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Making a splash on Regatta Day

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Their new food truck coming to an event near you

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# Meander Valley Gazette



Free every month

December 2020

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper

## Messing around in boats ...



'... there is nothing, absolutely nothing, half so much worth doing ...' *The Wind in the Willows*. Especially with unicorns! Definitely not just messing about on the Meander, despite the costumes, community groups of rowers stuck their oars in for the Deloraine Dragon Boat Regatta Day on Saturday 5 December. Photo supplied

## Council accused of damaging platypus burrows in willows axing

by Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY mayor Wayne Johnston has defended the council's felling of five willow trees on the riverbank in Deloraine saying they were a risk to public safety.

He said strong winds had blown a tree on the northern side of the Meander River into the water, risking public safety.

'As a result, the other trees were inspected and found to be cracked or rotten.'

But Deloraine landscape and wildlife photographer Joy Kachina has accused the council and contractor, Woodland Management Excavation, of vandalising four healthy trees and probably caving in two burrows of breeding platypus within the riverbank.

'I think neither burrow would have survived being constantly run over by the excavator', she said.

'They would have collapsed on the inside.'

Another Deloraine resident Anne Gilles, a citizen scientist with the Australian Platypus Conservancy, said she was distressed by the destruction.

'I've been observing platypuses in the river for 18 months. There appeared to be two burrows there', she said.

Councillor Johnston and the council's director of works, Matthew Millwood, said they knew about platypus burrows in the area before commencing the tree felling.

Asked on the day whether he had known the platypuses were there, Woodland Management's excavator driver said, 'Yeah, we were here yesterday with the platypuses.'

In a letter to Ms Kachina, Mr Millwood maintained, 'I confirm the council properly assessed and discussed this aspect with the contractor and appropriate controls were agreed to minimise or eliminate any impact. All agreed controls were achieved.'

But Ms Kachina said her interactions with the excavator driver and Mr Millwood led her to believe they hadn't known about the platypuses and had not considered their presence when planning the work.

Mr Millwood wrote, 'Council takes its responsibilities to both the environment and public safety very seriously.'

Story and photographs continue on page 5

# Haste to subdivide Reedy Marsh before new planning scheme blocks small lots

by Sharon Webb

A REEDY Marsh landowner's difficulties in complying with the Meander Valley Planning Scheme led to a 25 minute secret meeting outside the November council meeting.

After their October approval of a Reedy Marsh subdivision into two lots well below the recommended 15 hectare size. Councillors also appeared keen to approve a three lot subdivision application at 239 Wadleys Road in November.

Following senior planner Jo Oliver's recommendation to refuse the application, Councillors Frank Nott and John Temple proposed disallowing division of Paul and Samantha Heathcotes' 25.3 hectare property into three lots of 5.1, 4.7 and 15.7 hectares.

Councillor Nott said, 'The subdivision must be consistent with the Meander Valley Planning Scheme.

'While there might be some wriggle room in discretion, there must be a degree of

compliance. You can't just do what you want with your own land. There are limitations.

'The new Tasmanian Planning Scheme states a mandatory 12 hectare lot size. So these two applications are getting in before the stable door shuts.'

But three other councillors resisted refusing the application. Well into the discussion Mayor Wayne Johnston suddenly announced a five minute meeting adjournment so that he, general manager John Jordan and Ms Oliver could discuss the matter with Mr Heathcote.

When they returned 25 minutes later it seemed that Mr Heathcote may resubmit in December and Cllrs Nott and Temple withdrew their motion. At the time of writing, the council minutes contained no information about the secret meeting in the adjournment or whether any new application would be advertised for the usual two weeks.

Ms Oliver's recommendation to disallow the application and the objections of two Reedy

Marsh residents were based on lot size and adverse impacts on natural values, the habitat of threatened species, visual character and the objectives of the Rural Living Zone at Reedy Marsh.

She said the application contravened planning scheme regulations that standing vegetation not be threatened and that house sites not be visible. In addition, denning habitat for devils and quolls would be affected.

'The difficulty with the proposed Lot 1/Lot 3 boundary is that the 20 metre offset does not ensure that the threatened Eucalyptus Ovata community is protected from pressure for clearance that is inevitable when future owners wish to establish boundary fencing', Ms Oliver wrote in her report.

'The configuration of the subdivision for Lot 2 results in ... a highly visible dwelling site and clears a prominent hill top when viewed from Wadleys Road and some of the surrounding landscape.'

Cllr Susie Bower asked whether boundary alterations for the two smaller lots could make them compliant but Ms Oliver replied it was beyond council's ability to put conditions on the application to achieve compliance.

'I understand the logic of why the boundaries are drawn where they are.

'That logic doesn't negate compliance with the standards of the planning scheme', she said.

Cllr Michael Kelly asked why it was important that the house not be visible, later stating that Ms Oliver was 'looking at a different rulebook' from him and that 'common sense should prevail'.

'When you look at the nature of the land it's not as if it's prime agricultural land or its going to contribute to the economy.

'Increasing housing there would increase the value of the properties', Cllr Kelly said. 'I just have a different opinion on this.'

Ms Oliver replied, 'There is a clear statement in the planning scheme that low visibility is a desired future character statement.'

Cllr Andrew Sherriff asked for clarification that the 2015 rules for Reedy Marsh were an 'inhouse scheme done through Meander Valley Council' rather than through the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

He later asked whether they needed 'revisiting', commenting, 'I came to council to help the municipality develop and people who want to develop it, we've sort of got to help them along.'

Ms Oliver clarified the changes had been stipulated in the 2015 Rural Living Amendment: 'one of the biggest achieved in the State in terms of rural lifestyle blocks' and also applying to Birralea, Davis Road and Golden Valley.

Mr Heathcote, who has owned the property for five years, told councillors the nature of the land meant he was unable to divide it into larger lots.

He assured councillors he was 'not out to diminish the values of Reedy Marsh', adding that the subdivision potentially would create two more ratepayers.

## Local man nominated for 2021 Tasmanian Young Australian of the Year



THE ACHIEVEMENTS of local man Rulla Kelly-Mansell have been recognised through his nomination in the Australian of the Year awards.

Mr Kelly-Mansell was nominated in the Tasmanian Young Australian of the year category, an award won by Toby Thorpe.

Mr Kelly-Mansell grew up at Mole Creek and was involved with the Deloraine Football Club before he moved interstate to pursue both career and football opportunities.

A proud Tulampanga Pakana man, Rulla is the director of Make Runs Maxi, a charity promoting positive mental health.

**Labor leader and Lyons MHA Rebecca White congratulates Rulla Kelly-Mansell on his nomination. Photo supplied**

Labor Member for Lyons Rebecca White attended the awards ceremony and was proud to personally congratulate Mr Kelly-Mansell on his well deserved recognition.

'It is an honour to receive a nomination for such a significant award', Ms White said.

'I've known Rulla for a few years now and his genuine desire to promote positive mental health and support others around him shines through.

'It is testament to his resilience and determination that despite some of the hardships he has faced, he continues to forge a path of optimism and inspire other people around him.

'Congratulations to Rulla on his achievements to date, this nomination is very well deserved.'

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# Row, row, row

It was a great day to be out on the river for the inaugural 2020 Teamboat Challenge at the Deloraine Dragon Boat Regatta on Saturday 5 December. Vikings, unicorns and some more soberly dressed crews put on a grand show for the spectators who included some very bemused geese. *Photos supplied*




**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**TANIA RATTRAY MLC**  
Independent Member for McIntyre Legislative Council

*I would like to wish all Meander Valley residents a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. I look forward to assisting those in the McIntyre Electorate in 2021, which I trust will be a less challenging and more enjoyable year for all.*

Please contact me for any enquiries or assistance – 0427 523 412 or by email – [tania.rattray@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:tania.rattray@parliament.tas.gov.au)



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## Letter from the Editor

*So this is Christmas,  
And what have you done?*

This month, the Gazette is full of stories about people who freely give their time and talents with the aim of teaching, providing, assisting or simply entertaining others.

In 2016, research showed that volunteering was worth over \$290 billion to the Australian economy, more than the mining industry.

A few years ago, volunteering was calculated as Tasmania's eighth largest industry, outstripping agriculture, forestry and mining combined.

This value to the economy and communities has not been diminished by COVID-19.

So this Christmas, let's be thankful for the people who do something to make the world a better place for us all.

*Liz Douglass*



## Letters to the Editor

SHARON WEBB'S article on the new Dexter Street subdivision makes for some interesting reading.

With myself being the owner of the property overlooking the entrance to this subdivision, I reckon I have as much right to comment on this proposal as anybody.

No, I didn't furnish a submission to the planned stratum subdivision because I have always believed that our elected councillors should be able to make rational decisions in accordance with the wishes of our ratepayers.

I now realise I was wrong in not having sent a submission, not that it would have made any difference, as it is becoming blatantly obvious that there are only three of our councillors who look at the big picture, use their brains and have a bit of foresight. I refer to Messrs Knott, Synfield and Temple.

