



HONOURABLE LOCALS
Recognising contribution to community

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IN COLD BLOOD
Reptiles at Westbury – a vital part of the ecosystem

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CONSERVATION EDUCATION
Passing on the skills to look after the land

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Meander Valley Gazette

Free every month

February 2021

Meander Valley Gazette *Your independent community paper*

Mark Yole is a winner, in life and on the track



Pacer driver and trainer Mark Yole with horses The Deal and Tisu Spirit. Go to page 3 for the full story of Mark's road to success in pacing. *Photo by Sharon Webb*

Council walks a tightrope on Blackstone Heights proposal

Sharon Webb

BLACKSTONE HEIGHTS residents have communicated substantial concerns about Meander Valley Council's plan to rezone the location of a proposed Tasland \$149m residential homes development on Neptune Drive.

The council has responded by reducing the number of houses allowable from 650 to 600, and stipulating other requirements for the Specific Purpose Zone it wants to create to allow the development to go ahead.

But Tasland developer Ross Harrison pressured council not to adopt the new requirements.

He told the January council meeting they would mean he needed to 'withdraw the whole application and resubmit it all over again'.

Nevertheless the council endorsed a report on 30 development representations from residents and supported modifying the zone requirements.

The report and zone requirements will go to the Tasmanian Planning Commission, which will hold hearings before deciding on the rezoning.

In September councillors described Tasland's development application as 'visionary' and 'creative'.

But resident representations indicate at least 40 people in Blackstone Heights don't agree, mainly because of the implications of changing from a Low Density Zone to the high density Specific Purpose Zone.

Tasland developer Ross Harrison maintains the development 'seeks to allow clusters of higher density development within larger areas of open space and native vegetation.'

Typical lot sizes are 660sq metres in size.

A Tasland letter to the council pointed out the resident reactions 'represent just more than six per cent of Blackstone Heights households'.

Council's modifications to the Specific Purpose Zone include:

- decreasing dwelling numbers from 650 to 600
- prohibiting visitor eco-cabin users from accessing Canopus Drive
- mandating maximum building heights of 5.5m within 40 metres of the Panorama Road frontage

- mandating a 15m setback to Panorama Road, landscaped with trees and shrubs

- ensuring contributed land is added to Dalrymple Creek Reserve enabling a public walking trail extension to a useable area edging the South Esk River

- including open space over the prominent hill top and ridgeline in the north of the site.

Blackstone Heights residents' concerns about the Neptune Drive development on page 2

Council modifies zoning plan rules to alleviate Blackstone residents' concerns

Sharon Webb

BLACKSTONE HEIGHTS residents' concerns about a proposed Tasland development of 650 homes on Neptune Drive are mainly about traffic issues, loss of the character and visual amenity of Blackstone Heights, bushfire risk and the impact on wildlife.

Residents also questioned the capacity of utilities such as water, sewerage, stormwater and mobile phone access, as well as the availability of schools, public transport and medical facilities for a large population influx.

George and Amanda Pitt wrote that the traffic assessment was flawed, as data was collected at a non-school, holiday time of year.

'With one road into Blackstone Heights, and taking into the account the proposed

developments in Blackstone Heights and nearby (Federal Hotels), this traffic assessment is inadequate and will result in significant and widespread impacts on the residents of Blackstone Heights including potential loss of property values.'

Planner Jo Oliver's response conceded, 'Whilst the road network is capable of accommodating additional traffic loads ... it is clear that current and anticipated demand warrants more detailed investigation, planning and scheduling of improved linkages and interventions in the network, such as a connection to Mt Leslie Road and potentially through to Travellers Rest to the south, as well as roundabouts.'

Meander Valley Council will prepare a Traffic and Development Plan for a 'tributary network' as well as

physical interventions such as roundabouts, junction improvements, traffic calming and pedestrian paths.

Ms Oliver said this will also alleviate issues of higher vehicle speeds and accessing properties along Casino Rise, and determine a construction timeline.

Responding to claims that the development would change the character of the area, Ms Oliver wrote that Tasland's proposed clustering approach would actually complement Blackstone Heights' character, compared to the current subdivision entitlement under the current planning scheme.

She pointed out that the land had been zoned for additional residential development for many years and that the current Glover Avenue area's 30-home cluster is 'distinctly suburban in appearance'.

'Despite this higher density, the cluster is not conspicuous in the broader Blackstone Heights context due to the developed nature of the surrounding environment and topography.'

But Ms Oliver recommended dwelling numbers be reduced to 600, mandated building heights in certain locations and altered setbacks.

In response to residents' concerns about the development's potential impact on wildlife and habitat, the council has stipulated rules to limit native vegetation.

Ms Oliver pointed out, 'With the development's large swathe of green space, retention of the dam and open watercourse, the layout of the development provides a far better wildlife habitat and foraging arrangement than the standard subdivision arrangement.'

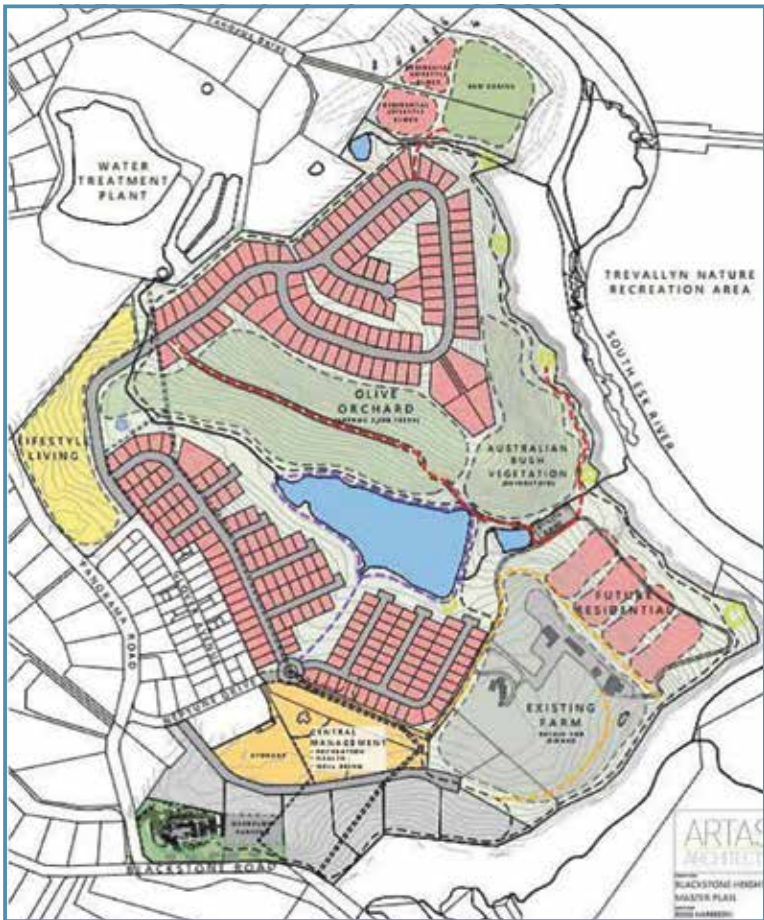
The council determined there was no need to modify the plan in response to bushfire concerns.

On utility adequacy, Ms Oliver said Taswater indicated that water supply is achievable and that sewers can be connected in the future. The development proposes treatment of sewage on the site.

Telstra and the NBN are planning for upgraded service through the new transmission tower at Zenith Court.

Responding to concerns about increased pressure on schools, public transport and medical facilities, Ms Oliver said decisions on educational facility investment are not made until the growth predictions are manifest. Populations must first achieve a certain catchment threshold through development.

'Services such as public transport and medical facilities are driven by market demand, which means they are more likely to increase the level of service with a higher catchment population.'



The proposed development by Tasland on 115 hectares at 12 Neptune Drive, Blackstone Heights was originally planned to include 650 residences. Image supplied

Carrick Park Pacing Club – frocking up for the Carrick Cup



IT'S TIME to frock up ladies! Fashions are back at the races on Saturday 13 February at the Carrick Cup harness racing meeting.

This year will see the introduction of a new format for Fashions on the Field.

Twelve well dressed patrons will be randomly selected on the day.

Each will draw a horse in the Page Transport Carrick Cup with the winner being the one who drew the winning horse.'

There is a \$300 Andrew Jones travel voucher and bottles of Clover Hill wine to be won. Entry is free and open to ladies and men 18 years and over.

Other attractions on the day include live music till late with Jerome Hillier, pony trots, free children's activities including a jumping castle and the ever popular 'harness up' competition is always a crowd favourite.

The Annual Harness Yearling Sale has become a regular

event on Cup Day and this year sees 14 well bred horses go under the hammer.

A wide variety of food will be available and the well stocked bar is a favourite spot to catch up with friends.

Park gates open at approximately 2pm with racing getting underway around 3.30 pm.

Admission: Adults \$10, pensioners \$5, under 16 free. East Street, Carrick. Enquiries 0400 635 070.



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Sharon Webb

AFTER MARK Yole drove Tisu Spirit to a win in the North-Eastern Pacing Cup at Carrick last month, he strode up to the horse and gave him a big kiss.

'It's like you're at the Olympics seeing an athlete do well', he said.

'These horses are amazing, born to race and compete. They've got their own personalities and quirks. They become part of the family.'

Mark is growing his training and driving business next to the Carrick racetrack. Just five to eight horses for now, including some he owns.

Watching the pacers parade before a race, you can understand Mark's Olympic athlete simile.

Coats gleaming in the sunshine, their muscles defined, they're the cream of the crop and they know it – proud, toned athletes.

These horses don't have jockeys. Their reinsmen drive carts, known in the business as spiders. Older aficionados of this sport don't go to the pacing, they go to the trots.

Mark and his older brother Ben have high profiles in Tasmanian pacing. Ben more so, because he trains about 80 horses out of his Sidmouth stables.

They have both won the coveted awards of Tasmanian pacing, leading trainer and leading driver.

Mark has won the leading driver award twice, in 2015–2016,

Mark Yole is setting his own pace



Mark Yole driving Tisu Spirit, winner of the North-Eastern Pacing Cup at Carrick in January Photo by Sharon Webb

and more recently in 2018–2019 with 88 wins in the year.

From that, he was named the second most skilled pacing reins man in the 2019 Australian Driving Championships.

'That was a huge thrill', he said.

Mark and Ben grew up around pacing. Dad Wayne chaired the Hamilton Racing Club in Victoria.

Ben got a job with Devonport owner Mick Maxfield and when Mark finished year 12, he came to the 2006 Tasmanian Interdominion races and was then invited to join Ben in Devonport.

Now all the Yole family is in Tasmania, Ben and Mark anchored here firmly by their Launceston wives, Catherine and Danica.

Being successful in pacing is tough.

'It takes a long time to build up your reputation, to get opportunities. You struggle', Mark said.

The key pressure is that the industry is highly results driven.

'It's financial. If you don't win races it affects your income and you can't afford to feed your family. It's tough, especially when you're starting out.'

It helps to have people who give you a hand. Mark acknowledges Oatlands shearing contractor, 75 year old Murray Johnson.

'He's been the biggest supporter of my stables and career since I met him 10 years ago', Mark said.

'He's been fantastic for my career. I couldn't have done it without him. He's a fan of my driving. We bought a yearling, Black Ox, and went from there.'

But Murray says his regard for 33 year old Mark goes beyond driving.

'Yole is a gentleman. He's older than his age', he said.

'He's a very good trainer and driver, and he's more than repaid me. I met him when he played football at Mt Pleasant [near Oatlands], and he wasn't a bad footballer either.'

