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Meander Valley Gazette

Free every month

September 2021

Meander Valley Gazette *Your independent community paper*



SCARLETT SALTMARSH grins as she thinks about her favourite activity at Deloraine Train Park.

'Climbing on top of the train,' the six year-old says naughtily, although the sign says it's forbidden.

When the Saltmarsh family from Devonport visit their grandparents in Meander, they usually make a visit to the train park.

'I grew up in Meander and today we're getting some wood Dad had on the farm,' Glen Saltmarsh said.

'On the way back we often grab a feed and come down here. The kids love it.'

The train park turned 50 this year. Deloraine's Brian Roles remembers the day 50 years ago when four or five blokes from Apex took a day to install the 72 ton E Class steam engine.

'Three farm tractors pulled it onto some rails we'd set up on the road. We lost control at one stage when the back end came off the rails and it was panic stations. But it was well worth it. That train is a part of Deloraine's history.'

There were only two E Class trains in the state and one was donated to Deloraine municipality to commemorate 100 years of trains between Launceston and Deloraine.

Apex was given the job of installation at what became known as Deloraine Train Park.

'People told us it would be a rust bucket in 50 years but Apex has maintained it. It's been well looked after,' Mr Roles said. 'The Don Railway people wanted it at one time but there was no way we'd let them have it!'

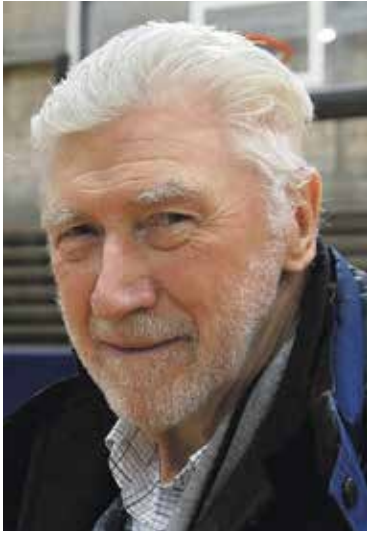
Glen and Megan Saltmarsh at the Train Park with daughters Jo, aged two, Emilia, four, and Scarlett, six. *Photo supplied*

Meander Valley councillor resigns

See full story on page 2

A THIRD disgruntled Meander Valley councillor has resigned from the council and will be replaced on a countback.

Cllr Frank Nott resigned with immediate effect at 4pm on Friday 27 August.



Councillor Frank Nott

Sharon Webb

CLLR NOTT'S resignation leaves the urban part of the municipality without a representative living there.

Cllr Nott did not resign personally to the mayor, handing in his notice at the council's front counter. It said only that he resigned with immediate effect.

Councillor resigns, citing loss of confidence in GM

By the end of the day his photo on the councillors' website page was replaced with a blunt 'Position Vacant'.

Just as swiftly general manager John Jordan sent out an email to councillors and staff saying, 'Frank Nott has today tendered his resignation as MV Councillor effectively (sic) immediately.'

'Mr Nott has sold his residence and is understood to be moving outside the local government area and is no longer eligible to be a councillor.'

It did not thank Cllr Nott for his work in the municipality. Cllr Nott described the message as 'curt and disrespectful.'

'Some councillors know I've been disenchanted for some time,' he said.

'I told the mayor I've lost confidence in the general manager. It's precipitated my selling up and going out of the municipality.'

Cllr Nott said he was happy to be out of the council.

'I've copped a lot.; I've been stymied, gagged from speaking. I felt I could not represent ratepayers as well as I wanted to. I'm sad not to have represented ratepayers for the full term.'

'I've challenged the general manager and it's clear from what he's said that I am considered to be an irritant.'

The mayor Cllr Wayne Johnston said, 'Frank has sold his property in Prospect and is moving out of the municipality. That's the reason for him leaving as far as I know. I thank him for his service.'

Cllr Nott said he had not told Mr Jordan or Cllr Johnston that he had sold his house, and that was not the reason for him leaving the council.

'The CEO of the Local Government Association said I would be a councillor for

another month after selling my house. I could remain a councillor if I owned land or property in the municipality or if I was a voting member of an entity such as the Australian Italian Club.

'If I had really wanted to stay on the council I could have made arrangements.'

Former councillor Andrew Connor left Meander Council in 2019, five months after being reelected.

Ostensibly it was because he moved interstate but Cllr Connor said was frustrated by his thwarted efforts over seven years to drag Meander Valley Council into the digital age. 'We got microphones so everyone could be heard but councillors could not be convinced to stream meetings,' he said. 'Banging your head against a wall just isn't worth it.'

More recently Cllr Susie Bower resigned, saying she

wanted to focus on her federal Liberal Party candidature. She declined to comment on Cllr Nott's resignation.

Cllr John Temple said Cllr Nott was 'someone with a wealth of local government experience from nine years on Launceston City Council.'

'His work in the Meander Valley has been of great benefit to the community.'

Cllr Stephanie Cameron said, 'Council for me will be a lonely place now Frank has gone. He was my mentor.'

On her Facebook site she said she understood his reasons for leaving but to say she was disappointed would be an understatement.

'Frank has never been shy to ask the tough questions, to stand up for what he believes in, no matter the personal consequence.'

'He represented his community fiercely.'

Heroic ratepayers shiver on basketball court to give council a piece of their minds

Opinion

Sharon Webb

AS MEANDER Valley mayor Wayne Johnston straddles the hurdle of the proposed northern prison, he must be feeling mighty uncomfortable.

Fronting ratepayers at the August public meeting, he admitted, 'In hindsight [not consulting the community] is probably a failure of council'.

A weak comment, but safe. Weak because it was tokenistic. He knew the majority of those attending were anti-prison. Safe because, as Cllr Johnston often points out, he wasn't on Meander Valley Council when former general manager Martin Gill asked two Westbury landowners if they were interested in selling their land to the state government for a prison.

Gill's story is that the landowners owed the council for utilities the council had placed on their industrial estate land.

He approached them because drumming up business was part of his job description, he told the Gazette.

But guess what? Gill's activities weren't a secret. Not to outgoing councillors or mayor Craig Perkins, who resigned before the October 2018 council elections without giving a reason publicly. Nor to the new councillors coming in after that election.

No, they all knew or had the opportunity of knowing, according to Martin Gill, who emailed them updates. But for months they didn't own up to the ratepayers that the information was before them all along.

So why did they all sit on the sidelines at the August 17 public meeting, having absolutely no input?

The simple fact is that when the State Government gets around to submitting the prison planning application, councillors must deal with the application with 'open minds'.

So they were told to shut up and the mayor would deal with

the public meeting on their behalf, as the legislation allows.

What puzzles many ratepayers is why councillors can't voice their views when the mayor has made his opinion on the prison perfectly clear.

In June 2020, when the State Government kicked the can along the Birrallee Road to announce the prison would be on the Brushy Creek Reserve site rather than Glen Avon Farms, Cllr Johnston gave the game away.

"It is a good thing the Northern Regional Prison development will stay in the municipality," says Meander Valley mayor, Wayne Johnston,' reported the Mercury.

Also key is the comment Cllr Johnston made to the ABC after the change of location.

'This is a big investment. This is probably a once in a lifetime opportunity for our council so therefore it will be debated to the nth degree,' he said.

'We need to make sure that what we approve is something that the municipality in the

first instance and the northern area in the second instance need or want and is suitable.'

Debate to the nth degree?

With council's general manager John Jordan knocking back WRAP's first petition for a public meeting on a technicality?

With the council holding the public meeting on a week night at 6pm when many residents would be driving home from work or getting dinner for their kids?

With organising a line up of speakers which included no government spokesperson except prison project director Colin Shepherd, a public servant visibly thrown off balance by being asked political questions?

Elise Archer would have had little appetite for attending another public meeting on the prison after her defensive, snappy performance at the December 2019 public meeting.

Maybe one of the Liberal Party boys? Infrastructure minister Michael Ferguson?

Meander Valley Council has proven inept when community consultation is needed.

With the prison, as with the future use of the former Meander School site, consultation is too little, too late, evidenced by Cllr Johnston's comment that not consulting the community was 'probably a failure of council'.

Even on the rare occasions when they do consult, the council subsequently stumbles.

It took almost two weeks to post the video of the public meeting on the Meander Valley Council website, and it will only be there until 14 September.

Why?

The best that Meander Valley residents can hope for is that the councillors and staff learn it's not good enough to foist major change on the community without effective consultation.

Other councils can consult effectively but Meander Valley is just learning. A painful experience for the whole municipality.

Get us out of this prison mess, public meeting tells council



Above: Colin Shepherd, the Justice Department's prison project manager, represented the state government at the public meeting.

Right: Despite the weather and the unheated venue, the public meeting was well attended by concerned residents of the municipality and beyond. Photos supplied



Sharon Webb

A PUBLIC meeting about the prison proposed for the Birralee reserve site has asked Meander Valley Council to revoke all support to the project and do its own socio-economic study on the benefits of a prison at Westbury.

Anti-prison campaigner Linda Poulton put the motion, overwhelmingly supported by the majority of around 250 people attending.

Following fellow WRAP member Anne Marie Loader's account of the history of the prison site choice involving former general manager Martin Gill, Ms Poulton said council was obliged to do the study.

'The council is partly responsible for bringing this project to Westbury,' she said.

The public meeting received 87 written submissions on the prison. Only two were in favour.

Meander Valley Council will consider the motion and the submissions at its September meeting, without being obliged to adopt them. But ratepay-

ers may be hostile if they are disregarded.

Colin Shepherd, the prison project manager appointed by the Justice Department, attempted to put a positive spin on the prison.

After constant lock downs at Risdon prison, when asked about the new prison's rehabilitation function by Deloraine resident Lisa Yeates, he replied, 'I am confident the prison we're expecting to deliver will do all the things we expect it to do.'

He timelined the recently announced \$1m tender for architectural drawings and a tender for consultants to supply currently non-existing electricity, water and sewerage to the site.

Mr Shepherd said the government aims to submit the prison planning application to Meander Valley Council in the first quarter of 2022, at the same time as the referral of the reserve site to environment minister Sussan Ley.

But political questions by residents on issues such as

public transport to Westbury, why the prison was not being colocated with the Ashley Detention Centre, and whether a new northern prison would replace Risdon Prison went unanswered.

Justice Minister Elise Archer may have been reluctant to show up after her disastrous performance at the prison public meeting in December 2019.

The meeting was held at 6pm on a cold wet evening in August. The basketball court at the Deloraine Community Complex had no heating and some people left the meeting early because of their discomfort.

The mayor Cllr Wayne Johnston said disruptive behaviour would not be tolerated. Anyone being unruly would be warned then asked to leave.

No-one was, and the three uniformed police attending, strangely sitting with their backs to the audience, were not needed.

Cllr Johnston said that because of the planning process, councillors needed to keep

an open mind and not form a view on the prison too soon.

'Just because we're guarded in what we say, it doesn't mean we're not listening,' he said.

All councillors attended and did a lot of listening at the meeting. None spoke, fulfilling anti-prison group fears they would be gagged on their opinion of the prison.

The night's most passionate speech was made by WRAP secretary Anne Marie Loader.

'We find ourselves here tonight because we've been fed a bunch of lies,' she said.

'The reserve would have to be the dumbest site for a prison. Electricity, water and sewerage all need to be supplied.

'It's a bushfire prone area and evacuating people will be an impossible task.

'Birralee Road will remain dangerous.'

Ms Loader said that gaoling was failing. Prisons didn't make economic sense and generated crime.

