



LAKE MALBENA'S HIDDEN GEM

Halls Hut – Tasmania's wilderness heritage

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CHUDLEIGH VALLEY CHANGES

Magnificent and historic Bentley for sale

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PREDATORS GREAT AND SMALL

From the bottom to the top of the food chain

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Meander Valley Gazette

Free every month

August 2021

Meander Valley Gazette *Your independent community paper*

Lighting up the night at Winterfire



This year, the Winterfire bonfire was topped by a phoenix, but one that won't rise from the ashes of this bonfire, as the fire crew supervises the blaze in front of a crowd of onlookers. Winterfire 2021 was attended by a capacity crowd, numbers limited only by the COVID restrictions set down for the event *Photo supplied*

Rates hike averages 11% for Meander Valley ratepayers

Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY residents will have a sharp shock to their budgets in 2021-22 when their rates go up an average of around 11 per cent.

Percentage rate increases in the municipality's major towns are: Blackstone Heights 8.5; Bracknell 12.8; Carrick 11.3; Deloraine 12.5; Hadspen 12.2; Mole Creek 10.3; Prospect Vale 10.1; Westbury 11.9.

The rate boost is mainly because of higher rubbish costs

and increased staff numbers at the council.

While the general rate increase is 3.75 per cent, Meander Valley Council has also increased rubbish collection prices for all sized wheelie bins by around \$100 a year.

The fixed rubbish cost per household has also almost doubled from \$56 a year to \$107. But residents will receive two free tip vouchers in 2021-22.

The council's 2022 operating budget provides for an underlying deficit of \$653,200.

Rates, fire levy and waste charges are 67.5 percent of council revenue.

Corporate services director Jonathan Harmey said rubbish costs had increased considerably, with recycling costs increasing by 93 per cent over two years.

'We continue to experience significant cost increases in kerbside recycling bin collection. This is common for all local government and private operators in the recycling market. The cost of recycling and resistance

of Asia to accept Australia's recycling input has increased cost to the householder.'

Meander Valley Council continues to stress that the municipality has the lowest rates of any northern municipality. They also reminded ratepayers that there was no rate increase in 2020-21 because of COVID 19.

Mr Harmey noted, 'The rate increase is designed to keep pace with the cost of delivering the current level of service, including the additional positions created in the council's

organisational review in December 2020.'

The mayor Wayne Johnston assured ratepayers the council would do everything it could to keep waste charges in check.

'We're actually going to do something with waste in this municipality.'

Cllr Michael Kelly said, 'The rubbish thing has been hanging over our heads for a long time, six or eight years.'

Cllr Stephanie Cameron commented, 'Waste has gone up so much it's unbelievable.'

Decline in Deloraine platypus numbers of concern, says report

Sharon Webb

PLATYPUS NUMBERS in the Meander River at Deloraine dropped by 25 per cent in the past year possibly because of water pollution upstream, a new report from the Australian Platypus Conservancy has said.

Director of the conservancy Geoff Williams said the reduction in platypus sightings is significant and of concern.

While Mr Williams said that the Meander River platypus population is not under immediate threat of collapsing, he warned that reasons for the drop needed investigating soon.

'We've seen too many platypus populations on the mainland drop to disastrous levels because official intervention has come too late,' Mr Williams said.

'As with all sudden or unexplained fluctuations in animal populations, it would be good to investigate its causes sooner rather than later to decide whether action is needed to halt any decline before it reaches a critical point.'

The conservancy has asked DPIPW, Tasmania's environment department, to work with Meander Valley Council to investigate substantial

changes to land use or site development in or upstream of Deloraine over the past one to two years.

'These may have depleted vegetation cover on the banks, increased rates of erosion and sedimentation or increased pollutant levels in the water, including nutrients from livestock or chemical fertiliser.'

A DPIPW spokesperson said the department will liaise with the conservancy to better understand the implications of the monitoring.

'Without additional data it is difficult for us to determine whether this is the result of a threat, a methodological issue or natural variation,' she said.

'Many factors can influence visual counts of platypus, including survey methods, weather conditions and environmental conditions.'

'However, we encourage further monitoring by the Deloraine community, who are to be applauded for monitoring platypus in their neighbourhood.'

Deloraine resident Anne Gilles, who has recorded over a thousand scans for platypus over the past two years, said many local residents had noticed a drop in numbers.

'It's satisfying that data collected systematically by volunteers has confirmed

scientifically that there is a threat to Deloraine's platypus.

'I certainly hope that DPIPW and Meander Valley Council will examine the situation seriously,' she said.

Mr Williams downplayed suggestions that the removal of five willows from the Deloraine riverbank in late 2020 contributed to the loss of platypus habitat.

He said the platypus populations are known to be remarkably resilient to major bank reconstruction projects. 'It is unlikely that the scale of the willow removal activities was solely, or even primarily responsible for the significant fall.'

'Furthermore, the decline in sightings was already apparent in the months before willows were removed, indicating that other factors were involved.'

Platypus monitoring at Deloraine from June 2019 to May 2020, compared with June 2020 to May 2021, showed 25 per cent fewer platypus sightings.

Mr Williams said this was statistically significant, with less than four per cent likelihood that the difference was due to chance alone.

At the Tasmanian Arboretum at Eugenana, the nearest site to Deloraine with valid platypus monitoring, there is no change in numbers.



A platypus under the Deloraine Bridge over the Meander River photographed by Deloraine wildlife photographer Joy Kachina. Photo supplied

EVERYDAY ESSENTIALS

FOR YOUR COVID SAFETY KIT

A few basic items can help reduce your COVID risk every day and ensure you're prepared if local cases occur or new community safety measures are introduced. Tasmanians are keeping on top of COVID, but things can change at any time. Stay prepared.



Tissues to cover coughs and sneezes



Hand sanitiser with you and soap at home

WHAT TO KEEP IN YOUR KIT



Face masks are required for interstate travel and may become essential in other settings to reduce community risk

Check in TAS app on your phone – check in when you're out and about



Northern Regional Prison project director Colin Shepherd was on site at Brushy Creek Reserve as geotechnical drilling began. *Photo supplied*



Prison friction over drilling and woodhooking

Sharon Webb

WOODHOOKERS CAUGHT cutting down trees on the Birralee reserve proposed for the state government's new prison are being investigated by Tasmania's Parks and Wildlife Service compliance unit.

They may be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions to determine whether a prosecution should begin, a spokesperson said.

Neighbours of the crown land site have accused the state government of doing more damage than necessary in recent due diligence geotechnical drilling by bringing in more equipment than predicted.

But others say the woodhookers' vehicles did more damage to reserve flora than the drillers.

When drilling started on June 28, anti-prison WRAP members

claimed that the drillers would damage plants on the reserve.

Spokesperson Linda Poulton said, 'It is absurd that the government has finally acknowledged that the site has 'sensitive natural values' but will enter it with large vehicles anyway.

'Any vehicles on the reserve will inevitably damage threatened flora identified there, including a new threatened species identified by the government's own former environmental consultant in October last year. Many of these flora are dormant in winter and it will be impossible to avoid damaging them.'

Prison site neighbours CROWPS accused the new prison project director, Colin Shepherd, of misleading them.

Spokesperson Aaron Reader said, 'He advised us in writing that the drilling rig is a

specialised tracked machine with a 6m boom, about the size of a large 4WD. In addition, there would be a water tanker and a small vehicle to transport water from the tanker to the drill rig.

'He said the works authority obtained included conditions to manage the sensitive natural values on the site.

'Early morning on Monday 28 June, three large trucks, one with a drilling rig on the back, and four utes arrived on site.

'This convoy was far larger than promised by Mr Shepherd, more than when the drilling was first attempted last year with disastrous results.

'Once again the promised transparency of the Gutwein government is questionable with taxpayers money again being wasted and Tasmanians again being fed lies.'

Gutwein admits reserve is 'sensitive' while pursuing offset strategies

Sharon Webb

FEDERAL ENVIRONMENT minister Sussan Ley has written to the Tasmanian government as a reminder of its responsibility to refer the Northern Regional Prison to her department.

Having received no referral from the Tasmania Government, she wrote in response to reports from Tasmanians that several listed threatened species are potentially present on the Brushy Creek Reserve site and may be significantly impacted by the proposal.

It comes as *The Examiner* has reported that the Tasmanian Environment Department is actively searching for land to offset the prison block.

This means the government would protect a different piece of land in return for destroying the Brushy Rivulet Reserve to build the prison.

It now appears that preparation of a prison development application will drag on at least until early 2022, when it may be presented to Meander Valley Council.

Originally the application was slated for December 2020, then December this year.

State Infrastructure Minister Michael Ferguson scoffed at suggestions that referring a government project to the federal environment minister was something unusual.

'It's pretty unremarkable, it's pretty normal, it's pretty basic - we've got no problems with that,' he told *The Examiner*.

But Minister Ley's spokesperson said the State Government had not submitted a referral and had a responsibility to do so. 'It is the proponent's responsibility to refer an activity for assessment and approval under national environment law if it is likely to result in a significant impact on ... a nationally listed threatened species or ecological community,' he said.

'My department wrote to the Tasmanian Government to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*.'

Birralee environmentalist Sarah Lloyd said when a referral is listed on the EPBC referral website, the public has 10 days to write a submission.

The process of offsetting land wanted for development by a state government for an

Joan Loone AM

DELORAINE HAS paid its respects to Joan Loone (nee Sandman) who died in July.

At her funeral at St Marks Anglican Church, Mrs Loone was described as 'an icon of the community and family, a great lady.'

Granddaughter Erin Roles said her Ma-Ma was 'a combination of warmth and kindness, giggles and love, who praised our every success.'

Almost 97 when she died at Deloraine Hospital, Mrs Loone supported the hospital being built and in 1969 was an inaugural member of its auxiliary.

Mrs Loone lived at Kanangra for the past 10 months. When sent to the LGH, all she wanted to do was to return to Deloraine Hospital, granddaughter Liz said.

'Coming back to Deloraine Hospital it was like she knew she was home, and calmly went off to sleep.'

Mrs Loone's community work was recognised in the 1999 Queen's honours, when she was invited to join the Order of Australia for her service to the community, particularly in the promotion and delivery of services providing for the welfare of the aged, people with disabilities and the development of youth.

'She was dedicated to making others happy,' Liz said.



'She visited residents of St Mark's Court in Deloraine and gave thousands of hours to Kanangra.'

Mrs Loone was also a founding member of the Deloraine Ladies Probus Club and her long association with Deloraine Football Club, began in the 1940s when her father was treasurer and secretary. Her late husband Roy later was president.

Mrs Loone took up painting late in life and at the tender age of 92 exhibited 'Spring has arrived' in the 2016 *Meandering* exhibition.

Sophie Roles reflected Mrs Loone's love of family and community, saying she was 'a walking encyclopedia of Deloraine.'

'She showed me much about strength and how to be an independent woman.'

Mrs Loone is interred at Deloraine Lawn Cemetery.

alternate site is also set out in the EPBC Act.

It uses a multiplier formula. For example, a replacement site may be required to be four to five times the size of the land to be destroyed. It must also have similar environmental values and be in the same bioregion.

In the case of Brushy Rivulet Reserve, the replacement land may need to be substantially larger because the proposed prison site is an Australian Government reserve.

The federal government paid the Tasmanian government around half a million dollars for Brushy Rivulet Reserve in the 1990s.

An offset would effectively remove from the federal government the problem of the state government building a prison on the site, but not the problem of Westbury people objecting to the prison location.