These councillors were not against the subdivision, just the number of units crammed into a small space, and the same goes for the planned subdivision in Blackstone Heights.

Sharon's article states that this subdivision is a fantastic opportunity for our ageing demographic. Well, I for one, being in that age category, would absolutely hate to be living in that situation with

nothing to look at apart from walls and a sea of roofs.

How much better this subdivision could have been if the first three central planned units were replaced with a grassed park-like area, with a one-way ring road as a crescent in a clockwise direction, and all units arranged in a semicircle to the left of this crescent, giving all units a decent view over a serene grassy area. With a bit of juggling, with no 'end of street' now necessary, the developers would only lose four or five units.

Then again, I notice that these developers are mainland persons who have no regard for the residents of Westbury, or of Tasmania for that matter, and are only interested in the dollar!

There are two glaring faults with this plan, in that the lights of twenty plus cars will impact the first central unit, particularly in the winter months, and with 'no through street' either side of the central section, it appears there is no turning area provided, so those persons searching for a particular property will be forced to turn in somebody's driveway. This is a recipe for disaster, particularly for the elderly.

What could have been the best subdivision in Westbury is now most probably the worst, in my opinion.

*Rob Mitchelson, Westbury*

I FIND Sharon Webb's article in the *Meander Valley Gazette* very one-sided when it comes to the upcoming developments in Blackstone Heights.

Sentences such as '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' and 'But the council appears to have few concrete plans to deal with residents' concerns', makes it sound like the council is incompetent in doing their job and that she is somehow more knowledgeable than them.

For years, the reason nothing has been done in Blackstone is because of fussy residents

that put a stop to anything progressing just for their own benefit.

There are people that live in this area that actually want it developed into a modern day suburb, and considering the amount of rates we pay, I don't think one-sided negative articles like this should be put out there giving people more ammunition.

Agreed, there are aspects such as traffic flow and fire safety that need to be investigated more before construction begins, but that is for the experts and it is not Sharon's job to write an article solely focusing on the negatives with absolutely no mention of any positives.

*Josh Berrell, Blackstone Heights*

WHAT A year we have had. I congratulate all Tasmanians on keeping both themselves and their communities safe.

The community has pulled together remarkably well this year, looking after loved ones, our most vulnerable and each other.

I would like to say thank you to all of our health workers and extend my gratitude to all Tasmanians for their efforts to keep us COVID-19 free.

I hope you can catch up with friends and family over this Christmas period and I wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

*Rebecca White MP,  
Tasmanian Labor Leader and  
Member for Lyons*



THIS MORNING, Remembrance Day, 11th November, I woke to see our very first 2020 Flanders poppy had bloomed! A complete miracle – with no help from me at all!

Two years ago, my husband gave me a little fundraiser pack of RSL Flanders poppies.

The seeds are miniscule, so I simple scattered them.

The result was magnificent with so many flowers. I kept some seed, and had pleasure in giving seeds to friends also.

Their brilliant colour and significance is very welcome in our garden, especially as my granddaughter's birthday falls on Remembrance Day too!

*Judith-Anne Tahir, Deloraine*

TRANSPARENCY AND truth are essential elements for councils and governments, coupled with proper (not pretend) consultation with their communities. The dark days of secrets should be over.

Thank goodness for a few fearless journalists including Sharon Webb of the Gazette. Without them, communities, including ours, would remain forever in the dark.

*Heather Donaldson, Westbury*

### Commonwealth could intervene in relation to the Westbury Reserve

THE PROPOSED site for the Northern Regional Prison was purchased in 1999 with Australian Government funding pursuant to the Regional Forest Agreement.

This funding was granted to the Tasmanian Government to purchase the reserve to be set aside as a nature conservation area forever.

Ever since then, the Australian Government has repeatedly required the Tasmanian Government to report on the steps taken to protect this reserve as a matter of 'contractual compliance' under the Regional Forest Agreement.

The Australian Government has a role under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* to protect listed flora and fauna on the reserve.

But it has an additional role under the Regional Forestry Agreement and the related grant funding agreement under which the reserve was acquired.

The Australian Government is completely within its rights under these arrangements to advise the Tasmanian Government that it considers the prison proposal a completely unacceptable use of this site.

The Federal Minister for the Environment, Sussan Ley, has not responded to requests for her government's position on the possible use of the reserve for a prison. She currently appears content for taxpayers to have paid for this reserve for one purpose, only for it to be used for an utterly inconsistent purpose.

Should the prison be allowed on the conservation reserve, a deceit will have been practiced on the people of Tasmania and indeed all Australian taxpayers by both the Tasmanian and Australian Governments.

The Australian Government can put a stop to this proposal if it wants to. If it does not, it will be complicit in the Northern Regional Prison being placed on the reserve and should be held accountable.

*Emma Hamilton, President  
Westbury Region Against the  
Prison Inc. (WRAP)*

EST.  
2013

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

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**Meander Valley Council subcontractors have been accused of destroying breeding platypus burrows on the Meander River and removing healthy willow trees, causing distress to local residents.**  
*Photos by Joy Kachina*



### Letters to the Editor continued from page 4

THE LOCALS know me as the platypus photographer.

I am always down by the river early in the morning in Deloraine to experience the beauty of the Meander River and the local platypus community. This morning I was confronted with a scene of devastation and environmental destruction.

Not only were five iconic willow trees being felled, they had a huge excavator brought in to deal with the carnage.

It ploughed over the entire area with no regard for the two platypus burrows that are situated directly underneath the work site.

I approached the workmen and asked them to stop and they told me that the trees were all rotten and had to come down. I could clearly see with my own eyes that this was not the case and only one out of the five trees being removed was in fact rotten.

I implored them to stop but was asked to leave.

At this stage there was only one willow left and they were about to cut it down. I could see from the remains of the other trees that were felled that they were healthy and no rot was apparent.

Again, I asked them to stop and they ignored me.

I explained that the willow trees and the health of the platypus were not being considered and again I was asked to leave.

I took images with my phone of the healthy timber that was now strewn all over the ground. It was obvious to anyone that was present that only one tree was rotten and the other four were sound.

Right: After the willows were removed from the riverbank, the remaining tree debris was burned on site. The entrance to a platypus burrow was immediately below the tree stump at the water's edge.  
*Photo by Joy Kachina*

I then proceeded to take images with my DSLR camera that proves that the trees were indeed sound. There was absolutely no rot present.

I have since received a call from council to say that each tree was checked and found to be rotten. The council employee said he went down this morning at 10am and could see each tree and the state of the timber. I was there from 8am to 9.15am and the machine had moved all the timber into a huge pile. How he could then say he was able to discern which tree was which is beyond me. Look at the stumps. They were all sound except the one that came down last week that was obviously rotten.

As far as the platypus were concerned, there was no prior consideration given whatsoever as to the locations of the burrows and the impact the work had on their wellbeing.

Prior to this work commencing, an authority on the location of platypus burrows should have been consulted.

I am deeply upset about what has transpired here and feel it important to share with our community the utter disregard for proper environmental consultation.

Who is in charge of the management of the biodiversity of our beautiful river systems here in Tasmania and why has this been allowed to happen under the guise of a public safety matter?

*Joy Kachina, Deloraine*



## Council accused of damaging platypus habitat on riverbank

Continued from page 1

Mr Millwood advised Ms Kachina to make a Right to Information submission if she wanted more information from the council on the operation.

Two Woodland Management employees burned the willows on site, billowing smoke over adjacent homes. After recent rain, a 30m stretch of the riverbank was a mush of mud and charcoal.

Biologist and director of the Australian Platypus Conservancy, Geoff Williams, said, 'At the right time of year willow removal would have had minimal impact on the

platypuses. But right now there are nursery burrows.'

Mr Williams will visit Tasmanian in February and hopes to meet representatives of Meander Valley and other councils to discuss riparian zones.

'This is an unfortunate incident. All we can hope is that we can convince councils to adopt better procedures in the future', he said.

Deloraine is well known for its attractive, well used riverbank. Many tourists visit in the hope of seeing a platypus in the Meander, especially after recent predictions that the monotreme is headed for the endangered list.

Deloraine's Empire Hotel owner Mark Flanagan conducts platypus walks along the riverbank for people staying there.

Mrs Kachina, who photographs and videos Meander River platypuses regularly, is concerned about the platypuses and riverbank erosion where the willows were removed.

'There are breeding pairs of platypus there. I've seen them and their babies over the past two years.'

'The council hasn't considered the fact that the willows were holding the riverbank together.'

'Now it will erode.'

'They need a regeneration program using native plants to repair the damage they've done.'

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# Father Ben brings stability to Westbury and Deloraine parishes

by Sharon Webb

FATHER BEN Brooks has an unusual background for a Catholic parish priest. For 17 years he worked for Aurora Energy.

Only five years ago he was accepted as a seminarian and was ordained in 2019 at Hobart's St Mary's Cathedral.

Father Ben is now the shiny new priest for Deloraine and Westbury, and is loving the job.