'There is chronic under-resourcing of Risdon Prison, which is plagued by under-

staffing. And people come out of there worse than when they went in.

'Shiny new walls won't make a fig of difference.

'How can the government afford to run two prisons? They won't. Risdon Prison will close and Meander Valley Prison will be Tasmania's only prison.'

Finally, Ms Loader aimed squarely at Meander Valley Council, 'Our council got us into this mess and they need to get us out.'

Birralee conservationist Sarah Lloyd also spoke, as did prison supporters Grace Rock, Leigh Watts and Berris Atkins. Their points involved increased jobs, businesses, cars, roads, services and facilities that would come with a prison.

Grace Rock said, 'More drugs cause an increase in crime. Risdon is not big enough to hold all those criminals and the only way to fix it is to build another prison.'

'To be fair to prisoners' family members it should be in the centre of the north, which happens to be Westbury.'

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Brian Mitchell MP
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For assistance with all federal matters, please feel free to contact me on (03) 6398 1115 or email me at Brian.Mitchell.MP@aph.gov.au

Authorised by Brian Mitchell MP (A.P. Tasmania)
53B Main Road Perth, Tasmania 7300

Letter from the Editor

SPRING HAS arrived but the Delta variant of COVID-19 has not. At the time of printing this newspaper, anyway.

Those of us with family and friends in other states or overseas are putting Zoom meetings back on the agenda as those locked down go slowly stir crazy again.

It might only be a matter of time before we face similar issues. In the meantime, lucky

Tasmanians get to see some AFL finals played down here as the never ending story about Tasmania's own AFL team takes another step forward.

That might leave Melbourne expats with a difficult choice.

Nah. Everyone has a second team to follow, when your boys (or girls) crash out of the finals. But you can't change your spots (stripes) that easily.
Liz Douglass

Letters to the Editor

IT IS disappointing that the Meander Valley Council has had such a lack of communication with their ratepayers they are obliged to represent.

At the public meeting, belatedly held at Deloraine, the Mayor apologised for not realising the depth of sentiment in the municipality against the Maximum Security Prison in the Nature Reserve at Westbury.

The Council as a whole have turned a blind eye, despite the first petition of 850 signatures demanding a public meeting on the subject. This petition was not accepted on the grounds of technicalities. We, the residents of Meander Valley, ever

determined, secured 950 signatures to a new petition to force a public meeting.

Prior to the meeting the council received 84 submissions against the prison and 2 for the prison. Then a show of hands at the meeting recorded 180 against the prison and 22 for – hence no room for doubt.

It is also disturbing to hear the government is calling for tenders from architectural companies for a design of the prison when due diligence is incomplete.

Council has created this mess and it up to them to get us out of it.

Harvey Gee, Exton

I MOVED to the Meander Valley just over three years ago now from Cygnet, 45 minutes south of Hobart.

Although the move was made to unite with family, and was voluntary, I worried at the time that I might struggle to find a community with as big a heart as Cygnet.

I had no need to worry.

Since moving here, I have made many hard and fast friends who are a credit to this wonderful region.

The Northern Regional Prison has generated great division and bitterness. But it has also galvanised the Westbury region, casting people together who might normally never have even met. It's clear that people around here stick together when the going gets tough.

The setting, time and weather for the public meeting on the prison on 11 August 2021 could not have been more uninviting.

No advertising or public notices for the meeting.

Problems experienced by many in just getting a ticket.

6pm on a weeknight in winter, when the very last thing you feel like doing is going out.

Held in an unheated venue, doors flung wide open to let in the draft, on a freezing cold, wet night.

Set in Deloraine, when the people most affected by the proposal live in Westbury.

But over two hundred turned up to ask their Council why it had betrayed them by inviting the prison to the municipality without consultation.

The meeting made it abundantly clear that the vast majority do not want this prison.

We want our Council to withdraw its support for this uninvited and unwanted intrusion into this special place.

Thank you to all of those who continue to support WRAP and the work we do trying to keep our municipality beautiful, peaceful and welcoming.

The meeting has inspired us to fight on, and on and on.

Linda Poulton, Westbury

NOW IS the time to be alarmed. What plans does the Australian government have to strengthen their climate policy, given the recent dire findings of the 2021 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate (IPCC) report? The United Nations fully supports the IPCC findings in this report, further stating, 'This assessment of the latest science is a severe warning regarding the wellbeing of human society

and all life on Earth. It is testimony to the fact that efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the past decades have been wholly insufficient.' I am justifiably frightened, alongside many friends, family and colleagues, that our government inaction is making the situation far worse for everybody. NOW IS THE TIME FOR CLIMATE ACTION!

Felicity Holmes, Tinderbox

IN RESPONSE, and as our right of reply to the article published in the August edition of the Meander Valley Gazette titled 'Councillors support chipping away at another five acre block in Westbury', we would like to point out that both objectors to our subdivision, in fact, live on subdivided land themselves

ACCORDING TO the Solicitor General of Tasmania's statement on behalf of the government published in last month's Gazette, he was instructed 'to unreservedly apologise' for the state government because of the lie that the government refused to retract.

The background to this apology started as the drillers turned up to begin the geotechnical drilling in October last year.

On arrival, they realised that they couldn't get their big rigs through the gate at Marneys Hill, the proposed site for Minister Archer's northern prison, because a large tree branch blocked the entrance.

So, the next day, a 'government spokesman' announced to the press that 'Drilling was stopped because of a small group of protesters'. This was despite the fact that, both members of the press, and at our request, members of the police force, were on site to witness the lack of forethought and planning, and spoke in defence of the 'protesters'.

Minister Archer refused to retract or correct the statement, until now. This is just one of the lies about this proposal that has been put about by our government.

Let's look at the Expressions of Interest (EOI) process. Were there any real alternatives to Westbury? There's evidence that there were none that would stand up to scrutiny, which is one reason for the secrecy surrounding alternative sites.

AS CONSERVATIVE voters, it pains us to write this letter condemning the Tasmanian state government regarding its proposal for a new prison.

My wife and I were shocked to learn that the new northern prison was to be built in Westbury, in our lovely Meander Valley, and attended the protest meeting at the time.

That meeting must have had some effect on the minister, such was the overwhelming antipathy to the proposal, as the original location where the prison was to be sited was changed.

Not to some intelligent location but rather to despoil a nature reserve! How utterly ridiculous! It almost seems like this decision was based on some sort of spiteful 'if we can't build it in Westbury we'll put it in pristine wilderness nearby, that'll show 'em!'.

We find it appalling that the government has been peddling

less than five acres. Their adjoining neighbours whom they love to chat to over the fence, being within the same distance as what our new neighbours will be. My oh my, how they forget these important finer details. Just saying.
Sue and Michael Hope, Westbury

The decision to build at Westbury was cooked up by our council and the state government, according to freedom of information emails to and from the then General Manager, at least one serving councillor, the mayor of the day and the government, as far back as 2017.

Minister Archer announced at the public meeting that she attended in Westbury that 'We cannot consider a site without an EOI lodged by the due date'.

Marneys Hill has never had an EOI lodged or even considered. It's another lie.

The reserve, as identified and selected by the Secretary of DPIPW, whose job it was to legally protect the land in perpetuity and develop a management plan to protect the land for the last 20 years,

But despite a number of reminders from the federal government, who had paid for the land, they simply didn't do the job, so the 'protector' put Marneys Hill forward when the government moved from the first 'preferred site'.

Did minister Archer bow to 'public concerns' about this first site? Or was it rather big business who leaned on the government? Is there another lie here?

Minister Archer insisted that not only must the site have an EOI submitted by the due date, but it must also be a flat site. There's no EOI even now and the clue about the flatness of the site is in the name – Marneys HILL.

Peter Wileman, Westbury

the nonsense that a new prison will bring benefits to the community where it is imposed.

How can an ugly, resource-draining receptacle of human misery be an asset?

If such abominations need to be constructed then they should be put in the most blighted sections of cities, where new infrastructure could actually improve the area.

This seems obvious to us, and it is disappointing that this Liberal government seems determined to do the wrong thing despite their competence in other areas of administration.

We implore them to reconsider their choice of site for the new prison and stop wasting our money destroying nature reserves and harming their voter base. I suspect there is a win-win solution to be found. Just look harder!

Andrew and Susanne Puccetti, Carrick

EST.
2013

Meander Valley Gazette

This newspaper is published by Meander Valley Connect Inc., 21 West Parade, Deloraine 7304. ABN 89090614412.

9,500 copies are printed each month on paper made in Tasmania and delivered to all homes in the Meander Valley.

Editorial enquiries

Contributions welcome!

Email: editor@meandervalleygazette.com

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

For editorial, the closing date for the October 2021 edition is 24 September.

Advertising enquiries

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Patsy Crawford scribbling away

LET'S TALK telly. When stage shows are being cancelled left right and centre and going to the movies has become an exercise in foolhardiness for the risk averse, lots of people have been watching lots of television these past dark, chill and virus-laden months.

Those of us who would normally avoid daytime television like the plague, at night will work our remote fingers to the bone homing in on docs

about Greta Thunberg and BBC murder mysteries set in parts of Scotland so remote we can't understand what anyone is saying, have become glued to the screen.

Bingeing is the new black. At unusual hours we have been lining up at home for a good old dose of melodrama and catching shows that quite frankly leave us wondering why we bothered.

The latter category cannot be more highly credentialled than *The Joy of Painting*, with Bob Ross.

If you thought painting by numbers was a cop out, artistically speaking, you will be in thrall to Bob from the off.

The man obligingly rolls onto our screens round about wine o'clock so while we're hooting with laughter as he gives us yet another version of sky, clouds, trees and/or a shack or lake, we get to have a drink as well.

With his pared back ginger fro and matching whiskers, his folksy patter, and his cosy, set-formula brushwork he is the next best thing to Valium.

I cling tenaciously to the world of Bob in the hope one day he will break out and do an actual painting. You know, one where an artist goes outside, looks at a patch of earth, water and sky and paints it onto a canvas. Not so with Bob. His vision of art has been distilled

in the essence of chocolate box lids and cowboy comics. No surprises when he picks up that brush. You are going to get fluffy clouds, hills in the distance, hills a bit closer and maybe a hill or two right up front, a thicket of unidentifiable bush and a lake.

You may get a log cabin. It's odds on you will get a huge and unnecessary tree. You wait for that tree. He's a cunning fox. Just when you're bashing the side of the lounge and shouting 'come on Bob give us the tree' he'll go and do it. It's hardwired into his DNA.

Although he's been dead these many years, his mid-80s show filmed in Muncie, Indiana,

a place of such ordinariness it perfectly captures the Rossian zeitgeist, has become iconic. Bob's kitschy canvasses are the American landscape equivalent of Tretchikoff's Chinese Lady and Hans Heysen's gum trees.

I have it on authority from an art teacher he enjoys cult status among her students, many of whom sport Bob tee shirts they have imported from the US or screenprinted themselves.

Look, I cannot recommend the show too highly. It will relax you no end. And as much as I snigger about his direly predictable canvasses, would I buy a Bob if I could? Damn right I would.

Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 4

IN THE summer of 1971, psychologist Phillip Zimbardo conducted what is now known as the Stanford Prison Experiment. It was to be a two week long experiment, to test the psychological effects on individual behaviour based on perceived authority.

Volunteers for the experiment were put in one of two categories: guards and prisoners.