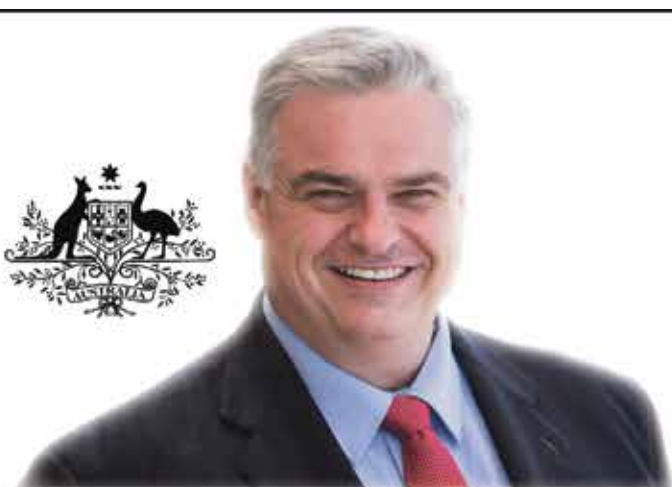
Premier Peter Gutwein originally labelled the Brushy Rivulet Reserve as a 'bush block', stating the site does not have the values for which it was reserved.

In Parliament in June 2020, Justice Minister Elise Archer said there were no records of threatened wildlife on the block.

But on June 24 this year, Mr Gutwein changed his tune, answering a question put by The Greens' Dr Rosalie Woodruffe' on the value of the site.

'... the department works very closely with DPIWPE and the independent environment consultant to ensure no work will be undertaken within 500m of the wedgetail eagle nest on the adjoining property or around any of the other sensitive natural values that have been identified on the site,' Mr Gutwein said.

ADVERTISEMENT



Brian Mitchell MP

Your Federal Member for Lyons

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Letter from the Editor

I HAD to explain the term 'gas-lighting' to someone the other day. Go look it up.

It happens a lot these days, even here in the valley.

There is a persistent push to blame certain groups or people as being the source of divisiveness in the community, and of being rude and aggressive to those who oppose them.

Likewise, the Gazette is accused of turning good news into bad and of pursuing a private and biased agenda.

Those on the other side of the argument are blameless, despite the fact that it is their agenda that is placing the northern regional prison

development in the Meander Valley without any real community consultation.

It should be noted that the only letters this month come from the side of the argument that believes the community was not consulted, and who have been lobbying hard for another public meeting.

Let us hope that the meeting will have a positive outcome.

Shooting the messenger is not the answer. The answer is genuine consultation, hearing and respecting those with opposing views.

Unless you are on Facebook, of course.

Liz Douglass

THE LONG overdue public meeting about the proposed northern prison for the Meander Valley municipality is a week away.

With over 900 signatories (just over 800 being declared compliant), a good number of residents from the length and breadth of the municipality want this meeting.

Let's have a meeting that's not highly orchestrated or tied up in red tape.

The community should have been consulted as soon as the idea of a prison was raised by Council, we should have been involved in decision making and been kept in the loop right from the beginning.

Instead, these discussions were held behind closed doors; the community was kept in the dark, only finding out after the Council had liaised with State Government.

This public meeting should be an opportunity for the community to ask whatever they like about the proposal, to give their opinions and to be listened to and heard by our Council.

Our Councillors are accountable regardless of if they were on Council when the prison was first hatched. They stood for Council to represent the community for decisions past, present and future.

Anne-Marie Loader, Westbury

Letters to the Editor

THE GOVERNMENT says it wants to build a new maximum security prison in the north of the state so that friends, relatives and associates won't have far to travel to visit prisoners.

Prisons are enormously expensive to run. The reality is that Tasmania does not need and cannot afford to run two maximum security prisons, let alone the hundreds of millions of dollars which would be required to build a second prison.

It is likely that the government's hidden agenda is to get the proposed site at Westbury Reserve approved for a prison, then announce that Risdon will be closed, the valuable land sold off, and all the criminals moved to the new prison situated in the middle of a rural area.

A massive new prison complex would dominate the region and likely bring attendant social problems and drug culture to the region.

Instead of building a new prison on such an environmentally sensitive site, the whole justice system in Tasmania should be reviewed to look for ways to achieve better outcomes at lower cost, such as building a corrections centre in the vicinity of Launceston focussing on training, rehabilitation, and life skills.

Colin McQueen, Westbury

SO AT last there will be a public meeting between Council and our community regarding a prison in the Meander Valley.

It's been a long, almost two year wait.

But it's a pity a venue couldn't have been chosen at Westbury to allow older people, people who don't drive and parents to attend. Westbury people should surely have been the priority.

Heather Donaldson, Westbury

I WONDER if there is a Liberal politician who would honestly disagree with the idea that the proposed northern prison can't be built anywhere near Launceston because Launceston is in the seat of Bass. Bass, of course, is the political seat of the premier Peter Gutwein.

But also Minister Ferguson and Minister Courtney, and the home town to our member for Lyons, Guy Barnett (and also the general manager of the Meander Valley Council as it happens).

So, of course none of the highly placed politicians want it on their door step. They would lose heaps of votes.

The prison should be close to a major population centre with all of the infrastructure that would be required for such a proposal, and a high population who deserve easy visitation to their incarcerated friends and family.

So how about the seat of Braddon, with the cities of Devonport and Burnie?

Oops! Braddon is the seat of Minister Rockcliff and Minister

Jaensch, and the young Felix Ellis (and could have been Adam Brookes too). So, not a very likely place for a maximum security prison really. Could lose even more votes.

So, it looks as if Lyons has to be the sacrificial lamb, with the Speaker Mark Shelton (who is expected to be retiring), Minister for holding things Guy Barnett (who lives in Bass whilst representing Lyons), and the big hat wearing John Tucker.

And not forgetting, there are all of we residents of the Meander Valley.

Politically, we're probably classed as 'collateral damage'.

Do you really think that a wildlife reserve in the country is the well researched, logical choice for a maximum security prison, which will likely become THE ONLY maximum security prison for Tasmania?

Because our government surely can't financially afford, or manage two of them. Ask Minister Elise Archer who's been in charge since 2017 and can't even manage one.

Doreen Wileman, Westbury

Burn Brighter This Winter

Is your chimney smoking excessively?

A smoky chimney may mean you are contributing to smoke in your community.

Excessive smoke can build up and linger in the air around our homes and neighbourhoods. This may cause a nuisance for neighbours and in some cases may cause significant health problems to Tasmanians with existing conditions such as asthma.

Simple tips to reduce smoke:

- Always burn with a flame - don't let your fire smoulder
- After reloading, open the air control and burn your fire on high for 20 minutes, especially before going to bed
- Only burn dry, seasoned wood
- Ensure your flue is clean

For more information:
www.epa.tas.gov.au



Department of Primary Industries,
Parks, Water and Environment



TOOSEY

Caring for our community

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

Services offered to the community include:

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Contact reception
Phone 6391 1202

or email
reception@toosey.org.au
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PO Box 135, Longford 7301



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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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Patsy Crawford scribbling away

HAVING A sniffle in these tension ridden pandemic times can set you on your guard. At the first sign of a suspect nose you may be flailed with sticks and driven underground with shouts of 'get out of here you filthy Covid carrier' ringing in your ears.

Perhaps I exaggerate. But there's no denying we are living in days of gloom and isolation as one by one, Australian's states and cities go into lockdown and tumbleweeds drift

down streets where the only people to be seen are determined joggers or a homeless person folded like a tatty bundle of Vinnie-wear in a shop doorway.

When the pandemic first struck many of us thought well there goes the overseas trip. No way will we be strolling jauntily along Las Ramblas or standing on the corner in Winslow, Arizona feeling slightly cheesy but determined to have our photo taken.

Leaving Australia any time soon was about as likely as having the Tardis land in our back yards to whisk us away to god knows where.

So travelling horizons became narrowed. Perhaps

Sydney might be a goer? Or a plod through Kakadu? Yes, yes, see a bit more of our wide brown land. That would even make us feel patriotic, that we were doing our bit for the nation's economy, that we were helping entrepreneurs on the brink of insolvency keep those camel safaris and croc spotting expeditions going.

Alas, that one has come a cropper too. Borders have become like concertinas, wheezing open, closed, open, closed as this damned pandemic blows through our every day, trapping us in some sort of virus-enhanced limbo.

Suddenly that little stretch of water between us here and them over there on big island

has become a gulf of intractable proportions. And anyway what would be the point?

We'd probably have to camp out in Bourke Street and we wouldn't be able to get a bed anywhere in Queensland because it's stuffed to the brim with footballers.

So Tasmania it is.

A few weeks back I was quite beside myself because I was going on a trip to Hobart.

Where to stay? What to do? Should I pack for high tea?

Decisions such as these add that frisson of anticipation to travel plans.

To be honest I was basically going to MONA to check out the latest exhibition, which with the Prado and the Tate

pretty well gone for the duration was about as high rolling as art was going to get for the foreseeable future.

And it was great. I mean what's not to like about MONA? The grandkids took in the exhibition with aplomb. They're old hands now. Only gave a cursory glance to the poo machine this trip. Much more interested in the hair-raisingly loud techno installation.

It does you good, that sort of thing. I took heart, telling myself that one day Covid will be behind us and we can fly up, up and away. Anywhere. Just the prospect of a short stay in Melbourne is enough to make me wilt with excitement.

Council meeting on fire over prison public meeting

Sharon Webb

ANTI-PRISON CAMPAIGNERS are concerned Meander Valley councillors will gag themselves in an August 11 public meeting on the Northern Regional Prison planned for Birralee.

WRAP spokesperson Linda Poulton said, 'If councillors are going to sit with tape over their mouths it will be a difficult meeting for everyone.'

Emotions are running high among Westbury residents and

Meander Valley councillors in the run-up to the meeting.

Cllr Andrew Sherriff foreshadowed that he would not stand for the council in next year's elections, the mayor Wayne Johnston criticised a Westbury resident on ABC Radio and a council staff member was witnessed shouting at a would-be attendee at July's council meeting.

In a 1.30am email to Ms Poulton, volunteer fireman Cllr Sherriff wrote, 'I believe I can

do this far better without being on council, so lucky for you when my term is up the only time you and me will meet is if your house catches fire or you find yourself trapped in your car in the unfortunate event of an accident!'

On the public meeting, Cllr Sherriff wrote, 'I'm all for the community being informed with what is going on with this project but we as a council know as much about it now as you do! Not bloody much!'

In the July council meeting, councillors discussed details of the public meeting the council is obliged to run following WRAP collecting a petition of 1026 signatures, 809 of which were valid according to council general manager John Jordan.

Westbury residents not allowed into the July council meeting for COVID reasons held placards saying, 'Meander Valley Council have sold their souls to Minister Archer'.

Cllr Johnston struggled to control question time. Attending the council meeting remotely after having a COVID test, he couldn't see the public gallery properly.

People not allowed into the meeting shouted at general manager John Jordan for keeping the meeting room doors closed, because they could not hear the meeting. The decision was reversed quickly when the crowd agreed to be quiet.

WRAP members were concerned that the July agenda was worded to limit the scope of the August public meeting to discussing the current prison site only.

Cllrs Tanya King and Deb White moved an amendment that the public meeting discuss 'the proposal to build a prison in the Meander Valley municipality'.

Cllr Rodney Synfield said it was a no-brainer to have as

The public meeting on the proposed prison will be held at 6pm on August 11 at Deloraine Community Complex, Alveston Drive

broad a discussion as possible. Cllr Michael Kelly said he didn't know what to think about it.

Mr Jordan advised that depending on the venue, some might miss out. 'Attendee numbers will be limited by social distancing,' he said. 'If we have a venue for 200 and 400 turn up, not everyone will get in.'

Cllr Temple maintained, 'We need to take the largest venue available. If we have more people than planned for they should see it on a screen outside.'

On the aims of the public meeting, Cllr White suggested getting a written statement from all groups concerned.

The mayor met prison neighbours from the CROWPS group in July but told ABC Radio that WRAP members declined a meeting.

The lack of trust between the two groups was apparent when Cllr Johnston said WRAP would only meet if it could audio-tape the meeting, 'which I'm not prepared to do because we don't have parliamentary privilege. I'm not a lawyer so I don't want to get into the situation where something's recorded and can be used against me later.'