Murray acknowledges, as does Mark, that when the black dog of depression was nipping at Mark's heels he most needed support.

'Sometimes when a young bloke gets down he needs support, financial help as well.'

In his twenties, Mark was suffering from depression, but he didn't know what it was.

His mother Louise named it, because she and other family members suffer from it too, and she got him help.

'That was a major step', Mark said, 'just knowing what was happening.'

Depression was responsible for Mark's down times in the pacing industry, where he backchatted stewards and behaved badly.

While he may have the illness all his life, these days he knows what he's up against and talks things over with Danica.

He doesn't shy away from talking about depression publicly. Tas Racing provides counselling to those who need it and Mark helps drivers and trainers who approach him for help.

In 2019 Mark Yole took the big step of buying his Carrick stables from trainer Andrew Arnott, who was retiring. It's right next to the Carrick racetrack where he trains his horses.

Working from home he can keep his kids Lucas, Amelia and Oliver close. Oliver is only eight weeks old.

'It's been going well over the past 12 months. I've had 10 or 11 wins.'

His win with Tisu Spirit at Carrick was sweet.

After watching the horse for a long time, Mark bought him four months ago and built his work and training regime.

'I liked him. He was well built, seemed really tough and looked like a stayer.'

'He had good standing start manners and I thought he could win country cups.'

In the North-East Pacing Cup, Tisu Spirit stepped away cleanly, but so did pacer Gogo Gigi.

'After 300m we were putting pressure on the leader and we rolled to the front. When the favourite, Kardesler, made a move a mile from home I quickened the tempo, but up the straight it was a battle.'

'My bloke found enough on the line to hold on.'

Mark Yole's difficulties have given him an appreciation for wins, in horse racing and in life.

'My attitude was wrong when I first started out. I was cocky and over confident', he said.

'These days I enjoy the successes when they come because I don't know what's in the future.'

Mark Yole talks about depression on Youtube – In the Gig profile: Mark Yole.

Rotary Learn to Swim success

THE ROTARY Club of Deloraine 10 day annual free learn to swim program at the Deloraine Pool has just finished. Running for over 40 years in the pool the Rotary Club helped to fund, 71 children completed the course this year.

Mostly aged from 5-7 and up to 14, they were all awarded a certificate at Goldfish, Seahorse or Dolphin level.

With 30 swimmers from Deloraine Primary and 16 home schooled, the majority of the other children came from Mole Creek Primary, Westbury Primary, Hagley Farm School, Our Lady of Mercy and One School Global.

Participants also came from outlying areas such as Dunorlan, Weetah, Chudleigh, Dairy Plains, Golden Valley, Exton, Bracknell, Western Creek, Carrick, Lorinna, Poatina and Sassafras.

Instructors Paul Gambles and Margaret Armour conducted the classes. This year Deloraine Rotary used funds raised at the Tasmanian Craft Fair and was financially assisted by grants from Bendigo Bank, Meander Valley Council and a private donation. For information call Ann on 03 6362 2325 or go to www.rotaryfunctioncentre.com.au, www.rotaryclubof-deloraine.org.au/ or www.tas-craftfair.com.au/.

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Authorised by Brian Mitchell MP (ALP, Tasmania) 53B Moin Road Perth, Tasmania 7300

Letter from the Editor

WELL, WE are all supposed to be back from holidays now, getting back on the treadmill or into harness if you prefer horsey metaphors rather than punitive ones.

2021 may still give last year a challenge in the worst year ever competition. But there are some hopeful signs that the

world may not be descending into total chaos just yet.

The 27th of January was Holocaust Memorial Day.

A day to remember that when intolerance and injustice become an accepted part of society, the consequences can be murderous.

Liz Douglass

Letters to the Editor

IT WAS very interesting to read the article on page 18 of last month's *Gazette* in which the Meander Progress Association was linked to supporting Teen Challenge's lease agreement with Meander Valley Council.

At no point has the Meander Progress Association publicly voiced their opinion for or against the process undertaken by these parties.

The Progress Association is a group of locals who run the

Waste Transfer Station and keeps the town tidy. We were certainly not involved in the creation, purchase or erection of the Teen Challenge support signs in the town.

We suggest this journalist should probably refrain from printing assumptions or should at the very least, omit information that is not substantiated.

*Susie Johnston,
Secretary, Meander Progress
Association Inc.*

IN A healthy healing summer the Westbury reserve is in full abundance.

Amassed in flowering prickly bush, alight with butterflies. Blushed blue with the brilliance of brunonia and blue bells. Currawongs call and cicadas sing. Dragonflies dance and echidnas amble ...

How much further do I have to go to describe the

components of the iconic ecology of this reserved place?

Mr Gutwein, take a holiday walk there. Take your family with you. I defy you then to tell our children that you agree to lead the proposal to disturb and raze this natural promised land for a prison site.

Perhaps the devil is in the detail.

Helen Tait, West Launceston

LATE AT night as the goods train slowly hooted its way through the village, it occurred to me yet again what a wasted resource the train line is. It earns its existence by carrying goods, very slowly between Hobart and the north and return.

In these times when we need to boost employment, cater for an increasing population and capitalise on our tourism opportunities, there appears to be a willingness in the federal and state governments to spend our way back into the black.

Here we have a severely neglected and inefficient piece of infrastructure.

The state owns the corridor of land that the tracks run through. The tracks run through our beautiful countryside, but only the goods train drivers get to enjoy it.

Why can't the government spend the money on upgrading the track to carry passengers with perhaps a couple of stops between Launceston and Hobart?

Perhaps briefly stopping at Ross and Oatlands for instance, where tourists would have the opportunity to stay over and catch the same train the next day, and commuters could efficiently travel between

the two major cities for business meetings, shopping or to visit as tourists within one day.

Goods carriages could be part of the train, or better still, short distances of parallel tracks could be installed to allow the passenger train to pass the sidelined goods train.

The existing rail line could eventually be improved to join Devonport into the system enabling people to travel from ferry to Hobart and stops in between.

The result would be a service that takes more traffic off the roads, both cars and trucks, more efficiently move goods, and offer a tourism experience that currently does not exist.

Unfortunately, what we have is politicians unwilling to think and plan beyond the next election and infrastructure plans that are more of a bandaid, such as the Bridgewater bridge, that is not planned to be any more than it is, with no room for added lanes or alternative uses when it's finished (if it ever is!).

I completely understand how expensive it would be and the problems of building a system dependent on polluting diesel fuel, but the challenge would be to develop alternatives.

Peter Wileman, Westbury

**Saturday,
20 February
1-4pm at
Westbury
Town Hall,
Lyllal Street**

**Elena Tweedale
at the Westbury
Flower Show
2019, graced our
front cover in
March that year.
Photo by
Mike Moores**



Apology: last month, we failed to credit the two photos on page 15 to Caitlin How Photography. Our thanks to Tanya King and Caitlin for supplying the photographs.

Online Centre Manager

An experienced manager is sought to grow the potential and reach of Deloraine Online Access Centre

You will be committed for 13 hours per week to manage the day-to-day operations of DOAC and to build its usage within the community. Award-level remuneration.

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For further details, including a brief position description: mvolinc@gmail.com



I HAVE an ACER digital projector (for home theatre or the like) in perfect condition that I have used but twice. All the parts, carry case and software are included.

I hope there may be local interest for this give-away and that a community group might find this useful for entertainment/presentations.

I contacted ACER customer service and they assure me that while the unit is no longer in warranty, it is serviceable and if in future there is need for parts/etc. ACER will be able to advise.

My contact details are Jan Blakeney, mobile 0407 812 331.

Thanks for helping Meander Valley stay connected.
Jan Blakeney



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The *Gazette* wishes to upgrade its website for greater community involvement, enhance its advertising potential, and deliver digital copies to readers.

- Well paid position.
- Minimum commitment for 100 hours per month (flexible) over a four month period.

Applicants with strong web skills, and high level communication skills are sought immediately.

For further details, including a brief position description:

editor@meandervalleygazette.com



EST.
2013

Meander Valley Gazette

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Editorial enquiries

Contributions welcome!

Email: editor@meandervalleygazette.com

Phone: 6286 8212 (Please leave a message – it will send an email.)

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Website and digital editions

Every month, the stories from the latest edition of the *Gazette* are posted on our website: www.meandervalleygazette.org.

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

All editions of the *Gazette* are available to be downloaded as PDFs from the website 'shop' free of charge.

To have a digital copy emailed to you, please email a request to general@meandervalleygazette.com.

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Fence ordered as solution to axed Westbury trees

Sharon Webb

TASMANIA'S PLANNING authority has told Westbury neighbours warring over historic trees to build a fence and ordered Meander Valley Council to reverse its rejection of one of the neighbours' planning application.

In August last year Robert Gray decided to rid himself of tree branches overhanging the boundary between his 34 Marriott Street property and Fitzpatrick's Inn.

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

Police said they could do nothing and Mrs Swain was in tears as the sound of three chainsaws reverberated at the end of her garden for about seven hours.

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

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

Meander Valley Council refused Mr Gray's application to subdivide his property to build units at Marriott Street and Mr Gray appealed to the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal (RMPAT), which set aside the council's decision and granted the subdivision subject to conditions. But it did not mention the chainsawed trees in its decision.

A 1.8m high timber paling fence must be erected, at the expense of both property owners, along the boundary between the new units Mr Gray intends to build and Fitzpatrick's Inn.

If the fence intersects the trunk of an existing tree and/or involves excavation within the tree protection zone of an existing tree, a qualified arborist must supervise fence construction so as to avoid irreparable tree damage.

The fence design and construction method must be approved by Meander Valley Council's town planner and installed in accordance with the approved design and construction method.

In addition, an agreement must be registered providing for the hedge fronting Meander Valley Road and Marriott Street to remain

intact, maintaining a minimum height of 1.5m to ensure longterm survival.

The hedge must not be removed or destroyed without the written consent of the council.

All costs associated with preparing and registering the agreement must be borne by Mr Gray and his wife Leeanne.

When councillors discussed Mr Gray's planning application, they heard neither property owner knew exactly where the boundary was.

That problem was also resolved in the RMPAT negotiations, with the two owners agreeing on a boundary.

The trees are now listed with the Heritage Tasmania.

In its decision, RMPAT referred Mr Gray to the Australian Standard AS4970 *Protection of Trees on Development Sites*.

But it is believed that Meander Valley Council's planning scheme does not recognise that standard.

Meander Valley Council's general manager John Jordan did not reply to questions about whether the incoming planning scheme would recognise it.

RMPAT ordered the three parties to pay their own costs of the appeal.



The damaged trees along the boundary of Fitzpatrick's Inn, shortly after the trees were axed. The hedge that is now to be preserved intact can be seen in the foreground. *Photo supplied*


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Thank You For Supporting Us.

2020 was a challenging year for us all, and we were overwhelmed with the positive support from the community regarding our decisions concerning safety and restrictions and the adherence to public health directions. Your support made it possible for us to create the safest possible environment for our residents and staff.

We'd like to give a heartfelt thank you to all of our wonderful residents, families and loved ones, staff, volunteers, contractors, suppliers and the entire community for your support over the last 12 months.

AGED CARE DELORAINÉ INC

Phone. 6362 8300

Email. info@agedcaredeloraine.org.au

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Aged Care Deloraine supports the needs of individuals by providing quality residential aged care services and independent living units to the Meander Valley Community. Between our two facilities, Kanangra and Grenoch, we deliver care and support covering 95 permanent residential care beds with respite care also available.

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Call us today to see how we can help.

Australia Day awards celebrate

THE ACHIEVEMENTS of Meander Valley citizens were celebrated by Australia Day awards in January.

