



AGFEST BACK IN THE PADDOCK

Nothing beats the real experience!

▶ PAGE 7



FREE RANGING ADVICE

Kernels of wisdom from the chicken's beak

▶ PAGE 15



WINTERFIRE IS COMING!

Lighting up the night, warming up the crowd

▶ PAGE 19

Meander Valley Gazette

Free every month

June 2021

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper



A new generation looks on ...

The Anzac Day service at Mole Creek saw glorious sunshine as the participants assembled to remember the sacrifices of previous generations. Mole Creek Primary School children in attendance were, from left: Maddison, Layla, Amahli, Logan, Lydia, George, Deegan, Lacey, Mr Bissell, Charlotte, Oakie, Brooke, Logan, Laylah, Tyler, Brittany and Mabelle. Photo © Sasha Lev Photographer

Nightmare on Charles St

Sharon Webb

A WESTBURY woman spent a nightmare 12 hours curled up in a foetal position in the Launceston General Hospital's A&E waiting room in May because there were no beds.

The woman, who does not want to be named, described the situation as 'absolutely disgraceful'.

'In 12 hours I was never in a bed', she said.

Lyons Labor MHA Jen Butler said the woman's experience was unacceptable.

'The LGH emergency department is overcrowded on a daily basis', she said.

'Calls for immediate action by doctors' and nurses' organisations have been ignored by the government for years. Solutions have been rejected. This government just does not care.

'Vulnerable patients in the community are now too often waiting for hours in an emergency.'

Having called an ambulance around 2.30am on a Friday night, on arrival at the

Launceston General Hospital the Westbury woman was told there were no beds.

Suffering severe abdominal pain as she sat on the waiting room's hard plastic chairs for the night, the woman watched as a male patient could only lie on the floor.

'I heard a nurse say, 'It's going to be one of those nights', the woman said. 'It turned out they had 60 patients and only 40 beds.'

Continued on page 2

Apology to Mr Michael Ferguson MHA

In its May edition on pages 1 and 2, the Gazette published an article, written by its reporter Sharon Webb, regarding a protest at the State Election debate held at the Launceston Country Club entitled 'Casino political debate disrupted by violence'.

That article made allegations about the conduct of Mr Michael Ferguson MHA at the debate. The Gazette accepts that the information it had received regarding those allegations was wrong.

The Gazette, its editor and Ms Webb unreservedly apologise to Mr Ferguson for their error and for any harm and distress their incorrect publication caused to him.

Crumbling health system hits close to home after 12 hours wait in A&E

Continued from page 2

Despite her experience, the Westbury woman said she could not fault medical staff.

'Eventually I saw a doctor and had scans. That was fantastic.

'While I was in the waiting room I was monitored constantly. The medical staff were run off their feet; they did the best they could in the situation.'

When she was allowed to leave on Saturday afternoon, over-worked staff forgot she

had a canula still in her arm and appeared to expect her to return to Westbury without a car and still in her pyjamas and dressing gown.

Since being re-elected the Liberal State Government says it has brought together representatives from both the public and private hospital sector to look at working together to support Tasmanians to get health care sooner.

Premier Peter Gutwein said that with continually

increasing demand, it was vital to use every available service to reduce pressure on public hospitals.

'In our plan for our first 100 days, we committed to meeting each major private hospital within seven days to discuss what support they can provide to our busy public hospital system, and that we would work to put arrangements in place by June 30, 2021.'

But acting Labor leader Anita Dow said new Health

Minister Jeremy Rockliff's health plan needed to be more than a talkfest.

'Tasmanians have had enough of the multitude of meetings about health over the Liberals' seven years in government and want real action to fix this crisis', she said.

Mr Rockliff said the Tasmanian government was providing the biggest ever boost to elective surgery, with an additional \$120 million investment, taking the total figure to \$156.4 million over four years.

'This will enable us to deliver an additional 22,800 elective surgeries and endoscopies for Tasmanians across the state', he said.

But Anita Dow asked, 'Why are the Liberals just getting around to doing this now when they have had seven years to take this action?'

'More than 12,000 Tasmanians are on a waiting list for necessary surgery and more than 50,000 are waiting for an appointment with a specialist.

'This is impacting significantly on many Tasmanian's quality of life. 'With one in 10 Tasmanians waiting for an appointment with a specialist, the situation can't be allowed to deteriorate further.'

Mr Rockliff was asked for a comment on the Westbury woman's experience but did not reply.

Opinion

Sharon Webb

THE COUNTING is over and anyone with a recent experience of Tasmania's hospital system will agree with Premier Peter Gutwein's comment when he announced his cabinet, 'There is no doubt that our best days are ahead of us.'

Gutwein has his wish, a majority, but with 40 ministries and only nine ministers, the Liberals will be on the treadmill. That's the price a Tasmanian government pays for keeping the Greens out of Parliament.

So who were winners in the Meander Valley?

Winners are grinners – an election round up

Turns out there were quite a few, although not all the winners were elected.

Guy Barnett, Liberal winner

Guy gained a not-too-shabby 14,821 first preferences in the election, the second top candidate in the poll.

For his pains he is Lyons' only cabinet member with a whopping five blokey portfolios, Trade, Primary Industries and Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, Resources, and Veterans' Affairs.

Seems his wife Kate won't see him many nights at the dinner table.

Susie Bower, Liberal candidate

This Meander Valley councillor has returned to her day job as CEO at the Bell Bay advanced Manufacturing Zone but having been endorsed, she's looking forward to standing in the next federal election, whenever that is.

Susie's work is cut out for her because her election votes show she isn't well known in Lyons yet. Fellow Liberal councillor Stephanie Cameron beat her in every Meander Valley polling booth, except for Elizabeth Town and Susie's home town booth of Westbury.

Jen Butler, Labor winner

Once again Jen squeezed in to Parliament just ahead of Labor colleague Janet Lambert.

When Labor sorts out its leadership kerfuffle, it will be interesting to see what shadow portfolio Jen gets.

Now that Labor has decided a new prison is not a goer on the Birralee Road site, some anti-prison locals will look to her for support.

Stephanie Cameron, Liberal candidate

A long-term liberal candidate who is quiet in Meander Valley Council meetings, Stephanie gets the gong for doing much better than most people expected in the campaign.

'It was a busy five weeks but I loved every minute', she said.

Stephanie may stand again but will make a decision at the time.

Meander polling booth voters

Take a bow Meander, you had the lowest informal vote of any booth in the Meander Valley – 3.9 per cent.

Hot on Meander's heels was Chudleigh, at 4.6 per cent. The average informal vote in the Meander Valley was around 6 per cent.

Mark Shelton, Liberal winner

Mark garnered a respectable 8613 votes in the 2021 election.

His trophy is to lose the Local Government and Police, Fire and Emergency Management Services portfolios to become Speaker of the House.

Yes, he's the one to shout 'Ooorder, ooorder!', and apparently gets an office with the biggest bar fridge in Parliament.

Mark's job, which he held once before for six months, is to 'maintain, in an impartial, non-partisan manner, the order and security of the House and restrain unruly or unparliamentary behaviour'. Good luck with that.

John Tucker, Liberal winner

John's prize this election is to win a seat in his own right – last election he won on a recount after Rene Hidding resigned.

Winning 4691 first preference votes, John didn't get a portfolio. He'll just have to cope with being Government Whip and also Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier.

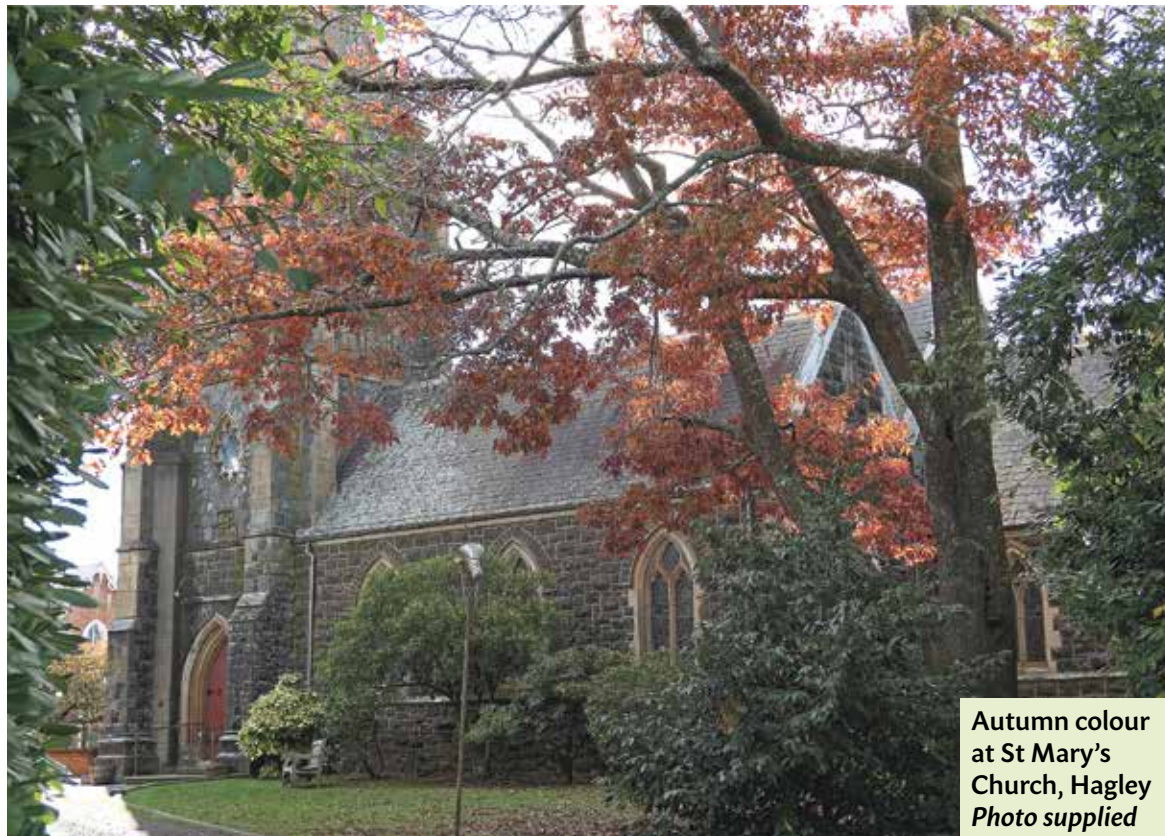
Rebecca White, Labor winner

Technically Rebecca isn't a Meander Valley politician but as Labor leader she visited the area often enough to be considered a local, as her top-of-the-poll personal vote of 16,338 first preference votes shows.

We may not see her so often now Rebecca has relinquished her party leadership role. And when we next see her she will have a new family member.

Meander Valley's members of the House of Representatives

- Guy Barnett, Liberal
- Rebecca White, Labor
- John Tucker, Liberal
- Jen Butler, Labor
- Mark Shelton, Liberal



Autumn colour at St Mary's Church, Hagley
Photo supplied



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Students strike to save the planet

Sharon Webb

'YOU ARE the adults in the room when it comes to climate change', yelled Extinction Rebellion's Graham Bailey and the 300 strong crowd at Launceston's Riverside Bend Park roared.