'It's a bit daunting being a parish priest out on my own, but people here have been supportive', he said.

'Before I came here I spent a year in a Launceston parish and was a supply priest to the Meander Valley. Now it's good to be getting to know people at a deeper level.'

Discussing the job of priest in the Meander Valley could be a bit awkward for Father Ben.

The last permanent priest, Father Nicholas Rynne, turned out not to be a good fit.

In early 2019, only six weeks into the job, he sacked the board of the Westbury and Deloraine congregations and

decreed Mass at Westbury would be in Latin.

Many lifelong Catholic parishioners were distressed by Father Rynne's ultraconservative attitude to church rituals and women playing a significant role in church activities. They described his actions as divisive and by May 2019 the Catholic Church had removed him.

'I'm on a journey with people here after those events', Father Ben said.

'We're rebuilding where there was disruption. It's a positive thing and I feel there's a real purpose to being here.'

Westbury parishioner Lucy Menzie said the switch to a full-time priest was a positive move.

'I think both Westbury and Deloraine are really happy with the way things are going now that we have some stability', she said.

'It was good having priests come from Launceston but I think we lost our identity a bit. The two congregations tended not to come together so often, and of course that was affected by COVID too.'

'We're looking forward to getting back to our regular afternoon teas and pizza nights.'

Father Ben was appointed to the Meander Valley in August and said it's early days to make substantial plans for the future.

He's working with parishioners on establishing a new parish council to be in place early next year and building connections in the community.

'I'm currently getting to know other members of the Combined Churches in this area and seeing how the Catholic Church can contribute to life in the community', he said

As a Tasmanian who grew up in Bellerive on Hobart's eastern shore, Father Ben understands Tasmanians and has worked for the church in small communities.

He regularly spends time at Our Lady of Mercy Primary School in Deloraine and Ashley Detention Centre.

**Father Ben Brooks, a new face for the Catholic parishes of Westbury and Deloraine.**

*Photo supplied*



# St Saviour's Church at Meander to be returned to the community

THE MEANDER Progress Association is set to buy the St Saviour's Church property in the town as soon as formalities are completed with the Anglican Diocese.

Reverend Joshua Skeat of St Mark's in Deloraine held the final service of thanksgiving and holy communion in the church in November, along with the deconsecration service.

He said the church building will continue to be used as 'a place of reflection, healing and solace'. Weddings and funerals will also be held there and the cemetery will continue in use.

'Our goal is to work with the Meander community to pass the church and the cemetery into community hands. I think there's a sense that this is a right next step.'

'We've told the Diocese this is the direction we want to go and they're happy with that.'

Christine Chilcott, Meander Progress Association spokesperson, said a subcommittee of the 20-member association had been established to see through the process.

'We want to see the church building retained for community use', she said. 'The progress association has been taking care of the church and cemetery for some time.'

The cost of the church is still to be decided by the Anglican Diocese. Rev. Skeat said an independent valuation of the church property would be completed.

'It's yet to be decided whether the Diocese will call for expressions of interest or negotiate with a particular group.'

'A faculty listing all the items donated to the church over the years will be created, indicating what will happen to those things.'

'There are heritage considerations because it's a heritage building and the cemetery will go through the formal regulatory process to enable it to be sold.'

Rev. Skeat said the final service at St Saviours was attended by about 60 people, half inside the building and half outside because of COVID restrictions.

'It was a sad occasion. It's never an enjoyable process to go through', he said.

St Saviour's hasn't been used for church services since 2017.

In 2019 it was listed for sale by Tasmania's Anglican Diocese, along with land known as

the Saleyards adjacent to St Mark's, to cover the Parish of Deloraine's funding obligation to the National Redress Scheme for children sexually abused in institutions.

The parish paid the redress money from existing funds,

eventually deciding to build eight villas on the Saleyards land and keeping two to solidify parish funds.

The Saleyards development has allowed St Saviour's Church to be retained as a community asset.

**St Saviour's Church in Meander now has a bright future.**

*Photo by Sharon Webb*



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

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Testing is one of the most important ways we can keep on top of COVID. Testing all Tasmanians with COVID-19 symptoms dramatically increases the chances of finding new cases quickly so we can keep our state safe.

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

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  - fever
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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](http://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au)

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Tasmanian  
Government



# New leader takes the reins at Deloraine Aged Care

by Sharon Webb

AUSTRALIA'S ROYAL commission into aged care has made damning criticisms of the industry and it would be natural for the new Aged Care Deloraine CEO to tread carefully around the issue.

But in an interview about her new appointment, Nadine Ozols waded right in.

'I think it's flushed out the toxic part of aged care, and it has highlighted some good things', she said.

The commission's final report into aged care quality and safety is due in February next year but the interim report makes cringeworthy reading.

One chapter heading is simply 'Neglect'. It says the aged care system lacks transparency in communication, reporting and accountability, and it rips into 'an aged care system that is characterised by an absence of innovation and by rigid conformity'.

But when you walk around Grenoch Nursing Home in Deloraine, you see none of this.

Ms Ozols says it's because Deloraine is different.

Contrary to the commission's description of a system built around funding mechanisms and procedures rather than the elderly people it's meant to serve, Ms Ozols believes Aged Care Deloraine's not-for-profit status is a protection.

'We're run by a board of local people and there is transparent reporting to them', she said.

'I believe we are the third largest employer in the area and the largest in Deloraine. Most of our 120 staff are from the local community. They're advocates for our residents. If something is going on it will be found out.'

'Our staff interact with the local families of our residents and the trust factor is important.'

Aged Care Deloraine looks after 95 residents at Grenoch and Kanangra. They also provide a low cost rental option



New Aged Care Deloraine CEO Nadine Ozols takes a walk with Spyros Marinos, who has lived at Grenoch for three years. Photo by Sharon Webb

for residents aged over 55 in 64 units in Westbury and Deloraine, including those at St Marks, Kanangra Gardens, Moriarty Street and Westbury Gardens.

Care for elderly people is more individualised than it ever was, Ms Ozols said.

'There's a new set of quality standards in aged care that promote resident decision making. Their choice and decision making is paramount. We have got to keep asking, have we consulted the resident?'

'Aged care has moved from being task oriented and is now about individualised care.'

'We want residents to speak up about their needs, let us know about their daily routines. What they would like to eat and when is shower time for them? There's a lot more dialogue now.'

But how easily does aged care move from a regimented system, where all residents eat at the same time for the

convenience of carers and kitchen staff?

'Our catering coordinator is a chef who has worked for larger catering companies', Ms Ozols said. 'It works in other industries so why can't it work in aged care?'

'We tell our residents, you don't have to fit into our routine. For those who don't like that structure, that's OK too.'

Staff plan care around the needs of residents.

Ms Ozols said clinical care coordinator Alison Beer and admissions officer Shiralee Lord work from pre-admission with residents and their families to develop tailored care programs.

But in case all this isn't working, unannounced inspections are conducted by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission with up to a three yearly re-accreditation process.

'In September we had a spot check on our infection control measures and were fully compliant', Ms Ozols said.

from the May Shaw Centre in Swansea and Scottsdale.

And before being appointed CEO of Aged Care Deloraine in August this year, she worked in the organisation for two years in other management roles.

Ms Ozols has bought a house in the area because 'you've got to invest into the community'.

Her plans include developing a website for Aged Care Deloraine and building the usefulness of Aged Care Deloraine to the community.

She talks about helping locals through the notoriously convoluted My Aged Care system, building a respite service for elderly people and their families, and being equipped to support families through the decision making process to best care for elderly relatives.

According to Ms Ozols, there's plenty for Aged Care Deloraine to do, if the Federal Government comes to the party with adequate funding and wages for the industry.

'I believe our staff really care. We have a real pride in what we do', she said.

'Community expectations for aged care are high but with current funding we can only do so much.'

'As a society we must be prepared to pay for the care of older Australians.'

The board of Aged Care Deloraine consists of Dawn Vallance (chair), Annette Viney, Dinah Fitzgerald, Russell Whitcombe, Aaron Youd and Gayle Plunkett.

A few years ago Aged Care Deloraine had major financial issues. Charlie Emmerton was brought in as CEO to stabilise the operation financially, which he achieved.

Ms Ozols commented, 'The board stuck in there through a tough time.'

Now it's Ms Ozols' turn to take the reins.

A Tasmanian, she has worked in aged and primary care for 12 years, coming to Deloraine

## Valley Vixens Red Hat Society



A black hat amongst the red, Mary Rennoldson tries out a bike for size at the Harley Museum in Prospect Vale. *Photo supplied*

## New world computer skills for seniors

A PILOT course for the Combined Probus Club of Deloraine was organized to give seniors an opportunity to learn basic computer skills in small groups of friends.

The Meander Valley Council provided a community grant to assist in delivering group sessions and mentoring during November, while Deloraine House supported the project with a venue.

Being able to complete forms and shop online has become a huge part of the new world. Not to mention online banking

and the receiving of news from community organizations, family and friends.