Those placed in the roles of guards quickly began to abuse

their roles, resorting to arbitrary punishments, escalating to physical and emotional abuse as their power was left unquestioned and unchecked.

Finally, at the insistence of Zimbardo's wife, the experiment was called off after only 6 days.

In the spring of 2019, the State Government began the Westbury Prison experiment.

By announcing a maximum security prison at the Valley Central industrial site, and then later on a Crown land site pur-

chased for conservation, it set the wheels in motion to create two distinct categories: those in favour of the prison, and those opposed.

The many who were opposed to the prison quickly learned their role - to be labelled NIMBYS, anti-everything, to be harassed, victimised, ridiculed and vilified by the pro-prison advocates.

Any time they spoke up against this behaviour they were labelled as the noisy minority, the troublemakers.

The much smaller pro-prison group, spurred on in part by seeing their abusive actions

were left unchecked by authorities, escalated to emotional violence, vandalising property, throwing poison into backyards for pets to ingest, cars being driven directly at anti-prison people, directing homophobic, xenophobic and offensive terms at anyone remotely against the proposed prison.

This experiment has gone on now for 2 years, and the net result is a community irrevocably divided, with no sign of this letting up.

In all this, where is OUR metaphorical 'Zimbardo's wife'?

The Meander Valley Council, or Federal Minister Sussan

Ley, could step in and stop this quickly and easily.

The State Government are clearly unwilling to stop this experiment, even though they have drastically reduced allocated spending for the prison project in the budget for the next 3 years.

So someone needs to step up and say enough is enough, and for this project to be ended.

If they don't, they will be remembered for being complicit in a project that forever divided what had previously been a harmonious community.

Martin Hamilton, Westbury

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Poker Run get riders out in the countryside

HORSE RIDERS on a hunt with a difference won prizes on the Westwood Poker Run last month.

Sandra Atkins, a rider from Osmaston, said that more than 100 riders set out on a 12k ride at Junction Farm on Westwood Road, an agistment centre mainly used by Launceston horse owners.

'It's called a Poker Run but it's nothing to do with betting,' Sandra said.

'It's our main fund raiser. We charge an entry fee and we collect a playing card at intervals during the ride. The best 'hands' can win some nice prizes.

After the ride, riders with the best hands each won one of the 70 prizes on offer.

'It was a great day and you could ride at your own speed,' Sandra said, 'even though the paddocks were pretty wet after all the rain we'd had.'

The hunt is run by the Northern Hunt Club and was their third annual Poker Run. Prizes were donated by friends and sponsors of the club.

From left: Charity band members Garry Smith of Meander, Graeme Best of Kimberley, Tony Oates of Bagdad, Roly Richardson of Longford and Gary King of Devonport at the Deloraine RSL. Photo supplied



Saturday arvo at the RSL, singing with the band

A COUNTRY music band led by a Meander couple is quietly raising thousands of dollars for charities and bringing joy to the people they entertain.

Helen and Garry Smith organise a monthly event that packs out Deloraine RSL on Saturday afternoon from 1pm to 5pm.

Those attending pay \$5 entry and buy raffle tickets for prizes donated by Deloraine businesses like Mumma Buzz and the British Hotel.

Funds raised benefit charities from cystic fibrosis to epilepsy, breast cancer and the Deloraine Hospital auxiliary. A young couple burnt out of their house got a hand up from the band's RSL performance.

But this is a concert with a difference.

Yes, musicians Garry Smith, Graeme Best from Kimberley, Tony Oates from Bagdad, Roly Richardson from Longford and Gary King from Devonport play their hearts out for four hours.

Local people also get their chance to sing with the band.

At the August event, an outstanding 29 people signed up to perform, backed by the band. According to Garry, sometimes only 15 to 20 put their hands up.

As they come through the door, Helen adds each performer's name to a whiteboard and over the afternoon they get their turn to show their talents.

'We've had people aged 19 to 84 sing here,' Garry said. 'It's just a walk-up and they're not Elvis Presley but they really enjoy entertaining people.'

Around 75 people rolled up to the RSL in August, more than the usual 40 or 50 who usually attend. Usually a few people come from Devonport and even some Hobartians turn up.

Started 30 years ago by Reedy Marsh resident Vera Wadley, the concerts have been run by Garry and Helen for about three years.

'It's mainly the over fifties age group,' Garry said. 'They enjoy old and new country music. We don't have afternoon tea since COVID but you can make your own tea or coffee in the kitchen.'

Truly a community event, volunteers work the door and Sue Badcock drives all the way from Relbia to volunteer her skills with sound and mixing.

Even so, there are times Garry said, when things don't work well and that's where the suggestion box comes in handy.

'Many people who come have hearing aids and some get annoyed when the sound isn't right. They put a note in the suggestion box and we try to make sure it doesn't happen again.'



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Cable way 'thought bubble' at Cradle Mt to go ahead

Sharon Webb

A TASMANIAN government department has spent years analysing a \$60m cable way at Cradle Mt which the state's national parks organisation has labelled 'an extremely silly idea'.

The president of the Tasmanian National Parks association Nick Sawyer said, 'The experience of Cradle Mt should be that of visiting a national park, not some sort of theme park.'

According to a Department of State Growth spokesperson, the plan is to shunt 10 people at a time across the wilderness between the Cradle Mt Visitor Centre and Dove Lake in a mono-cable gondola system 'similar to the Kuranda Skyrail Rainforest Cableway in Queensland.'

The promoters are at pains to differentiate the cable way from the cable car proposed for Hobart's Mt Wellington, recently rejected by the Hobart City Council.

That decision is being appealed by the proponent in the Resource Management, Planning and Appeals Tribunal of Tasmania.

'The cableway is different from the proposed Mt Wellington cable car because it will not go up a mountain

but through the Cradle Valley,' State Growth said.

State Growth said its analysis of potential cableway routes to determine what is technically feasible with the lowest environmental and visual impacts is nearing completion.

The work will be included in a business case being prepared for the project and also includes assessment of visitor numbers and preparation of models and visualisations.

Once the analysis is complete and cableway route options have been narrowed to enable a preferred option, detailed stakeholder engagement will take place, with planning for this engagement under way.

Environmental investigations and engineering assessments will commence following this detailed stakeholder engagement.

The spokesman for Residents Opposed to the Cable Car, which has so far successfully fought off a cable car up Mt Wellington, has called the cableway a 'gimmick'.

Vica Bayley said the plan was totally overcooked. 'As a long term conservationist this is overkill, a massive infrastructure project which will have significant impacts on a beautiful little valley walk,' he said.

'The road to Dove Lake already has an impact on that

environment. That road should be used for more sustainable transport than a cable car.'

But NW tourism bodies greeted the idea with enthusiasm when first raised in 2016, developed by the Cradle Coast Authority, the Tourism Industry Council Tasmania and Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service.

They saw more infrastructure at Cradle Mt as having potential to attract tourists and provide jobs.

In 2016 the then mayor of Kentish Council, Don Thwaites, said existing Cradle Mt infrastructure 'needed an overhaul'.

'It is a very much a low-grade reception for visitors there,' he said. 'Waiting for an hour to catch a bus to Dove Lake is very average.'

Since then the award-winning Visitor Centre has been opened at Cradle Mt, both the Australian and Tasmanian governments have committed \$30m each to the project.

Labor leader Rebecca White said during the 2018 state election campaign, 'Without the cableway element of the masterplan, Cradle Mountain will not reach its full potential as a visitor experience.'

But Mr Sawyer said, 'It's an insult to planning to call it a master plan. It's a thought bubble.'

'It has three aspects, the visitor centre, a viewing shelter at Dove Lake which is half built and the cable car.'

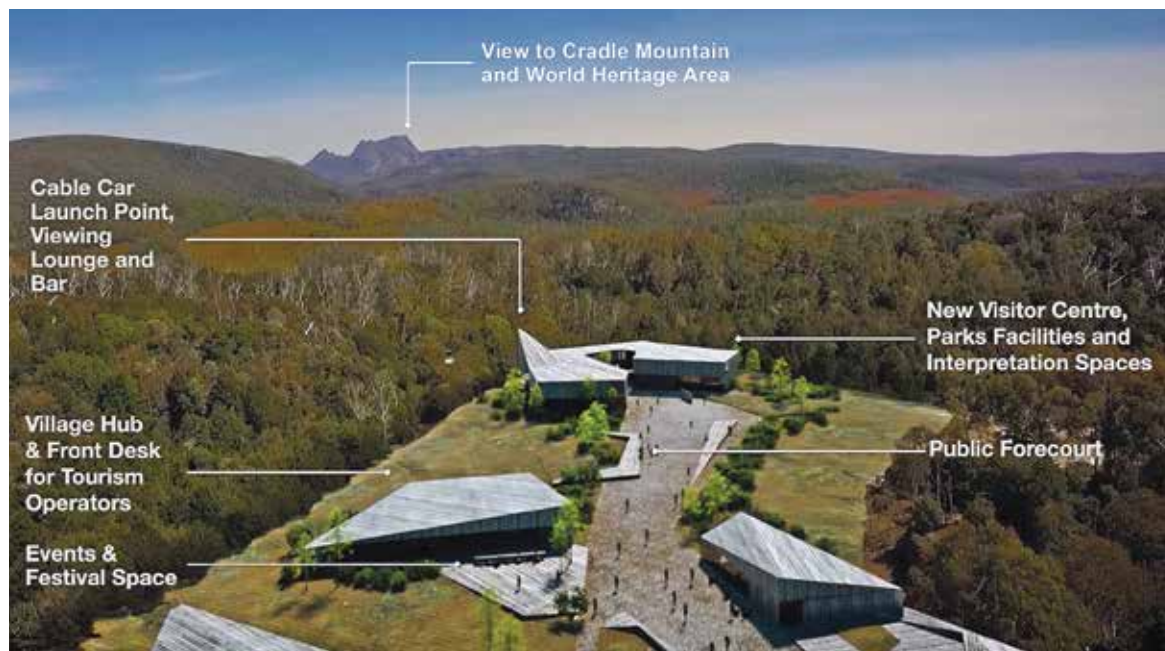
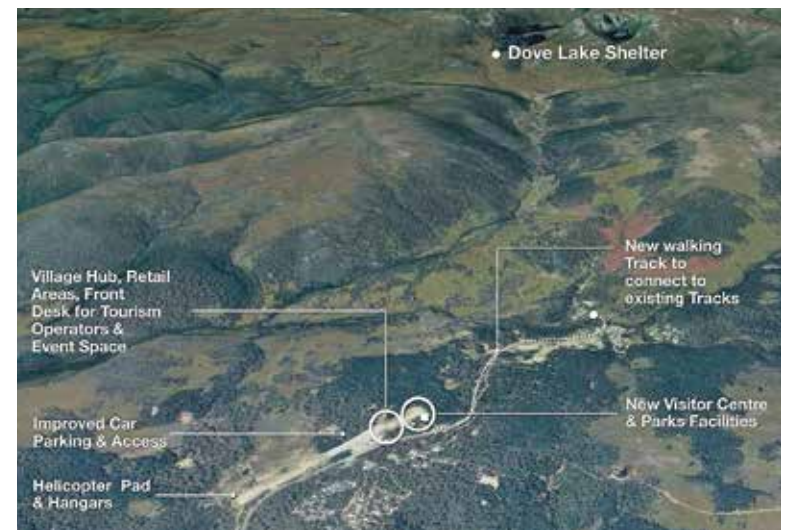
'The TCIT conference last week made it obvious they were going ahead with a cable car as a fait accompli.'