On strike over climate change, kids and teenagers from schools all over Launceston gathered with similar groups Australia wide to voice their concern that adults and politicians were doing nothing to save the world for them to live in.

And they had one adult in particular in mind – Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

'Scott Morrison is visiting but where is he?' Esther Godfrey of Carrick asked the crowd.

'Scott Morrison is blatantly ignoring the youth of this country.'

Later Esther, who attends Launceston College, commented, 'It proved our point. We invited him, and he was in town, but he didn't come to our event. He doesn't want to know.'

St Patrick's College students Laura Bye and Lydia Kelly led crowd chants of 'People power!'

About 20 St Patrick's College students attended the rally in school uniform, including Year 8 student Marguerite McClintock of Evandale, who held a banner blasting, 'I want hope for the future not HEAT for the future.'

Deloraine's Rohan Swinsberg, who organised media coverage of the rally, said last minute hitches meant organisers used social media to get word out about an eleventh hour venue change.

'The fact that we had a rally at all was amazing. The night before, Launceston Council couldn't approve Civic Square for COVID reasons', he said.

'Considering climate change strikes have gone on the backburner through 2020 because of COVID we were happy with the turnout.'

Student banners ripped into the Federal Government for propping up polluting gas and coal industries.



Deloraine's Rohan Swinsberg joins the student strike for climate change, with Esther Godfrey of Carrick and Freya Cooper from Mayberry. Photo by Sharon Webb

Intriguingly, young adults were running the rally but around the edges was an entirely different age group, a border of 70 and 80 year olds smiling their approval at the goings on.

A man in his seventies held a banner saying 'The ONLY planet!' and a white-haired woman's banner read 'Look around you. You are not alone. Into the future these are the people who will be at your side.'

Esther said she appreciated the contribution of 12 year-old Malaika Hayes from East Launceston Primary who 'spoke eloquently', and thanked the Wilderness Society for practical help.

'It was so important that we do something like this now because we couldn't do it last year', she said.

'This strike was two or three months in the making and there will be more. So watch this space!'

Spare specs shared by Lions

SIX HUNDRED pairs of spare specs donated by Deloraine residents are set to go to third world countries, courtesy of Deloraine Lions.

Lions secretary Ted Carter said donors had dropped off their old glasses to local pharmacies and the medical clinic.

'We'll send them off to a Lions group in Redcliffe in Queensland', he said.

'They have the skills to repair and polish the glasses, then

send them to countries such as Timor Leste.'

The Australian Lions' Recycle for Sight project receives more than 600,000 pairs of used spectacles each year.

By the end of 2022 they believe they will successfully achieve their 2009 challenge of helping a million adults and children to see (for free) each year.

Ted said he had taken over the spectacle collection job

from local Eric Richardson, who did it for many years.

'In my two years in the job I sent 500 pairs in 2019 and now 600 pairs this year.'



A big thank you

To two local businesses, **Trash Transformers** in Hagley and **Timber World** in Meander for their offers of garden mulch to use on the small garden in front of the Deloraine Online Access Centre on West Parade in Deloraine.

With the help of volunteers, the garden is being well looked after and the donations of mulch will enable us to keep the garden in good shape through the winter months.

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

Letter from the Editor

WINTER IS here and Spring is on its way.

That's the positive message you usually hear around this time of year.

But some of us like Winter. Cold weather is one of the reasons my partner and I came to Tasmania in the first place.

There's a lot to love about this time of year.

Bonfires, woolly scarves and thick socks. Having a genuine reason to wear a beanie.

Home made soup, puddings and custard, hot toddies!

Winterfire will light up again this year and there are art exhibitions and trivia nights, story times and a proper football season once again for those of us who need to get out while we still can.

Meanwhile the rest of us can put off mowing the lawn until everything warms up again and settle down to read our new Chook Chat column – everything you wanted to know about chooks but were afraid to ask!

Liz Douglass

Letters to the Editor

SO, WE have had a riot at Risdon prison that required fire brigade, police and multiple ambulances to attend.

Transfer that situation to the proposed northern prison at Westbury.

The main truck route across the north of the island would be required to close, and this is the only road that can be used to access the proposed prison site and it's already choked by a bridge over the Meander River.

The police and ambulances would need to travel from Launceston and manoeuvre their way through the backlog of timber and B Double trucks to access the prison.

If any resident of Westbury or in any the villages and towns between Launceston and the prison site were to

simultaneously fall ill, and require an ambulance, then the government's 'duty of care' would necessarily mean that the prisoners' needs would take precedence over the law-abiding residents.

Add this to the fact that the site was purchased using federal (not the hotels) money as a nature reserve twenty years ago, and the glaring stupidity of the proposal has become very clear.

It's been another 'secret topic' during the election, so, by keeping mum about it, Mr Gutwein appears to be aware of the silliness of the proposal.

If a northern prison is to be built, then the entire, wasteful, costly farrago should be started again and the job done properly this time.

Peter Wileman, Westbury

HEARTFELT THANKS to the Meander Valley Council's workers!

Constantly working to maintain infrastructure to keep us safe, their tireless work is rarely recognized.

Last week, however, their efforts became visible to all.

Two timber bench seats were installed on the east bank of the Meander River, one opposite the pontoon and the second further along the bank, which will provide a beautiful view towards our three bridges for generations to come.

Judith-Anne Tahir, Deloraine



Norman and Judith-Anne Tahir enjoying the sunshine and the view from the new bench seats along the Meander riverbank. Photo supplied

JULY 2020 Meander Valley Council Meeting, comment by Cllr Bower: 'As Councillors, we do not shy away from a public meeting. We will consult with the community and are committed to do so at the appropriate time.'

'We will continue to meet and listen to our ratepayers and when we get a chance to meet (due to COVID-19) and

consult with both pro and anti-prison groups, we can discuss a way forward together.'

Councillor Bower, running in every election for the Liberal party, is 'working together' with them for her own political agenda, and is shying away from any difficult discussions that might damage her political career.

Emma Hamilton, Westbury

EST.
2013

Meander Valley Gazette

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

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

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Inspector Scott Flude of Tasmania Police at Carrick Hall in May, when more than 50 firearms were handed in. Anyone with information about stolen or illegal firearms activity is urged to contact police on 131 444 or Crime Stoppers anonymously on 1800 333 000 or at crimestopperstas.com.au. *Photo supplied*



Gun amnesty haul

CARRICK HALL was one of four northern Tasmanian venues in May for people to hand in their unlicensed guns.

More than 50 firearms were surrendered in an amnesty which also included collections at Newnham, Pipers River and St Helens.

Inspector Scott Flude of Tasmania Police said that around 4kg of ammunition was handed in. Items surrendered included a World War 2 pistol, a cut down 0.22 rifle and a military style rifle with a bayonet.

Police also collected ten more firearms in the week following the amnesty. Inspector Flude said Tasmania has a permanent firearms amnesty where people can hand in their firearms, unregistered or otherwise, without fear of being prosecuted.

'We take every opportunity to take illegal firearms off our streets by having a permanent firearms amnesty, carrying out random firearms storage inspections and investigating diligently when firearms incidents or thefts occur', he said.

'Any illicit firearm is a concern to Tasmania Police. Firearms in the wrong hands are dangerous and are of utmost concern to police.'

Inspector Flude said that people with information about illegal firearms should contact police or Crime Stoppers anonymously.

'We know that there are people who know people in possession of illegal firearms. Please come forward and provide information so we can take these illegal firearms off the street permanently.'

Patsy Crawford scribbling away

BEATRIX POTTER has much to answer for. Her anthropomorphising of small woodland creatures has cast a pall of guilt over anyone forced to do away with them.

I speak particularly of mice. Beatrix was big on mice. She gave them bubbly-sweet names. They scurry through the pages of her delightfully illustrated books, hairy little whiskered folk beloved by children who will scream their heads off and accuse you of murder if you haul out a mousetrap.

Sorry kids, but you'll just have to suck it up. It's all well and good to have Mrs Frillywhiskers scampering cutely around the bluebells in the garden but it's not so cute when Mrs Frillywhiskers is pooping all over your teaspoons. As has been the case at our place. And I suspect at your place as well.

A mouse in the house does things to people. It turns us from mild-mannered, animal friendly men and women into vicious killers.

Our mornings are now spent sifting crabbily through cutlery drawers and cupboard shelves to identify overnight droppings.

Put end to end, the line of anti-bacterial wipes we've used would reach Uzbekistan. Eradication has become a daily obsession.

We have, of course, laid out the bait. The mice appear to be thriving on it. Mousetraps cannot be had for love or money. As a deterrent the dog is proving about as useful as the proverbial ash tray on the motor bike.

We thought briefly about getting a killer cat but that would never do for the birds nesting comfortably on the deck roof and having pool parties around the birdbath.

Breakfast is ridden with anxiety. Each day we awake to the prospect of a clenched-teeth trudge to the kitchen to assess the night's activity. Unsurprisingly the mice have been at it again. Our charitable determination to observe the maxim that all living creatures have inalienable rights to life rapidly disperses.

'Wipes, wipes', we shout as, already throbbing with hatred, we hurl cutlery into the sink.

Our callousness knows no bounds, but we've gone beyond any feelings of remorse for what will inevitably be mousicide.

However, the situation does present a dilemma for people who would strip the ligaments from their shin bones before they'd step on an ant. It cannot be easy to square up your idealism if there's a colony of mice using your mung bean container as a dunny.

It seems we must all work out our own solution to the problem. None of it will be uplifting.

There are people, I know, who will carefully gather up mice in snazzy little cages and let them go in the bush. Been there. Done that. Doesn't work. Tried it once.

Still have dire memories of self and daughter traipsing around the Tamar River mud flats in high heels and glittery earrings while en route to a TSO concert. The released mouse crawled away through the swamp. Daughter smarmily observed we'd treated Mrs Frillywhiskers with respect.

'Bugger Mrs Frillywhiskers', I'd said. Back at her place the other mice were loading up for the night.



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New growth for Booth's Timber World



Sharon Webb

Timber World is set to expand its operations following the purchase of MacLaine Enterprises' timber mill in Deloraine.

Currently located in Meander and Hobart, Timber World will establish a third branch in Deloraine, signalling an expansion in functions, products and staff.

Managing director Bronte Booth said the Meander site had reached capacity.

'It will be good to move closer to our customers in Deloraine, Launceston and Devonport

Bronte and Kim Booth survey Timber World's new saw mill purchase in Deloraine.

Photo by Sharon Webb

and to be closer to transport routes,' he said.

'With the new site we'll have the capacity to produce more timber products, especially because we'll have a kiln-drying facility which we haven't had before.

'In addition to sawn timber, Timber World now takes products from the stump to the ridge cap, with transportable homes, joinery and machined timbers.

'Buying MacLaine's mill wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff in Hobart and Meander.'

Bronte said the expansion meant Timber World was likely to employ more staff, adding to the current 14 in Meander and nine in Hobart.

Bronte's father, Kim Booth, who established Timber World's Meander site, said he was proud of the progress the family business had made under Bronte's leadership.

'Our aim is to become an example of an environmentally sustainable business in the timber industry,' he said.