Former Legislative Councillor for McIntyre, Greg Hall, was honoured with an AM in the Australia Day Honours list for 2021.

Meander Valley Council named former Deloraine butcher, Don Simpson, its Citizen of the Year and gave its sports award to Australian darts representative Lachlan Gleeson of Montana.

Meander Valley's Community Event of the Year was awarded to Purple for Prostate, three Westbury women raising funds to support prostate cancer sufferers.

Twenty-one Meander Valley volunteers were also recognised for their contributions, with the operators of Deloraine House receiving an exceptional service award for their work throughout the COVID-19 lockdown.

'When similar support agencies were closing, Deloraine House was expanding their services, the only organisation of its kind remaining open in the north of the state', Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

'Despite the difficult circumstances, Deloraine House became a vital service, providing emergency and food relief to stranded backpackers, temporarily unemployed harvest workers and the homeless.'



Lachlan Gleeson continues a family darts tradition.

Success at darts for Lachlan

LACHLAN GLEESON of Montana credits his dad Roger and Deloraine's dart players for boosting his success in the sport.

Lachlan was awarded the Meander Valley Sports Award.

Lachlan, 18, represented Australia in the under 18 darts team in Gibraltar in 2019 and has Played in the Tasmanian under 18 team for two years.

The tractor driver attended school in Deloraine, learnt from his dad who played darts in pubs around Deloraine, and said the Deloraine Darts Club and the Northern Tasmanian Darts Club have also supported him.



Greg Hall credits family and community support for his achievements. Photo by Mike Moores

Australia Day award recognises Hall's lifetime commitment

THE FORMER Tasmanian Legislative Council member, Greg Hall, was awarded one of the highest national Australia Day Awards, member of the Order of Australia (AM).

'It's always humbling and unexpected to receive an award of this nature', he said.

'It would have been unachievable without the strong and unswerving support I received from my wife Kathy, who kept the farming 'home fires burning' whilst I was away on council and parliamentary duties.

'I have also been fortunate to have had strong relationships with our 4 adult children and subsequently grandchildren.'

Mr Hall, who was also mayor of the former Deloraine Council, has been recognised for contributions to the Parliament of Tasmania and to Tasmania's agriculture industry.

In the early 1980s Mr Hall's family developed a fresh berry enterprise producing

raspberries which were exported to the USA and as the berry orchard developed over time it expanded to include new varieties of raspberries and blackberries.

The resulting berry farm at Dunorlan was a fully accredited supplier to Woolworths and Coles and fruit was shipped out daily. By now the farm was employing up to 50 casual workers at peak season and three permanent employees.

Mr Hall's parliamentary commitment involved moving the business away from berries into a contract weight gain enterprise for dairy heifers.

He said his farming philosophy remained steadfast to farm in a sustainable manner, fence off creeks and watercourses to prevent stock access and to plant a few hundred trees every year for shelter belts and aesthetic appeal.

'An agricultural business cannot survive without excellent

staff, and I would like to single out Brian Morice who worked for us for some 40 years', Mr Hall said.

'It was also very satisfying to be able to provide some 50 seasonal jobs for local people, many their first job, when we were engaged in horticulture and dairy farming.'

Mr Hall said he achieved great satisfaction serving in a public capacity, and also in a voluntary capacity across a range of many organizations, and the opportunities that presented to assist people wherever possible.

'I would like to put on the public record my sincere appreciation to all those public spirited and community minded people I have worked with over the journey.

There are far too many to name, but all have played important roles in helping to make our community a better place.'



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Purple for Prostate win Community Event of the Year



Katrina Winzar, Anne Sackley and Gay Hall, Westbury's Purple for Prostate ladies are committed to raising community awareness of prostate cancer. *Photo supplied*

WESTBURY'S UNIQUE Purple for Prostate ladies have been awarded the Community Event of the Year in the Meander Valley's Australia Day awards.

Katrina Winzar, Anne Sackley and Gay Hall raise funds to support sufferers of prostate cancer.

Over three years they have raised \$36,000, donated to the Tasmanian Cancer Council to fund men who can't afford scans for the disease.

The women have run market stalls selling homemade preserves, relishes and coat-hanger covers and held auctions. Dying their hair purple and shaving their heads netted \$10,000 in one event.

Purple for Prostate paid credit to local Rotary and Lions groups, and to Pearn's Steam World for their support.

Katrina said, 'Community support has been unbelievable. I don't know where you'd find a better community. They open their arms and their pockets.'

'We started out to raise awareness of prostate cancer', Anne said. 'A lot of men don't have wives to remind them to get checked.'

celebration in the Simpson family. It was Don and Sheila's 63rd wedding anniversary.

Their four kids are spread far and wide, but are still in Tasmania.

David works for Woolies, Rodney at Ashley Detention Centre, Steven in banking and Robyn in Launceston.

'You do things without needing recognition. I like to help people out', Don said.



Citizen of the Year for 'local butcher' Don Simpson

DON SIMPSON is known by longtime Deloraine residents as the town's butcher, although he hasn't been that for a long time.

These days he's retired. He and his wife Sheila live just along the road from their former business at the top of the town, now the Deloraine Deli.

'I ran Simpson's Meat Mart for 40 years', he said. 'We decided to retire in our late 60s.'

Since then life has been busy. Now 87, Don has been a member of Rotary for 24 years.

Don Simpson is a familiar figure around Deloraine. *Photo supplied*

He still rakes the bunkers at the Deloraine Golf Club and takes away the rubbish every Friday.

He's a life member of the Golf Club and the Deloraine Districts Anglers Club.

Don remembers the days when he was captain of the local cricket team and took his own lawn mower to the pitch to cut the grass before they could play.

He's also played basketball, darts and eight ball. 'There wasn't anything I didn't play but I didn't do anything well', he commented.

The day Meander Valley Council named Don as Citizen of the Year was a double

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At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society by Clare Andersen

March 13 **BABYTEETH**

2019 NR, Comedy/drama, Australia, 117m
Director Shannon Murphy

When seriously ill teenager Milla falls madly in love with small-time drug dealer Moses, it's her parents' worst nightmare. As Milla's first brush with love brings her a new lust for life, things get messy and traditional morals go out the window. She soon shows everyone in her orbit how to live like you have nothing to lose.

What might have been a disaster for the family instead leads to letting go and finding grace in the glorious chaos of life. *Babyteeth* explores how good it is not to be dead and how far we will go for love.



Babyteeth premiered at the 2019 Venice Film Festival and has won a number of major international awards.

Blitzing the 2020 AACTA (Australian Academy of Cinema & Television Arts) Awards in 2020, *Babyteeth* won nine, awards, including Best Film, Best Direction for Debut Director, Best Screenplay, and all four actor categories.

Eliza Scanlan (*Little Women*, 2019) as Milla, Essie Davis (*Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*) and Ben Mendelsohn give finely shaded performances to match the script adapted by Rita Kalnejais from her stage play.

Babyteeth is the feature directing debut of Australian director Shannon Murphy.

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Village Central Westbury Fashion Resellers are about to make an exciting move

We are joining a new hub in Westbury, incorporated with **Westbury Hardware Home & Co** and **Verde Café**.

The hub will soon be complemented by the new Western Tiers Distillery, opening soon, across the road.

A big thank you to all our customers at 55 William Street.

We look forward to seeing you at 62 Meander Valley Road from early February.

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Donations of good quality clothing and accessories enables **Westbury Health** to continue supporting local community groups including, to date, Westbury Primary School, Westbury Scout Group and the Westbury Community Centre.

For more information, please follow us on Facebook or email us at westburyhealth@gmail.com





A delightful corner for quilters

Liisa Dawson and Khan have a warm welcome for everyone at The Quilters Corner – a treasure trove of quilting and haberdashery supplies. Photo supplied

LIISA DAWSON, her partner Darren Harris and Khan the greyhound have made the move from the northern suburbs of Brisbane to Deloraine to find a quieter way of life and a sense of community.

As well as chasing cooler weather, a more relaxed lifestyle is possible in a smaller town, says Liisa. 'In Deloraine you are round the corner from everything'.

Liisa's philosophy has always been to go with the flow. 'If it's meant to be, its going to be.'

So her lifelong love of sewing and quilting was destined to happen. As was settling into a new life in Tasmania and then finding the perfect space

in which to open a quilting supplies shop, at the back of Deloraine Creative Studios on Emu Bay Road.

As a child Liisa sewed scrap material together, while sitting opposite her grandmother, who worked as a seamstress.

Despite learning the art of sewing at a young age, Liisa chose midwifery as her career, but after 20 years, Liisa gave up work to care for her mother.

With time on her hands at home, Liisa ruefully acknowledges that with two sons, the opportunities to sew clothes was always going to be somewhat limited.

But then Liisa discovered quilting. And as she describes

it, once she picks up the needle and thread, 'everything else falls by the way'.

Liisa's dedication to quilting has slowly transformed her career. Starting with quilting classes for other parents at her boys' school, a shopping expedition to a local quilt shop provided the opportunity for Liisa to expand her teaching into the wider world.

From there, a chance to open a small shop of her own led to 15 years of sharing her love of the craft with the quilting community in Brisbane.

Store front quilting and sewing shops are a dying institution. With so much shopping and instructional information

available online, it is now possible to learn a craft without any human interaction.

Traditional skills are constantly being 'discovered' by newer, internet savvy generations, but Liisa firmly believes those who love the craft should build a community around it.

With a lifetime of sewing and quilt making, and practical experience, Liisa is passionate about sharing her knowledge.

For those of us still scarred by compulsory school sewing lessons, Liisa advises we rediscover our love of creating with small, achievable projects.

And because Liisa advocates the old fashioned approach, she has opened her Deloraine

shop, The Quilters Corner – a garden of delights for any dedicated quilters in the valley.

Liisa is also planning a broader range of haberdashery items to fill the gap in what is available locally.

Beginners' quilting classes will be held at the shop, starting in March and Liisa has a class list ready for those interested in booking. Classes will be held during the day but with sufficient interest, evening classes could be a possibility.

And during shop hours, Liisa is available for a consult or a chat about quilting any time.

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Labor

The art of Keith Looby

ARTS DELORAINE is proud to present a free screening of *Looby*.

Archibald prize winner in 1984, Keith Looby won major art prizes at home and abroad. Today his name and works are rarely seen.

'Looby's insistence on painting controversial figures – from communist Rupert Lockwood to feminist Anne Summers – won him few friends in power. Likewise, his illustrations on the horrors of colonialism – *Black and White History of Australia* – remain confronting today.'

Born in Sydney, Keith Looby entered the National Art School at age 15 and graduated with an unmistakable style that went on to win the Sulman, Blake and Archibald prizes. The latter was a portrait of Max Gillies as Bob Hawke.

'Looby's original score complements the mercurial moods of the man, while calm cinematography invites viewers to luxuriate in the striking figures and expansive scale of his work. With an ostracised artist at its centre, *Looby* lets us appreciate what establishment tastemakers no longer can.'



Resurrection by Keith Looby, National Gallery of Australia Photo supplied

Date
Sunday
21 February 2021

Time
4pm
(please arrive early)

Duration
80 min
(plus Q+A after the screening)

Where
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Deloraine
Performing Arts
Centre

Tickets
Free but booking
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New prison plan drags on

Sharon Webb

THE STATE Government appears to be keeping its plan for a new prison ticking over in 2021 but it's not yet a major priority.

Premier Peter Gutwein did not list the prison in his January announcement of government priorities for the year, mentioning only the Covid-19 vaccination rollout, a land tax review, the commission of enquiry into sexual abuse and a new government information portal.