The ability to have a Zoom meeting has opened up a new way of communicating and even joining a local yoga class.

The Rotary Passport Club of Melbourne initiated the project and are now arranging access to devices so that seniors can try before they buy, and to assist those that need more support to enter the new digital world.

For more information contact [loisbeckwith@bigpond.com](mailto:loisbeckwith@bigpond.com).

A NEW social group in the valley can't help being noticed, local women dressed up, having fun and wearing red hats!

A groups of 25 young at heart women over 55 years of age are making the most of living in one of the most appealing areas of Tasmania.

There are monthly social meeting, meals and events. The only specification to join is that you will aim to have fun.

If you would like to live life a little more, in a supportive group, visiting places and businesses in the local area contact Lois at Deloraine on 0477015501 or Nanette at Westbury on 041910710.

## Probus calling!

PROBUS IS an association of retired/retiring PROfessional or BUSiness people seeking fun, fellowship and friendship through mutual interests.

Formed in 1988 and open to women from 2003, the Probus Club of Deloraine extends a welcome to interested visitors and potential new members.

Monthly meetings are held every third Tuesday at 10am in the Rotary Function Centre on Alveston Drive. First Tuesdays are often social gatherings at one of the many café gems of the Meander Valley.

Contact Probus President, Dr Peter Talbot, at [peter.talbot@bigpond.com](mailto:peter.talbot@bigpond.com).

## Lois – local volunteer on the go!



Lois Beckwith keeps it under her Red Hat. *Photo supplied*

COVID-19 HAS produced many stories of amazing volunteers who have led community projects to help others.

Six such individuals across Tasmania have been chosen to attend the Walk with Heart event, a luxury Three Capes Walk with the Tasmania Walking Company.

Lois Beckwith is the local standout, selected due to the diverse range of support activities she has initiated.

Early in the pandemic, Lois coordinated the donations of locally made face shields, face masks and hygiene kits. She then negotiated with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Nepal Embassy, and Australia Post to have the donations transported for free on a repatriation flight returning to Kathmandu.

Lois helped her Days for Girls volunteers to work from home, delivering and picking up packages of materials so they could continue making feminine hygiene kits for girls in need.

Lois is also President of the Lupus Association of Tasmania.

When Hydroxychloroquine sulfate was suggested as possible aid to treating COVID-19, there was discussion to ensure that Lupus patients (who rely heavily on the drug to prevent antibodies attacking their vital organs) could access supplies. Tasmania had no supply problems but other states did.

During COVID-19, it became apparent that older people were experiencing isolation and problems due to a lack of digital access. Grant applications and planning to provide training, mentoring and computers for older people has led to a pilot course now in progress.

With the need for more social connection, fun and activity in their lives, Lois has now launched a Deloraine/Westbury branch of the Red Hat Society for older women to get out and make new friends.

Lois will be taking time for herself to walk the Three Capes in early December. Nanette Steers, a volunteer U3A fitness leader and the Red Hat coordinator for Westbury, will join her on the trek.

# Days for girls & boys from Deloraine High

DELORAIN HIGH school students were recently invited to help the Meander Valley Days for Girls team at a workshop making hygiene kits for refugee girls.

Days for Girls secured a small grant from dōTerra Australia to make feminine hygiene kits for a Karin refugee camp on the Thailand/Myanmar border.

These kits will be distributed to refugee girls so they can attend school.

The students were invited to assist Days for Girls to introduce them to the concept of helping people in need and to increase awareness of how difficult life can be for young girls living in refugee camps or in neverending poverty.

Twenty Deloraine High students from years 9 and 10 attended the three day workshop at the Rotary Function Centre, where they learnt how to use sewing machines, overlockers, and heat sealers to produce the kits.

The students also learnt about humanitarian aid and how to build sustainability with people in need.

The participating students learnt how to make a reusable hygiene kit that can last between 3 to 4 years. This will enable girls to continue their education and improve their lives.

The girls and women in the refugee camp will be taught how to make the reusable kits for themselves.

Days for Girls hope to supply the materials and also provide women's health information, so they can extend their assistance to a further 20,000 women in need.

Due to COVID-19 restriction, Days for Girls lost the opportunity to raise funds at the Tasmanian Craft Fair, so they have a Christmas Hamper Raffle instead. To support the cause, tickets or donations will be accepted at Deloraine House.



Deloraine High School students practice their sewing skills with Days for Girls Deloraine, to assist girls in a refugee camp. From left: Tara Lloyd, Blake Leguis and Emma Miles. Photo supplied

# Getting on the road with Rotary



Helping students gain independence, Deloraine Rotary Club vocational director Andrew Johnston presents 'The Gift of Freedom' professional driving lessons to students Sarah Murphy, Lachlan Tatnell and Jessett Samson, with Deloraine High School principal, David Leitzau. Photo supplied

THE MORE supervised driving hours a learner has, the safer they will be when they start driving on their own.

Deloraine High School is grateful to receive a donation from the Deloraine Rotary Club Vocational Committee, as a Road Safety Week initiative, to enable three senior secondary students to participate in professional driving lessons.

Accredited driving lessons will increase the students' opportunity to obtain their licences, increase their independence and enable them to access employment or further training opportunities.

The initiative identified the lack of public transport as a significant barrier for young people when moving out of the school system, including affecting access to driver training available in larger centres.

Deloraine High School appreciates this donation and the support that Deloraine Rotary provides throughout the year for the school and community.

Another driver education program supporting students through Deloraine Rotary is the RYDA program, coordinated by Rotary in partnership with Road Safety Education Ltd.

Deloraine Year 10 students have participated in RYDA over the past 10 years.

Participation will become even more significant when the Plates Plus Safer Driving for Life program is introduced in December 2020.

Participation in a RYDA program provides learner drivers with valuable additional log book hours.

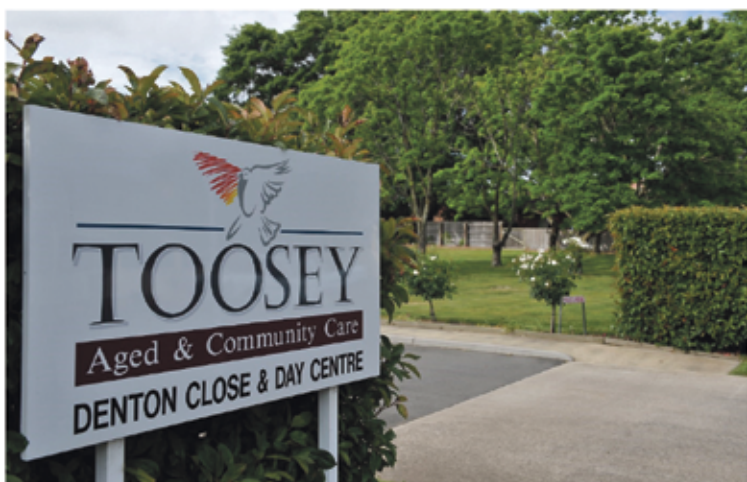
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**Guy Barnett MP**  
Liberal Member for Lyons

Wishing everyone a *Merry Christmas* and happy New Year

p | (03) 6701 2170 w | www.guybarnett.com.au  
e | guy.barnett@dpac.tas.gov.au f | GuyBarnettMP  
Authorised by Guy Barnett, 75 Erna Bay Road, Deloraine Tas 7304

# 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

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# Northern Regional Prison

## Project Update - December 2020

### Update on due diligence investigations

Due diligence for planning purposes on the site is ongoing and aspects of this work will continue throughout the preparation of the planning application.

This work includes investigations that are also particularly necessary for seeking planning approval, namely:

- Utilities services (power, water, sewerage, telecommunications, gas, etc.);
- Road and traffic analysis;
- Environmental contamination;
- Geotechnical analysis;
- Sustainability assessment and recommendations;
- Flora and fauna assessments;
- Land use planning;
- Flood Inundation;
- Statutory Planning Services.

It is important to note that major developments such as this take time, and there are a number of things government needs to confirm before progressing with a formal planning process.

We are currently taking time to prepare detailed information on a range of issues which will be submitted to Council as part of the development assessment process.

### Information regarding recent works on the site

As indicated in our October update, drilling works to enable soil and rock core testing on the site commenced during October.

These important geotechnical investigations will provide important information to inform the planning and design of the Northern Regional Prison.

Prior to commencing work, the project team obtained the necessary Works Authority from the Parks and Wildlife Service to allow the works to proceed. The drilling was conducted in accordance with the specifications of the Works Authority – a copy of which is available on the project website (web address provided below).

While works are occurring on site it is necessary to limit public access to the 16 ha section of the property earmarked for the prison facility for safety reasons as vehicles and machinery will be moving around the site. Any restrictions on access will be advised via the project website and signage on site.

Works will recommence at a future date when weather and ground conditions permit and the drilling team are available. We will advise surrounding landowners in advance of this occurring.