'We're advocating for more sound forestry practices too. The majority of our timber processing is in plantation softwoods and some hardwoods.

'We're also using high value native forest timbers which are unfortunately wasted currently by chipping or burning.'

The Booths thanked Hugh MacLaine for selling the mill to them but Hugh said he will still be around the site.

'Timber World agreed to lease me some sheds, yard space and the kiln, so I'll still be producing flooring for the Victorian and Tasmanian markets.'

Deloraine's sawmill has a generational family story, so the Booths should feel right at home.

Believed to have been established in the 1930s by George Sulzberger, it was carried on by his son, Charlie, who bought it back from the banks after WW2.

The mill was owned in the 1980s by a Victorian company but moved back into local family hands in 1991 when it was bought by Hugh's grandfather Neville Wray.

Neville sold it to Kevin Morgan in 1997, but Hugh brought it back into the MacLaine family in 2004.

Since then, the MacLaines have transformed the site with new dry milling equipment, adding a kiln and renovating sheds, and subdividing the property into seven titles.

Despite that Hugh said, 'I don't get too attached to things. For me, selling the sawmill is a business decision.'



Our Thanks to the Devoted Volunteers of the Aged Care Deloraine Auxiliary

It is with sadness we wish to inform the community that the Aged Care Deloraine Auxiliary has officially wound up. The Auxiliary was founded and continued to be supported by people who have very strong community spirit and who have tirelessly committed many years to the cause, it's now their time to take a step back.

The Aged Care Deloraine Auxiliary was created when the Grenoch Auxiliary and Kanangra Auxiliary merged into one Auxiliary after the two organisations merged into one and became Aged Care Deloraine Inc. The Auxiliary/s and its members have volunteered countless hours for Aged Care Deloraine (Grenoch and Kanangra) over many decades. They have raised tens of thousands of dollars over this time to purchase much needed equipment and items for Grenoch and Kanangra. It must be noted that it hasn't always been equipment that has been purchased with the funds, but the Auxiliary have also contributed funding which has directly benefited the residents through our Leisure and Lifestyle program.

A thank you High Tea was held at Grenoch on Friday 28th May to celebrate the achievements of the Aged Care Deloraine Auxiliary.

The organisation will be forever indebted to the Auxiliary and we wish to pass on a huge thank you to all the members for their contribution and for the community for the generosity in supporting the fundraising efforts.

Aged Care Deloraine Inc

Call us today to see how we can help.

Phone. 6362 8300

Email. info@agedcaredeloraine.org.au

Check out the website at

agedcaredeloraine.org.au

Darren Harris

AGFEST SAW a welcome return to the paddock this year after 2020's virtual cloud event. COVID-19 still reared its head, with numbers limited to 10,000 people each day, from 5-8 May.

Tasmania's premier agricultural and machinery field day event, organised by Rural Youth Tasmania, sold out all tickets quickly. Agfest in the Cloud ran from 5-15 May online with over one million page views.

The weather was perfect for the opening day on Wednesday. Wendy and David Gibson of West-Bee Honey, Westbury, returned to the paddock with their stall for their second time at Agfest, after a good experience in 2019.

Westbury's Martin Hamilton, owner of The Devil's Own Ice Creamery, sold ice cream made at Deloraine High School from locally sourced ingredients for their first Agfest with the assistance of Imogen Williams, a St Patrick's College workplace experience student. The Devil's Own Ice Creamery is mobile and covers Hobart, Devonport, Burnie, Harvest, Westbury and Deloraine Markets.

Students from Deloraine High School, overseen by teacher Ian Mackenzie, spent nearly two years building a meat smoker at the school. The students attended Agfest to sell their smoked meat and accompanying drinks to hungry Agfest patrons.

Other students attended another local Meander Valley exhibit, the Hagley Farm School Visitors Centre, where they could participate through technology in learning about farming methods. The Hagley Farm School is a Department of Education Field Studies school farm which aims to improve school agricultural education through the Kid's Agriculture Awareness Program (KAAP).

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) also attended. CEO John McKew said the TFGA is the peak state farming and agriculture organisation that advocates for the future profitability, sustainability, and productivity for Tasmania's agriculture sector.

'Our key role is an advocacy body for farmers. We listen to them, and educate, advocate, and communicate for them on their behalf ... we offer solutions to see what can we collectively do. Current issues include biosecurity, access to water irrigation, and farm labour. The main thing is, if agriculture does well, the state does well.'

With over 500 exhibitors, 40,000 visitors through the gates, and over one million page visits online, Agfest is truly back in the paddock and back on track for bigger and better things to come.



Above: Deloraine High School students Jack Goodwin, Will Philpott, Zach Slyp, Charlotte Wall-Holmes, Meika Webb, Nakiya Gleeson and Katarnah Eastley with the meat smoker built by the students. All photos by Darren Harris



Above: Imogen Williams of St Patrick's College in The Devil's Own Ice Creamery van.



Right: Wendy and David Gibson of West-Bee Honey, Westbury. Below: Tristan Bunker, teacher at Hagley Farm School Visitor Centre, demonstrates virtual reality with visiting students.



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Prospect retirement village approved despite concerns

Sharon Webb

A \$15M gated retirement village planned as an expansion to Tyler Village in Prospect Vale has been approved by Meander Valley Council.

The 64 home independent living estate proposed by Respect Group Ltd will be named the Reed Estate and located at 320 and 334 Westbury Road in the general residential zone.

Respect intends to develop the estate over three years, 18 homes and a community centre in the first year, 21 homes in the second year and 25 homes in the third year.

But a councillor has described the not-for-profit Respect organisation as being 'greedy' after they would not reduce the number of homes to 60.

Instead, Respect intends squeezing in the other four units by removing a privacy creating stand of trees on Tyler Village land, using an electricity infrastructure easement and encroaching onto a roadway they don't own.

As has become common on planning applications at Meander Valley Council, the vote on the Reed Estate application was six to three, carried

with Cllrs Bower, Cameron, Johnston, Kelly, King and Sherriff voting in favour, and Councillors Nott, Synfield and Temple voting against it.

Cllr Nott, who likes the plan's concept, said, 'I thought it was a bit greedy in the end. The proponents told the council meeting they weren't prepared to lose any units in consideration of the neighbours.'

Cllr John Temple believes a lower density development would have been a better outcome.

'With developments generally there's too much push for maximum benefit of the developer and less consideration of neighbouring residents', he said.

Neighbours in nearby Trafalgar Drive, while supporting the overall project, objected to removal of the trees and voiced concerns about the effects of increased traffic generated by residents of the 64 homes.

Cllrs Susie Bower and Stephanie Cameron said they were sympathetic to neighbours' concerns but voted for the application because they were satisfied it complied with the planning scheme.

Neighbours David and Judy Wyness commented that the

Westbury Road traffic survey used in the planning was from 2014.

'Since this survey we have seen the incorporation of two new roundabouts plus the existing Casino Drive roundabout. New developments for Hadspen, the Blackstone Heights major development and the planning of the Casino retirement village will surely increase traffic flows on Westbury Road', they wrote.

Cllr Nott, the only councillor who lives at the Prospect Vale end of the municipality, said he also believes not enough thought was given to increased traffic on Bimbimbi Avenue.

But Meander Valley Council planner Leanne Rabjohns responded that based on the expected growth of the area, the major road network will continue to operate at a reasonable level of service for at least 10 years.

'Following recent discussion with the council concerning development in Blackstone Heights and Prospect Vale, council officers will be reviewing the broader traffic network and levels of service moving forward', she wrote.

She said the development is considered to have a negligible

An artist's view of the proposed Reed Estate, a new gated retirement village adjacent to Tyler Village in Prospect Vale. Drawing supplied by Respect Group Ltd

impact on the road network in respect to safety and efficiency, approximately a 0.014 per cent increase to the Westbury Road network.

Six Trafalgar Drive residents, including Mr and Mrs Wyness, have also protested against the removal of trees on Respect's land which create privacy for Tyler Village and Trafalgar Drive properties.

They believe Respect is squeezing four units into an inadequate space, cutting down the trees and incorporating an electricity infrastructure easement as the backyards of the units.

Mr and Mrs Wyness commented, 'It seems wrong to sacrifice the tree belt in order to accommodate these four truncated units.'

Andrea and Brett Carlson said removing the trees would be a missed opportunity for Respect, emphasising the bird life and relaxing green space of the area.

Planner Leanne Rabjohns said neighbours of Tyler Village were relying on trees on the village's land for their own privacy. The planning scheme entitles Tyler Village to manage the vegetation in their own gardens.

'As such, the removal of the vegetation within an established residential area is considered acceptable', she wrote.

On Respect's plan to build units on a roadway they don't own and an electricity easement, Ms Rabjohns implied that these problems may be resolved by the time the four controversial units are built in the development's third stage.

She wrote, 'The applicant is currently pursuing the acquisition process to gain ownership of this title and to address the easement on the title.'

'Works on or associated with this title (including tree removal) cannot commence until such time as the ownership and easement on the title has been addressed.'

Winterfire blazes with council help

MEANDER VALLEY Council has helped Arts Deloraine get the 2021 Winterfire show on the road after hitches with insurance and COVID-19 regulations.

Arts Deloraine member Diana Tuleja said insurance for fire-related events had become prohibitive.

'We have our own public liability for all other arts events but were pleased that the council could help out with this and the complex COVID-19 requirements', she said.

'Arts Deloraine is especially grateful for event organisation assistance from Nate Austen, the council's community programs officer.'

Mayor Wayne Johnston said Arts Deloraine approached the council in April. Concerns about additional COVID-19 and insurance requirements meant they may not have been able to deliver the event planned for the Deloraine Showgrounds on July 10.

'The council allocated a budget of \$2,000 to meet insurance costs and event planning costs', Cllr Johnston said.

'Officers are also supporting the organising committee with risk management and assisting with the fire pot set up and waste disposal.'

'Winterfire is an excellent community event for northern Tasmania.'

For more Winterfire information go to page 19.

It's oh, so quiet!

Woolworths Deloraine now offers a low sensory Quiet Hour shopping experience designed to reduce anxiety and sensory stress for customers with specific needs.

Every Tuesday from 10:30am to 11:30am, Woolworths will lower lights, turn down music or radio and turn off oven buzzers.

Following a successful trial, Quiet Hour will be rolled out nationally. There are already more than 264 stores nationwide offering this initiative.

Woolworths Store Manager, Greg Jacobson said, 'Our team takes great pride in ensuring the store is quieter and less stressful for customers who want to shop during Quiet Hour and we look forward to welcoming them in store.'

The initiative was developed in consultation with disability service providers at Life Without Barriers.

Life Without Barriers Chief Executive Claire Robbs said, 'Quiet Hour is a fantastic initiative by Woolworths that recognises the different needs of some customers.'



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 Also in Launceston at G1, 26 Elizabeth Street 6331 5838

No joy from new State Government over 10 year battle with sycamore

Sharon Webb

RESIDENTS IN Deloraine's East Barrack Street are despairing that having a new Housing Minister in the re-elected State Government may have sent their 10 year battle over a sycamore tree to the end of the queue.