'The idea would have died years ago except for the 2018 Braddon byelection when a lot of money was promised.'

Mr Sawyer said the existing road should be used to bus in tourists to Dove Lake because it already exists and is not visible from a substantial distance as a cable car would be.



The Cradle Mt Master Plan was developed for the Cradle Coast Authority in conjunction with Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, the Tourism Industry Council and Kentish Council. Images are adapted from online concept video



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*Opening days and hours vary and some vineyards on the trails are only open via appointment. Please ring ahead to avoid disappointment.

TASMANIA

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME

Sharon Webb

WHEN COUNCILLORS consider the more difficult planning applications, according to the Meander Valley's Cllr John Temple, they should consider more than just the wishes of the developer.

Too often, he believes, current residents and the municipality's future residents are left out of the equation, making for contentious, sometimes inadequate decisions.

'Some councillors listen to the planner about an issue, whether the project fits with the rules of the planning scheme or not, and vote accordingly. 'If that's the way to go about making decisions, why have councillors at all?' Cllr Temple asked.

A councillor for five years, Cllr Temple believes he has a responsibility to the current residents of an area when developments are being considered. Will it affect their lifestyles negatively? What could ameliorate that?

He also has a responsibility to the municipality's residents of the future, who will have to live with the decisions councillors and planners make today, he believes. And often Cllr Temple is unhappy with the outcomes for both groups.

'Subdivision often favours the shortterm gains of the developer and doesn't consider the longterm community gains for hundreds of years to come,' he said.

For example, the pressure to build as many houses in an area as possible, meaning houses are crowded together and fewer trees are retained.

This happened at the Prospect development by Respect Group Ltd, which runs Tyler Village and proposed a 64 home independent living estate on Westbury Road.

But in the interests of making money, they would not reduce the number of houses to 60 when neighbours in nearby Trafalgar Drive, while supporting the project, objected to removal of Respect property trees which gave them privacy.

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

Cllr Temple said, 'Too often it's a dash for cash. The developers get their pot of gold and move on, leaving neighbours and future residents to live with what they've left behind.'

'Developers should make money but too often it's all about maximising the profit of the developer.'

'When we consider a subdivision we agree to so many allotments for houses, but even before they are built, the allotments can be broken up for units, creating a lot more housing. It seems to me that the developer is in the driving seat and has the ability to say yes or no at all levels.'

Cllr Temple believes the starting point for development should be the longterm result for the community.

He thinks an outcome like the one at Carrick, where lots are so small that people must park on the nature strips is undesirable, no matter what the planning scheme allows.

'This is not what people who moved there a decade ago envisaged for themselves,' he said. 'I'm also concerned about people who quietly sell their homes and move to another municipality because of planned subdivisions near them.'

'Do they have rights, or do councils consider only the gains of the developer?'

'It's almost as if they are second class citizens compared with the developer.'

They also need to use their crystal balls in an attempt to foresee the future effect of developments. And here Cllr Temple refers to the proposed Hadspen Hills development.

'Everywhere a community is divided by a major road it causes issues. How will people with prams and on mobility scooters cross Meander Valley Road to get from one side of town to the other?'

Meander Valley councillor John Temple looks for longterm benefits to the community. Photo by Sharon Webb



Developers' demands don't trump residents' needs, says councillor

'There's talk of a school on the Hadspen Hills side of Hadspen but we have no information about where it might go or if space is being retained.'

'At the moment the school bus stops on the side of Meander Valley Road and turns on Scott Street. As more parents bring children to the bus stop will there be tragic accidents in the future?'

Councillors' crystal balls should also be brought out on traffic and fire issues, Cllr Temple believes.

'Every new subdivision in Carrick, Hadspen, Westbury, Deloraine means more cars on the Bass Highway before it has fully become a dual carriage way.'

'I'd hate to see a multi-car pileup in the fog that wouldn't have happened if this number of developments hadn't happened at the same time.'

Residents in the Casino and Blackstone Heights areas have voiced concern about having only one way in and one way out in the case of fire.

Residents Jamie and Katrina Davies were typical of 14 residents worried about the subdivision of 68 hectares at 1 Panorama Road.

'Our biggest concern is that if traffic flow is impeded in the event of an emergency such as a bushfire, bottlenecks at the junction of Panorama and Blackstone Roads could be potentially catastrophic,' they said.

Cllr Temple commented, 'It would be incredibly sad if people die in a bushfire in 50

years time because this was the cheapest way to maximise the return for the developer.'

As for the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, Cllr Temple asks, 'Are the rules adequate? Are they effective?'

'We're talking about the lives of people not yet born when we make development decisions.'

'I'd like to do it better, but we're relying on Hobart bureaucrats to develop those rules. Are they effective in far-off Meander Valley?'

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Northern prison faces a shortage of correctional officers, says union

Sharon Webb

IF THE State Government continues its current ineffectual correctional officer recruiting policy it will never have enough people to run a high security northern prison, says a union official.

Deputy secretary of the Community and Public Sector Union Tom Lynch also said the government needs to stop 'shoving a prison down the throats of a community that doesn't want it'.

He maintained a northern prison would need 200-250 officers, but he didn't know how the government could supply them.

'This prison's not a small outpost, it's a big undertaking,' he said. 'I can't see how they would ever be able to recruit enough diverse, experienced officers.'

'How do you bring in a group of 200? You can't run a high security prison with new recruits.'

Mr Lynch also said correctional officers would not work in a community that didn't want a prison.

'Prison officers won't want to live in a community that doesn't want them to be there.'

'The government needs to stop shoving a prison down Westbury's throat. If they don't want it, find somewhere else for it.'

After a month where Risdon prisoners were locked down often, four injured officers went to hospital and Corrections ran a national recruiting campaign, Mr Lynch said the prison system has never had an effective recruiting system.

Following the May fires in prison cells and July assaults where officers were bitten, punched and kicked by prisoners, unions representing officers had talks with Corrections Minister Elise Archer.

Ms Archer said, 'These talks were constructive with a num-

ber of suggestions and matters raised that we are committed to addressing, including in relation to recruitment, staff safety and supports, and training.'

'We also discussed a number of other pathways to encourage people towards a career in corrections, and I look forward to hearing back from the unions so we can progress these further. These solutions will need flexibility and collaboration, and I urge the unions to keep engaging with us on these.'

But Mr Lynch, whose union represents two thirds of the state's prison officers, said, 'That was a whole bunch of words and we're looking for a whole bunch of action.'

Since 2015 half of correctional officer recruits have left: resigned, broken down or retired, Mr Lynch said.

He said there are two reasons for the shortage of prison officers and the prison system's inability to keep them.

First, the government has been loud about its law and order agenda, locking up more people and giving longer sentence, but not employing more officers.

Second, because of understaffing, officers are fatigued, break down, become sick and have high workers compensation claim levels, therefore even fewer are on duty and under more stress.

'Expectations around inmates have changed. Society wants to rehabilitate people who won't end up in the prison system again.'

'The government says it wants to do this but never employs enough correctional officers, allied health professionals, case workers and trainers.'

Ms Archer said, 'While we have invested significantly in our prison system, with more than 200 extra correctional officers since 2016, including 79 in 2020 alone, we know more needs to be done and we are committed to doing it.'

'In addition to the two new recruit training courses planned this year, we will be embarking on an intensive recruitment drive nationally, targeting experienced correctional officers.'

But Mr Lynch is not convinced. 'There's never been an effective recruitment system. The process for getting appropriate people to train is poor.'

'The government wanted 30 recruits in the training school. It got 16.'

'In March 2022 they'll be opening a 140-bed remand prison at Risdon needing 40 more staff. They're training 16 now so we don't know where they'll get the rest from.'

Diary: One month at Risdon Prison

28 June

Community and Public Sector Union:

Survey of officers at Risdon's Ron Barwick Prison says they have 'significant concerns' about working conditions. There's a 'shockingly high' number of workers comp claims.

Ian Thomas, director of prisons:

We will continue to work collaboratively with all parties towards a suitable resolution.

14 July

Greg Barns, Prison Action Reform chair:

Some prisoners were in their cells continuously between 8 and 12 July.

Justice department spokesperson:

Every Risdon prisoner has had time out of their cell over the past few days.

15 July

United Workers Union:

Shocking assaults hospitalised four correctional officers overnight: bitten, punched and kicked. The government must stop budget cutbacks causing short-staffing that risks the safety and lives of staff and inmates in the prisons service.

Tasmania Prison Service:

The incident was 'initiated by a non-compliant prisoner'. It has been referred to Tasmania Police for further investigation.

18 July

Tom Lynch, CPSU secretary:

Elise Archer must 'fix the prison crisis or resign'. It was sheer luck that more prison officers weren't injured or injuries worse. We have too few correctional officers.

Elise Archer, Minister for Corrections:

We are recruiting prison officers at a rate never seen before – 200 extra since 2016.

19 July

Community and Public Sector Union:

The two hour stop-work today comes after the assault of prison officers in a short-staffed section of the prison. This happened because of excessive lock downs, high overtime levels and high workers comp claims.

Elise Archer:

Today's stop-work action was about the unions playing politics. We are recruiting Correctional Officers as fast as we can. Suggestions that prisoners have been locked down for multiple days in a row are untrue.

21 July

Elise Archer:

Talks with unions were constructive with a number of matters raised that we are committed to addressing: recruitment, staff safety and supports, and training.

22 July

Ella Haddad, Labor shadow corrections minister:

Risdon Prison is 'a pressure cooker ready to explode'. There are rolling 24 hour lock downs day after day.

Elise Archer:

Lock downs are necessary for 'security reasons', not caused by staff shortages.

2 August

Ella Haddad:

Risdon's 10-bed rehab unit is being used as 'overflow space'.

Elise Archer:

Drug support is being delivered individually while alcohol and drug treatment facilities are being expanded from 10 to 34 places.

4 August

Ella Haddad:

Archer is 'in hiding' as serious concerns for the prison grow by the day. The Corrections Minister needs to get out from behind her desk and acknowledge the important concerns of prison staff who have been pushed to breaking point.

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What the custodial inspector says about Risdon

OVER THE years custodial inspector Richard Connock's annual reports about Risdon Prison have been consistently critical. Some of his recent findings are shown at right.

- Tasmanian prisoners spend less time out of their cells – on average two hours less a day than in other states.
- In December 2020 there were 399 lock downs in maximum security, mostly because of staff shortages.
- The high number of prisoner lock downs place staff and prisoners at risk. They breach state law and basic human rights.
- Recruitment of prison officers is barely keeping pace with staff attrition, with no contingency resources for unplanned leave and staff shortages.
- Nearly a third of prisoners said they had developed a problem with illicit or prescribed drugs at Risdon Prison.

Below: Advertisement for careers in the Tasmanian Prison Service as posted on Facebook and published in local newspapers.

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'Missing step' must involve wider Meander community in decision

Pathway to determine the future use of the former Meander Primary School

Meander Valley Council
Working Together

23 July - 31 August 2021
Community feedback
Opportunity for the local community to provide feedback on what you would like to see the site used for and, what should be reflected in the expression of interest process.

October 2021
Expressions of interest invited
Based on the feedback received from the community, Council will commence a formal expression of interest process for the former school site.

What will happen to the site in the meantime?
Deloraine High School has use of the site until December 2021. After December, to ensure the former school does not remain vacant, Council will call for short term use proposals so the site can be used on a temporary basis until the end of the financial year (30 June 2022).