### Planned Upgrades to Birralee Road

We have received a number of questions from people concerned about the impacts of additional traffic on Birralee Road arising from the construction and operation of the Northern Regional Prison. As noted in a previous update, Birralee Road will be widened to accommodate the entry to the prison site. Further, a traffic survey is being undertaken as part of the current due diligence process for planning, and any other work on the road network identified by the traffic survey as being required, will also be undertaken.

In addition to any works associated with the prison facility, \$55 million in joint state and federal funding has been allocated to upgrade Birralee Road to enable the corridor to cater for increased heavy vehicle movement to support business and industry in the area. Further details on the project are available on the Australian Government's Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications' website ([https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/projects/ProjectDetails.aspx?Project\\_id=100579-18TAS-RSI](https://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/projects/ProjectDetails.aspx?Project_id=100579-18TAS-RSI))

### Survey of Eagle Nest

As previously noted, no work will be undertaken within the 500 metre no disturbance zone or line of sight of the nest that is in place for the duration of the wedge-tailed eagle breeding season.

The Forest Practices Authority (FPA) undertakes annual eagle nest activity checks around Tasmania involving the use of a helicopter to enable a visual inspection. This work provides valuable information to plan for the conservation of eagle species. The annual program is not initiated by the Department of Justice. The nest on the neighbouring property was checked on Tuesday, 20 October and the nest was assessed as not being used this season.

For more information visit [www.justice.tas.gov.au/strategic-infrastructure-projects/new-northern-prison](http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/strategic-infrastructure-projects/new-northern-prison) or you can register to receive project updates by emailing the

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

# Chill-out children after school at Toddle Inn

From left to right:  
 Front row – Charlotte, Alyssa, William, Elizabeth  
 Second row – Zoe, Molly, Connor  
 Third row – Montana, Jason, Lara, Eliza, Jack  
 Back row – Tom, William, Julie (educator), Lachlan, Hugh, Clare (educator), Lexy, Erin (educator). *Photo supplied*



KIDS AT Toddle Inn can relax with music or a good book in a chill out chair, courtesy of the Apex Club of Deloraine.

According to Toddle Inn director Julie Purdon, after the childcare centre took on after-school care, demand was so high that the centre needed more space and extra furniture.

'We completed our new room in September and Apex donated \$2500 for furnishings', Ms Purdon said.

'So we have chill out chairs, along with a new rug, a table and chairs and a flat-screen TV, available only for limited screen-time.'

Ms Purdon is rightly proud of the Deloraine-owned, not-for-profit centre.

This year, the Toddle Inn is 20 years old, having developed from a house to a playgroup to a childcare centre.

It is a 36-place centre but with after-school care that number jumps to 50 children.

A 12-seater bus takes two runs an afternoon to collect children from Deloraine and Our Lady of Mercy Primary Schools.

Ms Purdon is proud that the centre used its own savings to convert the verandah into the extra space needed, without a government grant in sight.

'We were fortunate we didn't have a huge turn down during COVID and were eligible for Jobkeeper', she said.

'We used the new room for the first time for holiday care during the September school holidays. The extra room gives the centre more all-day space and we're very grateful to Apex for their donation.'

## Blink and you might miss it!

EAGLE EYED Netflix viewers have spotted our own Elizabeth Town making an appearance in the new season of *The Crown*.

When Queen Elizabeth is watching old movie footage of her 1954 trip to Australia, for a few seconds, her car can be seen driving under the banner erected at Elizabeth Town on the Bass Highway.

In our June edition this year, we ran a story by Michelle Blake, which told of the event.

'On Tuesday, 23 February 1954, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip passed through town. Arrangements had been made for the royal procession to slow down so the 300 people from the surrounding area that lined the road could cheer, clap and wave flags to welcome them.'

The following month, Nell Carr of Dunorlan wrote, 'I can well remember the visit of the



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

**Above: a still from episode 6, season 4 of *The Crown*. Right: the royal visit, courtesy of Libraries Tasmania, Item number AB713/1/2810**



## Daylily and garden lovers!



From December 2, daylily expert Sue Gebicki will open her garden and nursery to the public.

The garden will be open from 10am to 4pm, Wednesday to Saturday every week until the end of February, and then from Thursday to Saturday throughout autumn.

Visitors should note that there will be bridgeworks in progress the first week, so the property will be more accessible in the following weeks.

Peak flowering for daylilies is around the end of December.

There will be perennials for sale too.

For more information, call Sue Gebicki on 0400 860 651.

**369 Priestleys Lane, Birralee**

Senator Claire

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Senator for Tasmania

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

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

## At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society

by Clare Andersen

The WTFS screens films from a wide range of genres which have received limited or no local cinematic release. They include the subtle to the zany, the factual to the mystical, the dramatic to the nuanced. Often thought provoking and insightful, the stories can linger and provoke much discussion. However, sometimes it's a case of pure escapism.

The aim is to keep our patrons entertained, enthralled and surprised. Members' feedback on the night, by email or on facebook assists in honing our selection.

With offerings from Australia, France, Spain, Turkey and New Zealand, we hope our audience will find the 2021 choices appealing as we return to one feature per month.

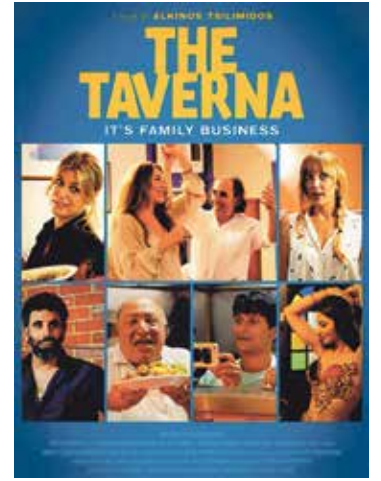
### January 9 THE TAVERNA

2019 MA Dark comedy, Australian/Greek 86m Director Alkinos Tsilimidos

When a belly dancer's personal issues stop her from performing in a Greek restaurant, a waitress has to step into the role. Chaos and mayhem ensue before the owner is forced to change his old ways to prevent a major catastrophe.

The plot unfolds in and around the White Village, a real Greek restaurant in suburban Elsternwick over the course of one warm, hectic night

Tsilimidos to SBS Language Media: 'I wanted audiences to experience a personal relationship with the characters as if they were subjects of a documentary; it will mean different things to different people. It's probably my most personal film.'



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



## Learn-to-Swim & Water Safety 2021

A free community service by the Rotary Club of Deloraine for the children of Deloraine and surrounding districts

### Registration Day

**Where:**

Deloraine Council Pool, West Parade (just along from the Caravan Park)

**When:**

Wednesday, 30 December 2020  
10am to 4pm

### Program Days

**Where:**

Deloraine Council Pool

**When:**

Monday 4 January to Friday 15 January 2021

**Time:**

Mornings  
10am to 1.15pm

Afternoons  
1.45pm to 3.45pm

Further enquiries, please contact Rotary Learn-to-Swim and Water Safety

**Lois Catchlove 0411 118 212**

Please note that children must be 5 years and over

*Subject to COVID guidelines*



Australian Government

# THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

This year hasn't been easy. And recovery will take time. But this is Australia. We will come back.

**THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS A PLAN FOR OUR ECONOMY.**

**WE'RE SUPPORTING BUSINESSES TO CREATE JOBS.**

The Economic Recovery Plan will make it more attractive to employ young people through the temporary JobMaker Hiring Credit. And encourage more training to give people the skills they need to get a job.

**HEALTHY BUSINESSES MEANS A HEALTHY ECONOMY.**

Australian businesses will receive lower taxes and other incentives to encourage investment that will create more jobs. Businesses will come back.

TO FIND OUT HOW IT BENEFITS YOU, YOUR BUSINESS AND AUSTRALIA VISIT  
**OUR COMEBACK.GOV.AU**

THIS IS  
**OUR COMEBACK**  
THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

AUTHORISED BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, CANBERRA.

FOR JUST over a week, between Wednesday 28 October and Thursday 5 November, the main street in Deloraine became an art gallery.

Bright yellow roundabout signs at each end of the shopping centre announced the Windows On Art Deloraine exhibition, known as WOAD. If you were in Deloraine, you couldn't miss it.

Bright yellow footpath stickers marked the windows where each artwork could be seen walking along the street.

Each work was accompanied by a yellow card containing information about the artwork and a statement from each artist.

All the artworks displayed in WOAD 2020, were carefully matched to their particular window setting.

Observers could enjoy a wide variety of traditional and contemporary artworks in different media – painting, drawing, prints, collage, textiles, stone carving and bronze casting.

For many people, art galleries are forbidding places, where we would love to visit but don't have the time, filled with art that doesn't connect with us.

WOAD brings art into the street, for us to see the things that local artists love to make.

Some comments were, 'I have noticed lots of people going up and down the street just looking at the art', 'It's good for the spirit of the community', and 'Thanks for brightening up the town'.

Arts Deloraine, the organisers of WOAD 2020, would like to thank the participating Deloraine businesses for so willingly taking part in the exhibition.