After gaining agreement from former Housing Minister Roger Jaensch that he would consider removing the tree, which sends up saplings far and wide, Diane Greenway and Douglas Bignell have contacted the new Housing Minister, Michael Ferguson.

'Roger Jaensch knew the context of our problem with the tree but so far we've just received the standard reply from Michael Ferguson', Diane said.

'We feel as if we may have been relegated to the bottom of the heap.'

Diane and Douglas own a historic home next to a Housing Tasmania laneway where the tree grows.

Neighbours Graham and Laura Window are also fed up with sycamore saplings all over their garden, as are Ted Carter and Jenny McBain from nearby Davies Place.

The sycamore tree is an introduced species and classified as a 'common environmental weed'.

Housing Tasmania has refused to remove the tree, seemingly because an arborist once described it as 'historic'.

Nevertheless, the sycamore is not listed with Heritage Tasmania.

It's believed that Housing Tasmania recently replaced a courtyard in one of their units near the tree, where sycamore seedlings had pushed up the pavers.

In their letter to Mr Ferguson, Diane and Douglas explain the long history of their environmental problem.

'We have been dealing with Housing Tasmania, Minister Barnett's office and Minister Jaensch's office regarding the problems we and our neighbours have been experiencing with the sycamore tree since 2011.

'We and our neighbours are now facing a nightmare to deal with all the seeds and leaves and the damage that these do to our properties, yet again for another year.'

Mr Ferguson did not reply to a request for a comment on the matter.

Deloraine's historic trees

- St Mark's Anglican Church**
Giant sequoia
- Meander River parklands**
Giant sequoia
English oak
Aleppo pine
- Meander Valley Performing Arts Centre**
Horse chestnut
West Himalayan spruce

Information supplied by
Eloise Dowd,
Environmental Heritage Advocate,
National Trust of Australia



Table tennis lifetime award – perpetual ping pong players!

CONGRATULATIONS TO Aline Brown who was recently awarded Life Membership of the Deloraine Table Tennis League. Pictured here with her husband Tom (also a life member), they have been true stalwarts and kept the club progressing for many years.

Games are played every Wednesday evening from 7.00 to 9.30 pm at the Deloraine Performing Arts Centre, between the bridge and the police station.

New players of all standards are most welcome.

“
The wellbeing of elderly people is very important for everybody. We'd like to stay healthy; we'd like to stay well. I would suggest to anyone, no matter what age group – get it done.”

LEW
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER, RETIREE

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Residents fear Risdon-like prison riots at Birralelee

Sharon Webb

TWO RESIDENTS groups believe Prisons Minister Elise Archer has not thought about the effects of Risdon-like fires and riots at the new prison to be built on Birralelee Road near Westbury.

They say riots and fires in the prison could close down Birralelee Road, denying residents access to and from their homes.

In addition, if Birralelee Road is to be a significant freight route by 2024, planned by the State Government, freight trucks drivers could find themselves

in gridlock on Birralelee Road, waiting for a lock down to end.

Spokesperson for the residents, Torey Taylor asked, 'Can we expect in the case of a lock down or riot that all freight traffic will be sent through Launceston's city streets? Or will local traffic be diverted through back country lanes?'

'There are serious questions over the impact of the prison on traffic on the Birralelee Road major freight route.'

In the Risdon riots in early May, media reported that inmates set fire to mattresses in their cells. Emergency services responded, police

swarmed the site and dozens of police officers patrolled the prison perimeters.

The Mercury reported that several ambulances were seen leaving the site.

Five male prisoners aged between 18 and 30 were charged with arson.

Another residents group, Concerned Residents Opposed to the Westbury Prison Site, said they had been told events like riots, escapes and fires 'will never happen'.

'The latest events at Risdon Prison shows the overwhelming lack of government transparency towards the

Tasmanian public with the proposed Northern Prison project. Is it fair on prisoners and Tasmanian taxpayers alike to create a Risdon copy?' asked spokesperson Aaron Reader.

'CROWPS members are baffled at the government's lack of common-sense in insisting that a federally recognised nature reserve, without any services on a narrow dangerous road, is suitable for a prison.'

Ms Taylor said that whether the government admits it or not, there is the real chance of disturbances from the prison impacting on locals on Birralelee Road.

'But we are yet to hear anything specific from the Department of Justice or Minister Archer about how our daily lives might be impacted.'

'So far we have been led to believe that our concerns aren't valid. Coupled with the lack of community consultation on the proposal this has caused distress and offence to locals.'

Ms Taylor said residents needed to hear from the government that their concerns were valid and what to expect when the prison was operational.

'We want to know whether Birralelee Road will close in an emergency situation at the prison, and whether we will be unable to leave or gain access to our properties in the event of a searches for an escapee', she said.

After the Risdon riots Elise Archer said, 'The safety and security of prison staff and prisoners is something that we take extremely seriously.'

'Our correctional staff have a difficult job to do and last night saw them respond quickly and professionally in line with the prison's processes and protocols.'

Ms Archer was asked to comment on the Birralelee residents' concerns but did not reply.



The Brushy Rivulet Reserve is the proposed site for the new Northern Regional Prison *Archive photo supplied*

Federal threatened species strategy applies to prison site, say residents

Sharon Webb

BIRRALEE RESIDENTS who are opposed to a proposed prison believe the Brushy Rivulet Reserve may be a 'potential future place of refuge that species might migrate to', referred to in a recently released Federal Government

blueprint for protecting Australia's biodiversity.

Spokesperson for Concerned Residents Opposed to Westbury Prison Site (CROWPS), Aaron Reader, said the group is looking forward to consultations on the strategy later this year.

'The footprint of the proposed Northern Regional Prison

and its inevitable intrusion to the remainder of the surrounding reserve would have a disastrous impact', he said.

'The State Government's proposed prison must not be allowed to proceed on this reserve', he said.

'The Environment Minister Sussan Ley's *Threatened Species Strategy 2021-2031* ensures reserves will be preserved in perpetuity for future generations due to the many endangered and protected flora and fauna that exist on these sites.

'Flora and fauna are thriving on the Brushy Rivulet Crown Reserve and this must be allowed to continue.'

Announcing the 10 year strategy, Sussan Ley said it would be the guiding light for threatened species investment, including \$57.1 million of new funding for threatened species.

'The new strategy identifies both species and "places", with an expanded focus on the protection of a more diverse range of species, including reptiles, amphibians, freshwater species, marine species and all of

the incredibly unique environments in which they are found', she said.

Local Birralelee environmentalist, Sarah Lloyd OAM, said she recently wrote to Sussan Ley, outlining her concerns about the Tasmanian Masked Owl roost on Brushy Rivulet Reserve. Her letter describes the reserve as 'a biological gem'.

Ms Lloyd wrote, 'I think it is important for you to be aware that there are more than 50 hollow-bearing, old growth eucalypts scattered throughout the 70 hectare reserve. That in itself should be enough to fully protect the site.'

'These trees are critical to the survival of many native animals. They have disappeared from the surrounding landscape: having been cleared during conversion of native forest to plantations, especially in the 1970s; more recent clearing of forests for agricultural production; and in recent decades, clearing paddock trees to make way for irrigated agriculture.'

Ms Lloyd told the federal Environment Minister that she

believed clearing approximately 16 hectares of the 70 hectare reserve would severely compromise the reserve's ability to maintain the diversity of species currently at the site.

'Surveys during the past several months show that the proposed prison "footprint" coincides with a significant population of the blue pincushion *Brunonia australis* and at least 15 species of native orchids recorded at the site since the government's announcement.'

Minister Ley said the strategy draws on the lessons of the 2019-20 bushfires:

- to identify and adapt to sudden threats from an increase in natural disasters
- calls for a more coordinated approach to culling feral pest animals and weeds that are pushing species to extinction
- plans for the deployment of new monitoring technologies including drones and environmental DNA.

She said, 'In addressing adaptation and resilience, the strategy considers identifying and conserving potential future places of refuge that species might migrate to and strategies for "assisted colonisation" for populations whose local environments are impacted by changing climate.'



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Nikki Sabok visits Deloraine every Tuesday morning

\$17.7b for older Australians – a boon or inadequate?

How will extra Federal Budget funding for aged care affect people living in Meander Valley aged care facilities in Deloraine and Prospect?

Gazette reporter Sharon Webb asked three people about the main aspects of the funding – Deloraine Aged Care CEO Nadine Ozols, Labor Lyons MHR Brian Mitchell and COTA CEO Ian Yates

THE FEDERAL Government's aged care budget funding injection of \$17.7b over four years will be a boon to aged care in the Meander Valley, says Aged Care Deloraine CEO Nadine Ozols said.

Australia's Council on the Ageing CEO Ian Yates has labelled the funding 'a serious and meaningful response to the Royal Commission'.

And Lyons Federal MP Brian Mitchell is critical of industry worker issues and believes the Budget measures won't make enough difference.

'I spent half a day as a dish stacker in an aged care kitchen', he said.

'People working there never stopped – and they told me it was a slow day!'

\$3.9b A recommended minimum staff time of 200 minutes a day with each resident, including 40 minutes with a registered nurse

Nadine Ozols said the move is positive.



Deloraine Aged Care CEO Nadine Ozols

'The government is introducing a new funding model which is supposed to factor in the 200 minutes – we're waiting for the details', she said.

'The new model comes out on October 2022 and the 200 minutes will be introduced in 2023. Deloraine Aged Care already has a registered nurse on duty 24 hours a day.'

Brian Mitchell believes aged care facilities need more staff on the ground. 'They want

more time to spend with residents', he said.

'Yes, they are delivered a meal. But have they eaten it? There's no time to sit and hold someone's hand. I've seen carers on a break eat their meal with an older person just to give them some company.'

'Middle aged carers' hearts are breaking because they don't have time to care for people properly.'

\$3.2b Increase the basic daily fee per resident by \$10 a day

This will roll out from July 1 this year, according to Nadine.

'It will help cover some of our losses. It's a temporary measure until the new funding model arrives in 2022'.

\$7.1b More funding for daily care of older Australians in residential aged care. Increased transparency around staffing and public funding, ensuring all aged care facilities have a minimum staff time per resident

COTA's Ian Yates said these measures need to be stronger than announced.

'We will continue to argue for mandatory full transparency about staffing numbers and mix. The Australian public deserves to know how their

funding of aged care is being spent', he said.

Nadine Ozols said that while Deloraine Aged Care's finances are already publicly available, from July 2021 financial reporting by aged care facilities will be strengthened.

'From July 2022, families will receive a monthly care statement about the care their family member has received that month', she said.



Labor Lyons MHR Brian Mitchell

and funding 33,800 traineeships by extending JobTrainer will start the important work of increasing the number of workers needed in the system.

He is calling on the government to join the Fair Work Case in order to speed up the process and make provision for funding an increase in worker wages in MYEFO in December.

By 2024 the Federal Government will abolish bed licences and the Aged Care Approval Round and implement a system where care is guaranteed within 30 days.

Nadine Ozols said Deloraine's Grenoch in Deloraine has 47 bed licences while Kanangra has 48. 'Each year we can apply for additional bed licences', she said.