November 2021
Expressions of interest - information session
Council will hold an information session at the former school to provide those considering submitting a proposal with an opportunity to ask questions, obtain additional detail about the expression of interest process and to provide them with a practical tour of the site.

Community shortlisting group formed
Council will finalise the establishment of a community shortlisting group which will shortlist proposals ahead of providing their recommendations to Council for consideration.

January 2022
Expressions of interest close

February 2022
Community shortlisting group assessment and recommendation
The community shortlisting group will assess proposals to ensure they demonstrate a clear benefit to the community, are self-sustaining and can fund the long term operation of the site. The group will then provide their shortlisted recommendations to Council. Shortlisted respondents may be asked to present to the community as part of this step.

March 2022
Council decision
Based on the recommendations of the community shortlist group, Council will make a formal decision on the successful tender.

July 2022
Successful proponent commences operation.

Flyer distributed by MV Council prior to the Meander community information session in August. Printed material supplied

Sharon Webb

MEMBERS OF the Meander Area Residents and Ratepayers Association believe a step is missing from the council's published time line for deciding use of the former Meander School site.

MARRA secretary Kerin Booth said members believe that before Meander Valley Council calls for expressions of interest in October, there should be a community forum or search conference that includes a wider community presence than just Meander.

'We're urging the council strenuously to add that step,' she said.

'The council owes it to the community to facilitate a forum where we can hear each other's suggestions and cross pollinate ideas, with an independent facilitator.'

In August, Meander Valley Council held a drop-in session from 4-6pm at the school so that local residents could tell councillors and council staff their ideas for the building's use.

The mayor Wayne Johnston told ABC Radio, 'We had a really good drop-in session where 60 or 70 people put their views forward.'

'Next we'll have an expressions of interest process and we encourage anyone to put their ideas forward and we'll come up with a good use for the school.'

But some Meander residents believe Cllr Johnston should play a minimal role in the decision making process because he lives in Meander and as a councillor should not influence the decision making process. There is also discontent that the flyer advertising the

drop-in session did not go to all households and that the process is flawed because people expressing an interest in using the building cannot be on the shortlisting committee even if they live in Meander.

Some residents also believe that a single use proposal for the buildings would be the wrong decision because it precludes one-off events such as music festivals and other arts events.

Kevin Knowles from Western Creek, whose children attended Meander School, said the session was positive but believes the community feedback period is too short.

He believes the council is 'softening up' the community for the Beacon Foundation, currently running a course at the site, to have the building permanently.

'I also thought it was pretty poor the council chose a time of day when the majority of councillors couldn't attend,' Mr Knowles said.

'Of nine councillors only four were there: the mayor, who was late; Deb White; John Temple and Frank Nott.'

'This discussion about the school's use has been going on since 2016. It's about time they sorted it.'

Kerin Booth said MARRA would like to see groups such as Arts Deloraine and Tasmanian Craft Fair operators Deloraine Rotary also involved in a community forum on the use of the school.

'The council owes it to this community to look after this community by holding a wider forum chaired by an independent person, not the mayor or the general manager John Jordan.'

Lower budget spend on northern prison in 2021-2022

Sharon Webb

THE STATE government has radically downgraded its 2020-2021 spending estimates on the proposed northern prison in its August annual budget.

This financial year it will spend only \$1.5m on the development of the prison, compared with its projection of \$7.8m only a year ago.

The apparent slowdown in spending on the prison is even more dramatic when future years' projections are compared.

Last year the state government predicted it would spend

\$32.6m on the prison in 2022-2023, this year it says it will spend only \$4.8m.

The predicted spending last year for 2023-2024 was \$66.5m. This year the government says it will only be \$32.6m.

In addition, the government has not changed this year's budget paper description of the project from the 2020-2021 budget papers' in light of work done on the Birrallee Road site this year.

'This initiative will commence construction of a new northern prison facility on a crown land site 5.2 kilometres

from the Westbury town centre,' it reads.

'The facility will ultimately provide accommodation for a variety of security classifications, remand facilities and a women's facility.'

'The facility will not only relieve pressure on the Risdon facility, but will also be designed to create increased opportunities for prisoners to find meaningful work on release, and importantly provide greater rehabilitation and reintegration prospects, and improved family connections for northern prisoners.'

It appears that in the face of burgeoning prisoner numbers and too few corrections officers in prisons, Corrections Minister Elise Archer has decided there are priorities other than funding development of a northern prison in 2021-2022.

The southern remand centre due to open in early 2022 has been allocated \$47.5m this year and \$8m next financial year.

The Burnie court upgrade will cost \$1.9m this year and \$18.1m next year.

But anti-prison groups are hoping the reduced budget allocation indicates the state government is hedging its bets on the northern prison proposal.

'We believe this is the first sign of a crab walk,' said the spokesperson for Westbury Region Against the Prison, Linda Poulton.

'The huge reduction in the allocation for the prison in the budget realistically reflects the money that the Tasmanian government actually proposes to throw at this hopeless proposal in the coming year.'

'All it plans to do is get its planning application ready, then handball the proposal like a hot potato to Meander Valley Council. No reasonable person can imagine the Northern Regional Prison being built on a nature reserve. Our government will essentially need to apply to destroy our State's threatened species to get this across the line.'

'We are trying to convince Federal Environment Minister Sussan Ley that spending even this much money on the proposal is a waste of Tasmanian taxpayers' money. It's so absurd that it is already an embarrassment to the State Government.'

Locals who believe that a northern regional prison is set to be a replacement for Risdon Prison in Hobart may be interested to see infrastructure upgrades there costing \$1.5m this year and \$2.5m next year for a shared facility upgrade at that location.



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Nikki Sabok visits Deloraine every Tuesday morning

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LIBERAL CANDIDATE FOR LYONS

Contact me with your ideas or concerns

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Susie.Bower@tas.liberal.org.au
SusieBowerLyons

LIBERAL

Authorised by T Barrass, Liberal Party of Australia, 185 Invermay Road, Invermay TAS 7248

Farm cottage fire cause unknown



FIREFIGHTERS WERE unable to determine the cause of a fire at a farm cottage on Long Ridge Road, Deloraine, last month because of the extent of the damage.

The cottage on Shane Johnston's property, Myrtle Farm, was not occupied at the time. The damage is so severe it will need to be demolished.

As firefighters were cleaning up after the Long Ridge Road fire, they were called to another fire in the Deloraine township.

A carport fire was extinguished by the owners, who were alerted by their smoke alarms. Investigating firefighters found the blaze started accidentally.

Acting North East Station officer, Roger Brown, said firefighters from six units from the Deloraine, Westbury and Meander brigades attended the Long Ridge Road fire, about 15 minutes out of Deloraine on the way to Meander.

'We got the call at 10.30pm and could see the blaze on

the way so we called for more resources,' he said.

'The house was well alight and took until 1am to bring under control. Fire crew remained there with police overnight.'

Investigators and Tas Police visited the site the next day to begin investigating the fire's cause.



Above: Firefighter Jason Vetesi of Deloraine searches for hotspots at the Long Ridge Rd fire.

Left: The cottage at Myrtle Farm on Longridge Road was badly damaged by fire and will be demolished.
Photos supplied

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Northern Regional Prison Project Update - September

Supply of architectural design services for the Northern Regional Prison

Planning for the Northern Regional Prison, on Birralea Road, Westbury, is progressing with a Request for Tender (RFT) for the supply of architectural design services recently released.

This procurement is for the preliminary drawings necessary to support the preparation of a Combined Planning Scheme Amendment (CPSA) and Development Application (DA) to be submitted to Meander Valley Council in early 2022.

These drawings are for the first stage of construction only, which provides for 156 offender beds across Maximum and Medium security classifications, and a Remand and Reception centre. It will also take into consideration the central services of the entire facility for the intended total offender population of 270, with a focus on developing a new correctional facility that supports offender development, rehabilitation and wellbeing.

Detailed design for Stage 1 construction will be subject to a separate procurement process that is expected to be released in 2022-23.

About the planning process

The Government is following the normal statutory processes as provided for under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, to prepare a CPSA/DA that will allow consideration for a new correctional facility to be constructed in northern Tasmania.

All the relevant information collected through the diligence investigations, that are still currently being undertaken, will be made publically available when the Department submits its Combined Planning Scheme Amendment and Development Application to the Meander Valley Council.

Where to find out more

For more information visit justice.tas.gov.au/nrp

Or you can register to receive project updates by emailing the project team at northern.prison@justice.tas.gov.au

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

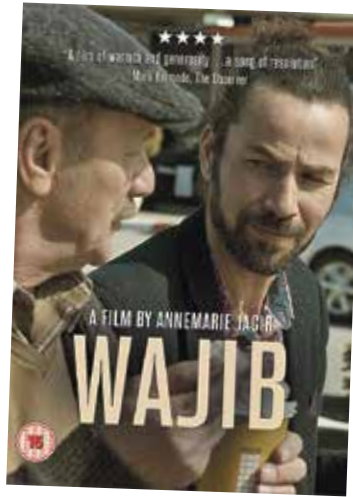
At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society

Clare Andersen

'Wajib' translates as 'duty' in Palestinian Arabic. Our October multi-award winning comic drama delves into the lives of Palestinians living in Israel in the persons of a real-life father and son. It was first screened at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival and won Best Fiction Film and Best Actor Muhr awards at Dubai. Along the way it picked up awards and nominations at the Mar del Plata Festival 2017 and Arab Critics Awards for Best Film, Best Screenplay and Best Actor at Cannes 2018.

Writer-director-poet, Annemarie Jacir was born in Bethlehem, raised in Saudi Arabia and educated in New York. In *Wajib*, nothing seems out of place but the revelations offered by *Wajib* into cultural traditions are suffused with stoic wisdom.

Jacir's earlier films, *Salt of This Sea* (2008) and *When I Saw You* (2012) ensure a worldly, wise and witty eye is bequeathed to this entertaining and illuminating slice of Palestinian life.



October 9 **WAJIB (THE WEDDING INVITATION)**

2017 M, comedy/drama, Palestine, 96m, Director Annemarie Jacir

In the lead-up to Christmas in Nazareth, a father and his estranged son must come together to hand deliver to each guest, as per local Palestinian custom, invitations to their daughter's/sister's wedding. This includes extended family and friends and special guests. On the way in their beaten-up old Volvo they meet colourful characters on their cross-city travels.

'On this simple premise, Palestinian writer-director Jacir has constructed a rueful and, at times, savage comedy about the daily dilemmas of Arabs living in Israel.' *SMH* 10.2018

Critic 100% / Audience 85% Rotten Tomatoes

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

THE ISLAND PROJECT
Island Study Linking Ageing and Neurodegenerative Disease

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA
WICKING
Dementia Research and Education Centre

Dementia, Prevention and Wellbeing Expo in Devonport

THE ISLAND Project is a part of the University of Tasmania, Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre's world leading research into the causes, prevention and care of dementia. The project's aim is to reduce the incidence of dementia through raising awareness of the modifiable risk factors for dementia in the Tasmanian population.

The ISLAND Project is encouraging Tasmanians over 50 years of age to sign up to participate in this valuable dementia research and education opportunity.

On Thursday 23 September, during Dementia Action Week, The ISLAND Project will host a Dementia, Prevention and Wellbeing Expo at the Devonport Paranple Convention Centre from 10am to 2pm. Entry is free.

The ISLAND Project will be joined by St Lukes Health, Dementia Australia, the Cancer Council and many others to connect visitors to local services and activities supporting health and wellbeing.