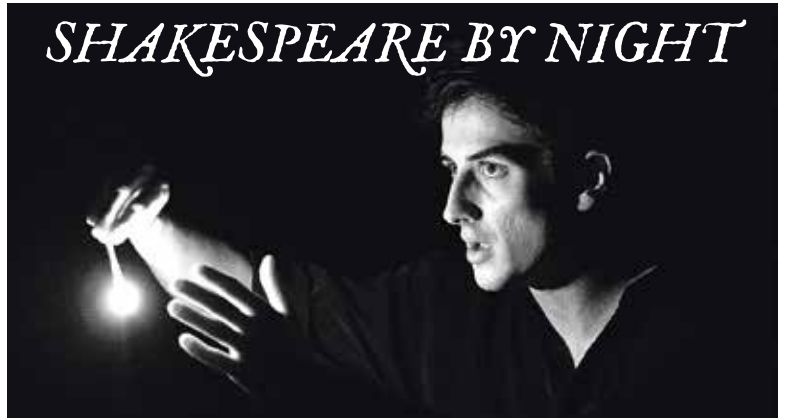
Without them, none of this would have been possible.



Above: Bruce McNicol and Margaret Tabor of Arts Deloraine, give Meander Valley Councillor Susie Bower a guided tour of the WOAD windows on Emu Bay Road, accompanied by Arts Deloraine President Annie Robinson. Seppenfelts window displayed the bronze castings and artwork of sculptor John Parish. Photos supplied



Right: Niecy Brown's mosaic tiled birdbath graces a shop window during the WOAD exhibition.



Deloraine Dramatic Society and the Deloraine Bendigo Bank, proudly present *SHAKESPEARE BY NIGHT*, a Sydney based independent theatre company that performs selected Shakespeare scenes by candlelight.

Local performers will attend rehearsal and workshops in the afternoon/evenings from December 7 to 11 December.

The performers will apply what they have learnt in the workshops in performance of a continuous stream of scenes, from different Shakespearean plays.

Performance on Sunday 13 December at 4pm, at the Deloraine Little Theatre

### A message from the Combined Churches of Westbury

Christmas Carols on the Westbury Village Green are cancelled for 2020. However, this year we still have the opportunity in Tasmania to gather with family and some friends to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

The Christian message of love and forgiveness, brought to us by the birth of Jesus, is of paramount importance in this year of COVID-19.

We encourage you to reach out to others, especially those who are alone, and share with them the Christmas message.

The Combined Churches look forward to presenting the Carols again in 2021. May God bless you all this Christmas. Please join us at any of these services:

- Westbury Uniting Church, Christmas Eve 7pm
- St Mary's Anglican Church, Hagley, Christmas Day 9.30am
- Westbury Baptist Church, Christmas Day 9.30am
- Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Westbury, Christmas Eve 9pm
- Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Deloraine, Christmas Eve 6pm, Christmas Day 9am

For information and booking contact Father Ben Brooks 0448527140 or email meandervalley@aohtas.org.au.



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Jen Butler MP  
Your Local Member for Lyons

7A Wellington Street Longford  
03 63242070  
jen.butler@parliament.tas.gov.au

Labor




Season's Greetings!

Westbury Region Against the Prison Inc (WRAP) would like to thank all of its members and friends for all the support you have given WRAP during the last twelve months.

For more information, to join WRAP, or to donate, please check out our website at [www.westburyregionagainstthepreison.org](http://www.westburyregionagainstthepreison.org) or our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/WRAPTas/](http://www.facebook.com/WRAPTas/)



PLANTS BEARING blue flowers seem to predominate in the early summer months. Many of them tend to be invasive. Love in a Mist (*Nigella damascina*), although an annual, self seeds readily.

The pretty blue-flowered Gromwell (*Lithodora diffusa*), sends long trails of flowering stems rambling through the beds in Spring.

Blue *Lobelia erinus*, although an annual, grows prolifically in November and December from seed shed last year. It has appealingly minute flowers of intense blue and looks very well closely planted in pots.

A pretty blue non-invasive species native to all states, Blue Pincushion (*Brunonia australis*) is common in Northern Tasmania. It is frequently found growing amongst Black Peppermint trees (*Eucalyptus amygdalina*).

*Delphinium grandiflorum*, the perennial Blue Delphinium (pictured), is supreme among blue flowering garden plants.

Frost hardy but drought tender, Delphiniums needs lots of old animal manure, dug in before planting,

The gardens at old Wesley Dale are resplendent with Delphiniums in late November/early December.

### In the vegie garden

Sow seeds of beetroot and silver beet, all of the brassicas, potato tubers, pumpkins, and zucchinis. (Although in frosty districts, it is too late for potatoes.)

If frosts are expected, it is wise to throw covers over pumpkins overnight or hose them before sun-up. (It's the warmth of the sun melting the frozen sap which causes the damage and resultant rot.)

## Early summer blues



Delphiniums are supreme amongst blue flowering garden plants Photo supplied

# Landcare – preserve what's already there

by Sarah Lloyd OAM

ONE OF the principles of landscape conservation is to preserve what's already there. It therefore seems absurd that Westbury Reserve could be partially cleared for a prison, especially in the light of the recently announced Meander Valley Project, a Landcare program partly funded by the very same Tasmanian government that plans to clear this biodiversity hotspot.

The Meander Valley Project is a timely and worthwhile project in a catchment that has been severely impacted by agricultural activities.

It aims to restore riparian areas by preventing stock access that leads to erosion and poor water quality, to plant shelter belts to benefit stock, pastures and soils, and to improve skills through community

workshops. It also aims to enhance biodiversity by fencing off and connecting highly fragmented patches of remnant vegetation and incorporating paddock trees where possible.

Between 1990 and 1995, I participated in two projects conducted by Birdlife Australia, the peak body for bird conservation in Australia. The 'Birds on Farms' project involved surveying birds every season on three farms in the Meander Valley and the 'Australian Bird Count' involved counting birds for five years at Birralee. I also conduct annual bird surveys at a property near Cressy.

These surveys, and work by other Tasmanian researchers, have made me aware of the alarming plight of many native birds and how critically important it is to retain patches of remnant vegetation, no matter how small.



Tau emerald dragonfly (*Hemicordulia tau*) at Westbury Reserve. Dragonfly nymphs feed on mosquito larvae, adults feed on mosquitoes, flies, moths and midges. Photo by Sarah Lloyd

Any remnant vegetation is valuable for conserving species, especially if stock is excluded and there is good understorey vegetation and organic material in the form of leaf litter, logs and fallen branches.

Large old trees, dead or alive, are also crucial to retain because they provide birds and other fauna with cavities for breeding, other nest sites and places to search for food.

Eucalypts can take 100 years or more to form hollows so they are essentially irreplaceable in our lifetime.

Many birds like a vantage point to survey the landscape

for predators, or a high perch from which to sing to attract a mate. Fencing around these trees will prolong their life and allow replacement seedlings to flourish.

The Meander Valley Project, like any such project, is extremely costly.

It takes considerable effort, time and expertise to source seeds, grow plants, prepare the ground, plant and protect seedlings, and water and weed for many years.

No matter how successful the revegetation, it is impossible to completely restore all species in the landscape.

Restoring habitats is vital for the survival of species and the health of the agricultural landscape. But biodiversity can only be enhanced if there are places where species persist that can repopulate degraded areas. Westbury Reserve has numerous large, old hollow-bearing eucalypts. It retains plants from which seeds can be sourced for revegetation projects, and it supports numerous birds and other species that can repopulate degraded land.

Landscape scale projects will only be successful if places like Westbury Reserve are left alone.

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**Labor**

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

Authorised by Rebecca White MP 33 Cole St Sorell



# Christmas treats from the pantry



## Hazelnut Crescents

### Ingredients

125g butter – softened  
 1/4 cup castor sugar  
 1 cup ground hazelnuts  
 1 cup plain flour  
 1 vanilla bean in about 1/2 cup of icing sugar

### Method

Prepare vanilla bean in the icing sugar in advance so that the icing sugar is well flavoured.

Cream the butter and sugar until light, white and fluffy.

Using a metal spoon, blend in the ground hazelnuts and enough of the flour to make a dough that sticks together when pinched.

If the mixture is too sticky to handle when all the flour is added, put in the fridge to firm up a little or add a little extra flour.

Form into small crescent shapes.

Bake on a greased or baking paper lined trays at 180C for about 30 minutes or until just starting to brown around the edge.

Allow to cool then roll in flavoured icing sugar.

Store in an air tight container. Makes about 18 crescents.

by Wendy Hays

THE CONCLUSION of this strange year provides strong incentive to forage in the freezer and clear out the remnants of last summer's produce.

The Berry Shortbread Slice recipe is a simple, festive one which uses any type of frozen berry and is equally delicious served as a slice or topped with ice cream and whipped cream as a dessert.

The Smoked Salmon and Cheese Bites can be made using bread that found its way into the freezer because it was no longer fresh enough for sandwich making.

Many readers will also find opened packets of ground nuts

in their pantry cupboards that were bought to make that special cake or dish.

Other ground nuts can be substituted for the hazelnuts in the Hazelnut Crescent recipe.