Would-be attendees at the July council meeting listened to proceedings from the foyer after the general manager agreed to open the meeting room doors. Photo supplied

Renee runs for returned soldiers

SPREYTON RUNNER Renee Ritson has thanked Meander Valley residents for their donations to Mates4Mates as she ran 133km from Penguin to Launceston.

So far Renee's fundraising efforts on the three-day run have collected \$4000 for Mates4Mates, a support organization for returned Australian soldiers and their families.

Renee's mother Barb Tamplin said her daughter's partner had served for the Australian forces in Iraq.

'She has seen the effect of this on Aaron so it's an issue close to her heart.'

Barb helped Renee to devise the route. 41kms from Penguin to the Latrobe on day one; 42kms from Latrobe to Deloraine train park on day

two and 50kms from Deloraine to Launceston City Park on day three. Renee's run permit required her to have a team of three cars.

'All three support drivers, including Aaron, did a tremendously patient job crawling along each day around her. The job of the tail driver, Wayne Hills, was scariest as that car was the first warning of the run for drivers on some very fast roads,' Barb said.

'Renee arrived at Launceston City Park on July 7 at around 7.30pm.

'Needless to say, she was exhausted and ached all over but she had the support of her friend Janelle Nevin who drove the lead car and massaged Renee when necessary on the run.'



Renee Ritson of Spreyton on her 133km fundraiser run. Photo supplied

People wishing to donate to Renee's fundraiser should go to Mates4Mates Running For Veterans (supportmates4mates.org) and donate using the light blue donate button lower down the page.

Deloraine Big Band PRESENT

HOT

Miami NIGHTS

Come shake your Salsa with the Deloraine Big Band

Sept 4 Little Theatre

Tickets \$30 or \$25 Arts Del members
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 Bar from 7.00 Band from 7.30

Deb White elected to council

MEANDER VALLEY



Cllr Deb White returns to Meander Valley Council for a third term, following the resignation of Cllr Susie Bower. Photo by Sharon Webb

Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY has a new councillor following the resignation of Susie Bower, who is standing for Lyons in the coming federal election.

Cllr Deb White was elected on a recount of the 2018 vote but is not a new face on the council.

She was a councillor for two terms following the 2009 and 2014 elections but lost her seat in 2018.

'I'm pleased to be offered the opportunity for further input into Meander Valley,' Cllr White said.

'I've had almost three years' break, resting up and enjoying our five acres at Exton. Coming back to the council felt like the right thing to do.'

But Cllr White said at this stage she doubts she will stand again for the 2022 council elections.

Susie Bower, who was elected to Meander Valley Council in 2018, said she resigned to focus on the wider community as the federal Liberal candidate for Lyons.

Psephologist Dr Kevin Bonham's analysis of the recent TAI poll predicts a swing of five per cent to the Liberals in Lyons.

He believes the 2019 disendorsement of Lyons Liberal Jessica Whelan for posting anti-Muslim comments on social media deflated the Liberal vote, and expects the party to add Lyons to wins in Bass and Braddon.

Ms Bower said, 'I am privileged to have been elected to represent the people of the Meander Valley and am working to continue serving them in a different way,' she said.

'I have thoroughly enjoyed working in Meander Valley and that will of course continue. Through the council I have been involved with the Carrick Hall Committee, Blackstone Heights Community Committee, Mole Creek Progress Association, Meander Progress Association, Great Western Tiers Tourism Association, Bracknell Hall Redevelopment Committee, Meander Valley Suns Football and Westbury Bowls Club.

'I have been a strong advocate for youth and engaged with them to obtain initial funding from the council to design the Deloraine pump track.

'I have also been active in driving the Bracknell Hall redevelopment and new squash courts for Deloraine.'

Cllr White was inducted onto Meander Valley Council minutes before the July council meeting. She jumped straight into decision making on the August 11 public meeting to be held about the State Government's proposed northern prison.

Before the council meeting she had said she had no position on the prison and was not adequately informed about it.

'The petition for a public meeting seems uncontroversial. A public meeting is a good idea,' she said.

On council decision making Cllr White said, 'I'd like to see intelligent decisions made about the direction of the municipality's economic development and encourage use of innovative technology.

'I'm interested in economic development that is sustainable, not the old style of using things up.

'For example, the regenerative farming that's taking hold in many places and the onsite fish farm, 41 Degrees South, which filters its waste through wetland.'

SOLICITOR-GENERAL OF TASMANIA

15 MURRAY STREET, HOBART 7000

Telephone: (03) 6165 3614

Fax: (03) 6173 0264

DX: 15 Hobart

e-mail: solicitor.general@justice.tas.gov.au



TASMANIA

Our reference: 019684-20:MO
Your reference:

27 July 2021

Ms Linda Poulton

By email: lindaepoulton@hotmail.com

Dear Ms Poulton,

Defamation Proceedings

I refer to your email 28 June 2021 and thank you for your forbearance in awaiting this response.

On 19 October 2020 a Government spokesperson was quoted in *The Examiner* as saying that the reason that geotechnical drilling did not proceed on the site proposed for the Northern Regional Prison was '... because of a small number of protestors on site'.

I am instructed, on behalf of the State, to retract the statement and unreservedly apologise to you and the other community members to the extent that it has caused any harm.

Upon receiving your confirmation that you accept this apology and retraction, a copy of this letter will be forwarded to the editor of the *Meander Valley Gazette* for publication, at the State's expense.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL O'FARRELL SC
SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Helen Avient

HELD ANNUALLY each year, Winter Fire in Deloraine attracted capacity crowds in 2021. I was one of the 900 guests and 100 workers who attended the event to celebrate winter and community.

The highlight of the evening was the largest bonfire I have ever seen.

Local firefighters were on hand to ensure the safety of everyone. The soulful sound of a piper led everyone to the phoenix topped bonfire just prior to the lighting. Each year a different theme is created. This year the phoenix symbolised the end of an era and then rising from the ashes to begin anew.

There was a wonderful sense of community spirit and fun at this family friendly event. In the depth of a cold winter evening, people left their cosy warm homes to be there with each other. The only electronic devices seen were the occasional mobile, taking photos. Community events such as this bring people together.

Local entertainers displayed their talents and entertained the crowd.

These included fire twirlers, a flaming piano, medieval costumers and the Taiko Drummers.

The crowd favourite was the Meander Men's choir. People joined in, singing to songs they knew. I had actually met the guitarist Eddie at a fundraising trivia night at Meander Hall a few weeks prior, and felt like a local when greeting him afterwards. (We were on the same winning team!)

The crowd either sat on the scattered hay bales or stood around the welcoming fire drums. More than a few bodies swayed in time with the music.

Marshmallows were on sale, and children cajoled parents into purchasing these sticky treats which were then toasted at the various fires scattered around the area. Adults could keep internally warm with coffee or mulled wine. Food vans and stalls gave guests a variety of dinner choices.

This community event is presented by Arts Deloraine and supported by APEX, Deloraine Show Society, Rotary, SES, Meander Valley Council and



Winterfire warmed up a cold winter night with more than food, drink and fire. Spectacular performances throughout the night paved the way for the final climax of the bonfire. From the top: the Valley Singers performed with the backup of Wild Willie's Flaming Piano, the Meander Men pleased the crowd with their renditions of traditional songs; the Wayfarers of Midgard and friends twirled fire throughout the night; and the rhythm and energy of the Taiko drumming carried across the entire event. *Photos supplied*

more. A special shout out to event coordinator Kylie Rogerson who was manning the gate when I arrived, yet still had time for a quick friendly chat.

This type of community spirited event brings locals and visitors together. Sharing in this occasion warmed my soul as much as the fire warmed my body. Attending festivals such as this are not often on the agenda of tourists, but as a traveller I seek out these amazing events that allow you to meet the real local people.

Happy Travels!

Helen Avient's story on Winterfire 2021 is reproduced with permission, from her website, maturesolotraveler.com, where Helen's other travel writing, about Tasmania and elsewhere, can be found.



Art Deloraine **ARTS DELORAINA**
WISHES TO THANK
 Meander Valley Council for their support and all the wonderful volunteers for their commitment to helping us present our spectacularly successful
WINTERFIRE
EVENT ON SATURDAY 10TH JULY



Be Part of Something Bigger

Working in aged care might not be for everyone – it's hard work and requires plenty of genuine compassion and resilience. But for those with the enthusiasm to help others, it can be a wonderfully rewarding and purposeful career pathway.

Aged Care Deloraine is a not-for-profit community-based organisation committed to the wellbeing of our residents and the wider community. To serve the community to the best of our ability, we rely on a committed team of employees and volunteers who make a real difference in the lives of our residents every day.

With aged care reform on the horizon, now is a fantastic time to consider a career in aged care to be a part of something bigger and help us lead the way in transforming the industry. We are eager to take advantage of any new funding opportunities to maintain and improve the quality of life for our residents – and we need a team of dedicated, enthusiastic, and resilient people at every level to help.

If you want a job or volunteer work that enables you to give back to the community and individuals who have given so much to us – consider working in aged care. We are currently actively seeking a Leisure and Lifestyle Coordinator, and a Care Manager – and we're open to expressions of interest for a range of roles.

Current Roles: seek.com.au/companies/aged-care-deloraine-767147
Expressions of Interest: info@agedcaredeloraine.org.au

AGED CARE DELORAINÉ INC
Phone: 6362 8300 **Web:** agedcaredeloraine.org.au

“

I want to be proactive, rather than reactive, so that's why I'm deciding to get the vaccine.



SABELA

BICULTURAL HEALTH WORKER

WHY I'M GETTING

THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Halls Hut at Lake Malbena registered by Heritage Tasmania

A BUSHWALKING hut at Lake Malbena in the Walls of Jerusalem in the central highlands has been provisionally registered in the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

Halls Hut has become embroiled in the conservation battle over the Wild Drake eco-tourism business proposed by Daniel Hackett, who has leased the island in Lake Malbena.

Heritage Tasmania is calling for the public to comment on the entry.

The chair of the Tasmanian Heritage Council Brett Torossi said Halls Hut is one of six huts in national parks entered in the Heritage Register, including Dixons Kingdom Hut, Junction Lake Hut, Du Cane Hut and the Hobart Walking Club Hut.

‘Like the other huts entered in the Tasmanian Heritage Register that are now within national parks, Halls Hut demonstrates the emerging recreational use of the Tasmanian highlands during the twentieth century, an era in which people built huts on Crown Land in the highlands for a variety of uses,’ Ms Torossi said.

‘It also demonstrates a new development in traditional bush hut building, representing the efforts of cobuilders Reg Hall and Dick Reed to build the perfect small highland recreational hut.’

Reg Hall was a Launceston lawyer with a passion for hiking, skiing and designing buildings and bush gear. He first entered the Walls of Jerusalem in December 1928 and, with no other official names to any of the natural features, applied many of the biblical names still in use today.

After his return from World War Two service, Hall met Dick Reed, a grazier and bushwalker who had also built recreational huts in the Tasmanian highlands. Together they talked at length about the design of the perfect small mountain hut.

Halls Hut was built in 1955–1956, a year before Hall was granted the lease on Halls Island from Crown Land.



The position of Halls Hut, set back from the shore of the island in bush, is not amenable to the sort of romantic image often used to sell Tasmania’s ‘wilderness’ to tourists. There are no ‘picture perfect’ postcard images of Halls Hut, perhaps partly because the hut is almost impossible to photograph in the wider context of Lake Malbena, until recently it was known only to the bushwalking and fishing communities. Some were keen to keep it that way. *Photo and story supplied by Heritage Tasmania*

‘As with many huts built at this time, it was a collaborative effort that drew on each person’s knowledge and experience, using traditional bush carpentry, local materials and materials that could be easily carried in. The special blend of utilitarian and vernacular architecture, almost hidden away in the wilderness on an island in a remote lake is highly valued by bushwalking and angling communities.’

The Heritage Register entry for Halls Hut provides an overview of the hut’s history, identifies the historic heritage values and defines a boundary to protect the main sightlines to and from the hut, which is largely hidden by the surrounding eucalypt woodland. The boundary extends from the lake edge to a cliff just north of the hut to protect the hut’s easterly view of the lake. The western boundary extends

from the cliff south to Lake Malbena, taking in Reg Hall’s boat landing site and the track from the landing to the hut.