In addition to the 30 plus exhibitors, there will be hearing tests available on the day as well as the opportunity for current participants of The ISLAND Project to undertake blood collection and access online cognition testing with a member of the team.

Project officer Justine Keay said, 'This expo brings together a number of organisations and services in the one location so people can easily find out what is available in the community.

'Whether you need support due to a dementia diagnosis, want to find out more about how to reduce your risk of dementia and other health issues or want to see what services and activities are happening in and around Devonport to keep you healthy, active and well, then this free expo is just for you.'

The expo will be officially opened by Professor James Vickers. Come along and discover how to enhance your health and well-being.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Census

It's not too late to complete your Census.



Census night was Tuesday 10 August.

The Census is compulsory.

You can complete online, by paper or with help from us.

→ census.abs.gov.au ☎ 1800 512 441

*See the 2021 Census Privacy Statement at www.census.abs.gov.au/privacy





Westbury tip in early August 2021. Photo supplied

Council makes rubbish decisions

Sharon Webb

DELORAINE'S TIP will transform into a waste transfer station when it becomes full during the next year.

The Cluan Road site, known by users as the Westbury tip, will open a new cell to give the municipality six more years of landfill capacity while a new landfill site is constructed at Deloraine.

Meander Valley Council general manager John Jordan said residents would use the transfer station while the council worked through the EPA approvals, land acquisition and construction process to put in place a new landfill at Deloraine.

Finance director Jonathan Harmey said ratepayers would be prohibited from accessing the tip face 'from a risk perspective' but also to improve and make it easier for people to access the service.

Over the next year Deloraine's landfill site will be upgraded to transition the site to a transfer station, with funding allocated in the 2021-2022 budget.

The plan is for the current Deloraine tip's landfill area to be capped and rehabilitated in coming years. A schedule for works and improvements at the Cluan landfill site will be determined after council officers finalise the scope of works.

Waste transfer stations will be maintained at Chudleigh, Mole Creek and Meander but this may change after the council's kerbside collection service contract is renewed.

'Like every other municipality we are hit hard with industry increases in fees and charges,' Mr Jordan said.

'Our current contract has essentially buffered us from too much increase [in costs]

but we are now having to run the gauntlet of the market for a new waste tender,' Mr Jordan said.

'So over the next 12 months we'll determine the pricing of a range of options for the municipality.

'At the very least we'll consider the 10 townships or areas that get kerbside collection, standardising that service.

'We hope the pricing will allow us to make decisions about general waste collection, organic garden waste and recycling, to bring a contemporary level of service like Launceston's.

'It all depends on the result of the tender with the waste contractors.'

Mr Jordan said that the council would 'look at' the current transfer stations at Chudleigh, Mole Creek and Meander if it got favorable pricing for the tender.

'Our approach is to ask the market what works best for cost effectiveness and value for money. Then we'll come back to the council with an idea around the extent of change,' he said.



THIS IS the best time of year to consider whether you want chooks.

We're heading into breeding season. There's lots of sex happening in the farmyard and in a month or two chicks start hatching.

What will you get? Day-old chicks? Six-week-old chicks? Point-of-lay hens?

Or do you want hens and a rooster so you can hatch your own cute babies?

First things first. Why have chooks at all?

Many people want the eggs. In that case you might be looking at the top laying breeds like the Australorp (300 eggs a season), the Leghorn (260) and Marans (220).

The Rhode Island Red is a reliable bird for eggs (170 a season) and meat. It's hardy and loves a free-ranging lifestyle.

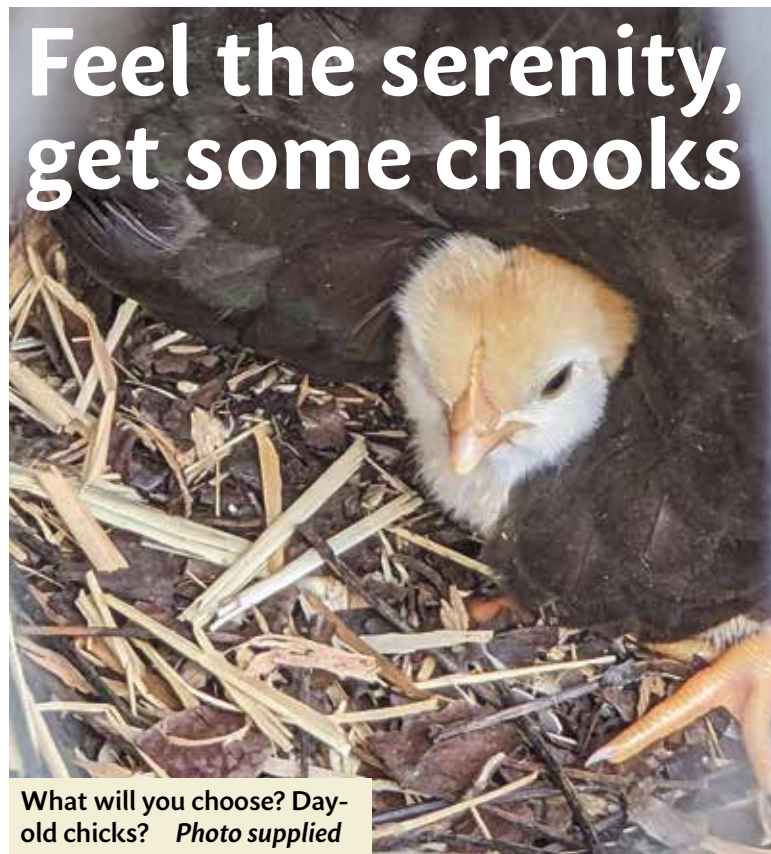
So is the Sussex, a great dual purpose bird laying 180-220 eggs in a season, with a placid nature and heavy enough not to be too tempted to fly over the fence.

The Wyandotte lays fewer eggs (160) but comes in stunning laced colours, has a lot of personality in my experience and goes broody easily. If you have other breeds such as the Barnevelder that don't go broody easily, get a Wyandotte to sit on your eggs.

Some people like cute. Silkie are striking looking birds with a upright powder-puff crest and legs so short that their underfluff almost touches the ground.

Fewer people buy chooks for meat these days.

When I was growing up you couldn't buy a frozen chook in a supermarket, unlikely as it sounds. My dad chopped off



What will you choose? Day-old chicks? Photo supplied

the head of a chook on the old faithful chopping block and we kids didn't watch.

But if anyone wants chooks for food, they'll buy the heavier breeds, Orpingtons, Australorps, Plymouth Rocks or Langshans.

Anyone wanting a blokey bird should look at the Indian Game, a hardy bird bred in Cornwall and Devon, sometimes for fighting. With their smooth feathers and muscular breasts they're said to be an independent, strong-willed bird with real character. Maybe not best around children.

So why would anyone want chooks? My friend Kevin says chooks are part of living.

'Eggs are good. Manure's better,' he said. 'With a compost heap it's all part of the cycle. Free-range chooks look after the bugs on your property and well, you can't get a better egg than from a free-range chook.'

A NW Coast woman who came to buy chooks from me a few years ago had a completely different attitude.

'I'll call them Booty, Bunt and Bobo,' she said, 'and the rooster will be Shazam. They

are sooooo cute, I just can't wait to get them home and get to know them!'

I'm like Kevin. I like my chooks' eggs and chooks are part of my life. Many's the time when I've come home from work stressed to the gills, sat on the deck and just watched the chooks in the yard.

They have their spats, their funny habits, their idiosyncrasies. One often makes a funny squawk like she's jumping out of her skin, another comes just close enough to keep a wary eye on me.

They're calming, grounding. When you're around chooks, Earth seems like a more serene place.

Of course there are roosters and some people have an irrational aversion because of crowing, a territorial behavior.

Margaret Thatcher may have said, 'The cock crows but it's the hen that lays the eggs.' But my old boy is especially good at looking out for big birds above when I have cute clutches of chicks.

Whatever you decide about your chook future remember - happy chooks, happy life.

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Labor Member for Lyons

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Tasmanian Labor



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Rijke McGough and her Black Russian terrier Mowli are a regular sight in Deloraine. Photo supplied

The voices of MVFM

John Phelps

RIJKE MCGOUGH is a polyglot. But then, that's not surprising because many people growing up in Europe acquire skill in several languages before they reach their teens.

Rijke (rhymes with crikey) was born in London, then moved to the Netherlands.

As a young adult, seeking the sun and a healthy lifestyle, she volunteered to work on an Israeli kibbutz for a few months.

She was still there twelve years later, having added Hebrew to her four European languages. She married a vet and had a daughter, Lisa.

Lisa's birth took place in a primitive hospital in the mountains of the Golan Heights. When her new baby was taken

Crikey, it's Rijke!

away for the night, Rijke wondered how she would recognise her the next morning.

No problem, as it turned out. Among fifteen dark-haired, dark-eyed Arabic babies, there was just one with red hair and freckles.

Rijke moved to Australia, first of all to Glen Innes, and then to Byron Bay where she managed the local gym.

But while the climate was pleasant, she craved the cooler climate into which she had been born.

So, she moved to beautiful Tasmania about a decade ago – the best move ever!

Lisa was concerned about her mother's relocation, declaring 'If you keep moving south, Mum, you'll soon go over the edge!'

Rijke's hobbies include gardening, cooking, reading, horse riding and being taken for walks by a giant dog, a Black Russian terrier named Mowli.

Mowli is a great people magnet and Rijke gets to talk to lots of people walking along the street.

Another thing she enjoys doing is presenting a radio program on MVFM called 'Meet Me in the Middle of the Air', a program of music which has meant something to her. Every song is part of her life and there are all kinds of songs in there. It may be heard on Saturdays at 12 noon.

And she has ideas for future programs featuring other local people and their music. Watch out for her and her dog.

Have your say on health service problems

TASMANIANS WHO have experienced difficulty accessing a GP booking or medical care are invited to contribute to a national inquiry.

Tasmanian Labor MHR Brian Mitchell said he and Labor colleagues led the charge for a Senate inquiry into GP and related health services in outer metropolitan, regional and rural Australia.

'We all know how tough it can be to make a GP booking or access the medical care you need, especially for Tasmanians living outside the big cities,' he said.

'But we need your contributions. They are the key to turning this issue around.'

'If you're a rural or regional Tasmanian, please take the time to share your experiences and

feedback on current health care provision in non-metro areas.'

To contribute, log onto www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/How_to_make_a_submission for assistance on how to prepare a submission. Or contact Tasmanian Senators Anne Urquhart and Catryna Bilyk, who are members of the committee overseeing the inquiry.



Aged Care Deloraine to Receive \$2.4m in Grant Funding

We are delighted to announce that Aged Care Deloraine has recently been advised of two successful grant applications of over \$2.4 million from the Department of Health through the 2020 Aged Care Approvals Round (ACAR).

In this ACAR round, there was \$150 million available for capital grants across the country with specific focus areas including creating better private living spaces and creating more spacious rooms.

Our grants will go towards projects at both Grenoch and Kanangra, which are aimed at providing more private facilities, including reducing shared ensuites, and creating larger, more spacious rooms for our lovely residents. Some of the funding will also go towards the installation of ceiling hoists which will greatly benefit our staff.

We saw these grants as a great opportunity to make essential improvements to our facilities which directly benefit residents and increase our capacity to provide high quality aged care services to the Meander Valley community for years to come.

The decision to move into aged care may be a daunting one, but with the help of our team, it can be a seamless transition into a better life.

Call us today to see how we can help.