These little treats are lovely served with coffee at the end of a meal or make welcome gifts if packaged decoratively.

So, this Christmas, purge your freezer and pantry to create something different and special using your COVID-19 stockpile and the year's leftovers. You will feel satisfied and unashamedly righteous about starting 2021 with a well organized, spacious freezer and pantry.

Season's greetings to one and all.



2 tbs fresh, finely chopped dill and/or parsley  
 about 100 g cold smoked salmon  
 about 100 g Camembert or Brie cheese

### Method

Using about a 5cm biscuit cutter, cut circles out of the bread. You should be able to get 4 rounds from each slice. Use left overs and crusts for breadcrumbs.

Brush bread with the melted butter and bake at 180C for about 15 minutes until toasted.

Cool and store in an airtight container until ready to use.

Beat the extra butter with the lemon juice, crushed garlic and finely chopped herbs.

Spread the herb butter onto the toast rounds and top with a piece of smoked salmon then a wedge or piece of cheese.

Bake for about 10 minutes at 180C or until cheese is just beginning to melt.

Garnish with dill and capers if desired and serve immediately.

## Berry Shortbread Slice

### Base ingredients

250g shortbread biscuits  
 1 cup shredded coconut  
 1/3 cup castor sugar  
 1/3 cup plain flour  
 125g butter – melted  
 2 cups frozen berries – blueberries, raspberries etc.

### Topping ingredients

300ml sour cream  
 1 egg – lightly beaten  
 2 tbs castor sugar

### Method

Grease a 18cm by 28cm rectangular slice tin and line the base and sides with baking paper. Extend the paper about 2cm above the edges of the tin.

Process the shortbread biscuits in a food processor until finely crushed.

Mix together the crushed biscuits, melted butter, coconut, flour and sugar.

Press firmly over the base of the prepared tin with the back of a spoon.

Sprinkle over the berries.

To make the topping, beat all ingredients together until smooth then evenly pour over the base.

Bake at about 180C for about 45 minutes or until the topping is just set and the edges are beginning to brown.

Cool in the pan, then in the fridge before cutting into in to serving size pieces. If desired, dust with icing before serving.

Store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to 5 days.

## Smoked Salmon and Cheese Bites

### Ingredients

8 slices of stale bread  
 about 80g butter – melted  
 60g butter extra – softened  
 1 tsp lemon juice  
 a little crushed garlic to taste



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## Rotary out in the cold for a good cause

'EVERY FREEZING moment was worth it' when the Rotary Club of Deloraine raffled a large basket of chocolates, sold mainly at the local supermarket, raised just over \$1000.

\$1500 was donated to Kimberley Fire Brigade with the extra money raised by Deloraine Rotary Club of Deloraine running the Tasmanian Craft Fair.

The winning raffle ticket was won by K. Griffin. The basket

**Maree Matanle 'chilling' at Woolworths. Photo supplied**

of chocolates was originally a Kimberley Fire Brigade raffle prize won by a Rotary Club member who realised Rotary could raise more funds for the Fire Brigade by raffling it again. Rotary members added a few extra chocolate treats.

Members, family and friends of the Rotary Club handed the cheque over at the Kimberley Fire Station and were treated to a tour of the station and the truck. The Fire Brigade happily answered questions. Everyone then went to Kimberley Warm

Springs for a barbecue. Cliff and Lindy Norton supplied home grown raspberries and cream.

Thank you to all involved, it really was a great result because of the support of the local community.

For more information go to [www.tascraftfair.com.au/](http://www.tascraftfair.com.au/) and [www.rotaryclubofdeloraine.org.au/](http://www.rotaryclubofdeloraine.org.au/).

For bookings at the Deloraine Rotary Function Centre, call Ann on (03) 63622324 or [www.rotaryfunctioncentre.com.au/](http://www.rotaryfunctioncentre.com.au/).

## State Government is months behind schedule on new prison project

by Sharon Webb

THE STATE Government's chosen environmental consultant for the proposed prison site at the Brushy Creek Reserve has dropped out, leaving the schedule for the new prison even more behind schedule.

The Justice Department admits drilling can't proceed without the consultant, leaving it shopping around for a company to replace Mark Wapstra of EcoTas.

Locally, a third anti-prison group of 12 Birralee households has been formed to focus on safety on Birralee Road.

Spokesperson Torey Taylor said the road is already unsafe and vehicle movement for

prison construction is a recipe for disaster.

In June when Justice Minister Elise Archer and the Premier announced the second site for the prison, Ms Archer's schedule said due diligence on the prison site would be complete in July and Meander Valley Council would consider the prison planning application this month.

But without a consultant to produce a natural values report for the planning application and oversee geodrilling for rock and soil composition, the government is months off schedule.

Mr Wapstra said he was no longer engaged by the Justice Dept because 'we haven't been

able to come to mutually agreeable contract terms'.

The Justice Department said the environmental consultant 'cited significant other work and the requirement for a more certain forward schedule'.

He said a new consultant would be engaged in late 2020.

'With the delay in due diligence works on the site, a development application will be submitted once necessary information to support an application has been gathered. This includes environmental impact, geotechnical, traffic, design standards, review of original Social Economic Impact Study, as well as any specific requirements by the statutory authority.

'Drilling will recommence once a new environmental consultant is engaged. A new works permit will be required for drilling to recommence.'

Ms Taylor said in September that Birralee residents told senior Justice Department representatives about their strong concerns about the current state of the road and the impacts of prison construction and completion.

She quoted the 2012 State Government submission to the Nation Building 2 program which said the road did not meet heavy vehicle standards. Eight years later there is no change.

'They assured us no construction activity would commence

until at least the entrance to the prison site had been made safe', she said.

'We explained the concerns around the two blind hills on either side of the entrance to the site given it's a 100kmh speed limit and a major truck route. The road is narrow and the entire section from the Valley Central precinct to Frankford is in poor condition.

'There are no lines indicating the edge of the road and it's near impossible to pass a car safely let alone a truck.

'Oncoming trucks sometimes drive over the centre white lines making it necessary to drive almost in the gravel edges to avoid a collision. School buses use this road also.'

## COVID-19 Small Business Energy Support Grant Program - Round two

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

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

The guidelines have been expanded to ensure even more people can benefit, with sole traders who don't employ staff now able to apply.

Assessments will commence as applications are submitted and each application will be assessed in order of receipt.

Applications are now open and will close at 12pm, Monday 21 December 2020.

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

Department of State Growth



## Small business advice for recovery grants open

The \$1.5 million round of the Small Business Advice for Recovery Grant program has opened for applications.

Grants of \$750 are available for small businesses to engage the services of a consultant to provide advice or services that will assist with business recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These grants can be used for business advisory services such as development of marketing plans, business plans or legal advice and/or support in applying for the Business Growth Loan Scheme.

Assessment of applications will commence as applications are submitted and they will be assessed in order of receipt.

Applications will be assessed on applicant and project expenditure eligibility, and evidence provided in support of the application.

Applications close 12 noon on Monday 22 February 2021 or when available funding has been allocated.

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

The Small Business Advice for Recovery Grant program is part of the Tasmanian Government's \$20 million COVID-19 Small Business Sustainability and Recovery Assistance Package.

Department of State Growth





THE LIONS Club of Deloraine was making full use of their new \$85,000 food truck, serving up food and drink at the Deloraine Showgrounds on Friday 27 November.

Deloraine Lions and their food truck were present at the MND 27 Challenge Open Showjumping Twilight event, to help raise funds to fight Motor Neurone Disease.

The Lions will make good use of their new van as part of their grassroots community service, raising funds for good causes.

On Saturday 12 December, Deloraine Lions will be hosting a Bingo day from 1-4pm at the Western Tiers Community Club, 33A Parsonage Street, Deloraine, raising money for a new playground for Deloraine Primary School.

# What's cooking?



Deloraine Lions Club volunteers get behind Sue Bellamy and Eric Richardson, inside the new food van. Photo supplied

## Deloraine Pony Club jumps hurdles for clubroom funding

THE DELORAINIE Pony Club hopes to have revamped clubrooms by mid-2021 after being granted \$50,000 in State Government funding.

The district commissioner Cristy Hall said the club hopes Meander Valley Council will consider a planning application for the changes at the Deloraine Showgrounds clubrooms this month.

'We applied successfully for a number of grants to extend and line the clubrooms, add a kitchen, build a new storage shed, upgrade the toilets and buy some extra equipment.'

The club gained \$50,000 from the Levelling the Playing Fields fund, as well as \$3000 from Meander Valley Council to refurbish the toilets and \$10,000 from the Bendigo Bank for the kitchen.

The government funding will be used to extend the clubrooms by four metres and build a 12 x 6m storage shed to store jumps, mounted games and other equipment.

'With the COVID restrictions we're finding our current clubrooms cramped', Ms Hall said.

Ms Hall said building will begin in March.

'We're hoping these changes will bring the club up to the standard it needs to be and get stronger.'