Ms Torossi said the Heritage Council appreciates the widespread public interest regarding proposed commercial activity on the island.

‘There is also community concern for the future of Halls Hut itself,’ she said.

‘The Heritage Council completed a detailed assessment of the heritage values and is satisfied that Halls Hut’s historic cultural heritage significance will be protected through the area being provisionally registered. I encourage those people with an interest in Halls Hut to review the provisional entry and provide their feedback to the Heritage Council.’

A copy of the provisional entry and details on how to provide feedback is available at: www.heritage.tas.gov.au.

What is historic heritage significance? The *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* defines historic cultural heritage significance in relation to a place as ‘Significance to any group or community in relation to the archaeological, architectural, cultural, historical, scientific, social or technical value of the place’.

Senator Claire
CHANDLER
Senator for Tasmania

Your Liberal Senator
working for **LYONS**

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SenatorChandler
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Exton crash raises questions about Bass Hwy quality

Sharon Webb

A TWO-CAR crash that killed two people on the Bass Highway near Exton has raised concerns about the safety of non-divided sections of the road.

The people killed were, sadly, Victorian parents on holiday with their three teenagers during the mid-year school break.

Locals believe drivers may get confused on non-divided parts of the highway, forgetting whether they are on two or four lane sections.

State Growth statistics indicate that since 2019, four fatal crashes and nine out of the 12 serious collisions on the Bass Highway between Launceston and Devonport happened on non-separated sections.

They also indicate traffic flow on the Bass Highway rivals that on the Midland Highway, which recently has been upgraded.

A spokesman for the department of State Growth said, 'Two-way traffic signs and direction arrows on the road surface are in place at relevant points along the highway to address concerns about possible confusion.'

'Tasmanian road design and road rules are no different from similar conditions in other states.'

The accident at 11.15am on Saturday 10 July caused thousands of cars to be redirected through Westbury and Deloraine for about six hours.

Rescue personal and accident analysts were on the scene for many hours.

Federal Member for Lyons Brian Mitchell MP said the highway is very busy and too much of it remains single lane.

'A number of sections between Hadspen and Elizabeth Town should be dual-lane.'

'Labor made a Bass Highway commitment at the federal election nearly three years ago so why have the Liberals waited till now to get this important process started?'

Police said the July accident was a head-on crash between a Ford Ecosport travelling west being driven by the Victorian father, and a Mitsubishi Pajero Sport travelling east, containing two adults and a four week old baby.

The Ford crossed the centre line and collided with the Mitsubishi.

Three teenagers in the rear seat of the Ford were transported to the LGH and the Royal Hobart Hospital.

The woman driving the Mitsubishi and the infant were taken to the LGH and the man in the front seat was taken to the Royal by helicopter.

Police have thanked members of the public who stopped to help at the accident site and police helped a member of the public to extinguish a fire in the engine bay of the Ecosport.

A report will be prepared for the coroner.

The accident comes as the Tasmanian government is asking residents to identify priorities on the Bass Highway between Hadspen and Devonport.

Minister for Infrastructure Michael Ferguson said safety upgrades between Deloraine and Latrobe will be a key priority in developing a ten year Bass Highway Corridor Strategy.

'The community is invited to provide feedback, including issues they have experienced, and how they use this stretch of highway,' he said.

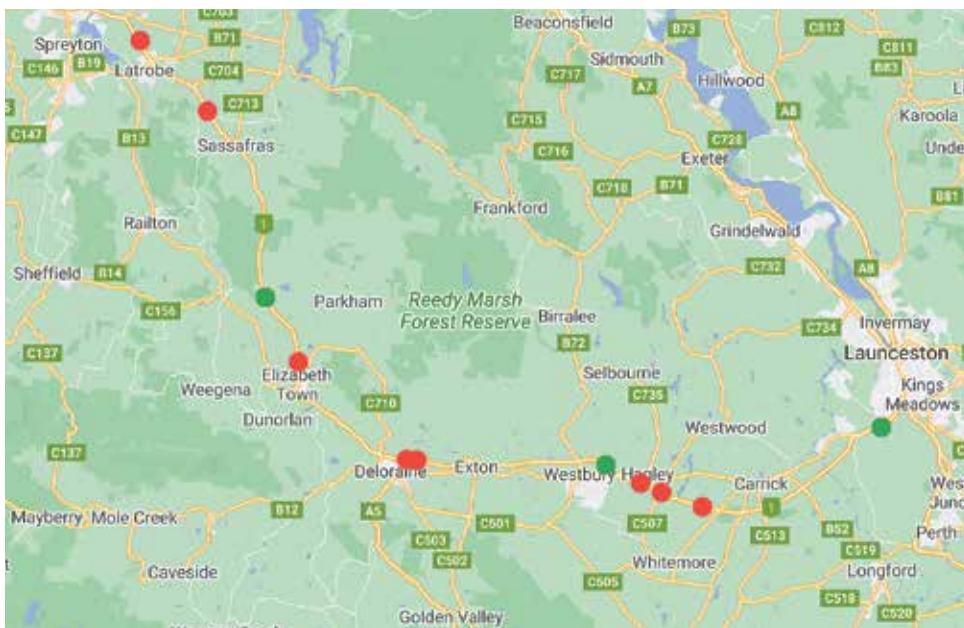
Consultation is open until August 14. Feedback forms are available at the Meander Valley



A two-car crash on a non-divided section of the Bass Highway near Exton in July has raised questions about the safety of the highway. Photo supplied

and Latrobe councils' offices or an online, interactive map can be accessed from transport.tas.gov.au/basshighwaylauncestondevonport.

The final strategy and implementation plan are expected to be released in late 2021 with the first projects to be implemented in 2022.



Left: Serious accidents on the Bass Hwy 2019 to 2021. Red dots indicate crashes on non-separated sections, green on separated sections.

Above: Since 2019, four fatal crashes on the Bass Hwy were on non-separated sections. Maps based on data supplied by Department of State Growth

Councillors support chipping away at another five acre block in Westbury

Sharon Webb

ANOTHER BLOCK on Five Acre Row in Westbury has been approved for subdivision, causing angst among residents and division among Meander Valley councillors.

Councillors listened to an emotional plea from Five Acre Row resident Joanne Mitchelson at their July meeting, where she pleaded for them to empathise with residents wanting to maintain the historical purpose and hobby farmer lifestyle of the street.

She said, 'People ask me why is it called Five Acre Row.'

'It's because we have five acre lots in this street. At the

beginning of its history the lots were allocated to military pensioners, enough land to be self-sufficient.

'This was the rule and I always thought it would remain as the name indicated, making possible the opportunity for a particular lifestyle choice. This is why I chose to live here and it's what I and the majority of residents voted to retain, when we were given the opportunity to vote.'

Ms Mitchelson almost succeeded in convincing the council not to approve the subdivision of 23 Five Acre Row into three lots. As yet the owner, Mrs SM Hope, has no building planned on the two extra lots.

In her written objection to the proposal, Karen Murray of Five Acre Row said the blocks were never to be subdivided.

'With a little skulduggery, Westbury is fast becoming a satellite concrete suburb of Launceston,' she wrote.

'People purchase these blocks for their own personal space, their own escape to the country, to run a small business, have some animals.'

'Allowing these types of subdivisions to occur, we are all living on top of each other and being overlooked. I certainly didn't purchase my property to be overlooked by a village. I purchased my property for the views and peacefulness of

the area. My, how times have changed, and NOT for the better.'

'Westbury is no longer the historic English village Meander Valley Council perceives it to be. In the last four years there have been numerous subdivisions of these unique and historic five acre blocks, and I can well assure you that anyone who reads this objection will agree that most of these developments are eyesores.'

While the Tasmanian Planning Scheme allows subdivision of blocks on Five Acre Row, Cllrs Tanya King, Rodney Synfield, Frank Nott and John Temple would not support it.

Cllr Synfield said the subdivision would have a negative effect in terms of amenity.

'Westbury's strong grid pattern of roads and hedgerows

has been seriously weakened in recent years,' he said.

Cllr Nott said Ms Mitchelson's representation was the most passionate he'd heard.

'It is the thin edge of the wedge,' he said. 'If this is passed there will be many more subdivisions. Someone has to say stop, so I'll be voting against it.'

Cllr Deb White said that on a personal level she sympathised with the picture Ms Mitchelson painted. 'But I will allow the subdivision because our job is to represent the community.'

Cllr Sherriff said he would vote for the subdivision.

'I sympathise with the neighbours [in Five Acre Row] but I also sympathise with the developers,' he said.

'We have to make the best decision for the ratepayers, I suppose.'



Gracious Bentley moving on in history

Sharon Webb

IN A Tasmanian winter when the hawthorn hedges at Chudleigh are bare of all but berries, you can see historic Bentley from Mole Creek Road.

In other seasons, hedges grown by former owner Phillip Oakden conceal the spreading white home tucked under an unnamed hill and backed by the majestic Western Tiers.

Even with an open entrance, the closely treed driveway hides the home of antiques dealer John Hawkins and noted botanical and landscape artist Robyn Mayo.

Over 20 years, John and Robyn have doubled the size of their home to 860 square metres and planted 100,000 trees. They have restored Bentley's Van Diemen's Land Company brick and stone barn, building stables, a carriage house and a conservatory in keeping with historical context.

And now the 395 hectare property is on the market.

Real estate agents Knight Frank and Christie's describe Bentley as 'arguably one of Tasmania's finest man-made farming landscapes and magnificent period homestead'.

Appropriate, because for John Hawkins it's all about the landscape of Chudleigh Valley, a name seldom used by locals.

'The past 20 years has seen every great property in this valley restored,' Hawkins said.

'Mayfield has been restored by the Ritchie family. Scott and Deb Wilson have created an important Tasmanian attraction for garden lovers at Old Wesleydale. And Bentley.'

Hawkins' love of history and place is the source of his knowledge of the Chudleigh landscape.

In 2006, in the Australian Garden History Society's Tasmanian magazine *Bluegum*, he wrote, 'The Tasmanian Heritage Council has permanently registered Bentley and its cultural landscape on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

'It is the first entry to specifically refer to a cultural landscape as a contributor to a property's heritage significance.

'Processes are in train for an extension of this registration to the Chudleigh Valley so as to encompass the 19th Century estates of Native Plain (now Old Wesley Dale), and part of Mountain Villa, Bentley and Mayfield.'

Hawkins described the Gog Range and the Mersey River, the home of the indigenous Pallitore, as integral features of the topographic and cultural landscape.

'The whole valley is presided over by the Gog Range. This features a natural rock formation that in the morning light produces a perfectly formed human face, some 200 feet high. It was from this ridge that the Aborigines gathered their ochre.'

Bentley was established by John Badcock Gardiner on 840 acres granted by Governor Arthur in 1829. Hawkins' research indicates Gardiner was born in Devon in 1800 and married at Bickleigh, 15 miles north of Chudleigh in England.

'This close connection suggests Gardiner as the person who named Chudleigh in Tasmania,' Hawkins surmised.

George Augustus Robinson writes in his journal (quoted in NJB Plomley's *Friendly Mission*) that 'Mr Gardiner is a lime burner ... and in my journey from Launceston to this place I met numerous carts loaded with lime of the finest quality.

'The stone is a hard blue stone. Great quantities are conveyed to Launceston on bullock carts upwards from a distance of forty miles ...'

These days that limestone is made into cement at Railton.

Phillip Oakden acquired Bentley in 1838, naming it after his family home near Ashbourne in Derbyshire.

Hawkins conjectures, 'As a member of the Launceston Horticultural Society he must have been responsible for the planting of the six miles of hawthorn hedges, which are to this day such a feature of Bentley.'

Knight Frank describes Bentley as being developed over John Hawkins' time as a cattle grazing property with no cropping.