He also mentioned the more populist issues of the inclusion

of a Tasmanian NBL team and the continued push for a Tasmania based AFL team.

The project's absence makes the State Government's claim that the prison is a 'shovel ready' infrastructure plan to help Tasmania's economic recovery from COVID-19 questionable.

Questioned on the omission, Mr Gutwein reiterated the Government's \$111 million commitment to complete stage one of the \$270 million prison project.

He said, 'This vital project will support more than 1,000

jobs and deliver an economic boost of \$500 million to the region.'

Later a government media office spokesman fudged the issue by saying the project 'remains a very important priority project for the government' and 'it was not possible for the premier to mention every priority of government at this time.'

But the spokesperson for WRAP, Linda Poulton said the 2020/2021 State budget indicated that a relatively small portion of the prison's funding allocation will be spent in

the 2020–21 and 2021–22 financial years.

'The first really significant spend, \$32.6m, won't occur until mid 2022', she said.

'The Justice Department previously indicated that construction works for Stage 1 of the prison will begin next year.'

'This is obviously preposterous given that they are already lagging months behind and their application will need to go through a lengthy planning process.'

The prison project's lag has not been helped by the Justice Dept's change of environmental consultant for the Brushy Creek Reserve location in December last year.

The original consultant, Mark Wapstra of EcoTas, 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 has now engaged North Barker Ecosystems Services, a company engaged by WRAP to provide the group with environmental advice.

North Barker denies they ever agreed to work for WRAP but an email from employee Grant Daniels on December 22 indicated otherwise, saying, 'Unfortunately we are no longer in a position to consider offering our services to your group on this project.'

Stop prison on reserve, locals tell federal environment minister

Sharon Webb

THE ANTI-PRISON group WRAP has called on Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley to stop the proposed Birrale Road prison under Regional Forest Agreement contractual arrangements between the Commonwealth and Tasmania.

Ms Ley visited Tasmania for three days in January but did not visit the Brushy Creek Reserve proposed as a site for a new prison.

Linda Poulton from WRAP said allowing the prison

to go ahead would be a blatant attack on the National Reserve System established by the Howard Government in the late 1990s, which in turn reflects poorly on Australia's international commitments to protect biodiversity.

Anti-prison group CROWPS criticised Ms Ley's 'neglect', urging her to 'uphold her duties as the Federal Minister for the Environment by keeping the Tasmanian Government transparent and accountable'.

But Minister Ley's office said she has written to Tasmania's

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) restating the Tasmanian government's obligations under the Private Forests Reserves Program Financial Agreement and the RFA.

A spokesperson said Ms Ley has also sought information from DPIPWE regarding the natural values of the site and any impacts on the CAR reserve system, established as part of the RFA in 1997.

He said the Brushy Creek Reserve has not been referred for assessment under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act (EPBC Act).

But Ms Poulton said taking any steps under the EPBC Act is being hampered because even basic details of what the State Government plans to do on the reserve have not been released.

According to Justice Minister Elise Archer's own timetable for the prison, the planning application was meant to be lodged in December last year.

Interested parties believe the State Government is dragging out the process, wanting to appear to gain a mandate for the prison at the next State election.

Ms Poulton said, 'We do not have even the most basic

information about what the development will look like.

'By keeping this behind closed doors, the State Government effectively is not letting anyone form an opinion on what position to take, whether that is to challenge the project under the EPBC Act or otherwise.'

Ms Poulton said the Commonwealth Government's permission is essentially a precondition to the prison development, not necessarily as a matter arising under the EPBC Act, but by virtue of the contractual agreements between the Commonwealth and the State governing the CAR Reserve System.

'This is why the State Government has to provide Minister Ley with their environmental consultant's report. I believe the State Government is trying to convince the Commonwealth that carving out 16 hectares from the reserve is an acceptable minor variation of the amount of land set aside for the reserve system under the relevant agreements, and that it is not inconsistent with the agreements if this occurs so long as the remainder is formally reserved', she said.

'But the prison's presence will impact not only on the

area on which it's constructed but also on the rest of the reserve and surrounding areas in a far greater way. It is obvious that such a development is completely inconsistent with the purpose of the acquisition of the reserve and maintaining the natural values of the rest of the reserve intact.

'In my view it is patently a breach of contract, and no private landowner with similar conservation obligations would be able to get away with this. But the State Government is still trying to convince the Commonwealth that this is acceptable.'

It appears that an environmental report is a long way off, as a replacement consultant for EcoTas, who dropped out, has just begun work. A government spokesman said North Barker will be working on site 'for a number of months'.

Spokesperson for CROWPS Aaron Reader said, 'Our members, along with many fellow Tasmanians, are concerned that the Tasmanian Government is pushing hard to get this project across their line despite the damage that this will cause not only to the environment but also to the Tasmanian taxpayer's pockets.'

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Sarah Lloyd OAM

MANY ANIMALS, like many people, have favourite places to hang out. For instance, every time I visit Westbury Reserve on warm sunny days, I see two or three Tasmanian Tree Skinks (*Carinascincus pretiosus*) on a particular log not far from the entrance.

Much further on in the reserve, on the rocky slope above Brushy Rivulet, there's a family of White's skinks (*Liopholus whitii*), fast moving reptiles that dart to their burrows whenever they sense danger. I detected such a movement during a visit in early January, and when I returned several days later, a skink was resting in exactly the same place and obligingly allowed close observation.

Unlike the tree skinks on the log, which are often indistinguishable from other small skink species, White's skink is one of our most recognisable reptiles. It is a medium sized lizard, boldly patterned with stripes and spots along the length of its stocky body. It lives for about 8–9 years, but it grows slowly and doesn't attain its full snout-vent length of 80 mm until it's about four years old.

White's skinks are viviparous, i.e. they give birth to live young rather than laying eggs like some other reptiles. Their dual entrance burrows (for ventilation and escape) are large enough to accommodate the family group comprising a pair of adults plus 3 or 4 young. The latest offspring may stay close to their parents for up to a year.

White's skinks feed on spiders, millipedes, ants and other insects and occasionally plant

material. Interestingly, they are unusual among Tasmanian lizards in regularly defecating at the same place.

Another unmistakable reptile spotted on a grassy north facing hillside at the reserve is the blotched bluetongue (*Tiliqua nigrolutea*), our largest lizard. Bluetongues are slow moving animals so they're never far from a protective cover of dead or live vegetation. They tend to wander in search of just about anything. Their diet includes insects, slugs, snails, and plant material such as flowers, fungi and berries. (They have a penchant for strawberries in home gardens.)

Bluetongues can move surprisingly quickly if threatened, but they often stand their ground, inflating their bodies, and sticking out their blue tongues before exhaling with an audible hiss. They can bite but they don't have venom and their conical teeth are more likely to bruise than cut. Bluetongues also give birth to live young, producing large litters of between 6 and 15 offspring at the end of summer.

Our most venomous reptile is the Tiger snake (*Notechis scutatus*), which is more likely to retreat than strike despite its fearsome reputation. It typically has a home range of several hectares with various retreat sites suitable for different conditions, e.g. low lying areas are abandoned if they're inundated after rain. Tigers are also viviparous, a strategy that may have evolved to overcome the unpredictable nature of Tasmania's summer. Internally developing eggs are more likely to survive a sudden cold snap, than eggs laid in the open.

Reptiles at Westbury Reserve



Above, blotched bluetongue, (*Tiliqua nigrolutea*) Tasmania's largest lizard. Below, White's skink (*Liopholus whitii*) easily recognised by its pattern of spots and stripes. Photos by Sarah Lloyd OAM



It's the wrong end, say Birralees residents on highway upgrade decision

Sharon Webb

DEPUTY PM Michael McCormack launched northern Tasmania's \$55m freight corridor in January, at the Batman Highway end of the route.

The move has baffled many Birralees Road residents because they believe the road will not be in a safe enough condition to use while the proposed new prison is built on the Brushy Creek Reserve.

Torey Taylor, spokesperson for anti-prison Birralees residents concerned about the road, said Birralees Road's surface is possibly in worse shape than the Batman/East Tamar sections of the freight corridor.

'We can't understand why that section is being worked on first when the government plans to build the prison on the Birralees Road section,' she said.

'If the entire corridor does not meet regulation width, then why have the plans for upgrade taken a decade to even commence? Shouldn't

safety have been put first, even before fancy new lanes on the Midland Highway?'

But anti-prison group WRAP believes the choice of the Batman Highway for the first roadworks reflects the significant slowdown already evident in the State Government's prison plans.

Spokesperson Linda Poulton said it seems Birralees Road works have been relegated to 2022 or 2023, with the whole package to be complete in 2024.

'We believe it likely they are being synchronised with the timeline for the construction of the prison. It would be foolhardy for the government to start changing Birralees Road now until it has a clear idea of what will happen with its prison plan,' she said.

Mr McCormack announced that Tasmanian construction company Hazell Bros had started upgrading the Batman Highway between East Tamar Highway and the Batman Bridge.

Ms Taylor scoffed at State transport minister Michael Ferguson's comments in the *Examiner* that there are centre lines on that road but no lines on the sides of the road 'because it's not regulation width.'

'Good to hear that Mr Ferguson has finally admitted that road sections designated a freight corridor for over a decade don't meet safety standards and his government sat on its hands knowing full well something could have been done sooner,' she said.

'Residents are aware of at least one transport company that doesn't use Birralees Road, because of safety concerns.'

Ms Taylor said the government had upgraded the East Tamar Highway thinking Gunn's pulp mill was a done deal.

'Yet they remain at planning stages on below standard Birralees Road where they are hoping to construct their own [prison] development? A decade of ongoing damage to Birralees Road's surface

condition, when the upgrades could have been fast tracked when they were needed in 2012.

'Residents are furious that the government has done nothing while Birralees Road has deteriorated, with money wasted patching it up.

'Upgrades won't be completed in time to cope with

extra traffic when the prison is being constructed. Residents raised these issues with the Justice Department but they fell on deaf ears.'

The freight corridor is jointly funded, with a Federal commitment of \$44 million and the Tasmanian Government committing \$11 million.

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Northern Regional Prison Project Update - February 2021

Current activities and focus

As noted in last month's update, there is a significant body of work either underway or required in order to progress the Particular Purpose Zone and Development Application submissions. Work is continuing on the due diligence tasks required to inform the planning process. A new environmental consultant has been engaged and will continue the important environmental investigations required to build our understanding of the site.

Community Impacts

The Government understands that there are some within the community who have concerns about the Northern Regional Prison project and that there are also people and businesses who are eagerly awaiting the development and the employment, business and investment opportunities it will provide for the region.

This month we address some of the specific concerns that have been raised in relation to the potential impact of the project on the local community.

Does having a prison nearby lead to increased crime rates?

Experience in New South Wales has been that concerns about an increase in crime rates as a result of a prison being built in an area were common prior to prisons being built.

However, once the facilities were operational these concerns were allayed and over time there has not been an increase in crime rates as a result of new prisons being constructed.

A number of measures will be put in place to reduce this risk in relation to the Northern Regional Prison, including offering a range of rehabilitation programs and supports that assist prisoners to prepare for their release and not return to their offending behaviour.

Studies in NSW have also indicated that following their release it is uncommon for prisoners to choose to live in the local area unless they were a resident prior to entering prison.

What security measures will be in place?

While details of the specific security arrangements for the Northern Regional Prison will be determined as part of the detailed design, and the facility will have multiple security features to ensure the safety of staff, visitors and the wider community.

Prison design and security systems are continually evolving. The Northern Regional Prison project team will be examining the latest security features and contemporary technologies available to ensure safety and security is a priority during the design process.

Will the area develop a negative reputation as a result of the prison?