Mr Yates said, 'COTA warmly welcomes this decision. The bed licence system has protected poorer quality providers from competitive pressure from high quality providers, who have been prevented from expanding to meet consumer demand.'

'When aged care providers do a poor job, older people should be able to move out and take their funding with them. In three years they'll be able to do exactly that.'

'This will ensure all older Australians get the care they need, when they need it, where they choose it and how they direct it.'



COTA CEO Ian Yates

A trained and registered workforce

Nadine Ozols believes this is a weak spot in aged care and Brian Mitchell agrees.

'It's shocking that our most vulnerable people are being cared for by staff paid \$22 an hour. We need to be able to attract staff to aged care and create an aged care profession', Nadine said.

Brian Mitchell believes the key issues are overwork and underpayment of people working in aged care.

'Staff are run ragged trying to complete tasks', he said. 'One carer told me she could go into MacDonaldis and be paid \$27 an hour, compared with \$22 in a nursing home.'

'Older people can't have a dignified old age without more people on the ground. It's difficult to recruit and train people and the government isn't doing anything about that.'

Ian Yates believes introducing an aged care screening system for personal care workers



Boat ramp safety plans for Huntsman Lake

Wayne Johnston, Brian McGowan, Grant Flowers, Jim Caulfield, Neil Morrow and David Chilcott put their heads together to fix the boat ramp issue at Huntsman Lake. Photo by Darren Harris

FISHERMEN USING the Huntsman Lake near Meander met representatives from MAST in May to outline the need for boat ramp adjustments on the lake.

Fisherman Grant Flowers from Meander said people fishing there alone had difficulty managing their boats safely when bad weather was coming from the south or south-west.

'The rocks up both sides of the ramp make it difficult to ground a boat safely', Grant said.

'We're hoping to get enough funding for a walkway and a buffer to make the situation safe especially for older people.'

'It's a good facility but I think fewer people use it because of the rocks. It's all about safety and making a good facility even better.'

Jim Caulfield from MAST and Neil Morrow from Inland Fisheries visited the lake to hear concerns of locals about the ramp.

But the project won't happen quickly.

Grant said the adjustments were too expensive to fit into the usual MAST small projects category.

'It would be lovely to have it next week but this project will cost a lot more than \$50,000. Big projects can take a few years and we'd prefer to do a good job rather than a half done job', he said.

'We are looking to Meander Valley Council for some funding and with the federal election coming up we may be able to get some politicians onside and get something out of them.'

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Northern Regional Prison Project Update - June 2021

The Department of Justice is continuing to conduct the due diligence required to inform a combined planning scheme amendment (seeking to create a Particular Purpose Zone) and Development Application (DA) to be submitted to the Meander Valley Council.

The DA submission to Meander Valley Council will cover all aspects of the project including, infrastructure services, natural values, bushfire management, lighting, noise, traffic impacts, Aboriginal and historic (European) heritage, statutory planning and prison design.

During March 2021, further work was undertaken as part of the assessment of the natural values on the site. This work involved dusk time observations for avifauna and the deployment of remote camera traps to obtain additional information on the fauna inhabiting or utilising the area.

Other continuing due diligence investigations include:

- Bushfire risk management;
- Assessment of geotechnical conditions;
- Potential impact of the proposal on State policies;
- Statutory planning issues;
- Aboriginal and European Heritage assessment;
- Service infrastructure;
- Traffic impacts and access to the site.

All of the information collected as part of the due diligence process will be made publicly available when the combined planning scheme amendment and DA is lodged with the Meander Valley Council.

This will allow for full public consultation in accordance with the statutory process, which provides an opportunity for any member of the community to make a representation in response to the proposed development.

A Request for Tender is currently being prepared to engage a consultant team to commence design development for the facility. This work will also be included in the Development Application.

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





Fungi and the 'wood wide web'

WHEN PLANTS first colonised the land some 600 million years ago, some developed an extensive fine root system of their own, and some entered into a relationship with fungi, thereby increasing their ability to obtain nutrients and water from the soil via the fungal hyphae, the microscopic thread like structures that are the living components of most fungi.

Plants including sedges, rushes and members of the saltbush and cabbage families rarely form associations with fungi.

However, the vast majority, perhaps 95 per cent, of plants, including ferns, mosses, and most families of flowering plants have a symbiotic (i.e. mutually beneficial) partnership with fungi known as mycorrhizal fungi (*mycor* = fungus, *rhiza* = root, *mycorrhizal* is pronounced mike-or-rise-al).

There are several types of mycorrhizae. Ectomycorrhizal fungi attach to the outside of the plants' roots, endomycorrhizal fungi penetrate the cells.

In just one teaspoon (one gram) of healthy forest soil there are 160 kilometres (100 miles) of fungal hyphae that together form a massive network of mycelium, often referred to as the 'wood wide web'.

The same teaspoon of soil also contains one billion bacteria, up to 10,000 protozoa (including slime mould amoebae) and scores of nematodes.

Via this extensive network, fungi can access carbon compounds, amino acids,



vitamins, hormones and other nutrients from the host plant which also provides the fungi with habitats that are relatively free from other soil micro-organisms.

The plants' root zones are effectively extended by the fine microscopic fungal hyphae giving the plant greater access to water and soil nutrients, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen.

These relationships are especially important in Australia, given its nutrient poor soils and dry climate.

Just one tree may have an association with one hundred different species of fungi that can access different areas of the forest.

Furthermore, the fungal network does not just form connections between trees and plants of the same species but between many different species.

Recent research has shown that the underground hyphal threads play a more important role than just the exchange of nutrients.

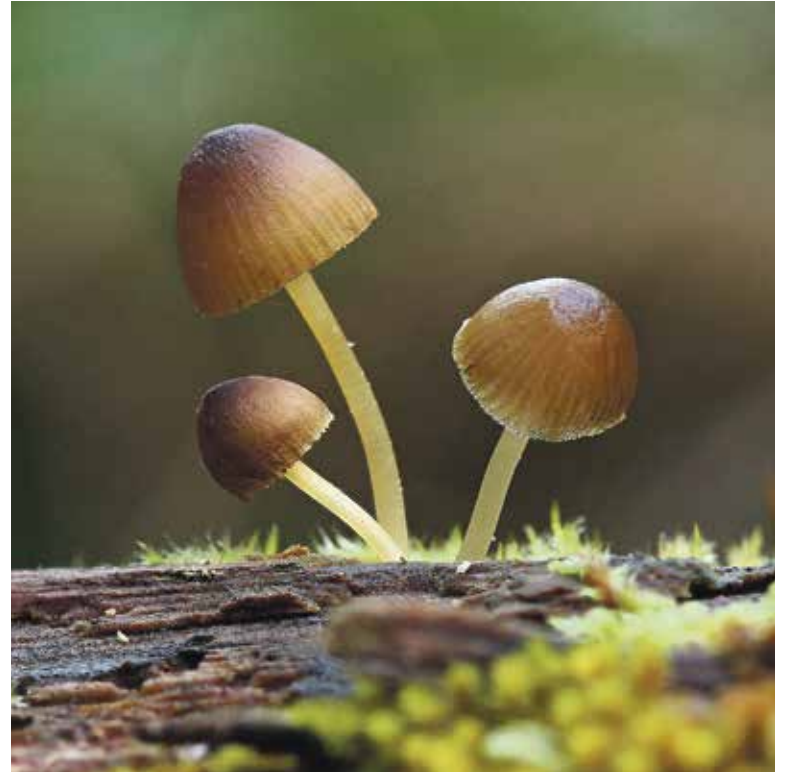
For instance, older 'mother' trees can supply 'daughter' seedling trees with sugars via the fungal network. Trees that are old or dying may 'dump' their resources into the network for use by other trees. Trees that are under attack can release chemical signals through their roots and 'warn' other trees of lurking danger and to increase their defenses.

Some scientists are even regarding forests as one super-organism and comparing the network of fungi, roots, soil and microorganisms to neurons and axions in the human brain

Fungi are also important in breaking down and recycling nutrients in dead plants and animals, so are crucial in making the components otherwise locked up in this material available for other organisms.

These saprotrophic fungi are particularly conspicuous in autumn when large and small fruiting bodies in a variety of colours and forms appear on dead trees, logs, leaf litter and animal dung.

Sarah Lloyd OAM



From top left, clockwise: *Russula* species, a mycorrhizal fungi; *Mycena* species; *Mycena interrupta*; puffball fungus *Lycoperdon perlatum*. All photos by Sarah Lloyd



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National Volunteering Week is an opportunity to give a huge thank you to all of the volunteers (and staff) who help Meander Valley Connect Inc. at the Deloraine and Mole Creek Online Centres and the Meander Valley Gazette. From left: Darren Harris (reporter and photographer), Sandra Atkins (committee and Public Officer), John Phelps (story contributor), Scott Osborn, Rosa Kasteel (proofreader), Abbey MacNamara (artwork assistant), Jarrod Samphier (Deloraine Online Centre acting manager), Sharon Webb (reporter) and Liz Douglass (Gazette managing editor). Absent: Karl Gammler, Sue Allsbury, Tony Elkin, Wendy Hays, Nell Carr, Cathy Howe, Craig Cooper, Mary Steed and Todd Wilson (Mole Creek Online Centre manager).



AGED 50 AND OVER?

COVID-19 vaccines continue to roll out to those most at risk.

People aged 50 and over can receive their COVID-19 vaccine at one of the selected vaccination clinics or at participating general practices.

It's voluntary, free and the best way to protect you and your community.

Our Therapeutic Goods Administration continues to closely monitor the safety of all vaccines in Australia.

To find out where you can get vaccinated visit australia.gov.au or call 1800 020 080

COVID-19
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KEEPING AUSTRALIA COVIDSAFE

At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society

by Clare Andersen

Welcome to WTFS' Term Two program with six months of offerings from the US, UK, NZ, Palestine, Korea and Australia.

July 10 JOJO RABBIT

2019 M, comedy/drama, UK/NZ, 108m Director Taika Waititi

Our July screening, *Jojo Rabbit*, premiered to great applause at the Toronto International Film Festival.

It is adapted and directed by Taika Waititi, a New Zealand film and television director, producer, screenwriter, actor and comedian.

For *Jojo Rabbit* he is the recipient of a 2019 Academy and BOFA Award for Best Adapted Screenplay and a nominated Academy Award for Best Picture, making him the first person of Maori descent to win an Academy Award in a screenplay category, and first Indigenous person nominated and winning Best Adapted Screenplay.

Waititi's feature films *Boy* (2010) and *Hunt for the Wilderpeople* (2016) have each been the top-grossing NZ film. Marvel Studios' *Thor: Ragnarok* (2017) was his first major film.



It is the 1940s and a lonely German boy attends his small-town Hitler Youth camp and discovers his single mother is hiding a Jewish girl in their attic. Aided by his imaginary friend Adolf Hitler (played by Waititi), Jojo must confront his blind nationalism as World War II continues to rage on.

This film starts out as a side-splitting comedy, before slowly revealing a tender tale of a scared young boy in a world much bigger than himself, torn between forces of hate and love, which he doesn't even fully comprehend.