On a previously Aboriginal fire-farmed plain, it has a sustainable farming regime with water from five dams and waterholes and rights from the Lobster Rivulet.

John and Robyn have fenced waterways, removed every willow and radiata pine and replaced them with native trees to prevent stock from destroying water courses.

The Bentley home has a dining room, drawing room, two libraries, morning room, billiard room, conservatory, potential for six bedrooms and six bathrooms, kitchen with gas fired Aga, laundry and drying room.

John Hawkins sounds rueful about selling. But Robyn is ill and he is approaching 70; no-one can control or predict the way life turns out.

'We thought we'd be here forever,' he said.

Above: 'A magnificent period homestead', historic Bentley, sits quietly in the Chudleigh Valley landscape.

Right: John Hawkins and Congo in front of Bentley's restored Van Diemen's Land Company brick and stone barn. Photos by Sharon Webb



Beneath the surface: fungi, slime moulds and the wood wide web

Tuesday 7 September 2021 9am-4pm
Westbury Function Centre, Franklin Street, Westbury

Beneath the surface celebrates the diversity of all organisms and their roles in the environment through displays, talks and discussion.

For more information, contact Sarah Lloyd
Email: black-sugarloaf@gmail.com
Phone: 6396 1380

Central North Field naturalists Inc.
www.disjunctnaturalists.com



National Threatened Species Day commemorates the death of the last captive Thylacine on 7 September 1936

Flush 3Ps only says TasWater after smelly episode

Sharon Webb

BAD SMELLS wafting over Westbury and sewage bubbling up in gardens during July's wet weather was caused by residents flushing prohibited items down their toilets, TasWater said.

The blockage near Westbury's sewage treatment plant was caused by wet wipes, sanitary items and tree roots.

'We have taken steps to prevent a recurrence including increased planned maintenance, CCTV surveillance of the sewer line and monitoring of flow into the sewage treatment plant,' a TasWater spokesperson said.

'We would like to remind Tasmanians that when flushing, only flush

toilet paper. Flushing wet wipes, sanitary items and anything other than pee, poo and toilet paper (3Ps) risks blocking both the household pipes as well as TasWater's sewerage system.

'They remain a problem right up until we have to sift them out when they reach the sewage treatment plant.'

After a gully trap spewed sewage into a Westbury garden, TasWater flushed out the street's sewage pipes. The householder said, 'The blockage was a lot further downstream than us, so it had backed up a considerable way. TasWater brought in a giant jet machine and advised us to put our toilet seats down in case the backward water pressure sprayed out!'

TasWater said recent sewage problems did not indicate the system would come under strain if the proposed Northern Regional Prison is built on Birralea Road.

They say that both the Westbury sewage and water treatment plants have the capacity to deal with increased development in the area. Taswater will have no role in the prison development until a site is confirmed and a development application is lodged.

For a week after the blockage TasWater crews continued to dose the affected area with deodoriser to reduce the smell. TasWater said only five Westbury residents had complained about odour or sewage issues since January 2018.

Council thwarts Meander School information meet

MEANDER VALLEY Council has blocked a community meeting of Meander residents interested in learning about a program being run at the town's former primary school.

At a working bee held on June 19 at the former Meander Primary School, resident Kerin Booth said the program's teacher had asked whether locals were interested in learning about the program being run there by Deloraine High School and the Beacon Foundation.

'We settled on a date and put a poster about it on FaceBook and on the Meander shop noticeboard. Within three hours they had both been removed,' Ms Booth said.

The meeting poster stated, 'A community meeting will be held at 4pm Wednesday 30th June at the Meander School site, courtesy of Callan Smith of Meander Valley Outdoor Education Experience (MVOEE) pilot program, which has interim use of the Meander School until the end of the year. Cal invites members of the community to come along and hear about this program. The Deloraine High School principal and the chaplain are also hoping to attend. All welcome! Please bring a chair!'

'I thought it was a sensible idea,' said Ms Booth, who is the secretary of the Meander Area Residents and Ratepayers Association.

The cancellation notice said that Meander Valley Council asked that all such events relating to the Meander School site be organised through council.

Asked by the Gazette about the directive, Cllr Johnston, who lives at Meander, said, 'The council has a letter going out to the Meander community explaining its position. A meeting prior to the council process would not answer the questions that would be asked. This is a good news story for the Meander community and the old school site, please don't turn it into a bad one.'

Ms Booth said some MARRA members were puzzled as to why the council believes it has control over the Meander community getting together for a meeting. 'It's a very controlling approach.'

MARRA president Bodhi McSweeney played down the significance of Cllr Johnston blocking the meeting.

'The council asked that if a meeting is held it needs to go through them,' she said. 'It's not a big deal.'

Meander Valley Council stated in a May media release that it will 'ask the Meander community to help decide the future of the former Meander Primary School site'. There is no sign of consultation yet.

Deloraine High will use the site until the end of this year to run a Beacon Foundation program, which Beacon chief operating officer Kathryn McCann emphasised was a 'community program'.

Cllr Johnston recently said that the council had asked the state government for a change in the conditions for use of the school but was rejected.

A government spokesperson said, 'The *Crown Lands Act 1976* order relating to the former Meander School property states the site must be used for community purposes which may include public recreation and community events.'

'The order does not limit the community purpose to a specific community. Under the current order the site must not be used for any commercial purposes.'



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Predators and prey – everybody’s doing it

EVERY ORGANISM (except those at the top and bottom of the food web) is both predator and prey.

Predators range in size from tiny single-celled amoebae that occur in their billions, to large, less numerous animals such as crocodiles, lions and eagles. Each one has a different strategy to overcome their prey.

The large animals sometimes hunt in packs, or they capture their quarry using cunning, speed and strength.

The smaller organisms use similar strategies or, in the case of the marine cone snail, use a lethal mix of toxins. All predators have important roles in the ecosystem.

Amoebae (including slime moulds) prey on soil-dwelling bacteria, algae, yeasts and other single-celled fungi. They are especially important in controlling populations of bacteria.

The amoebae in turn are eaten by nematodes, another incredibly diverse and species-rich group of organisms.

Nematodes are preyed on by mites, insects and other invertebrates. Mites also predate smaller invertebrates such as springtails (*Collembola*).

There are at least 40 species of carnivorous fungi!

The edible oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) preys on nematodes to supplement its nitrogen in nutrient-deficient soils. The fine microscopic fungal threads called hyphae have adhesive strips or lasso-like constricting rings that paralyse nematodes within minutes of contact.

Mites are eaten by other mites, small ladybird-like beetles and other insects. Predatory insects like assassin bugs prey on caterpillars and



beetles. Many insects fall victim to spiders that in turn are eaten by birds or wasps.

Small birds fall prey to larger birds including Grey Shrike-thrush, or raptors like hawks and eagles.

Cats, quolls, rats and snakes take a significant number of birds, with one of the craftiest of them all, feral and domestic cats, killing an estimated two billion birds, reptiles and mammals every year.

At the top of the food web are the apex predators. Lions, cheetahs, leopards and bears

– amongst others – are native in Europe and the Americas. In Australia we have devils, eagles, quolls and crocodiles.

These animals play crucial roles in the ecosystem by controlling populations of other animals lower in the food web and by preying on weak or sick animals thus keeping the populations healthy.

Their absence and decreasing numbers can have large and unforeseen consequences.

For instance, fewer predators can lead to an increase in herbivorous animals such



as pademelons and Bennett’s wallaby.

Left unchecked, large numbers of herbivores can create grazing pressure on native vegetation as well as crops.

This can eliminate food and/or shelter for other animals that live in the understorey, or birds that nest and shelter in dense vegetation.

Top predators are naturally rare, and they are often persecuted because they are perceived as being a threat to

livestock. Wedge-tailed Eagles may take the occasional lamb, but this is more than offset by their important role in controlling grazing animals that compete with domestic stock.

All apex predators and their habitats must be protected.

Sarah Lloyd OAM

From top left, clockwise: Robberflies (*Laphria telectes*) lie in wait to ambush their prey of flying insects; Tasmanian devil; Shining bronze-cuckoo and other cuckoos feed on hairy caterpillars that most other birds avoid; Spider with ant.

All photos by Sarah Lloyd

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Westbury Health Advisory Committee
Annual General Meeting

9.00am, Thursday 9 September
Westbury Community Health Centre

WESTBURY HEALTH
Caring for life

At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society

by Clare Andersen

The storyline in September's film, *Nomadland*, resonates with the problem of homelessness in Australia.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2020 data shows women over 45 years are one of the fastest growing groups of people becoming homeless.

Australia's lack of appropriate and affordable housing is leaving increasing numbers of older women with nowhere to go.

Contributing factors are the death of a partner, divorce, illness, loss of employment and little or no support networks.

It is forgotten that many women were full-time carers, coming late to superannuation. Concerned groups cite 'an unfolding crisis compounded by the economic, social and health impacts of Covid-19. It highlights critical links between safe, secure and affordable housing and good health and wellbeing, particularly in older age.'



September 11 **NOMADLAND**

2020 M, drama, USA, 108m, Director Chloe Zhao

Winner of 6 Oscars in 2021, including Best Picture and Best Actress and Best Director, this is a topical story of a woman in her sixties, who after losing everything in the Great Recession, embarks as a van dwelling, modern day nomad on a journey through the American West.

'Enjoyed the balance this movie struck between the harshness and uncertainty of this kind of life, and the joy of community and beauty of nature. It's not really a plot based movie, more a series of impressions.'

Viewer 4/2021 Audience Rotten Tomato 82%

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

'Can lives here' says Commonwealth Bank – but only until 1pm

Sharon Webb

LYONS MP Brian Mitchell is encouraging account holders to remove their funds from the Commonwealth Bank after they announced they would close 90 Australian regional banks at 1pm each day, effective October 4.

Tasmanian branches affected are Deloraine, Longford, Exeter, St Helens, Latrobe, George Town, Huonville, Scottsdale, St Helens and Wynyard. Deloraine is the only Commonwealth Bank in the Meander Valley.

'Regional Tasmanians are being treated as second class citizens by arrogant and greedy banks,' Mr Mitchell said. 'Banks that already post multi-billion-dollar profits continue to slash services to regional customers.'

'It's arrogant and greedy and illustrates the contempt that big banks have for their regional customers.'

Mr Mitchell urged regional customers to where possible switch to a bank that supports their local community.

The Commonwealth Bank said COVID-19 accelerated its customers' moves towards digital and contact centre services.

'In recent years we have seen a significant increase in customers self-serving on the app or via NetBank, with CBA now serving 7.5 million digitally active customers,' a spokesman said.

The bank said older customers are also using CBA online.

'In a monthly comparison during 2020, more than twice as many customers over 60 accessed NetBank or the CommBank app compared with those who visited a branch in the preceding three-month period.'

CBA said visitor numbers to branches had fallen 22 per cent since last year, with some seeing customer visits fall by more than 50 per cent.

'Conversely, this year we have seen 6.8 million CommBank app logins a day, peaking at 10.7 million daily logins on the app and NetBank portal in April 2021.'

Lyons Liberal candidate Susie Bower said the move was disappointing.

'I am particularly concerned how the reduction in hours will affect the elderly and small business.'

'I am writing to CBA management to express our community's disappointment and find out if there is a will to reconsider this short-sighted decision.'



Census

It's time to complete your Census.



This year, you can start as soon as you receive instructions, if you know where you'll be on **Census night – Tuesday 10 August**.

Complete online, by paper or with help from us.

Every stat tells a story.



Scan or visit
census.abs.gov.au



Eye for an eye

A COCKFIGHT can cause serious damage.

My Old Faithful rooster is sitting in a large cat-carry container in my living room.

He has a blood-encrusted comb and wattles and I'm not sure about his sight in one eye – all caused by Young Incumbent who thought his time had come to lead the flock.

I didn't see or hear what must have been a blood-curdling cockfight. Two large Buff Orpingtons fighting it out like lions in the jungle.

Did the flock of 18 girls stand around cheering and jeering like onlookers in a playground fight? My money is on them running to hide under the hedge.