Studies conducted interstate show that following the establishment of a correctional facility, there has not been a negative impact on the image or reputation of the region and surrounding areas. In fact, studies show it is more likely to have a positive effect through increased social and economic opportunities.

For example, studies after the establishment of the Mid North Coast and Lithgow correctional centres in NSW both found that the presence of the centres had not attached a stigma to the towns. In the case of the Mid North Coast Correctional Centre, research indicated that the Centre may have led to a more positive image of the town amongst its residents, as a result of the direct and indirect employment opportunities and economic development within the town.

Does a prison reduce property values?

Experience in New South Wales has shown concerns about effects on property values following construction of new prisons were not realised, and that property prices in the surrounding areas increased. Property prices reflect a range of factors, including the quality of housing stock, access to jobs and services, and broader market conditions.

The increased number of employees and service providers and others coming to work, provide services or visit the region may also have a positive impact on property prices if these people decide to live near the facility.

The Social and Economic Impact Study for the Northern Regional Prison released in June 2020 considered these matters in more detail, and anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to view this document on the Northern Regional Prison website www.justice.tas.gov.au/strategic-infrastructure-projects/new-northern-prison#The-Social-and-Economic-Impact-Study.

Where to find out more

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



David Claridge

A NEW country party band has emerged in the valley – a group of friends who started jamming towards the end of the Covid lockdown and already have a couple of gigs already under their belt.

Nathan Talbot, who organises Tin Cup Country and plays with the Blackstone Dukes, tells how Whiskey for Her Men got together.

'I did a fill in gig for the Brown Chords one night and reunited with Martin Eade who I went to high school with.

'Andrew Richardson from the Blackstone Dukes was doing a duo with Naomi Leighton. We all decided to get together and see what we could do.

'We were just bantering around with band names. I suggested Whiskey For Her Men which is a take on a Toby



Keith song "Whiskey for my men, beer for my horses".

'We want to make a real polished show of it with some originals in the mix. We just want to have some fun with it.'

Whiskey for Her Men do country party band covers and some well known favourites.

Andrew Richardson is bass and vocals, Martin Eade is lead guitar and lead vocals, Naomi Leighton is lead vocals and Nathan is on drums.

The band is looking for gigs, weddings or parties. Phone 0428 445 113 or email whiskey-forhermen@gmail.com.

Staff changes at Meander Valley Council

Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY Council's general manager John Jordan has axed the position of one of the council's four directors in a restructure of staff late in 2020.

He said the restructure was 'commissioned' by councillors.

In addition, the council advertised eight jobs in *The Examiner* in January.

Mr Jordan said, 'The council's establishment has increased as a result of the organisational review. The advertisements reflect vacancies.'

The restructure discontinued the position of Director of Community and Development Services, formerly held by Lynette While.

Krista Palfreyman has been appointed to the new position of Director of Development and Regulatory Services.

Mr Jordan denied there were forced redundancies.

He said, 'The directorate of Community and Development Services was restructured and the old director role discontinued.'

'Officers impacted by changes to their roles were provided the

full range of options under the council's enterprise agreement.'

The eight jobs advertised in *The Examiner* were:

- Manager, Community Programs
- Team Leader, Project Management & Waste Strategy
- Health, Safety & Emergency Management Coordinator
- Graduate Environmental Health Officer
- Graduate Engineer
- Administration Officer
- Technical Officer GIS
- Project Manager, Waste Services.

Government slammed for inadequate Ashley

Sharon Webb

A DAMNING 58 per cent recidivism rate at Ashley Detention Centre has been revealed in January's Productivity Commission Report into government services.

In addition, the report said there is a fourfold increase in assault and self harm in the youth detention centre near Deloraine.

The report comes as Sebastian Buscemi of Odin Lawyers has submitted claims to the upcoming government child abuse inquiry that child abuse continues at the centre.

He claims these abuses violate the rights of children there, as set down by the United Nations.

'Child abuse has existed at AYDC the entire time [it has existed], however the dynamic in which it occurs today is distinctly different compared to 10, 20 or 50 years ago', Mr Buscemi claimed.

'It may be convenient or tempting to say that the abuse

at AYDC today is not as 'serious' as it was in the past and that this is the result of better systems and practices. However, this would be a significant mischaracterisation of the situation and in particular of the harm inflicted.'

Mr Buscemi gives multiple examples in his submission.

He claims children should not be held at Ashley on remand, having not yet been through the courts system.

'While children are being remanded due to absence of suitable accommodation, there is no further intervention with that child once at AYDC to address this (as is required by law).

'This means a child who is homeless on admission remains homeless on discharge. The often minor nature of offences and the disregard shown to the requirement to intervene, is further evidence that remand is being used in Tasmania for purely punitive purposes.

'This process is entirely inconsistent with even the bare

minimum requirements of the child protection framework. On the other hand, such an approach is entirely consistent with a system of control and punishment, not justice.'

Shadow Child Safety Minister Josh Willie said that despite the government's repeated claims that it is improving the circumstances and outcomes for young Tasmanians who end up in detention, the situation continues to deteriorate.

'Rather than providing the therapeutic care necessary, this government and Minister Roger Jaensch keep on the same failed track,' he said.

'Since this government came to office ... more than half of the young offenders released from detention end up back inside within a year,' Mr Willie said.

'The rise of incidents of young people inflicting self harm or being assaulted and brutalised while in detention at the Ashley Youth Detention Centre is alarming.

'This requires an urgent response from this government, not more platitudes and motherhood statements. It's a failed strategy that does not protect young people detained in state facilities.'



Top, John Parish holding an armature for a bird sculpture. Photo by Hayley Manning

Above, one of John's wildlife sculptures. Photo supplied

DO YOU always understand the artworks that you see? If you don't, you are not alone!

Would it be helpful to hear the artist talking about the interests and intentions that inform their artmaking?

During 2021, Arts Deloraine plans to facilitate artists' talk sessions for those interested to learn more about local artists and their work.

You will be invited to various venues throughout the year, to enjoy wine and nibbles whilst hearing the artist talk about their artmaking practice.

The first event will be with local artist John Parish.

It will take place at Trowunna Wild Life Park, Mole Creek, at 6 for 6.30pm on Friday 12 February. Entry is free, wine and cheese by donation.

Androo Kelly, Director of Trowunna, will give a Welcome to Country. John will then discuss his art practice, philosophy and feelings for wildlife, and the joy they give him as he draws, photographs and sculpts whilst closely observing and creating in the wild.

There will be time for questions from the audience and further discussion with the artist.

Arts Deloraine hope you will come to support John Parish, one of our locally renowned artists.

TOOSEY Caring for our community

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

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St Patrick's students learn conservation skills



Above, St Patricks College students who worked on the Sassafras Creek Conservation Project. Back row: David Hayward (teacher), Evan Milne, Thomas Crack, Cormac Smith, Hallie Triffitt, Chris McMonagle (Parks and Wildlife), William Hinds. Front row: Trilelle Vimpany-Tubb, Lucy Waud, Alex Johns, Jackson Howard, Deb Hunter (speleologist).

Below, crossing the creek: Alex Johns, Ella Roles (teacher), Evan Milne, Trilelle Vimpany-Tubb, Jackson Howard.



Sharon Webb

LAST YEAR nine students at St Patrick's College, Launceston, joined the Sassafras Creek Conservation Project near Mole Creek as part of a brand new vocational education course developed by teacher David Hayward.

'It's for Year 11 students who want to go into the police, fire brigade, Parks and Wildlife, ambulance and conservation. To my knowledge nothing like it exists in Australia', he said

'Students learn bushwalking, navigation and survival skills. They get exposure to people doing land conservation work and understand what it's like to work as a park ranger.'

This year the course, Vocational Skills in Emergency Responses, Survival and Wilderness Conservation, will continue with 18 students cleaning up this valley damaged by grazing, flooding and bushfires. They will be removing weeds, old fencing and non-native trees, as well as planting native poa grass to hold together eroded soil.

David said the students enjoyed the hands-on aspect of the course.

'After learning about it in the classroom they were willing to give it a go. In the classroom we went through how to use tools and workplace health and safety. We talked about the

uniqueness and importance of the World Heritage area.

'The last time we went out there it rained the whole day but it didn't stop the students getting stuck in', David said.

'We ended up with a double axle trailer and a ute tray full of weeds. Pretty impressive for young adults.'

Local karst landscape expert and speleologist Deb Hunter describes this as a cultural landscape and the two St Patrick's students with Aboriginal backgrounds were especially interested.

'You don't keep talking at kids', she said. 'You feed them a couple of facts and get on with something practical. Later you can see how far they're thinking.'

One of the students, Will Hinds from Hagley, said the course was his 'favourite class ever'.

'I went out to Mole Creek twice, once an overnighter to clear out laurelberry, while another team planted poa to stop the degradation. I'm a woodcutter so I was helpful.

'The second trip we checked on the poa and removed a few hundred metres of fencing.

'I was originally looking for a military career but now it's the police force. I think this course will help with that and anyway, I like the outdoors and I don't want to see the area not looked after.'



Above, removing non-native laurelberry trees: William Hinds, Evan Milne and Jackson Howard

Left, Students check out a deep erosion gully carved out in a single 2016 flooding event.

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Labor



Deb Hunter –hope and care for the land at Sassafras Creek

Sharon Webb

THE SIGN on the gate to a strip of World Heritage land near Mole Creek is forbidding: 'Private property, no unauthorised access, no shooting. This property is under 24-hour surveillance.'

The narrow road into the Sassafras Creek Conservation project is bordered by private tree plantations owned by corporations.

But a little way in, regiments of mop-like Nitens give way to more natural scenery. Plovers dive bomb my car, and local speleologist and karst expert Deb Hunter tells me I am on the land of the Aboriginal Pallatorre people, who owned it for 5000 years.

'George Robinson commented on the famous Pallatorre women', she said.

'I know of seven possible heritage trees here, shaped by Aborigines. I use that term to distinguish when a tree has been managed by Aboriginal people rather than others.'

This land is the site of the Mole Creek Caving Club's longterm conservation project. Their objectives are based on conservation and providing conservation leadership to young people as well as search and rescue expertise for police and rescue groups.

The heritage trees, as Deb calls them, are *Eucalyptus obliqua* and *viminalis*, both of which can grow to 90m high. Some of their lumpy, knotty trunks were shaped by Aboriginal axes, Deb says, creating burls where the tree bleeds and making them easier to climb.

She takes me inside the secret, hollowed base of one. The 'door' faces north and there is a 'window' to the west.

'Look down', she said, pointing out the base stone.

'Each heritage tree has one, used for grinding ochre (ballawinnie) or possibly as a fish smoker.'

The fish, blackfish, would have come from the nearby fast flowing stream, Deb said. We pull on gumboots to cross its 2m width.

'It's called a karst window; surface water is rare in these limestone landscapes. Most water runs through the caves so it's like a window into the karst', she said.

According to Deb, this land, Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage since 2013, was not originally forested but was grassland valley, an interface between lowlands and Western Tiers highland, between meadow and woodland.

Now degraded by grazing and seriously eroded by flooding, much of the peat in the alpine catchment was burned in the 2016 Lake Mackenzie bush-fire. One deep erosion gully was carved out in a single 2016 flooding event that scoured out glacial rocks, strewing them across the landscape.

'Students can see the sequence of sediments. It's tremendously valuable, about this property, that you can see the landscape's evolution.'

Deb indicates groups of acacias planted under the auspices of wildcare group Karstcare about 15 years ago and more recently planted poa, seedlings from Herbert and Sally Staubmann's natives nursery at Liffey, Habitat Plants.