AGED CARE DELORAINÉ INC

Phone. 6362 8300 Web. agedcaredeloraine.org.au



Boston Bun

Bun ingredients

- 1 cup smooth, cold mashed potato
- 1 cup milk
- 3/4 cup castor sugar
- 1 egg, beaten lightly
- 1 cup mixed, dried fruit
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 2 cups self raising flour
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 tsp finely grated lemon rind
- 1 tbs lemon juice

Icing ingredients

- 2 cups icing sugar
- 30g softened butter
- boiling water to mix
- a few drops of pink food colouring (optional)
- 1/4 cup coconut

Bun method

- 1 Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease and line a loaf tin with baking paper and grease again.
- 2 Whisk the mashed potato, milk, egg and sugar together in a large bowl until well blended. Use a stick blender if you have one.
- 3 Sift the flour, spices and salt together.
- 4 Fold the wet ingredients into the dry mix using a metal spoon or plastic scraper. Stir only until well combined.
- 5 Pour into prepared tin.
- 6 Bake for 45–60 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean when inserted into the centre of the bun.
- 7 Cool in tin 5 minutes before turning out onto a wire rack to cool completely before icing.

Icing method

- 1 Sift icing sugar and mix in the butter, food colouring and enough boiling water to make a smooth, spreadable icing.
- 2 Ice the cold bun, then sprinkle liberally with the coconut, pressing it into the icing if desired.

Boston Bun, better buttered



Known as a Sally Lunn in New Zealand, the Boston Bun may have arrived in Australia during the gold rush. Whatever the origin, nothing beats a beautiful buttered Boston Bun. Photo supplied

Wendy Hays

IS THERE anything better than a cup of tea and a slice of warm buttered bun?

Variations of this month's economical recipe have been around for many years and regularly feature in Country Women's Association and other fund raising recipe books.

Boston Bun can be made using yeast as the leavening agent but traditionally Boston Buns use left over mashed potato.

Records for the sale of Boston Buns in Australia and New Zealand can be found dating back to the early 20th century. The origin of the name is unknown.

This recipe freezes well, sliced or whole, and toasts beautifully if not iced. If iced, it is better eaten sliced and buttered within a few days.

Any dried fruit can be used and the lemon can be omitted if it is unavailable. Just make sure you scoop out one cup of mashed potato before you add any milk, butter, pepper or salt to your mix, if you are using potato left over from dinner.

To get out any lumps, I sometimes push the mashed potato through a sieve before using. Enjoy!



Camellias

August seems to have been particularly cold this year. A fact clearly proven by the sight of that highly visible peak on the south west horizon, Quamby Bluff, with a rare dusting of snow cover.

Consequently, it comes as a shock to look into the garden at first light early in the month and catch sight of the most

delicate looking camellias in flower.

Camellias are amongst the most prolifically grown shrubs in this area of Meander Valley, and a journey along most streets in Northern Tasmania will reveal at least one of these beautiful winter flowering plants in colours of bright red, pink, or white.

Camellia japonica is the most common species grown in

our district and prefers deep shade, good drainage, plenty of organic matter, and a cool root run.

Some of the double varieties which do well in Northern Tasmania are:

- *C. japonica* 'The Czar', bright red single blooms,
- *C. japonica* 'Debutante', delicate pink with complex centre,
- *C. japonica* 'Early Pearly', pure white double.

C. sinensis is the tea plant, the source of that universally consumed and loved beverage.

C. sasanqua is often grown as a tall hedge. The sasanquas have smaller leaves, and can tolerate a position in full sun, whereas japonica leaves turn yellow in sunlight.

Vegetables

Sow onions, cucumbers (in punnets), celery and carrots.

Avoid using animal manure with carrots, it encourages forking.

Plant potato tubers, cabbage and cauliflower seedlings in well manured soil.

C. japonica 'Debutante', delicate pink with a complex centre, is a variety which does well in Northern Tasmania. Photo supplied




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Helping to keep Australia beautiful and sustainable

Keep Australia Beautiful Tasmania Sustainable Schools Awards

MOLE CREEK Primary School and The Real Education Experience (TREE) were both successful grant recipients in the 2021 Keep Australia Beautiful Tasmania Sustainable Schools Awards.

Sponsored by Hydro Tas and the Tasmanian Government, the awards granted funds to improve sustainability in eleven schools throughout Tasmania.

Students at Mole Creek Primary School recently conducted an audit of the waste collected at the school and in the town. This eyeopening exercise inspired the students to consider ways that they can do better as individuals and as a whole school community.

The KABTas award will assist the school to expand their existing kitchen garden with the intention of creating a food production and waste management closed circle. The aim is to produce more food on site to use in the canteen and breakfast club.

They are also looking for ways to reduce the amount of material that leaves the school and goes into landfill.

The closed circle project will allow them to use more of their 'waste' resources on site.



KABTas Sustainable Schools Project Officer, Christine Moore visited Mole Creek Primary School recently to present them with a memorable cheque! *Photo supplied*

One of the most under utilised resources in the school is paper, which frequently gets sent to landfill.

A new rubbish sorting system will see the paper turned into compost, worm food, animal bedding or even reused for craft projects such as paper making.

At Meander, the pilot program for The Real Education Experience (TREE) is being run by Deloraine High School.

TREE will use their KABTas award funds to buy equipment and utensils to support sustainable practises such as cooking and gardening classes for students in Grades 5-8.

The project will also make use of existing resources and source items second hand that still have lots of life left in them.

These small actions can have a big impact when students take these positive, sustainable habits back to their homes and families.

TREE is supported by Deloraine High School and Thrive, an initiative of Collective ed. Collective ed. is an innovative, five-year Tasmanian place-based initiative hosted by the Beacon Foundation. Launched in 2017, the project aims to get more young people to complete year 12 and enable them to transition into meaningful pathways after school.

Festival of One Act Plays

Deloraine Dramatic Society's Festival of One Act Plays will be held on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 October 2021

Entries close on 1 October

For those thinking of entering a play, please contact the Festival Director as soon as possible, to assist in event planning.

For entry forms and further information contact Patricia Woods, Festival Director on 0409 568 291 or at patriciawoods@deloraine.com.au



Aikido in Deloraine



AIKIDO, THE art of harmony and self defense, has been represented in Deloraine for well over 35 years.

Aikido was brought to Deloraine by well known artist, Tony Smibert, President of the national organization Aiki Kai Australia and also for many years a leading figure in the International Aikido Federation.

Smibert Shihan is still teaching today, respected and appreciated by his students many whom are now highly graded.

Beginners have always been welcome in the Deloraine Dojo regardless of whether they only came for a few months or stayed for the long journey to a black belt.

Deloraine Dojo, in a very traditional Japanese way, combines a strong focus with a soft physicality, one of the

many challenges for the Aikido practitioner.

Aikido is a relatively new martial art created by Morihei Uesheba. Influenced by the violence and horror of the Second World War, O Sensei Uesheba took competition out of the art in order to transcend winning and losing.

A deeply spiritual person he created Aikido to contribute to a universal vibration of peace, love and harmony.

Interestingly even today people attracted to Aikido are usually gentle and friendly people who are warm hearted and easy to get along with.

Aikido is a body/mind activity, a dynamic meditation transcending the worries and distractions of the outside world and naturally arriving at the here and now of the mat.

Practicing partners constantly change and swap the role of attacker and defender supporting each other in both becoming stronger in ki flow and mind and body coordination.

At times you hear of young people not getting bullied anymore after practicing a martial art for a while almost as if they erased the please hit me sign previously printed on their forehead.

As an old Sensei suggested, Aikido is an ongoing study of becoming better people.

It seems to be a mirror of life where joy and frustration often are close together and where conflict does not need to be avoided but hopefully transformed and reconciled into composure, peace, love and harmony.

Aiki Kai is a voluntary organization that welcomes new students. There are children, family and beginners classes happening this spring in both Deloraine, in the Dojo in Emu Bay Road near the bottom roundabout, and also in Tenchi Farm Dojo in Meander.

To find out more, call 0409 695 321.

Other Aikikai Dojos are in Hobart, Launceston, Lorinna and Devonport, all run by friendly, competent and welcoming crews.

Senator Claire
CHANDLER
Senator for Tasmania

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

Berry nice accomodation for workers at Red Hills



Artist's impression of the seasonal workers' accomodation planned for Murrakei Farms at Red Hills. Image reproduced from planning application posted on MVC website

Sharon Webb

MURRAKEI FARMS at Red Hills has applied to Meander Valley Council to build an \$800,000 accommodation facility for overseas seasonal workers.

The mixed cropping, live-stock and fresh berry enterprise will use the accommodation for 32 workers employed under the federal government's Seasonal Workers Program.

In their application owners Gavin and Suzie Clark said they intend to increase their 10 ha berry business to 24 hectares.

'The increase in workers from the program is in line with the growth of the business,' they said.

'Further development of the farm will result in economic growth in the region through an increase in employment, people living in the area and supporting local businesses.'

Murrakei Farm's berry business consists of six hectares of strawberries, three hectares of raspberries and one hectare of

blackberries, currently employing up to 120 people in peak season.

The berry crops are planted, trained, pruned and harvested by hand, requiring a large workforce, with year-round operations. Planting is in June/July and harvest from October to the end of May.

The long harvest season requires 12-18 people per hectare to rotationally harvest the fruit by hand seven days a week, as well as teams of people responsible for farm management, irrigation, maintenance, and crop husbandry.

Mr and Mrs Clark propose to build on-farm accommodation of eight units sleeping four people in each.

Also proposed are two bathroom units, a shared communal kitchen, dining and recreational building and a sick bay/first aid building.

The site is zoned agriculture in the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and the accommodation would be located in the centre of the property.

The proposed accommodation is located in the same area as an existing house used for seasonal workers

The new buildings will create an on-farm accommodation hub and centralising worker transport to and from the berry farm. Murrakei Farm provides a bus to transport workers to work, shopping and other activities.

In their application Mr and Mrs Clark say the fresh market berry industry in northern Tasmania has developed rapidly in area and value in the last 10 years.

'This rapid increase has required a large pool of labour to plant, complete crop husbandry tasks, harvest and prune each year,' they said.

'To meet this labour demand, growers have found labour from a range of sources, including local residents, new migrants, local and overseas backpackers and the Seasonal Worker Program, involving nine Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste.'

Murrakei Farms has invested significantly in world class hydroponics growing infrastructure and equipment in irrigation controllers, drip irrigation, coir substrate and trellising, along with protected cropping infrastructure in polytunnels to maximise fruit yield and quality and harvest labour efficiencies.

Under the Seasonal Workers Program employers must be certified and accredited, providing the correct facilities, level of employment and worker support.

Extending beyond the normal employment arrangements of providing a paid job, an employer's responsibilities include providing accommodation and pastoral care.

Don't be a dummy!



Westbury Village Central sells smart and sustainable fashion for a good cause. Photo supplied

HEAD TO Westbury Village Central for a great collection of recycled fashion.

Fashion conscious locals with an eye for a bargain drop in regularly and the stock flies out the door.

If you have fashion of your own to recycle, then where better to do so?

Celebrating its first year of operation in July, Westbury Health's recycle fashion shop, Westbury Village Central, raises funds that stay in the Westbury community

These funds support a number of Westbury Health programs such as yoga, hydro-

therapy, Yoga for Mums and Bubs, Freezebe Girls and more.

Westbury Village Central is looking for more donations of used men's and women's clothes. Shoes, bags and jewellery are always in demand.