And so it happened, at the end of the day when the flock was almost into its night quarters, I looked up to see Old Faithful trudging wearily towards the chook shed. Horrified by his scabbed comb I followed him, picked him up without him protesting and sought the cat-carry container.

No squawk from Old Faithful when I picked him up indicated that the situation was bad. But it wasn't until I got a better look that I saw the damage to his eye.

His right eye was completely covered in thick, dried blood and I didn't know whether he still had a right eye at all.

Have you seen the spurs on a large rooster? They're capable of horrific damage if that's the rooster's intention.

I really couldn't hold him and examine his eye properly so the

cat carry container went onto the back seat of the car; we needed to visit the Chook Guru up the road.

Every regional town has one of these. A guru who's experienced just about every chook conundrum there is.

He found an eye under the scabs and pronounced Old Faithful fit to carry on, if I could get him to eat and drink.

On night one I could only squirt water from a syringe down Old Faithful's throat and shove a few bits of meat in too. He wasn't the slightest bit interested and slept in the container in my bathroom. The half aspirin I gave him may have helped.

Night two, and he ate bits of meat by himself but I'm still squirting in the water.

My hopes were lifted because I sat the container where he could look through the glass door at the girls gathering on the deck.

I interpreted his throaty gurgles as pleasure but who knows what's going through the mind of a half blind rooster?

On the morning of day three, he polished off a plate of pasta topped with canned mackerel. Things were looking up.

Since the Chook Guru cleaned up Old Faithful's eye, it's now half open but I can't tell whether he can see anything.

A friend raised an eyebrow when I decided to keep two roosters. Should I have taken notice?

Because none of my boys had been in a fight, I didn't anticipate the damage that could be done.

But each morning when invalid Old Faithful crows from my bathroom at 4.30am, I am bluntly reminded of my doubtful decision to keep two roosters.

Young Incumbent will soon be on his way to a new home with some of the girls and Old Faithful will rejoin the rest of the flock in the chook pen.

Hopefully, happy chooks, happy life.

Tree removal 'like being released from prison', neighbour says

Sharon Webb,

A LARGE English sycamore tree that has been spreading misery among some Deloraine residents is no more.

The tree on a Housing Tasmania easement in East Barrack Street was cut down in July with the permission of Housing Minister Michael Ferguson.

Neighbours Diane Greenway and Douglas Bignell said they were grateful for the tree's removal.

'We're relieved and overjoyed really to think of all the time it's taken for our requests to come to fruition,' Diane said.

'It will take a year or two to deal with the final seedlings coming up but now we'll be able to get our garden back to what we wanted.'

'We've held off planting things because of the time it has taken us to deal with sycamore seedlings.'

Douglas Bignell drew a big breath and said, 'It feels like being released from prison. We couldn't keep up the work we needed to deal with sycamore seedlings in our garden.'

Diane and Douglas are retired and have been fighting bureaucracy over the tree since 2011, shortly after they bought their Deloraine Federation era house and moved from Melbourne to live in it.

Each year they and their neighbours have been met by a barrage of seedlings from the prolific sycamore, which is regarded as 'a common environmental weed' by DPIPWE.

The seedlings that grew from the tree's winged seeds sprouted by the thousands in garden beds, under hedges, in pavement gaps and even in house guttering and down pipes.



Seed spreading misery now gone. Photo by Sharon Webb

Housing Tasmania replaced all the pavers in one unit's courtyard because it was ruined by seedlings. Diane and Douglas had stopped putting down mulch because it encourages seedlings.

For years Housing Tasmania repeatedly quoted an arborist's report saying the tree was 'historic' and refused to remove it.

After years of fruitless emails and meetings with the staff of local MP Guy Barnett, in April Roger Jaensch (then Housing Minister) agreed to consider removing it. Then came the May state election and a new Housing Minister.

Diane and Douglas sent more letters and a copy of the Gazette's story about the tree, and eventually received a reply from Mr Ferguson that Housing Tasmania was awaiting a Meander Valley Council permit to remove it.

He wrote to them, 'I have referred the matter to Housing Tasmania ... in light of concerns raised by the neighbours.'

'I trust this will be a relief to you and your neighbours.'

Diane Greenway and Douglas Bignell, along with neighbours Ted Carter, Jenny McBain, Laura and Graham Window and others, certainly agree.

Historic property still for sale

A MONTH after expressions of interest in an historic Exton property were supposed to have closed, the property is still on the market. Owner Carl Porter said he'd had 'plenty of offers but no takers'.

The 872h Woodville Run property on Porters Bridge Rd has been owned by six generations of the same family since the land was granted in 1846.

Woodville Run is being offered on 10 titles of 25h to 194h blocks. All are zoned rural and classified as private timber reserves.

Mr Porter is selling because his four offspring have gone in directions other than farming. He will keep the homestead and some lots for himself.



Two roosters? Too many? Photo supplied



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Nikki Sabok visits Deloraine every Tuesday morning

Deloraine Meals on Wheels turns fifty!



Deloraine Life Members Jan Atkins and Joan Pedley with Meals on Wheels Tasmania President Barry Stubbs Photo supplied

ON TUESDAY 27 July, Meals on Wheels held a special afternoon tea to celebrate the Deloraine Branch's 50th anniversary.



Around 40 people attended Deloraine Community House, including Bev Jordan and Ruth How, two volunteers who have been involved with the branch for 50 years, and many others involved for over 25 years.

Jan Atkins, who began volunteering with Meals on Wheels in Deloraine in 1973, and Joan Pedley, who started in 1975, were awarded Life Membership of Deloraine Branch.

Deloraine Meals on Wheels started with a public meeting to establish the need for the service and find volunteers to deliver meals to the community.

Meals were first sourced from the local hospital at a cost of 25c to the clients, subsidised by the State Meals on Wheels Association

The first meals were delivered on a plate, put into a tin

carry tray and then a large metal esky for transportation.

Bev Jordan recounts 'the worst part for volunteers back then was that the volunteers had to do all the washing up of the containers and plates, which originally took place in their own homes'.

Many organisations have been involved with the delivery of meals, including the Ladies Delta Club, Rotary, Lions and Apex Clubs of Deloraine. Deloraine Meals on Wheels would like to thank them for their ongoing service.

Meals are now distributed from Deloraine House, sourced from Deloraine Aged Care for the last four years, but within recent months the service is provided several times a week from Uniting Age Well's Latrobe facility, Strathdevon.

This allows Deloraine area clients to choose from up to five different main courses, along with soups, sandwiches, salads and desserts.

Meals on Wheels Tasmania CEO Rebecca Free said, 'We would like to thank all of the team at Deloraine Meals on Wheels for their wonderful commitment and dedication to Meals on Wheels, and we look forward to celebrating in another 50 years time'.

The voices of MVFM

John Phelps

NOW, WHAT would induce a newly retired man and his wife to move from Mildura, Victoria, to live in Bracknell, Tasmania.

While Stephen Gorin was working in the electronics service industry, they made some caravanning visits to Tasmania and what they saw convinced them that this is where they wanted to be, with quiet, peaceful, changeable weather and beautiful countryside. The ideal place to retire.

Stephen was able to continue his hobbies of electronics and amateur radio operating (VK7SVG is his call sign), and soon found himself drawn to making his own radio programs with MVFM.

His choice in music is wide but singers figure prominently.

However, the singers have to know how to sing. Not surprisingly then, his MVFM program is called 'Voices that Sing'.

Stephen developed his taste in popular music by listening to big bands. Tommy Dorsey was an early favourite, as was Shirley Bassey. He maintained his enthusiasm until the music of the 1980s started to become a little too 'heavy'.

Stephen was fortunate to have a work colleague with an encyclopaedic knowledge

The singer, not the song



Stephen Gorin, presenter of 'Voices that Sing' on MVFM. Photo supplied

of popular music who encouraged Stephen to develop his own knowledge and enthusiasm even more.

Listening to music is how Stephen relaxes. His great love for, and knowledge of a wide and varied spectrum of music means that when he is in his man cave, he can immerse

himself in it. One stipulation however, he has to be able to play his music up to 'my volume', as he puts it.

If you wish to hear some performers who really know how to sing, you might choose to listen to Stephen's program 'Voices that Sing' on MVFM on Sunday evenings from 8pm.

Gayle lives the lottery life in Tas

Sharon Webb

GAYLE POLLOCK reckons she's won the lottery, living in Westbury and running her business in Deloraine.

'The community and people here are genuine,' the owner of the Purple Thistle clothing shop said. 'I've lived in a lot of places and the people here are beautiful.'

After a year at Purple Thistle, Gayle, notorious for being the woman with the signature headband, speaks knowledgeably about elderly Phyllis and other locals who tap on her window and stop in for a regular chat.

'The past year has been fantastic from the point of view of local support,' she said. 'I've been hugely embraced by the locals.'

Anyone stepping inside Gayle's shop is hit by a blast of colour. Reds, turquoises, vivid greens and zappy yellows knock you in the eye, along with purple of course. That's Gayle's favourite colour, originating from the purple thistle of her home country, Scotland.

'After living in WA for many years I didn't think I was homesick for Scotland but the community and landscape here remind me so much of home,' Gayle said.



Gayle Pollock traded a WA beach for the beautiful Meander Valley and couldn't be happier. Photo by Sharon Webb

'My partner and I have lived in Westbury for two years and wish we'd moved here earlier.'

'We researched real estate here, came for a holiday and bought our new home. We intended to rent it out but by the time we got back to WA, we said, "Why don't we just go to Tasmania now?"'

Gayle believes Purple Thistle has fitted right in to the

Deloraine clothes shopping scene. With ranges designed in Tasmania, the good news is that new Gaylibug designs are coming soon, designed by Gayle and made in Deloraine.

More good news is that Gayle intends Purple Thistle to be on Deloraine's Emu Bay Road for a long while to come.

'This is a lifestyle business and one I always wanted.'

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Tasmanian
Labor

Wendy Hays

ALTHOUGH THE days are getting longer and the spring bulbs are starting to flower, it is probably a little early to put away your soup making pot.

When a friend asked me for this month's recipe for *Potato, corn and bacon soup*, I had to admit that it is a dish that I make by intuition.

Consequently I now have a freezer full of it, as I had to make at least three batches to record and tweak the recipe to get it 'just right'.

To make a full meal with some garlic bread, I sometimes add chopped chicken breast or thigh just before the end of the cooking time.

You can use whole milk to enrich the soup but it may curdle when brought to the boil and on thawing. It will be just as tasty but the appearance will be spoilt somewhat.

Enjoy the last of winter comfort fare before we start eating salads and enjoying barbecues again.

Potato, corn and bacon soup

Ingredients

- 2 tbs oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 sticks of celery, chopped

- 1/2 red capsicum, seeded and chopped
- 1/4-1/2 tsp minced chilli or a little chilli powder (optional)
- 3 cloves of garlic, crushed
- 2 rashers of bacon, remove rind and chop
- 2 potatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 cups sweetcorn, frozen, fresh or canned
- 2 or 3 chicken stock cubes
- 1 litre of chicken stock
- pepper to taste
- 1 cup water
- 2 cups skim or light milk
- 4 tbs plain flour
- chopped parsley to serve

Method

Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat.

Sweat the onion, bacon, garlic and minced chilli over medium heat until softened.

Add all the other prepared vegetables and cook for about 10 minutes, stirring frequently.