'Bracken's good too. It makes a thick mat of rhizomes under the soil.'

Then comes the mysterious heart of this valley.

The vegetation is thicker, the air damper as we come closer to the base of the hills. This is where glaciers have decanted their melt into the earth's cavities, water which inevitably joins the karst master stream deep below.

We have arrived at the entrance to Baldock's Cave, at the nose of a glacial valley, gated and locked to all but licence holders.

The bars across the cave's entrance and the detritus of its ancient acetylene gas lighting system are the only signs of people. Baldock's Cave is a dark hole in the rock without concrete paths or steps but with high fauna values.

Over our heads is a canopy of blackwoods and tall emergent eucalypts. There are tree ferns, a thick cover of hen and chicken fern and our steps are cushioned by moss.

We can hear olive and golden whistlers. Deb has recorded 37 species of birds in this valley.

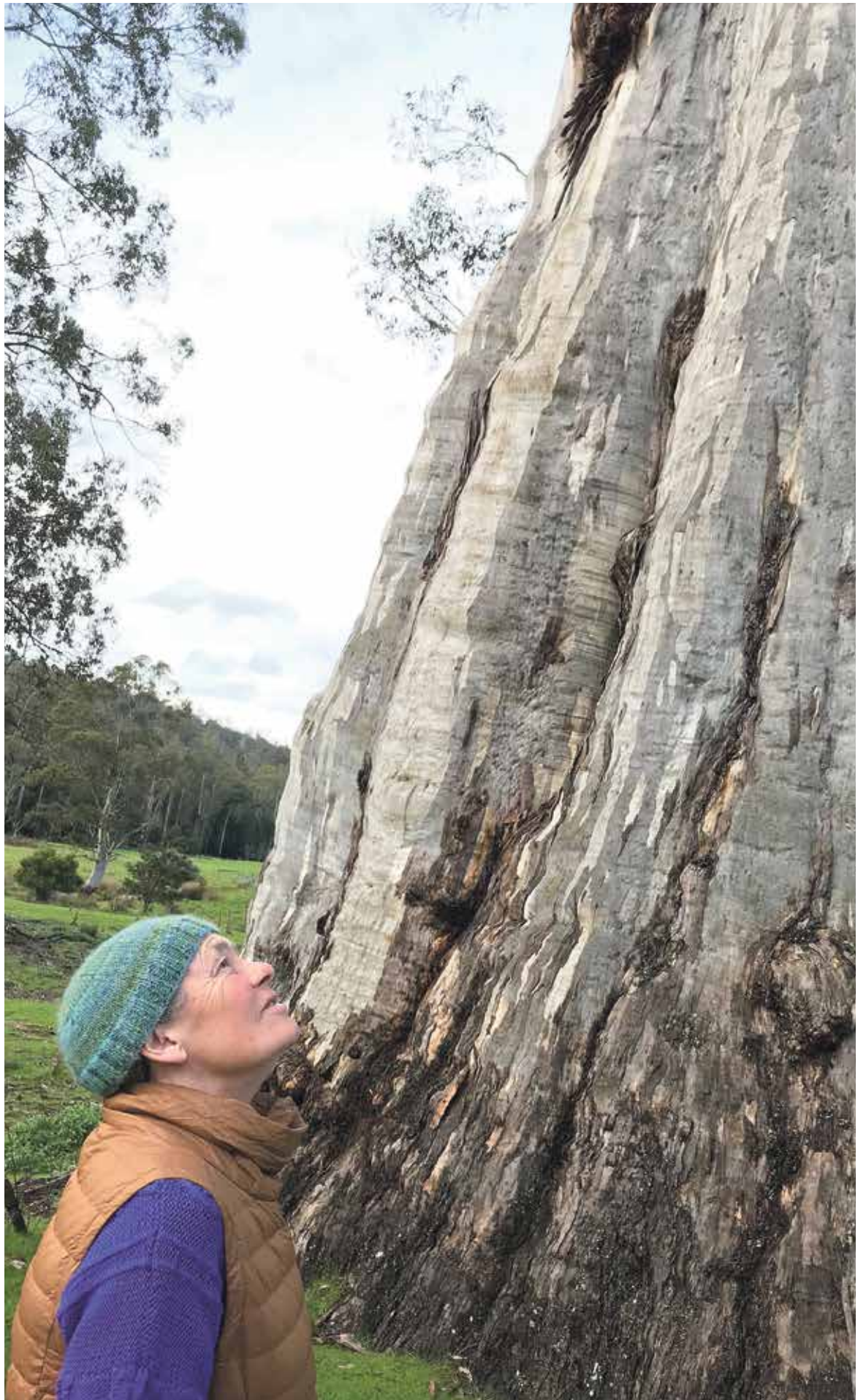
'The devils are back too. They were extinct locally for 10 years because of the facial tumour disease but we started seeing them again 18 months ago.'

As we walk out of the valley Deb speaks of her hopes for it.

'I want this place to be an exemplar, a place where respectful people such as scientists, teachers and students can be on country and work to maintain it as a cultural landscape.'

Having crossed the stream and passed the heritage trees, we drive away from the valley, a double rainbow curves across the sky.

Deb exclaims, 'Oh my god, this place does things like that. Serendipitous!'



Speleologist and karst landscape expert Deb Hunter and a heritage tree on the Sassafras Creek World heritage site. Photo by Sharon Webb

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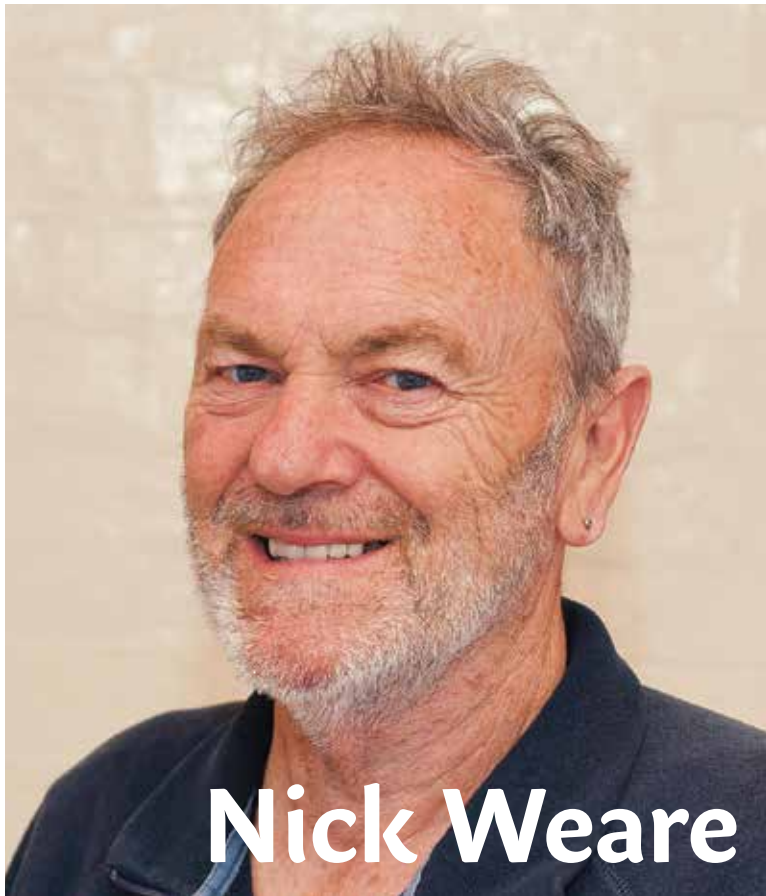
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Nick Weare

The voices of MVFM

John Phelps

'IT SEEMS that Nick Weare was destined for a life in music. Born into a musical Hobart family, he remembers lots of visiting musicians, parties and general music making. And lots of jazz, jazz, jazz, as well as other music genres.

He left high school at the earliest possible moment, to the relief of his headmaster, and went to work in radio and television.

After a few years in Hobart, he moved to the mainland and, for a decade, managed a regional radio station for the ABC. Then, a move to Canberra where he became the Radio and Music Specialist for the National Film and Sound Archive.

One of Nick's retirements came in 2011 and he returned to live in Deloraine where he became significantly involved with the newly established MVFM community radio station.

As well as presenter, he has been on the station's committee for years, including a stint as the President.

Currently, he is the Music Director, a role for which he is uniquely prepared.

He has continued his involvement in the music industry and has organised music festivals, including Deloraine's Stringfest.

And, at home, he sits in his studio surrounded by equipment and thousands of recordings.

With his varied experience with and knowledge about all types of music, it is not surprising that the programs he presents regularly on MVFM are varied.

For instance, you can hear his 'Take it easy' program which features relaxing music from great orchestras, instrumentalists and vocalists on Sunday at 7pm and Friday at 6pm.

For a huge change of style, there is his 'Weird, Wonderful and Wacky Wecords' broadcast on Sunday at 10am and Wednesday at 7pm). What's it about? Well, the name says it all.

And if that's not enough, he also compiles the station's jazz and country music shows.

Tune in to MVFM 96.9 to hear Nick's shows and all the other programs the station offers.



Cynara cardunculus, the Globe Artichoke or Cardoon is both edible and beautiful. Photo supplied



This month, we are reprinting a garden article that Nell wrote two years ago. A recent visit to Nell's garden jogged the memory, with a giant Cardoon in full flower once again.

The weather might not be the same, so the original text has been modified slightly to avoid confusion.

TEMPERATURES FOR the first weeks of 2019 could well compare with those of the mainland states. Rainfall was negligible and many drought tender perennials were wilting in the heat.

Two ornamentals which survived are the Agapanthus and the spectacular two metre

high Cardoon, *Cynara cardunculus*, or the very ornamental Globe Artichoke (pictured).

Both can be invasive and so flowering heads should be removed as soon as they begin to fade.

In fact, it would not be too much of a loss if the flowers of the Cardoon were removed quite early, as its principle attractiveness lies in its huge silver grey deeply cut leaves.

If left to seed, the thistle-down from this plant will invade neighbouring gardens.

Barbecuers get shelter on Westbury Village Green

Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY Council has approved a BBQ shelter on the Westbury Village Green.

Westbury Rotary Club applied to build a shelter 3.5m x 5.65m x 2.75m high near the playground area. It will include the existing table and seats.

Planner Leanne Rabjohns wrote that the facility will provide extra opportunities for park users and is not anticipated to impact on privacy or overshadow adjoining dwellings.

But three residents objected.

Lynette Lenton wrote, 'I am of the opinion that the proposed BBQ shelter is not appropriate for the Village Green as this is an area better suited to the purpose of family picnics, not BBQs.

'The BBQ shelter on the Town Common has not been useable in the five years I have resided in Westbury, due, I assume to vandalism. The BBQ shelter at the recreation ground however is appropriate and used.'

John and Sheilagh Beale have privacy concerns.

'We note that the BBQ structure will be sited directly opposite the entry to our property on the edge of the Green on the western side and will thus impact on our privacy and peaceful atmosphere which we now enjoy', they wrote.

'Siting the BBQ where it is planned will, from what we have heard, not be welcome by those who live on the western side of the Green at the bottom end of Lonsdale Lane. It is too close to their properties and will devalue them.

'Furthermore, the diagram submitted by council is completely out of date by about 100 years. Please note there are eight properties along the western side of the Green and not three. The applicants should be made aware of this.'

Ms Rabjohns replied that passive recreation is an appropriate use of the area and that noise generated from the proposed BBQ shelter would be similar to that generated from persons using the existing picnic table.

'The matter of devaluation of properties is not a matter dealt with under the *Land Use Planning and Approval Act 1993*.'

The use of the Village Green for this purpose does not require a permit and Heritage Tasmania consented to the move.

