witnesses to atrocities that have sent them into states of longterm shock.



December 12 RYUICHI SAKAMOTO: CODA

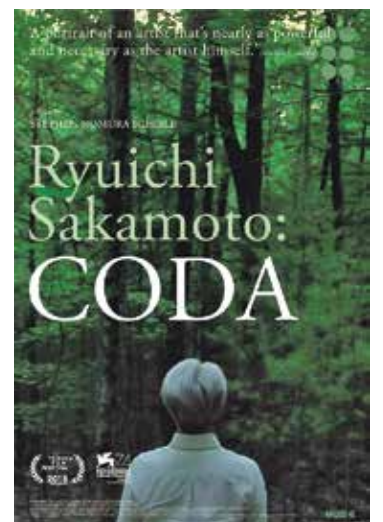
2017 Documentary Japan 102m Director Stephen Nomura Schible

This feature, presented at the 6th San Francisco Japan Film Festival, documents the life and work of one of the most multifaceted contemporary composers.

Ryuichi Sakamoto's prolific career spanning over four decades includes techno-pop stardom and acclaimed film music, winning him an Oscar for *The Last Emperor* and a Golden Globe for *The Revenant*. His score to the wartime film, *Merry Christmas*, *Mr Lawrence*, won a Japanese Academy Award.

What is an Oscar winning composer doing completely encased in a white protective suit, in the restricted contaminated zone of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, destroyed by a tsunami?

Schible follows Sakamoto's evolution of his music coinciding with his life journeys. Following a cancer diagnosis he returns to music with a haunting awareness of life crises which lead to a resounding new masterpiece.



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

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Western Tiers Film Society

See award-winning films each month at the Little Theatre Cinema

Memberships available now at:
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We are looking for volunteers

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Tasmanian Tractor Pull Challenge

THE APEX Club of Deloraine with the Tasmanian Tractor Pullers Association present the Tasmanian Tractor Pull Challenge, taking place at Red Hills Apex Memorial Park on Mole Creek Road over the weekend of the 12-13 December 2020.

Apex Deloraine, along with the Tractor Pullers, are proud to bring the challenge to Deloraine for the 10th year in a row. The event will feature a variety of tractors, from vintage to modified, competing in the challenge to pull the sleds past the 100 metre marker.

There will be plenty of entertainment for the whole family, including food and drink stalls, kids' train rides, tractor displays and bar.

Tickets are \$15 per person, with under-16s free. Tickets can be purchased from Launceston Tickets or at the gate with eft-pos available. Due to Covid-19 restrictions entry numbers will be limited, so get in early.

The event will raise funds to return to the Meander Valley Community and Give Me 5 for Kids.

Highlights of the weekend include Tasmanian modified and vintage tractor pulling, lawnmower pulling and kids' pulling events.

The Tractor Pull in Deloraine is made possible with the help of

Bendigo Bank, Sunrise Trailers and Hire, Nutrien, Stihl Shop Deloraine, Delquip Industrial Sales, Deloraine Signs, Highland Haulage, Walters Contracting, Earley Spreading and Cartage and the generous support of many volunteers.

Information: contact Danny Saltmarsh on 0409 965 712 or at Dannysalt8@bigpond.com.



Westbury Shamrocks season opener

by David Claridge

THE FIRST game of the season for the Shamrocks didn't go to plan, going down by a wicket to South Launceston.

The Shamrocks finished at the top of the ladder last season, and the team was due to play in the grand final that did not eventuate because of the Covid-19 shut-downs around the state. The Shamrocks were then awarded the premiership by default.

First Grade Captain, Daniel Murfet, shared how it wasn't the way they wanted to do it.

'Our other team wasn't so lucky. They also made their grand final but were lower than the other team', he said.

'I think we have shown some real good signs through the preseason. There are a few new faces and a few old ones that have returned to the club.

'I'm really impressed with how the boys have been going about training and their preparation.'

Cricket was in its off season during the worst of the shut-down, so hasn't been affected as much as other sports.



Daniel also shared how the club was going to fill the void left by one of their best players retiring.

'Dane Anderson, finished up, probably, one of the best or in the top 2-3 cricketers that the club has ever

seen. A life member of the club, not having him in the team, there is a big hole to be filled.

'There are a few guys who are keen to put their hand up to bat and start making some big runs as well.

'We still want to be right up the pointy end of the ladder come crunch time.

'It's just a matter of putting in the performances on the weekend.'

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The Gazette would like to thank everyone who continued to advertise or began advertising with us throughout the COVID-19 restrictions. We appreciate their support and wish them the best as the state opens up again and we can all look forward better times ahead.

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