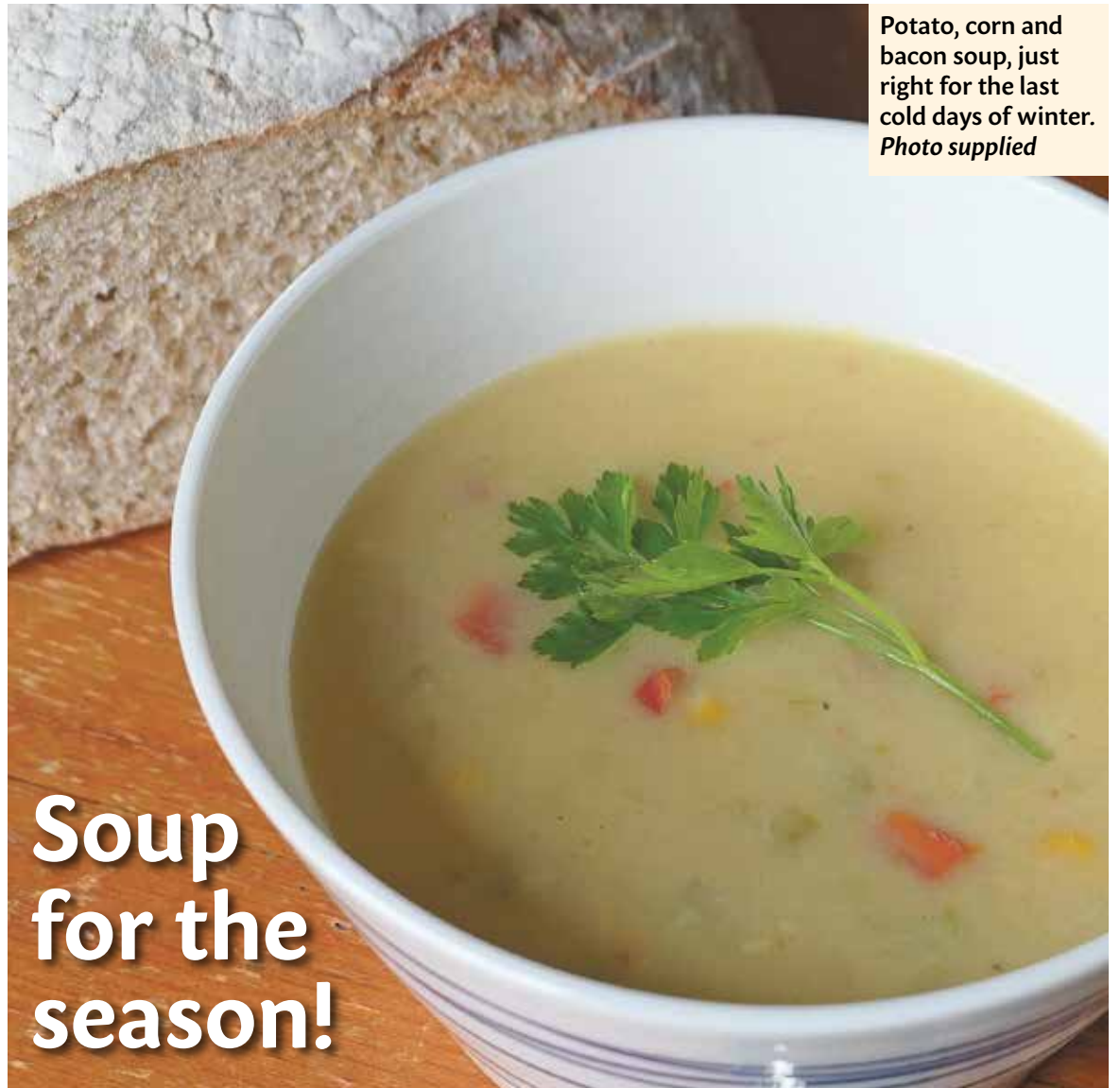
Add the chicken stock, pepper, stock cubes and water.

Simmer gently for about an hour or until vegetables are tender.

Blend the flour with the milk until smooth and add to the soup. Return to boil stirring occasionally until thickened.

Taste and adjust seasoning. Thin with a little water if necessary.

Sprinkle with some chopped parsley to serve.



Potato, corn and bacon soup, just right for the last cold days of winter. Photo supplied

Soup for the season!



Farm and town trees

The best known and recognised Cypress tree, so ubiquitous in the local landscape, *Cupressus guadalupensis*, is not a particularly beautiful tree, but its dense foliage and large spread make it ideal for farms.

On very hot or very wet days, the stock will huddle for shelter under its generous spread.

With its silver/grey foliage, the Arizona Cypress (*Cupressus glabra*) is a more attractive tree for shelter belts. It has a tidier shape, but has a little less spread.

Apart from the Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), there are no Tasmanian native trees which can supply the same density of cover as the conifers.

Town plantations, however, must be much less expansive, so need trimming regularly.

Planting at the Deloraine Rotary Pavilion garden consists of smaller trees, combined with neatly trimmed shrubs.

Vegetables

With heavy rain in July of 2019, gardeners were advised to keep off the vegetable beds until dryer weather, as tramping in very wet soils would do it no good.

The same advice applies this month!

Plant seedlings of cabbages in well manured soil, and the seeds of carrots, swedes, turnips and silver beet. The latter needs nitrogen rich soil, regular watering, and regular feeds of liquid manure to keep it moving. It should be ready to harvest between 8 and 12 weeks.

Garden peas may be sown in August, but if in flower when a late frost strikes, they will not survive.

The Garden Guide also says broad beans, but experience has shown that spring sown beans do not do nearly as well as the autumn sown ones.



Neatly trimmed pittosporum (*P. oreillyana*) and silver Cat thyme (*Teucrium marum*) contrast with the light foliage of larger native trees at the Deloraine Rotary Pavilion garden. Photo supplied

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Cameron elected as Liberal deputy



MEANDER VALLEY councillor Stephanie Cameron has been elected deputy president of the Tasmanian Liberal Party.

Councillor Cameron, who lives at Chudleigh, was elected unopposed.

CLlr Cameron stood for the State Liberal Party as a candidate for Lyons in the May 2021 election on the platforms of farming and advocating for the interests of families and strengthening communities.

In that election, CLlr Cameron did not win a seat but polled creditably, beating Liberal Party competitor, former Meander Valley councillor Susie Bower, in every Meander Valley polling booth except Elizabeth Town and Westbury.

CLlr Cameron said she 'loved every minute' of the five week campaign and would make up her mind on whether to stand for a future election at the time.

CURIOS KIDS is now available in Westbury!

Our Lady of Mercy School principal, Mary Bennett, said the program has expanded from one to two sessions in Deloraine and is now available at Holy Trinity Hall in Westbury on Monday afternoons.

'We welcome children from birth to five years old,' she said.

'It's a free program run by qualified early childhood teacher from Our Lady of Mercy in Deloraine, and it's open to all families in the Meander Valley community.'

Ms Wall said that for children involved in Curious Kids, there is no obligation to attend Our Lady of Mercy when it is time to attend school.

'Our aim is to increase each child's successful transition to school,' Ms Wall said.

'The program is about supporting parents to understand children's development, responding to their strengths, interests and needs.'

Parents attend Curious Kids alongside their children in a welcoming and inspiring environment designed to promote children's development across all learning areas. Activities are designed to interest children but also to support and encourage

Westbury kids get curious too



Evie Rouse with Sarah and Genevieve Vidler having fun using spoons Photo supplied

parents to be engaged with their child's learning. Each session has varied activities with music and movement, shared eating, story time and more.

'There's no need to book for Curious Kids. Just come along with a hat, coat and a snack ready to join in the fun.'

Curious Kids times and places

- Monday 9.30-11am** Our Lady of Mercy, Deloraine
- Monday 1-2.30pm** Holy Trinity Hall, Westbury
- Thursday 9.30-11am** Our Lady of Mercy, Deloraine

Neighbourhood house workers flock to Deloraine conference

ACCOMMODATION IN the Deloraine and Westbury areas is filling fast for September 22-24 when the Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania conference will be held in Deloraine.

The 2021 conference keynote address will be *Learning from stories: women in community leadership*, and the conference will be opened by Tasmania's deputy premier, Jeremy Rockliff.

The Deloraine conference will be the first opportunity to get conference attendees together since 2019, with the September 2020 conference having been held online because of COVID-19.

Deloraine House manager Deb Smith said the conference would give a big boost to Deloraine.

'At Deloraine House we've been preparing for this exciting event,' she said.

'We have organised an excursion to the Mole Creek Community Garden for interested attendees on September 24, after the official close of the conference.'

The conference will include half day master classes for neighbourhood house

managers and board chairs, a hypothetical about crisis management and resolution, and workshops around meaningful stories on issues that matter.

The conference dinner theme will be *Meandering Country* and a special feature will be the Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania Expo, to be held at the Community Complex Rotary Pavilion from 10.30am - 3.30pm on September 23.

In a letter to Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania, Mr Rockliff confirmed the Tasmanian government's election commitment of investing an additional \$5.7 million into the Neighbourhood House Network and community facilities.

'These include providing \$2.8 million over two years to neighbourhood houses to employ new family and community support workers; increasing funding to the peak body, Neighbourhood House Tasmania, with an investment of \$400,000 over four years to improve its capacity to support the House Network; and extending the Neighbourhood House Capital Improvement Program with a further \$2 million investment,' he wrote.

Westbury Mums and Bubs Yoga

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Connect with Others on Your Journey

It's reassuring to talk to other mothers who are going through the same experiences as you are. That's why classes provide a safe and nourishing space to discuss the joys and worries of parenthood.



We'd love you to join us :)

Who Can Join?

These sessions are for all new mothers and their babies who are interested in connection, calm and community.

All levels of fitness and experience are welcome!

Age of baby: 6 weeks (after your GP post-natal check) until pre-walkers.

This program is kindly supported by Westbury Health.



About Your Facilitator

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Jen Butler MP

Your Local Member for Lyons

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WESTBURY WILL soon be home to a Men's Shed.

The original idea came from the Westbury Health Advisory Committee (WHAC) in 2020, in the midst of the first COVID-19 outbreak. The committee saw a need to provide better opportunities to improve men's health and one solution was to set up a Men's Shed in Westbury.

Approaches to Westbury Rotary and Lions Clubs drew positive responses leading to the formation of a Men's Shed Committee. They expect to have the shed up and running in September.

Committee chairman Harley Nicholls said that the shed will provide an activity outlet and meeting place where men can undertake small projects and interact with their peers.

'The major purpose of Men's Sheds is to improve the state of men's health, particularly their mental health. Most men have learned from our culture that they don't talk about feelings and emotions. Many do not take an interest in their own health and well-being.

'Becoming a member of a Men's Shed provides a safe and busy environment where men can find many of these things in an atmosphere of old-fashioned mateship. And, importantly, there is no pressure. Men can just come and have a yarn and a cuppa if that is all they're looking for.'

As well as Rotary and Lions, the project has strong support from Meander Valley Council and groups such as Westbury RSL, Meander Valley U3A and Westbury Garden Club.

The shed will open for one day a week at the existing sheds behind Westbury Health Centre. Hours could be extended, depending on interest.



Already an informal workshop for locals (from left), Alan Mitchelson, Geoff Berry, Nick Koukoulis and Will Parker, an official Men's Shed at Westbury Health Centre will offer increased participation for other Westbury men. Photo supplied

'Initially, we will be concentrating on woodwork projects but there is plenty of scope to expand into other areas, such as welding and metalwork,' Mr Nicholls said.

Tasmania currently has sixty four Men's Sheds which conduct a variety of activities.

Mr Nicholls said that the Westbury committee's visits to a number of these sites have provided invaluable insight into the possibilities.

He urged the community and local businesses to get behind the idea and to get involved.

'We have some basic tools and equipment to get us started but would welcome any donations that may be forthcoming.'

The Men's Shed Committee has arranged for a community meeting to take place at the Westbury Community Health Centre at 2pm on Tuesday 24 August, to gather local input and ideas and to answer questions.

Enquiries about Westbury Men's Shed can be made by phone on 0414 891 793 or by email to westburymensshed@gmail.com.

Local Lions unite for mobility



Left to right: Therese Bugeja, Terry Pickett, Tanya Rattray MLC, Phill Steers and George Bugeja. Photo supplied



COMING TOGETHER at a joint meeting of Deloraine and Westbury Lions Clubs last month were Deloraine Lions Club President Terry Pickett, Westbury Lions Club President

Phil Steers, Tania Rattray MLA, joined by the Tasmanian coordinator of the Australian Lions Children's Mobility Foundation George Bugeja and his wife Therese from Ulverston Lions Club.