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Authorised by Senator Claire Chandler, Liberal Party of Australia, 42 Bridge St, Richmond TAS 7025

Honey and oat bars are a healthy and economical lunch box treat or for snacks after school. Photo supplied



Honey and oats – lunchbox treats

Wendy Hays

AFTER THE flurry of organising uniforms and books along with managing the excitement (and anxiety) of children returning to school, many parents are breathing a heavy sigh of relief.

However, now comes the arduous chore of packing school lunches and thinking up healthy, appealing ways of nourishing the littlies at lunch and play time.

Supermarket catalogues now feature an ever increasing array

of portioned, convenient lunch box treats.

Many of these are of dubious nutritional value and are often high in sugar, fat and salt.

Research shows that eating habits established during childhood are often carried through into adult life.

This month's recipe for Honey and Oat Bars is a simple, economical lunch box treat that can be in and out of the oven in 30 minutes. It is probably much healthier, satisfying and cheaper than many of the prepackaged alternatives.

Honey and Oat Bars

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup plain flour
- 1/4 tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1/4 tsp salt (optional)
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 2/3 cup shredded coconut
- 1 egg – beaten
- 1/2 cup raw castor sugar
- 1/3–1/2 cup chopped dried fruit of your choice e.g. apricots, sultanas, apple or chocolate bits

- 1 tbs honey (or golden syrup)
- 125g butter or margarine – melted

Method

- 1 Turn oven onto 180°C or 350°F and line and grease a slice/slab tin.
- 2 Sift flour, soda and salt together.
- 3 Melt butter/margarine and honey/golden syrup together in a small saucepan or in the microwave.
- 4 Mix melted butter, beaten egg and dry ingredients together.
- 5 Press mixture firmly into prepared tin with the back of a spoon.
- 6 Bake for about 20–25 minutes or until starting to brown around the edges.

The slice will firm up as it cools.

- 7 Cool in tin then cut into fingers.
- 8 For an extra special treat, you could drizzle the bars with a little melted chocolate.

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We meet at:

Westbury Community Health Centre
89 Meander Valley Road, WESTBURY

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month starting at 1.30pm. Please bring along a small plate for afternoon tea and \$1.00 for a drink.

If you would like more information please contact Sheila Stevenson, volunteer group coordinator on 0428 576 795 or email stevos.bjs@bigpond.com.

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Fear in Reedy Marsh with suspected killer on the run

Sharon Webb

RESIDENTS OF Reedy Marsh and Deloraine locked their doors and windows or fled the area on January 12 and 13 as police searched for 24 hours for the man they later charged with the murder of Reedy Marsh resident Mike Hawkes.

Reedy Marsh property owners described their emotions as 'nervous' and 'pretty shocked' as police announced they were looking for a man who 'may have camouflage paint on his face and may be armed with a knife'.

People in Deloraine also locked their doors, not knowing whether the man now known to be Robert Gerard would come in that direction.

A police search the next day with drones and helicopters showed that he had escaped through rough terrain in the Parkham direction. He was taken into custody at 3.55pm, still armed with a knife.

Former Meander Valley councillor Ian Howard said he went to bed on January 12 with a baseball bat.

Another resident was on his way to a night shift when he heard the news and cancelled work, returning to stay with his partner who was home alone.

Internationally known ceramic artist Neil Hoffman said he was in Launceston when he heard about the police search but his partner had returned to their Larcombes Road property.

'I phoned her and she drove straight back to Launceston', he said.

'But as I got off the phone, she said police had arrived to search the place. We stayed in Launceston two nights until we knew it was over.'

Ian Howard said he had been alone in his Reedy Marsh home. Not knowing whether to leave or stay had been nerve-racking.

Like many Reedy Marsh residents, Ian has a large block with a long 2km driveway through the bush.



'I asked police whether I could get an escort down the driveway but they didn't have the manpower to do it so I decided to stay', he said.

'It sounded as if they had a fairly good idea of where the person was because they said I'd be OK. It was great that my children weren't there.'

Ian locked cars, sheds and house doors then collected his axes to prevent anyone gaining entry with them.

'I was surprised how physical my reaction was', he said. 'My heart rate increased and I wandered around the house turning lights on and off. Was it safer with them on or off?'

Ian heard the Westpac helicopter fly over at around 7pm, searching for the man.

'It flew towards Devonport and then turned around and came back, hovering over Mike and Judy Hawkes' house for ages.

'About then a neighbour rang to explain what was happening, saying, "lock your door".'

Ian slept for a couple of patchy hours. The next day, as helicopters and drones searched, was similarly nerve-racking.

'I headed out to the coast for a while, driving up the driveway with the dog running in front of the car.'

Another Reedy Marsh couple read the news on the Tas Police Facebook page. They locked cars, garage, camper and house, and stayed inside.

'We were nervous. When we heard about the knife and the camo gear we freaked', the man said.

'We're totally surrounded by bush so if he was looking to steal a vehicle or get food we were in a vulnerable place. We have a 300m driveway so he could be on us quickly.'

'We thought it was a small chance, but it would have been devastating.'

Reedy Marsh resident Andrew Ricketts said he woke the next morning wondering about the world, especially in the context of the loss of Mike Hawkes.

'This disaster has shaken me, I admit. Not that I had much faith in humanity to begin with', he said.

'Mike was a calm and thoughtful, conservative, caring, gentle giant of a man. I had known him since five new landowners, including Mike and Judy, moved here in 1991. He would not hurt a fly. To this day I cannot believe he is gone.'

Neil Hoffman said he'd lost a neighbour he'd known for nearly 30 years.

'I still don't know what really happened. We've got to wait for the court case if we want to understand it', he said.

Both Andrew and Ian commended the police on finding the offender quickly.

'There was always someone available in police communications to tell me what was happening', Ian said.

'A couple of days later a police officer visited to see if I was OK and to let me know about counselling if I needed it.'

Waverley man charged following police hunt

Sharon Webb

WAVERLEY RESIDENT Robert Harold Gerard has pleaded not guilty to the murder of Reedy Marsh man Mike Hawkes and will appear in the Launceston Supreme Court on April 26.

He has also pleaded not guilty to wounding Mrs Judy Hawkes.

Police charged Mr Gerard, 47, after a 24-hour search for him in bushland between Reedy Marsh and Parkham on January 13 and 14.

They said he was taken safely into custody near Parkham around 3.55pm on January 14 and that Mr Gerard was armed with a large knife at the time.

Significant police resources, including specialist and uniform personnel, the Westpac rescue helicopter and drones were used in the search.

Acting Commander Stuart Wilkinson thanked the Reedy

Marsh and surrounding area communities for their patience and understanding during the ongoing search.

'This has been a challenging situation and I'd like to thank the community for their support', he said.

'I'd also like to thank the police who attended and brought about a safe resolution to the matter.'

'Our sincere condolences go to the family of the man who died in the most tragic circumstances.'

Three people initially taken into custody were released without charge.

Mike Hawkes, who lived in Larcombes Rd, was 70 years old and a retired parliamentary driver.

His wife Judy, who works at the Bendigo Bank in Deloraine, was injured and spent time in the Launceston General Hospital.

A report is being prepared for the Coroner.

TANIA RATTRAY MLC INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR MCINTYRE

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2021–2022 State Budget submissions called for

TASMANIANS HAVE been invited to make submissions as part of the 2021–22 Budget process.

Premier Peter Gutwein said the community consultation process provides Tasmanians with the opportunity to have input into decisions shaping the delivery of services to our community.

'While Ministers, Liberal Members of Parliament and government agencies meet with community groups and

individuals on a wide range of issues on an ongoing basis, the annual budget community consultation process provides a specific opportunity for input to the development of the State Budget.

Submissions are due to Treasury by Friday 19 March 2021.

Guidance on how to make a submission can be found on the Department of Treasury and Finance website at www.treasury.tas.gov.au.

Aikido Summer School gets together on Zoom



A class at Tenchi Farm being shared on Zoom. Photo supplied

David Claridge

THE COVID-19 plight of 2020 is still being felt across the country and Aikikai Australia Aikido students had to find a way to host their annual Summer School without anyone boarding a plane.

Melbourne usually hosts a gathering of hundreds of aikido students from across Australia to study together and renew friendships each summer.

This year, Meander was fortunate to host a portion of the national event. Australian President and 7th Dan Tony Smibert Shihan, a Deloraine local, was able to broadcast his lessons from the dojo at Tenchi Farm in Meander.

Bodhi McSweeney of Tenchi Farm, explained how the three-day event was unlike anything they had ever experienced.

'We had two cameras set up in the dojo, wifi access and a projector screening

onto the wall. Each morning, Tony Sensei and other senior instructors would zoom classes to other dojos across Australia.' 'The classes throughout the days consisted of various local senior instructors taking lessons. There was meditation and chances for the students to rest and enjoy the harmony of nature at Tenchi.

'For Summer School there is usually an international guest. This year we were treated to a prerecorded class from overseas.'

Martin Bratzel, who hosted the event with Bodhi, was pleased that the thirty-five attendees from around Tasmania got a lot from the training, given the unique circumstances.

'It was a real community event. Everyone was doing what they loved, so they were relaxed and enjoyed each other's company, It was a very uplifting event.'



Cherry trees bloom in Deloraine, courtesy of Richiro Shiratori, president of Shiratori Flour Mills in Japan. Buckwheat grown in the district is exported and milled by the company and the trees were gifted in 1991 to celebrate the connection with Japan. Photo by Andrew Shepherd



The Australia Day Breakfast crowd at Chudleigh watch as Mayor Wayne Johnston welcomes new Australian citizens to the community, in one of the many citizenship ceremonies held on Australia Day. Photo supplied

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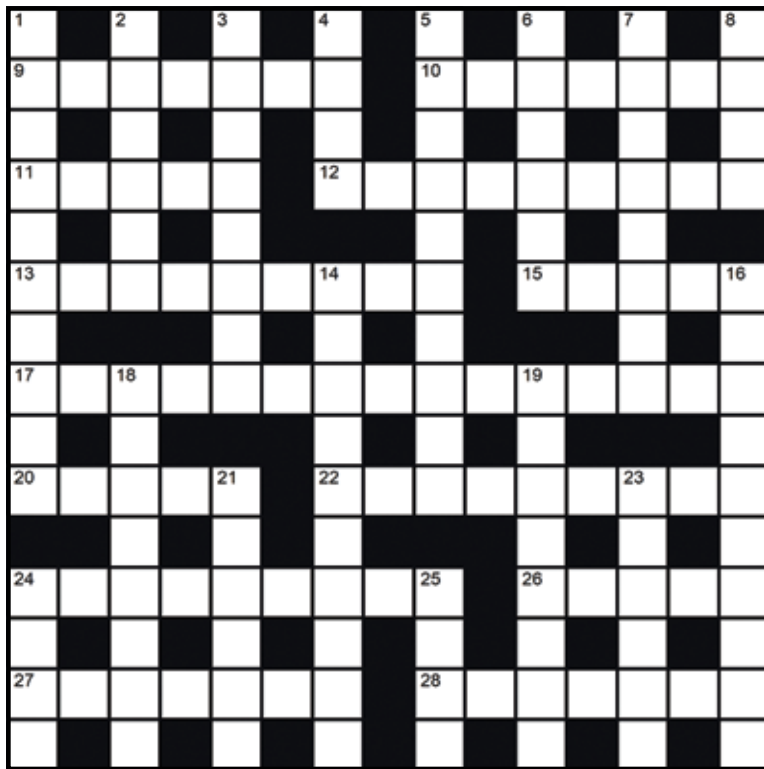
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Crossword