With 30 riding members aged five to 25 years, Deloraine Pony

Club holds monthly rallies, and seven gymkhana, show jumping and dressage events a year for clubs across northern Tasmania.

The Deloraine Pony Club was one of the supporters of

the MND 27 Challenge Open Showjumping Twilight event, held at Deloraine Showgrounds on 27 November to raise funds to fight Motor Neurone Disease.



At the MND 27 Challenge Open Showjumping Twilight event, advice, instruction and practice was available for all participants, regardless of age or experience. Photo supplied

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## Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10			
11			12				
13				14	15		
	16				17		
18							19
20		21	22			23	
24			25		26		
27				28			

- Across**  
 9 Highland (7)  
 10 Jimi \_\_\_\_, short-lived rock guitarist (7)  
 11 Hands off! (3, 2)  
 12 World's largest mammal (4, 5)  
 13 Based (9)  
 15 Nobel-winning Irish poet and dramatist (5)  
 16 Dual Olympic gold-winning cyclist (6, 5)  
 20 Rearrange (5)  
 22 Today is the tomorrow you worried about \_\_\_\_ (9)  
 24 Rugby commentator and seven times captain of the Kangaroos (3, 6)  
 26 Common computer code (1, 1, 1, 1, 1)  
 27 Possibly ... (5, 2)
- Down**  
 1 Practically in one's face (2, 5)  
 2 Sacred Hindu text (6)  
 3 Lisa is one, and so is Jessica (8)  
 4 NT sinkhole (5, 5)  
 5 Grand (4)  
 6 No matter what (6)  
 7 Persist (3, 5)  
 8 Outlay (7)  
 14 Run a commercial operation (2, 8)  
 16 Move around (3, 5)  
 17 Machine controller (8)  
 18 Revenge (7)  
 19 Ray sins badly, living in the Middle East (7)  
 21 Shots (6)  
 23 Respectable (6)  
 25 Gum or plum? (4)

## Sudoku

	8			6		7		
2		5						
			4				3	
1	3			8				2
	6			9			4	
5				7			6	1
	4				9			
						3		8
	2	8					1	

© 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 December 2020 solution*



*Sudoku December 2020 solution*

7	4	5	6	8	9	2	3	1
8	9	3	2	4	7	1	5	6
6	2	6	3	1	9	5	8	7
1	9	8	7	3	4	2	6	5
3	4	7	5	9	1	6	2	8
2	5	6	8	4	9	3	7	1
5	6	4	2	8	1	3	9	7
4	8	1	5	6	2	7	9	3

**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](mailto:general@meandervalleygazette.com).



# Events diary

**GREAT WESTERN TIERS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE**  
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**NOTE** that events listed here may be cancelled or changed after publication, especially if they are affected by Covid-19 restrictions. If you have an event you wish to publicise, email the details to [advertising@meandervalleygazette.com](mailto:advertising@meandervalleygazette.com) and we will add them to the 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 12 December, 9am-1pm	Liffey Valley Market	Old Liffey School Phone (03) 6397 3670 or email quentonhiggs@gmail.com
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, 1-4pm	Deloraine Lions Bingo	Western Tiers Community Club, 33A Parsonage St, Deloraine Bring your own marker, tea and coffee, limited numbers
Sat 12 December, 7-8.30 music	Combined Churches Carols by the River	Deloraine Rotunda Family picnic from 6pm, no BBQ Cancelled if raining John Phelps 6302 3379
Sun 13 December, 4pm	Shakespeare by Night	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine Rehearsal & workshops afternoon/evening from 7 to 11 December
Sat 19 December, 9am-1pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drv & Caveside Rd Ross Quick 0413 681 252
Sat 19 December, 9am-1pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Promenade, Westbury Rob Menzie 0417 931 619
Sat 19 December, 9am-1pm	Deloraine Market	Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Road, Deloraine Bodhi McSweeney 0409 695 321
Sun 27 Dec 2020, 13 Feb 2021	Carrick Harness Racing	East St, Carrick For information call 0400 635 070
Wed 30 Dec, 10am-4pm	Learn-to-Swim & Water Safety Registration Day	Deloraine Council Pool, West Parade Program days 4-15 Jan, 10am-1.15pm & 1.45-3.45pm Info 0411 188 212
Sat 9 January, 7pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>The Taverna</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine MA Dark comedy 2019 Australian/Greek 86m Info 0418 389 868



The Meander Men performing at Carols by the River in 2019  
Photo by Mike Moores

ONCE AGAIN, the Combined Churches of Deloraine and District will be presenting Carols by the River to help celebrate Christmas.

As in recent years, the event will be held at the rotunda, near the bridge in Deloraine, on Saturday 12 December with the music program starting at 7pm.

Because of restrictions, the usual sausage sizzle will not be available this year, but everyone is invited to bring along a family picnic which can be enjoyed seated on the grass around the site from 6 pm.

Or you can just arrive in time to enjoy the program. You will need to bring with you your own chairs and rug. No booking is required. Just turn up on the night. If the weather is not kind, the event will be cancelled. It will not be held indoors.

The program will be off to a rollicking start with the Meander Men.

They will be followed by other group and individual entertainers.

But, of course, the real highlight of the evening will be the community singing of all the popular and well known Christmas carols.

Tony Parsons will be the master of ceremonies and Josh Skeat will be in charge of the music. The program will finish at about 8.30 pm.

Everyone is invited to come along to this free, family friendly event, to enjoy a picnic with family and friends and sing along to their heart's content with traditional carols such as 'O Come, All Ye Faithful', 'Away in a Manger' and, of course, 'Silent Night'.

Right: Peter Harris, President Trevor Flower, Steve Brazendale and Delquip donor Danny Saltmarsh.

Below: Peter Roles has given the Club countless volunteer hours for over 50 years.  
Photos by Hayley Manning



## The Club is the hub

by Karl Gammaler

THANKS TO donations from countless organisations and many hardworking volunteers, the Deloraine Ex-Servicemen's Club (RSL) has been given a new lease of life and a facelift.

The Club is now open 3 days a week, on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons and every 3rd Saturday of the month.

There is no need to be a member or ex-serviceman to enjoy old fashioned hospitality and friendly service

The Club is still able to host events (currently COVID-19 capped at 50) with monthly live music and meals. For anyone needing space to host an event, just get in touch with President,

Trevor Flower, to find out about the Club's great rates.

Steak nights are now replaced by a hearty casserole, which will leave everyone wanting more.

So if the signs are out and the door is open, drop in to say hello. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the ambience and the new outdoor setting.

Watch out for music, casserole and special event nights. Xmas dinner (traditional ham and turkey) will be held on Friday 11 December, with music by Joe Atana.

The Club thanks all Meander Valley residents for their support in keeping this iconic community hub open in the heart of Deloraine.

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Season's greetings from  
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# Mole Creek residents gets ready to take the plunge!

by Sharon Webb

MOLE CREEK residents will cool off this summer with a splash in the local swimming pool after its successful \$64,000 upgrade.

But the opening date has been delayed by COVID-19 restrictions.

The pool's reopening is a big achievement for the small town.

The 1980s era pool is Mole Creek's only recreational facility, built by the community and operated by volunteers.

Mole Creek Progress Association president Trudy Richards said renovations and repairs had gone to schedule.

'All leaks have been repaired, tiles replaced and a waterproof coating applied.

'Expansion joints have been repaired and a special silastic applied to the joints', she said.

'The final coat, which is called quartzon, was applied in late November and the pool refilled. Chemical balances have been tested and adjusted to reach the standard required for public use.'

In July the Tasmanian Community Fund granted the association \$45,475.50 to repair the pool.

After an expert in a wetsuit found three or four leaks, Mole Creek's swimming pool community committee got to work to raise funds to pay for repairs.

Meander Valley Council donated \$3000 and the Bendigo Bank \$5000.

'The exact pool reopening date depends on COVID-19 restrictions but ideally it will be in the new year', Ms Richards said.



Mole Creek swimming pool is scheduled to reopen in the new year, after leaks were plugged and joints repaired, courtesy of a grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund. Photo supplied

## National award for Hagley Farm School

HAGLEY FARM School has won an award for including biosecurity in its curriculum.

Guy Barnett, Minister for Primary Industries and Water said the national award in the Education category of the 2020 Australian Biosecurity Awards was a fantastic achievement for the staff and students at Hagley Farm School & Visitor Centre.

'This is recognition of their commitment to making practical biosecurity education a

key component of the agricultural curriculum at Hagley, and for the thousands of other Tasmanian students who visit the Field Study Centre each year', Minister Barnett said.

'Good biosecurity is a shared responsibility and this award highlights the important collaborative work at the school and the broader Revitalising School Farms network, with ongoing support of staff from Biosecurity Tasmania.

'Biosecurity and the education of our next generation of agricultural professionals is essential to Tasmania's agriculture productivity, continued market access, our reputation for high quality primary products and the health of our natural environment.'

Minister for Education and Training Jeremy Rockliff said it was more evidence of the success of Tasmania's school farms.

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