George Bugeja reported to the members on the successes of the Foundation in assisting families who had children with mobility issues.

George, stepping down from the role of Tasmanian coordinator after 6 years, highlighted the difference mobility makes to children previously unable to enjoy independent movement.

Funds for the project are donated from Lions Clubs and from the collection of used postage stamps which are processed and sold in a dedicated stamp auction in Sydney.

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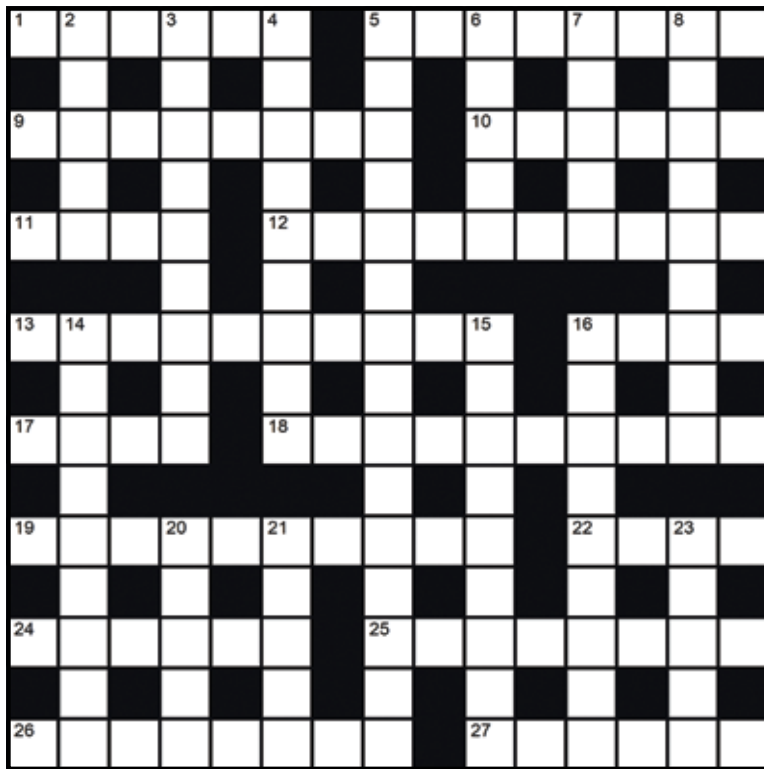


ADRIENNE CHARLES has been designing and producing cross stitch kits under the name of Nostalgia Tasmania since 1989. She describes her work as 'beauty through craft'. An experienced exhibitor at the Tasmanian Craft Fair, Agfest, Bothwell Spin In and beyond, Adrienne will be showcasing her cross stitch designs and kits at Deloraine Creative Studios on Emu Bay Road for the month of August.

This is a special opportunity to meet the designer and see many of her finished designs.



Crossword



Across

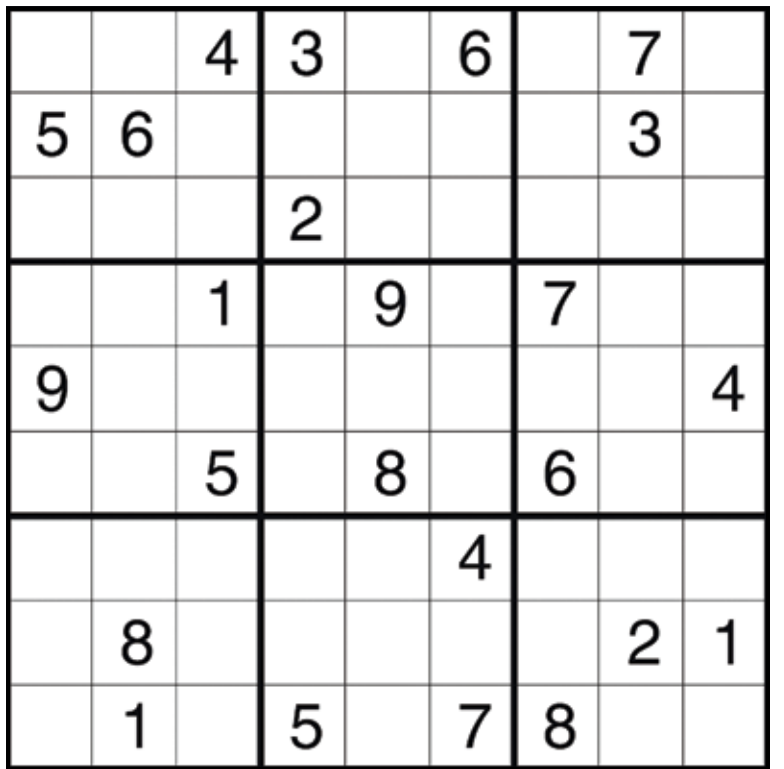
- 1 Computer threat (6)
- 5 Queensland National Park (4, 4)
- 9 Drunken tramp saw rodent (5, 3)
- 10 Court sport (6)
- 11 'The ___ have it!' (4)
- 12 Leaving the home front (6, 4)
- 13 Everything considered (10)
- 16 Pigeon talk (4)
- 17 Slip (4)
- 18 Like some costume jewellery (4-6)
- 19 Advice starter (2, 1, 4, 3)
- 22 Letters (4)
- 24 Transcribed (6)
- 25 Simon ____, leading cricketer and footballer (8)
- 26 Student's reading (8)

27 Try to make ends meet (6)

Down

- 2 Rough and disorderly (5)
- 3 Agent amends job, botching it (5, 4)
- 4 Famed trial venue (9)
- 5 Tall widespread herb, with large showy flowers (6, 9)
- 6 Boarded (3, 2)
- 7 Japanese assassin (5)
- 8 Proceed independently (2, 2, 5)
- 14 Large salt pan adjacent to the Flinders Ranges (4, 5)
- 15 Ecstatic (9)
- 16 Underground worker (4, 5)
- 20 Narrowest part of the torso (5)
- 21 Electromagnetic telecommunication (5)
- 23 Five Pillars faith (5)

Sudoku



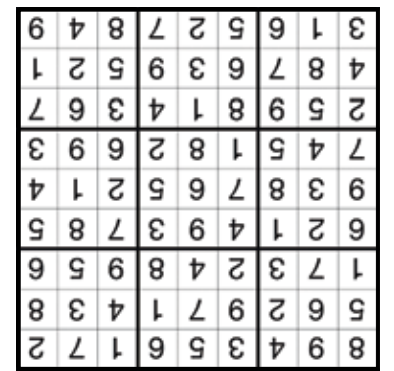
© 2021 Syndicated Puzzles

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

Crossword August 2021 solution



Sudoku August 2021 solution



Meander Valley Gazette is looking for volunteers. You can find us at Deloraine Online Access Centre, call 6286 8212 or email to general@meandervalleygazette.com.



Events diary

Become a sponsor of the Meander Valley Gazette. Your company logo could go right here. Call or email us for details.

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, 1-1.30pm	Story Time at Westbury Library	Term 3, 26 July to 20 September Westbury Library, 33 William Street, Westbury 6701 2189
Every Tues, 10am-12 noon	Hadspen Playgroup	During school term Uniting Church Hall, corner of Clare & Main St contact Andrew Keena 6393 6324
Every Tues, 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
Tuesdays, 10.30am-12 noon	Seppenfelts Cuppa Mornings, August-September	Book Nook 13-17 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Gold coin donation See Facebook or call 63624242 for speaker details
Every Thurs, 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 & membership information
Wed 11 & 18 Aug, 10am-1pm	Come and try mosaics workshop	Art as Mania, 20-22 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine 0488 137 315
Sat 14 August, 6-9pm	Kids Fancy Dress 90s Disco	Meander Hall \$5 per child, adults free Bookings at www.eventbrite.com.au/e/kids-disco-tickets-164052893621
Sat 14 August, 7pm sharp	WTFS Days of the Bagnold Summer	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M comedy 2019 UK 85m Info 0418 389 868
Sat 21 August, 9am-1pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drv & Caveside Rd Maree Martin 0419 631 210
Sat 21 August, 9am-1pm	Westbury Market	St Andrew's Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom, Westbury Rob Menzie 0417 931 619
Sat 4 Sept, 9am-1pm	Deloraine Market	Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine Bodhi McSweeney 0409 695 321
Sat 4 September	Hot Miami Nights - shake your Salsa!	Deloraine Big Band Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine Tickets \$30 (AD \$25) www.trybooking.com/BTDSN
Sat 11 Sept, 7pm sharp	WTFS Nomadland	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M drama 2020 USA 108m Info 0418 389 868
Tues 7 Sept, 9am-4pm	Beneath the Surface	Fungi, slime moulds and the world wide web Westbury Function Centre, Franklin St Displays, talks, discussion 6396 1380
Sat 21 August, 4pm	Beethoven 1st Symphony, Bach Brandenburg Concerto	TSO Live & On Screen Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine Tickets \$15 (AD \$12) www.trybooking.com/BTBWH
Sat 25 Sept, 1-4pm	Westbury Flower Show	Early notice for Spring! Westbury Town Hall, Lyall St Entry \$2 Stalls, raffle and afternoon tea available

THE QUAMBY Fly Fishers Club turns 25 years old this year.

The club was formed in 1996 when a public meeting to canvass support for the idea of forming a club primarily for the enjoyment of fly fishing was held in February of that year.

That first meeting was attended by twenty people and the decision was made to proceed and Quamby Fly Fishers Club was born.

Throughout the early years the club maintained a membership of 15-20 people. The numbers dwindled to about ten regular members for a few years, but over recent times there has been a conscious effort to raise the profile of the club which has seen a rise in membership once again. By the close of the 2020-2021 fishing season there were 31 active members.

The philosophy of the club is to welcome fly fishers of all levels from the beginner to the very experienced. Members are always willing to teach, coach and advise anyone wanting to learn, as well as share experiences and support each other as more proficient anglers.

Quamby Fly Fishers will celebrate their club's 25 year milestone with a dinner to be held on Saturday 4 September.

Quamby Fly Fishers Club comes of age



Members of the Quamby Fly Fishers Club recently enjoyed a day at Huntsman Lake in the Meander Valley, with a barbecue lunch and some casting practice in preparation for the coming fly fishing season. Photo supplied

Organisers are keen to have as many past members there as possible regardless of the length of their connection.

It would be great to reconnect with those who helped get the club started.

Interested previous members planning to attend are urged to contact Eve or Trevor Berne before 20 August on 0427 695121 (after hours please) for further details.

Quamby Fly Fishers Club

invites past members of the club and partners to the

25th Anniversary Dinner

Guest Speaker – Mr Jason Garrett, First Patron of the Club

Saturday 4 September, 6:30 for 7pm

Deloraine Community Complex, Alveston Drive, Deloraine

Three course meal, \$40 per person, BYO drinks

RSVP Friday 6 August Eve Berne Phone: 0427 695121 Email: eveberne222@gmail.com



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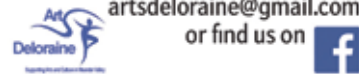
Not-for-profit ads, phone 6286 8216

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Western Tiers Community Club

AGM

will be held at the club rooms, 33A Parsonage Street, Deloraine, on 2nd September at 1.30 pm

Enquiries 03 6362 3592

Art Deloraine presents

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SATURDAY 21 AUGUST, 4PM

Little Theatre, Deloraine

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Bach - Brandenburg Concerto

Tickets \$15

Arts Deloraine members \$12

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/BTBWH



Deloraine & Westbury Medical Centre

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Suns + Bulldogs + mud = football



Not surprisingly, after all the rain, Westbury football ground made the going tough for the Meander Valley Suns and the South Launceston Bulldogs. Late in the game, the sun came out from behind the clouds but the Suns lost to the Bulldogs 2.1.13 to 9.5.59, both teams fighting hard against the mud and each other. *Photos supplied*



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