'Both heart-rending and hilarious with a dash of horror elements, *Jojo Rabbit* is easily one of the year's best films.' *Cinemas Sentries*, September 2020

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



Above: Sassafras Primary School students experience an 'olde style' classroom lesson in the Olde Classroom. Left, from left: Sassafras Primary students Mason and Thomas watch Cooper wring a garment through a mangle, guided by Tristan Bunker, teacher at Hagley Farm School Visitor Centre. Photos by Darren Harris

Feathers fly in moulting season



FEATHERS FLOATING all over the garden and piling up the sides of the chook pen. Yes, it's moulting time for my 21 hens and roosters.

People new to chooks in the backyard sometimes become aware of the lack of eggs, look at the pile-up of feathers and wonder if they are linked.

They are. The annual moult to create new feathers needs so much protein that eggs are out of the question.

What to do? How can you re-start the egg laying? Not quickly, is the answer.

All traditional breeds of chooks need this time to grow new feathers and nothing you can do will hasten egg laying for about three months.

Chook keepers need to shrug, then take a trip to the supermarket. But the canny ones can turn to their store of preserved eggs. That's a subject for another day.

Something to do for a longer term effect is to check the protein level of the chook food you're dishing out every day.

This is what creates healthy feathers and is the basis for continuous healthy egg laying in the future.

Chooks need a minimum of 18 per cent protein in their food to replace feathers and produce eggs regularly.

Tasmanian grown Seedhouse food has 18 per cent protein, as does the rolled grain I buy at the Barunyah farm

at Westbury. You'll find the prices have increased this year because of grain price increases by pesky farmers trying to eke out a living.

Those cheap pellets from the pet shop usually have about 13 per cent protein. A quick look at the bag will tell you all you need to know.

My grandfather had a saying, 'You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear'.

In the case of chooks, it applies to chook food especially, although other factors such as fresh water, good accommodation, the capacity to free range and good health treatment are other factors.

So if you want good eggs from regular layers, make sure the protein level is right.

What to do with all those feathers? Put 'em in the compost heap.

But what about chooks specially bred for eggs? Do they have a laying holiday?

Isa Browns, known in chook lingo as 'plastic fantastics', do not stop laying.

They're bred to lay an egg a day until they drop, just like politicians increasing the pension age expect us to work until we drop.

But if you've got a flock of Leghorns, Barnevelders, Orpingtons, Wyandottes or any others, now is the time of year when you do the unthinkable and go out to buy supermarket eggs.

And just remember, happy chooks make a happy life!



Happy chooks, happy life. Photo supplied

Kids to farms

Darren Harris

STUDENTS VISITING Hagley Farm School now get hands on experience in producing the food and the fibres we use every day.

Hagley School has its own local students but each year an extra 5000 K-12 students from all over Tasmania visit the school's field study centre.

Co-ordinator Andrew Harris said Hagley's study centre is an established working farm.

'Of the Tasmanian Education Department's five field study centres, Hagley is the only one focusing on farming. Two full time teachers work there.'

The other four centres are the Molesworth Environment Centre, Mount Cameron Field Study Centre, the Sustainability Learning Centre, and Woodbridge Marine Discovery Centre.

Funded by a federal government Kids to Farms grant, the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association gets in on the act at Hagley to connect grades 3-6 children to school farms.

Andrew said, 'The students love the hands on learning, and teachers take what the children have learnt and the matching teaching materials to follow up in their classrooms.'

Hagley School's study centre consists of three environments.

The heritage area includes the agricultural museum, the 'Olde Classroom' and cottage industries.

The animal awareness section relates to poultry, dairy and sheep studies.

And the farm - is the farm!

If students come long distances and need to stay overnight, Hagley School can accommodate up to 70 people.

Students regularly attending Hagley Primary School don't miss out. They pop into the study centre every week to learn about food and fibre.

'We have a shearing shed where students watch sheep shearing then see end products such as woollen suits and dresses', said Mr Harris.

When the Kids to Farms grant ends at the end of 2022, Hagley Farm School intends to keep the program going.

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Guy Barnett
Liberal Member for Lyons MP

Thank you for your support in re-electing me.

Tasmanian Liberals

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Authorised by Guy Barnett, 76 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine TAS 7304



Nerine – a common frost survivor

The common white Nerine has proved more frost hardy than its pink and scarlet cousins. Photo by Dierdre Brown



Survivors

The gardening dictionary lists most varieties of Nerine as frost tender, which explains why they no longer exist in this garden at Dunorlan.

At the time of writing, this district experienced its first frost of the season. The only Nerine remaining is the common white variety, a form of *N. bowdenii* pictured here by Dierdre Brown. This was dug up from an old neglected garden.

Just a few among more colourful varieties which have fallen victim to frost and no longer exist here, are *N. bowdenii* (rose pink) and *N. curvifolia* (scarlet).

There are several other varieties, all either rose pink or scarlet.

Vegetables

Although the garden guide suggests garden peas can be sown in June, there is a danger of their being wiped out by a late frost if flowering in November. Spinach and winter lettuce, those that can be picked leaf by leaf, are the only leafy vegetables which are eminently suitable for the coldest weather, the colder the better.

Silver beet is usually substituted for spinach when the weather is too warm for spinach. As both spinach and winter lettuce enjoy similar

growing conditions, they may be sown alongside each other.

Sow seeds direct into well prepared well manured soil and add liquid manure every two weeks when they begin to grow. Thin them out to 30cm apart at around 8 weeks. Both should be ready to harvest in 8 to 12 weeks.

The voices of MVFM

John Phelps

LINDA IRWIN has the voice for radio. This is probably explained by the fact that she grew up in Surrey, where everyone apparently aspires to speak like a traditional BBC radio announcer.

Then, she spent a good many years in exotic places, especially around the Mediterranean.

She rode camels around the Sahara Desert and lived in Libya, Cyprus and around the Nile. She became an Egyptnerd and to this day, remains fascinated by all things connected with ancient Egypt's history and culture.

She was even present when President Nasser and USSR President Nikita Krushchev viewed the progress of the Aswan Dam construction. And she met King Idris of Libya's bee-keeper.

She moved to Australia in 1982 and is now a proud Tasmanian.

Linda's tastes in music tend to be in the 'easy listening' area and among her favourite performers she lists Nat King Cole, Billie Holliday and

A good voice for radio



Linda Irwin AKA Bella Brown, Egyptnerd and mellifluous radio presenter at MVFM. Photo by Darren Harris

Ella Fitzgerald. She has strong words to say about some of the music she doesn't like, but we won't go there just now.

She loves classical music, with the significant omission of the works of Gustav Mahler.

Linda, whose *nom de radio* is Bella Brown, has already presented four series of programs

at MVFM: 'Women in Song', 'Magic of Musicals', 'Smooth Crooners' and 'Step Back in Time'. And there's more to come.

Bella may be heard on Fridays at 7 pm.

So, if you wish to hear the Meander Valley's 'voice for radio', there's your chance.

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Rebecca White MP

Labor Member for Lyons

6212 2225
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Authorised by REBECCA WHITE,
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Tasmanian Labor

Wendy Hays

WINTER CALLS for steamy, oozy and indulgent desserts.

The origins of this month's recipe are almost as murky as the sauce that covers it.

Apparently the original recipe for sticky date pudding was given to British hotel manager Patricia Martin by two Canadian air force officers during the 1940s.

Some time later, the recipe came into the hands of employees at the Shallow Bay Hotel in the Lake District of England.

It first appeared publicly on menus in England as 'icky, sticky toffee sponge'.

In Australia and New Zealand this pudding is more often known as 'sticky date pudding' and was a mainstay of menus during the 1980s and 1990s.

The cake freezes well cut into serving portions and can be warmed up very successfully in the microwave.

It really can't be beaten as an easy, comforting and delicious winter pudding.

You might feel your arteries harden as you devour it, but your taste buds will be happy. Enjoy!



Sticky date pudding – a traditional winter favourite despite uncertain origins. Photo supplied

Sticky date pudding

Cake ingredients

- 200g dates, chopped
- 1 cup water
- 1 tsp bicarbonate soda
- 100g butter, softened
- 2/3 cup castor sugar
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten

- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 1 and 1/2 cups self-raising flour
- 1/4 tsp salt

Sauce ingredients

- 1 and 1/2 cups soft brown sugar
- 3/4 cup cream
- 140g butter

Cake method

Heat the oven to 180°C. Grease a 20cm round or square cake tin or baking dish and line with baking paper. Combine water and dates in a small saucepan and bring to the boil.

Remove from the heat, and then stir in the bicarb soda. Allow to cool completely to room temperature.

Using an electric beater, beat the softened butter and sugar in a small bowl until light and fluffy. Gradually, add the beaten eggs and vanilla essence.

Transfer this mixture to a larger bowl then gently fold in the sifted flour, salt and dates with the liquid using a metal spoon.

DO NOT over mix or beat. Pour into prepared tin and bake for about 50 minutes.

Leave in the tin for 10 minutes before cutting into pieces to serve.

Sauce method

Combine sugar, cream and butter in a small pan and stir over gentle heat until the butter melts and sugar dissolves.

Bring to the boil then reduce heat and simmer slowly for 2 or 3 minutes.

To serve, cut the pudding into wedges and pour over the hot sauce. Serve with ice-cream, custard or berries if desired. Serves 6-8



Lexie gets her gong!

A YEAR ago, a record was created when Lexie Young was awarded an Order of Australia Medal at the 2020 Australia Day Honours List and a Paul Harris Fellow award was accepted by her daughter, Merrilyn Young, in March 2020.

The mother and daughter duo now have the unique distinction of both having an

OAM and Paul Harris Fellow, recognised by Australia and the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International for their service to the Deloraine community.

Lexie and Merrilyn have been at the heart of the volunteering community in Deloraine for many years.

Twelve months after receiving her OAM, Lexie has finally

travelled down to Government House in Hobart for the investiture ceremony, postponed last year due to COVID-19.

Lexie Young with daughters Karen Burrard (left), Merrilyn (right) and grandson James Burrard at Government House for the medal presentation. Photo by Mark Burrard



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Wilderness trees inspire Cradle Mountain exhibition

DELORAINE ARTIST Fiona Francois will show work exploring the nature of trees at Cradle Mountain Wilderness Gallery.

The contemporary charcoal artist will showcase a series of works, firmly grounded in Tasmanian wilderness, that she has been working on for six years.

Meander Valley residents may know Fiona from Gallery Five on Emu Bay Road in Deloraine, a space that she shares with fellow artists Steve Howells of Deloraine and Patrick Haddock.

'The majority of pieces are charcoal and pencil drawings with a few mixed media and some oil paintings', she said.

'The series began with a 2.5m long drawing called *The Fallen*.

'It marked the beginning of my long journey exploring the nature of trees, the environment and our human impact on this island.'

Fiona was formerly a graphic designer working on video games, television and book illustration, but now creates her own imaginative artwork driven by a passion for creating a narrative on environmental issues.

Fiona says of her work, 'Time, the elements and the scourge of human crusades have engraved a story into the fallen trees of forests long forgotten.'

'Through the twisted limbs and knotted bark, etched lines and burnt scars, a tale emerges of the once mighty kings and queens of ancient forests.'