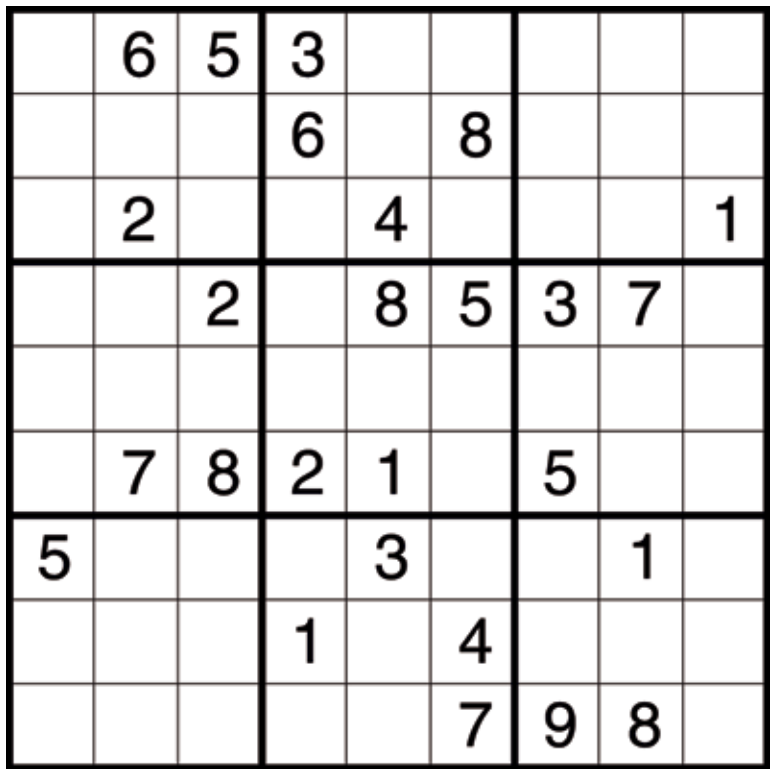
Across

- 9 Fleet commander (7)
- 10 New Mexican ufology centre (7)
- 11 Author Asimov (5)
- 12 Gold, silver and bronze Olympic swimming medal-winner (3, 6)
- 13 Train isn't running badly, coming or going (2, 7)
- 15 Negotiations (5)
- 17 Body snatchers (12, 3)
- 20 Arduous journeys (5)
- 22 Debugger? (9)
- 24 Won over (9)
- 26 Seedless orange (5)
- 27 American reindeer (7)
- 28 Crash the party (5, 2)

Down

- 1 The kiore, an unwelcome visitor (7, 3)
- 2 Transmit (6)
- 3 Living-room item (8)
- 4 Cheese chunk (4)
- 5 Crazy, eats at bars on the Persian Gulf (4, 6)
- 6 Textile souvenir (1-5)
- 7 Regular swinger (8)
- 8 Fight (4)
- 14 Walked vigorously (7, 3)
- 16 Summer-visiting coastal wading bird (10)
- 18 Rob ____, Virgin Blue co-founder (8)
- 19 Spatially adjusted (8)
- 21 Beer bottle (6)
- 23 Call forth (6)
- 24 Ice breaker (4)
- 25 Culinary creation (4)

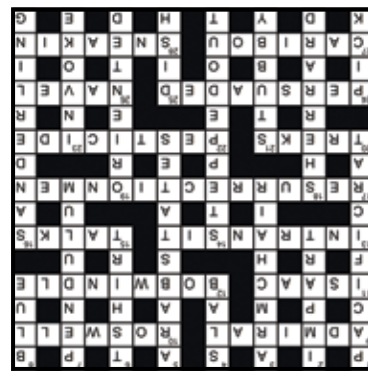
Sudoku



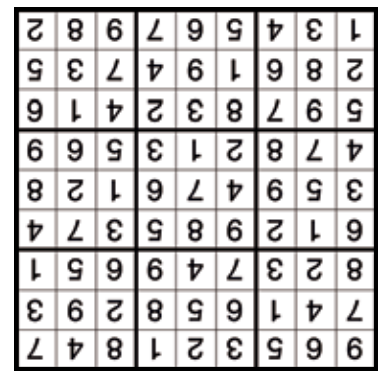
© 2021 Syndicated Puzzles

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 February 2021 solution



Sudoku February 2021 solution



Meander Valley Gazette is looking for volunteers with office and administration skills, or proofreading and editing skills. Find us at Deloraine Online Access Centre, 21 West Parade, Deloraine, call 6286 8212 or email 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, 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 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 Tuesday, 10-11.30am	Happy Hands Art Time for 1-5 year olds	During school term Deloraine Seventh-Day Adventist Church Hall, 4445 Meander Valley Rd www.happyhandsart.com.au
Every Thursday, 10-11am	CHAT Westbury Play Gym for 0-5 year olds	During school term Westbury Sports Centre, Franklin St \$3.50 per child (under 12 months free) 1st visit free
Sun 17 Jan-28 Feb, 3-6pm	Little Laneway Summer Sessions	Live music in the laneway between Seppenfelts and The Empire Hotel, Deloraine By donation
Sat 13 February, 9am-1pm	Liffey Valley Market	Old Liffey School Phone (03) 6397 3670 or email quentonhiggs@gmail.com
Sat 13 February 2021	Carrick Harness Racing - Carrick Cup	East St, Carrick Gates open at 2pm For more information call 0400 635 070
Sat 13 February, 7pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>Dark Waters</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine PG13 documentary/drama 2019 USA 127m Info 0418 389 868
Mon 15 February	Meander Valley U3A	Term 1 commences enquiries to meandervalleyu3a@gmail.com Phone 0407 951 823, 0414 891 793 or 6397 3169
Tue 16 February, 6pm	Pancake Night	St Andrew's Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom, Westbury Savoury & sweet pancakes All welcome Covid safe event
Sat 20 February, 9am-1pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drv & Caveside Rd Maree Martin 0419 631 210
Sat 20 February, 9am-1pm	Westbury Market	St Andrew's Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom, Westbury Rob Menzie 0417 931 619
Sat 20 February, 1-4pm	Westbury Garden Club Summer Flower Show	Westbury Town Hall, Lyall St \$2 entry Karen Mackenzie 0455932342
Sun 28 February, 10am-3pm	Purple for Prostate	Opening of Purple for Prostate Happy Memories Garden & market, 10am-3pm Pearn's Steam World, Westbury.
Sat 6 March, 9am-1pm	Deloraine Market	Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine Bodhi McSweeney 0409 695 321
Sat 6 & Sun 7 March, noon	A Day at the Creek	Mole Creek Hotel lawns Gates open 11am, music starts at noon For more information, go to adayatthecreek.com.au
Sat 13 March, 7pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society <i>Babyteeth</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine NR comedy/drama 2019 Australia 117m Info 0418 389 868

Westbury's new hot spot!

A HOT sunny Sunday was the perfect day for a mini market, in front of Westbury Hardware, Home & Co on the Meander Valley Road.

Westbury Central Fashion Recycling took to the footpath to publicise their move from their original store on William Street to their new premises under the roof of Westbury HH & Co.

Westbury Central is just one of the small businesses that are settling in with Cafe Verde and Westbury Hardware, Home & Co. on the main road through town, establishing a new retail hub for Westbury.

Situated opposite Pearn's Steam World and the much anticipated but as still to be completed Western Tiers Distillery, Westbury HH & Co. is ideally placed to attract the attention of those that drive through Westbury.

Westbury Central was joined by Westbury Garden Club, The Devil's Own Icecreamery, Chic Shoppers, the Westbury Primary School Chaplaincy and Elana's Sweet Treats.

If the Sunday mini market success was any indication, this main road venue will be a draw card for visitors, either locals or those just passing through.

A mini market in Westbury – where else would you go on a hot Sunday afternoon? *Photo supplied*



Vegan Garage – drive by for meat-free groceries

David Claridge

THERE IS a new vegan store in Meander Valley where people can shop from a range of products and chill at the café.

The Vegan Garage is the result of owners and vegans, MIT Patel, Dhaval Thakkar and Dev Patel who often struggle to find vegan products around Tasmania.

'It's not easy to get everything at one place', Dhaval explained.

'That's when we had the idea to do something for our vegan community, so people can find everything at one spot. And the Vegan Garage is the concept of café and super store. You come, you can have fun with the shopping.'

The store combines their retail knowledge, creating a store with wide, short aisles and

low sensory shopping, but not just for vegans. Anyone is welcome to visit and sample the many delicious items for sale.

'Vegan Garage has everyone covered. If someone wants to be a vegan for a day or two, they have those options as well. Anyone can come to the Vegan Garage', Dhaval said.

'We are working hard to get stock from all over the world, cheese from the UK, sausage from the US, searching around the world to find the best products for the community.'

The Vegan Garage is open from 7am-7pm, Monday to Sunday, at Shop 2, 2 Trotters Lane, Prospect.

MIT Patel, Dhaval Thakkar and Dev Patel, Vegan Garage owners and vegans.

Photo supplied



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Westbury Shamrocks look past the Greater Northern Cup



Chathura Athukorala boosted the Shamrocks score, but not enough to secure their third consecutive Cup. Photo by Andrew Shepherd

David Claridge

THE WESTBURY Shamrocks were literally hitting sixes in January, notching up a T20 Grand Final win by 10 wickets against Launceston and, brimming with confidence, booking a ticket to their third consecutive Greater Northern Cup.

In the rematch, with the winner to take the cup, a strong performance by the Launceston Lions unfortunately brought the run to an abrupt halt, defeating them 2/98 to 97 all out.

Club Captain Dan Murfet, described the match as 'an absolute shocker.'

'Probably one of worst performances we have put out all season. Unfortunately it happened when we were in a Greater Northern Cup final.'

'I think we will be able to learn a lot from it and we know we will come up against them again if we want to play finals later in the year.'

'Hopefully we only get better from here, there is still plenty of cricket to play this season.'

The Shamrocks' spearhead, Chathura Athukorala, scored 50 off 68 balls, but it wasn't enough, with the Lions passing them in less than 17 overs.

Westbury have still added to their trophy cabinet, winning

the T20 grand final ten days earlier.

Jesse Digney and Johnno Chapman stood up with the bat and were the high scorers for the team with 38 and 35 runs, Jesse hitting four 6s.

Westbury's T20 win ended a 12 game winning streak for Launceston.

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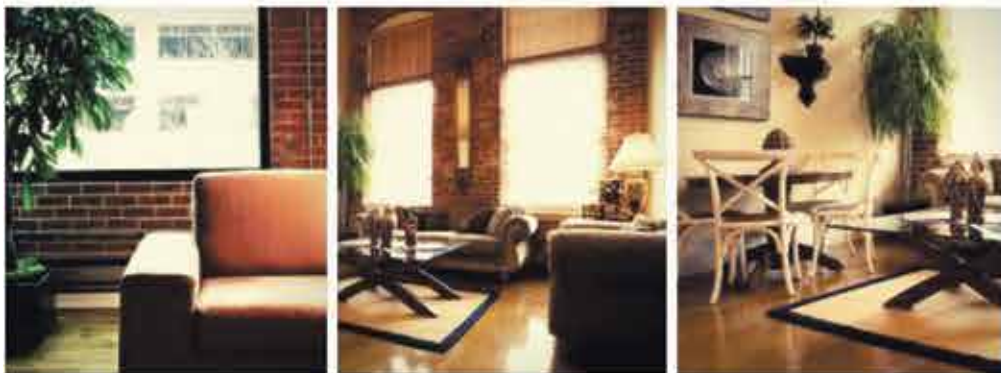


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