'These trees may remind us that we have a shared vulnerability to the ravages of time, the weathering, the hardships and the loss, as well as a collaborative need to grow and prosper.'

Fiona's exhibition, which runs from June 4 to September 19, is interactive.

Under each piece is a QR code linking to online content such as videos, art statements, poems and photos.



Driftwood Angel is one of the artworks inspired by trees in the Tasmanian wilderness by Fiona Francois on show at the Cradle Mountain Wilderness Gallery from June 4 to September 19. Image by Fiona Francois

Council announces second try to get it right for the Meander community

Sharon Webb

A RATEPAYERS' group who resorted to legal action to prevent a drug rehabilitation group from using former primary school buildings is cautiously positive about new Meander Valley Council plans for use of the site.

The president of Meander Area Residents and Ratepayers Association (MARRA), Bodhi McSweeney, said the council's announcement of Deloraine High School using the site while a second expression of interest process took place seemed a good use of the buildings.

'We're hoping this will be a good process after the last expression of interest process caused so much trouble in the community', she said.

The mayor of Meander Valley Council, Cllr Wayne Johnston, announced four steps towards leasing the site to a suitable group by the end of 2021.

- Deloraine High School has short term access to the site to run a pilot education program to improve engagement of students from across Meander Valley. The pilot program will cover two school terms, concluding in December.

- The council writes to Meander residents asking them for their views on what should be addressed in the request for proposals to use the site, and explaining the steps to decide its long term use.

- The council consults the community. Cllr Johnston described this process thus, 'representatives from community organisations active in Meander will help shortlist proposals ahead of any decision by the council'. Timing – July 2021.

- The council advertises widely for expressions of interest in using the site. Cllr Johnston told the Tasmania Talks program on 7LA that this was to

'see what potential uses there are of the school'. Timing – July to September 2021.

Cllr Johnston told 7LA, 'We hope to bring community forums together to look at those applications when they come in and make recommendations to see what might be for the primary school going forward.'

Deloraine High School's pilot program will focus on improving educational engagement of students from across Meander Valley.

It is believed this will involve the Beacon Trust, already active in the school.

Deloraine High School principal David Leitzau describes the program as 'a diverse educational experience that will also incorporate some practical learning as the students undertake some of the basic maintenance tasks required on the old school site'.

Beacon focuses on disadvantaged communities and areas of high youth disengagement and unemployment, inspiring young people to think about careers and experience the workplace long before they leave school.

Meander Valley Council's decision to hand over the former Meander School property to rehab group Teen Challenge four years ago

caused significant rifts in the Meander community.

At one stage many Meander front gardens displayed posters of support for the faith based group.

Residents disagreeing with the council's allocation of the property to Teen Challenge for a peppercorn rent established ratepayers association MARRA.

MARRA and the council faced off on six occasions in Tasmania's planning tribunal and the Supreme Court with both groups spending big on legal representation.

MARRA won, with a decision in June 2020 that the site was not suitable for Teen Challenge's use on bushfire protection grounds. In August Teen Challenge said it no longer wanted to use the property.

At that time Cllr Johnston, who lives in Meander, said he was disappointed the proposal had 'polarised' the community, referring to MARRA as a 'small group' that had 'pursued a war of attrition'.

Announcing the new plan, Cllr Johnston said, 'We understand that there are strong and diverse views about the use of the site, but we want to bring the community together to work towards consensus and to explore all the possibilities the old Meander Primary School offers us.'

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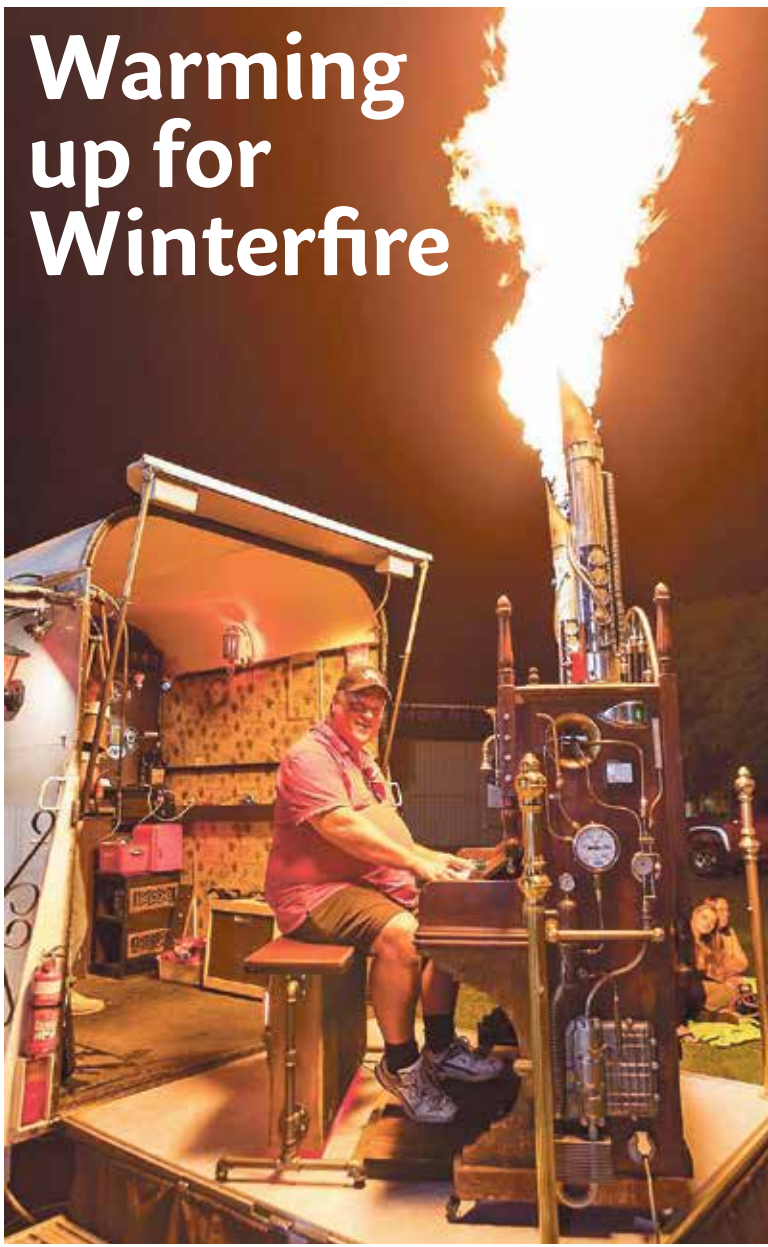
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Authorised by Senator Claire Chandler, Liberal Party of Australia, 42 Bridge St, Richmond TAS 7025

Wild Willie the Flamin' Piano and Warren Marshall the flamin' piano player. Warren has performed for most of his life, playing with such notables as Gary Bennett and Nev Nichols. Warren backed the Highway Men on their last Australian tour.
Photo supplied



Warming up for Winterfire

TSO Livestream Concert review

Sally Goldstein

THERE WAS great excitement at the Little Theatre in Deloraine on Saturday 15 May as a streamed performance by the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra was played.

The audience, numbering over 50, was spellbound when the main feature played was the ever-popular 'Four Seasons' by Vivaldi, as well as a Mozart 'Serenade'

The camera-work allowed the audience to see soloists playing close-up. Combined with the excellent acoustics in the venue, it felt as though everyone was in the front row at the Federation Concert Hall.

The event was co-planned by the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and Arts Deloraine.

KEEPING WARM in winter in Deloraine should not be a problem on July 10 this year when Arts Deloraine present their annual Winterfire Festival on the night of a new moon.

Winterfire is much anticipated following its absence last year because of COVID-19.

Many community groups assist in the organisation of the night, such as Apex, Lions, Pony Club, Show Society and Meander Valley Council. The Tasmania Fire Service and SES will be in attendance.

There will be hot drinks and a variety of scrumptious food including gluten free and vegetarian. Marshmallows will be available for toasting.

Entertainment will be 'fiery', of course, with Wild Willie the Flamin' Piano, Meander Men's Choir, Miasma (world famous belly dancers) and much more.

Wild Willie is a 1912 John Brinsmead piano bought in very poor condition several years ago and now converted into something quite special.

Wild Willie was named at the Huon Valley Mid Winter Festival held at Willie Smith's Apple Shed in the Huon Valley.

Sam Reid, one of the Willie Smith partners, asked Bruce Trappe if he could build a piano that could breathe fire.

Warren Marshall is the 'resident' pianist, and has been for the last four to five years.

Bruce said 'Warren is well known down the North West coast where he has been performing (originally with his parents in dance halls), since he was five or six years old.

'He will be playing at Winterfire, but I'd also like to extend an offer to any other musician who would like to either play a few solo tunes, do a duet with Wazza, or join in a jam session. We love audience participation and actively encourage it.

'We intend to bring two pianos to Winterfire. Wild Willie MKII is still under construction, but hopefully complete or near completion by Winterfire. It has a bigger keyboard and more sound effects.'

Rug up with winter woollies and gumboots, and bring a torch. Gates open at 4pm.

Ticketing will be online at Trybooking and attendees will also be able to check in with the COVID-19 QR code on their phones.

Arts Deloraine on Facebook will provide more details and registration for the drumming workshop (for both children and adults) with rhythm sticks available on the night.

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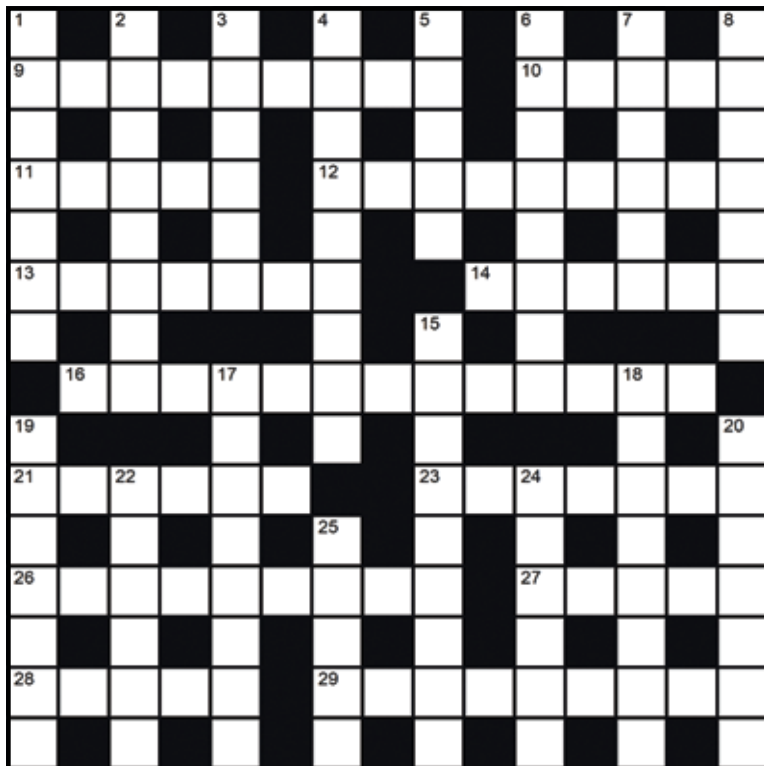
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Crossword



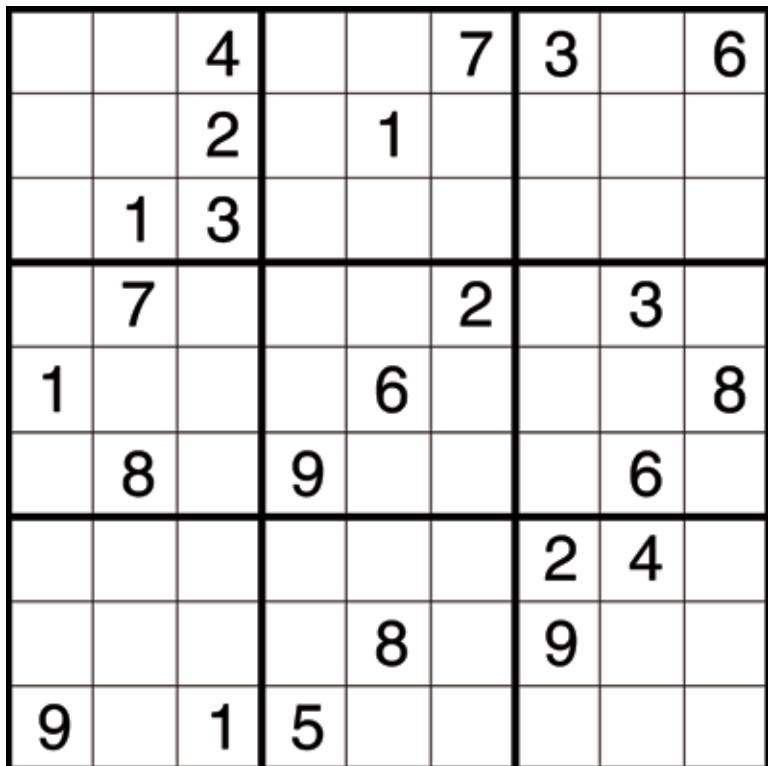
Across

- 9 The Wompoo ____ (5, 4)
- 10 Musical drama (5)
- 11 A highway and a desert are named after him (5)
- 12 Awful role misrepresented an essential of civilized society (4, 2, 3)
- 13 Up for grabs (2, 2, 3)
- 14 Piles of stones in Queensland? (6)
- 16 It once housed a leper colony off Queensland (7, 6)
- 21 Like many heroes (6)
- 23 Calls briefly (5, 2)
- 26 Hive sweet spot (9)
- 27 Finance (5)
- 28 Fill up here (5)
- 29 Stratagem (9)

Down

- 1 Away from the main place of business (3,4)
- 2 Commuter country (8)
- 3 Pain in the side (6)
- 4 Fire-struck Paris landmark (5, 4)
- 5 Notorious bushranger (5)
- 6 What 5 down had to do, more than once (2, 2, 4)
- 7 Trader (6)
- 8 Service at 28 across, sometimes (3, 4)
- 15 Oxbow lake (9)
- 17 'Idylls of the King' author (8)
- 18 Steep drop (8)
- 19 Sideboard (7)
- 20 Looked up to in NSW (7)
- 22 Guard (6)
- 24 Followed orders (6)
- 25 Accepted standards (5)

Sudoku



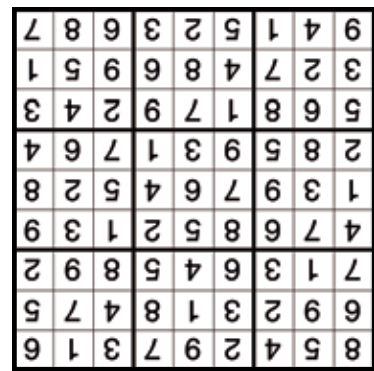
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How to play Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9, each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9 and each set of 3 x 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9. Best of luck!

Crossword June 2021 solution



Sudoku June 2021 solution



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Events diary

GREAT WESTERN TIERS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE
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NOTE that events listed here may be cancelled or changed after publication, especially if they are affected by Covid-19 restrictions. If you have an event you wish to publicise, email the details to advertising@meandervalleygazette.com 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
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
Mondays, 11-11.30am	Story Time at Deloraine Library	Term 3, 26 July to 20 September Deloraine Library, 2-4 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine 6701 2180
Mondays, 1-3.30pm	Story Time at Westbury Library	Term 3, 26 July to 20 September Westbury Library, 33 William Street, Westbury 6701 2189
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
Every 1st & 3rd Fri, 1.30-3pm	Rock with Wayne music and dance	Deloraine Western Tiers Community Club Room \$5 pp, all welcome (no bookings needed) More info, call Dee 0499 179 055
Saturdays and Sundays	Deloraine Walking Club	Walks and bike rides https://delorainewalkingclub.weebly.com for program of events, contact and membership information
12th of each month, 10am-4pm	Exhibition - 12 'A message of hope'	1 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine
Sat 29 May-Wed 30 June, 10am-4pm	Overload Exhibition	The Empire Hotel Gallery, 19-23 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine Sheila Stevenson Curator 0428 576 795
Sat 12 June, 9am-1pm	Liffey Valley Market	Old Liffey School Phone (03) 6397 3670 or email quentonhiggs@gmail.com
Sat 19 June, 9am-1pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drv & Caveside Rd Maree Martin 0419 631 210
Sat 19 June, 9am-1pm	Westbury Market	St Andrew's Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom, Westbury Rob Menzie 0417 931 619
Sat 26 June, 6-9pm	70s themed Trivia Night	Meander Hall dress code 70s Register on Facebook at Valley Events or email jasminerocca@gmail.com
Sat 3 July, 9am-1pm	Deloraine Market	Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine Bodhi McSweeney 0409 695 321
Sat 10 July, 7pm sharp	Western Tiers Film Society Jojo Rabbit	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M drama/comedy 2019 UK/NZ 108m Info 0418 389 868
Sat 10 July, 4pm onward	Winterfire Festival	Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine food, hot drinks and fiery entertainment online ticketing at Trybooking

Darren Harris

CARRYING ON a family tradition, Bex Blades and Beards is a new mobile barber in Westbury.

Owned and operated by Rebecca Doyle, the striking red and white striped caravan will be on the Meander Valley Road, next to the Westbury Recreation Ground on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am-5pm.

Bex Blades and Beards offers a walk-in service to men and boys only, no appointments.

Rebecca has been a hairdresser for over 25 years.

Formerly from Ulverstone, Rebecca said her colourful, retro, mobile caravan is dedicated to her father Trevor Wells, who was a hairdresser for over 40 years in Somerset.

'My great, great uncle and my mum were also hairdressers, so it runs in the family.

'I use beard oils locally made in Hadspen by Remarkabeard, using Tassie natural ingredients. The solar panels were put in by Westbury Solar, and the painting was done by Deloraine Signs.'

Getting the look at a fast clip!



Rebecca Doyle will be plying her trade as a barber from her mobile caravan in Westbury. Photo by Darren Harris

Deloraine Rotary Wheels go round and round ...

AS A reflection of the people of Deloraine, the local Rotary Club has provided four District Governors and Secretaries for the Rotary District of Tasmania.

Gathered together recently at the Deloraine Deli, the current District Governor is Michael Plunkett and Annette Viney is Secretary. In 2015-16, John Dare was DG and Tim Biggs was Secretary. In 1994-95, Geoff McLennan OAM was DG and Roy Axelsen was Secretary.

In 1978-79, Graeme Davis was DG and Mick McBain was Secretary.

The Rotary Club of Deloraine has now committed to run the 2021 Tasmanian Craft Fair, to be held from October 29 to November 1.

For information please call Ann on 03 6362 2325 or go to: www.rotaryfunctioncentre.com.au/, www.rotaryclubof-deloraine.org.au/, or www.tas-craftfair.com.au/.



In front of the Giant Steps bus, from left: Annette Viney, Roy Axelsen, Geoff McLennan OAM, John Dare, Graeme Davis and Mike McBain (Michael Plunkett and Tim Biggs absent). Photo supplied

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David Claridge

A STRONG first win for the Meander Valley Sunettes against Longford on May 8 has given them a big boost with a score of 88 to 13 on the final siren.

For a group of players who started the season with around fifty percent of the team never having played football before preseason, they have come a long way.

Coach Scott Bellinger praised the success of the Sunettes and shared the work he has done with them to give them the best chance of success on field and off field.

'For us, it's about building the correct culture at the club, getting the numbers on track. I'm really excited that we have around 30 players', he said.

'It's not about the wins and losses, but constant improvement, and making sure that the women who haven't played before get basic skills and understanding of the game to set us up for the future.'

The club has been fortunate to have guest speakers, including Brownlow Medal winner Dane Swan and Tasmanian football identity Brennan Savage, to teach some skills.

The Sunettes also took part in the Indigenous round in May against Old Launcestonians.

Scott commented, 'It was a gala day. Not for points, it was about indigenous culture.'

'We have a few women playing for us who are really passionate about it. It was a

privilege to be a part of it. It was great to go through the education side of things.

'We rested a lot of players, gave some game time to players who haven't played yet and they held up really well against a good opposition team.'

The Meander Valley Sunettes are looking forward to a bright future.

From left, top row:

Kate Bowland (asst coach), Kaitlyn Shaw, Jessica Totham, Caitlin McLaughlan, Emily Macinnes, Bree Bowen, Des Austerberry, Jocelyn Gee. Middle row: Matthew Brooks (runner), Molly Spencer, Abbey Bellchambers, Jemma Lawrence, Kayleigh Crawshaw, Jacqui Hodgkinson, Elena Grixti, Tiffany Whitney, Rebecca Hearps, Charlie Giddins.

Front row: Anthony Johnson (assistant coach), Montanna Eastley, Paige Maynard, Juanita Stevenson, Sophie Townsend, Isabelle Booth, Meg Wilkinson, Scott Bellinger (coach). Photo supplied

Sunettes prepare to shine



All female fire crew an Agfest first

David Claridge

AGFEST WAS back up and running to the Valley's delight despite a reduction in the usual crowd numbers.

This year, Agfest saw a new achievement for the Agfest Fire station with its first all female fire crew.

The Tasmania Fire Service fills multiple roles every year at Agfest, from community engagement, equipment sales, to providing services on site.

The service also provides fire crews on the ground for the duration of Agfest, in the event

of an incident, which could be anything from a fire to a plane crash.

Kim Brundle-Lawrence OAM, a volunteer with the Carrick fire brigade, was part of the milestone crew.

'In my 30 years at Agfest it was the first time there was an all female fire crew ready to respond. It was nice to be part of it', she said.

'Between us, there was about 80 years of experience. We helped a few people around the site but there were no fires.'

Tasmania Fire Service shared the story on Facebook and

comments highlighted other times when female crews worked in career and volunteer brigades across Tasmania. Agfest is now on that list.

The ground-breaking, all female Tasmania Fire Service crew for Agfest, from left: Georgina Rigby, Bronwyn Rigby, Julie Penney, Monique Broadby and Kim Brundle-Lawrence OAM.

Photo supplied



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