If you are having a spring clean and would like to donate items, then just bring them into the shop.

If you need help getting your donations to the shop, then please call 0413 437 720.

Westbury Village Central is located at Westbury Hardware, Home & Co on the Meander Valley Road in Westbury and is open 7 days a week.

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fashion reseller
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We are a fundraising initiative of Westbury Health, committed to investing our proceeds into the Westbury community.
Please drop into Village Central Westbury, part of the Westbury Home & Hardware hub at 62 Meander Valley Road, open seven days a week, 8.30am to 5.00pm



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Community Radio

tune in to MVFM 96.9
live streaming on mvfm.com.au

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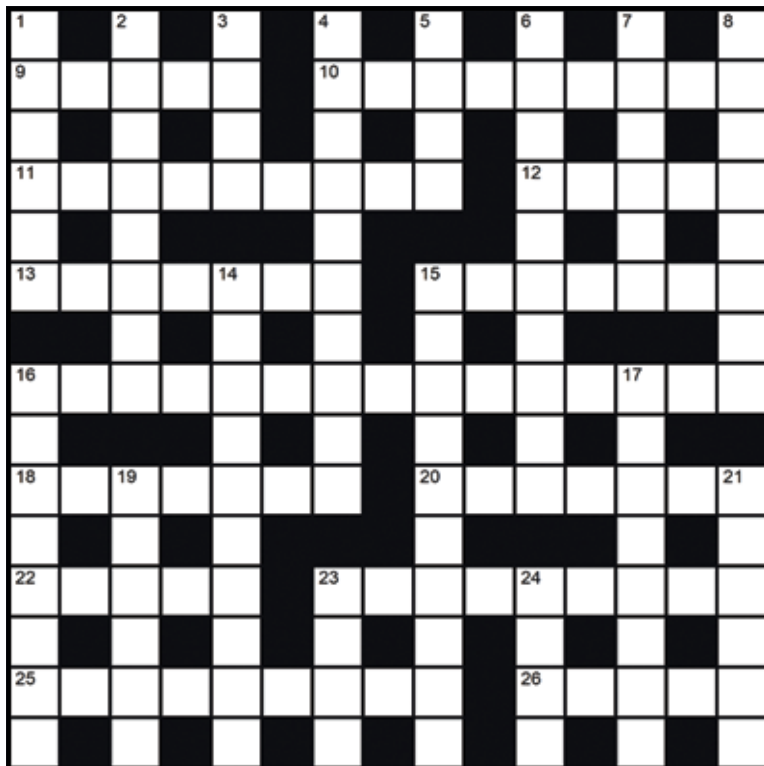
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Crossword



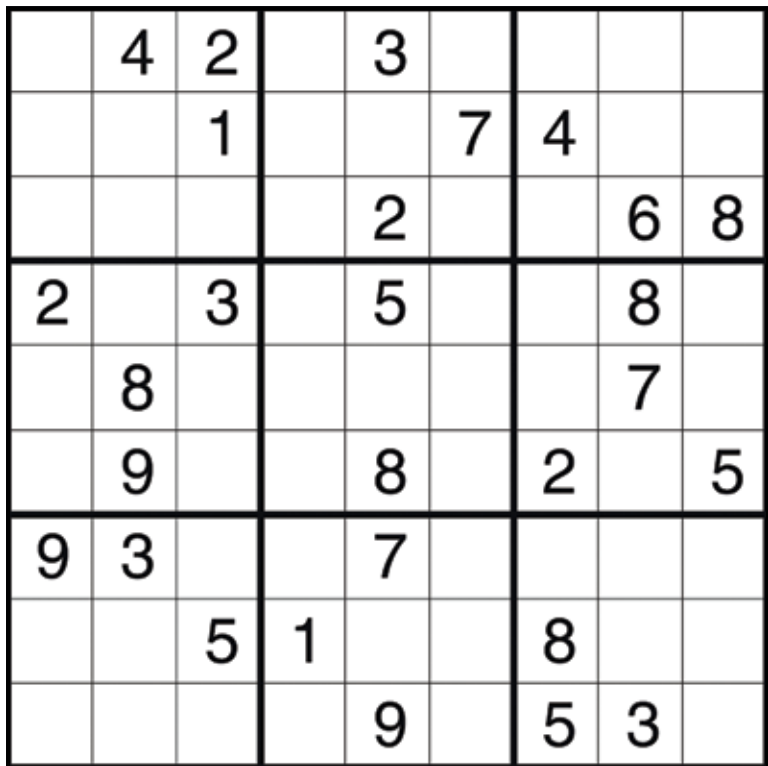
Across

- 9 Coarse (5)
- 10 Law (9)
- 11 Reviewing (5, 4)
- 12 Group of experts (5)
- 13 Concrete block used as an anchor (4, 3)
- 15 Don't have to (4, 3)
- 16 Poll outcomes (8, 7)
- 18 Area near the wicket (7)
- 20 Play piano, or find lake in NW NSW (7)
- 22 Former national netball captain Liz ____ (5)
- 23 The Royal ____, a carnivorous white bird (9)
- 25 The golden-headed ____ 'the finest tailor of all birds' (9)
- 26 True up (5)

Down

- 1 Very cold (6)
- 2 Dismember (8)
- 3 Ruffian (4)
- 4 Olympic gold, silver and bronze rower – and policeman (6, 4)
- 5 Free from bias (4)
- 6 Pro golfer Jan ____ (10)
- 7 'Imagine' songwriter (6)
- 8 The least change produces competitors (8)
- 14 Vessel in charge of smaller ones (6, 4)
- 15 'Sticks', former St George Dragons pro footballer and coach (4, 6)
- 16 Factual proof (8)
- 17 Prankster (8)
- 19 Simple and unpretentious (6)
- 21 Ashore (2, 4)
- 23 Inoffensive one (4)
- 24 Ark wright (4)

Sudoku



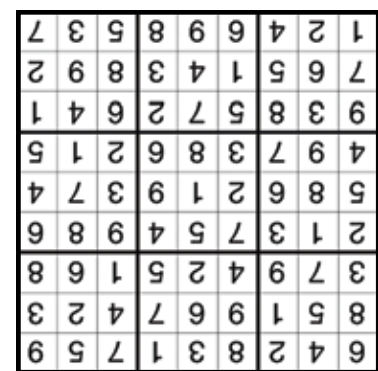
© 2021 Syndicated Puzzles

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

Crossword September 2021 solution



Sudoku September 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
Every 1st Fri, 7-9pm	Celtic Nights @ The Empire	The Empire Hotel 19-23 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine table bookings recommended 03 6362 1029
Saturdays and Sundays	Deloraine Walking Club	Walks and bike rides https://delorainewalkingclub.weebly.com for program of events, contact & membership information
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 11 September, 9am-1pr	Liffey Valley Market	Old Liffey School Devonshire tea, sausage sizzle and more Free
Sat 11 September, 7pm sharp	WTFS Nomadland	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M drama 2020 USA 108m Info 0418 389 868
Sat 18 September, 9am-1pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drv & Caveside Rd Maree Martin 0419 631 210
Sat 18 September, 9am-1pm	Westbury Market	St Andrew's Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom, Westbury Rob Menzie 0417 931 619
Sat 25 September, 1-4pm	Spring Flower Show	Westbury Town Hall, Lyall St Entry \$2 Stalls, raffle and afternoon tea available Westbury Garden Club 0455 932 342
Sat 25 September, 5pm	Beethoven 3rd Symphony, Eroica	TSO Live & On Screen Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine Tickets \$15 (AD \$12) www.trybooking.com/BTQHU
Sat 2 October, 9am-1pm	Deloraine Market	Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine Bodhi McSweeney 0409 695 321
Sat 9 October, 7pm sharp	WTFS Wajib (the Wedding Invitation)	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M comedy 2017 Palestine 93m Info 0418 389 868
23 October to 4 November	WOAD	Windows on the Arts in Deloraine entries close 24 September entry forms available from artsdeloraine@gmail.com

All are lions at heart



MELVIN JONES, the founder of Lions had the vision to place Lions clubs as global leaders in community and humanitarian services.

Lions clubs empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding.

The Melvin Jones Fellow Award is the highest award that a Lion can receive.

For the last 38 years, Bryan Watson has demonstrated all the above qualities and more, through his hard work for the

community of Deloraine and his dedication to the Lions Club of Deloraine.

Last month at the Deloraine Lions Club AGM, Bryan was awarded the Melvin Jones Fellow award for his service.

Bryan, ever so humble, thanked his wife for her support over the years.

From left, Terry Pickett, Bryan Watson and Tony Stephenson of Deloraine Lions, following the presentation of the Melvin Jones Fellow Award to Bryan.

Photo supplied

Beethoven in Deloraine

ON SATURDAY afternoon, 21 August, Arts Deloraine hosted the first of a four part series of Beethoven Symphonies performed by the wonderful Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra live streamed to the 'Little Theatre'. The acoustics were wonderful, as were the performances.

Firstly, the audience was party to a brief discussion of the works by the presenter and conductor who explained that Beethoven would forever change the course of Western music.

This was followed by a lively performance of Bach's 3rd Brandenburg Concerto and the major piece, Beethoven's 1st Symphony, surprising and majestic with a full orchestra.

The next concert presented will be Beethoven's 3rd Symphony *Eroica*, and John Dowland's *Lachrimae*.

This concert will be on 25 September, at 5pm at the Performing Arts Centre.

Receive a drink voucher at the theatre and, with a dinner booking, make it an evening out at the Bush Inn.

On the WOAD again

FROM SATURDAY 23 October until Thursday 4 November, Emu Bay Road will become a public art gallery once again, with artworks being displayed in the front windows of shops and businesses.

Passers-by will be able to see an eye-catching variety of artworks that will light up the town.

Windows on the Arts in Deloraine is a project by Arts Deloraine, and will coincide with the Tasmanian Arts and Crafts Fair, which will be held

over four days, from Friday 29 October to Monday 1 November.

The WOAD exhibition is a wonderful demonstration of the harmonious relationship between local businesses, artists and the Meander Valley community.

Artists from all over Tasmania are invited to apply for entry. Entries are open from Wednesday 18 August till Friday 24 September.

For an entry form, contact artsdeloraine@gmail.com.



The shop windows of Deloraine become an art gallery for WOAD. *Photo supplied*

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY



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SATURDAY 25 SEPT, 5PM
Little Theatre, Deloraine
DOWLAND - Lachrimae
BEETHOVEN - Symphony No 3
in E-flat, Op 55, 'Eroica'
Tickets \$15
Arts Deloraine members \$12

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/BTQHU

Annual General Meeting for Meander Valley Connect Inc.

To be held at 6pm on Tuesday 21 September in the upstairs meeting room at The Empire Hotel, 19-23 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine
Election of office bearers, annual report, revised constitution, appointment of auditor.

All welcome. Check in is compulsory. Numbers are restricted, due to Covid-19.
Sandra Atkins, Public Officer



Western Tiers Film Society

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

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Arts Deloraine

Promoting the arts in the valley - concerts, plays and exhibitions

Join to become involved as well as to get discounted entry prices.

For information, call Di Tuleja on 0439 695 126 or email artsdeloraine@gmail.com or find us on



Deloraine & Westbury Medical Centre

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Meander Valley Connect supports the Meander Valley community by

- providing two online centres for internet and training in Deloraine and Mole Creek
- providing valley-wide IT support for individuals, homes and small business
- publishing the community newspaper, the Meander Valley Gazette



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Top marks in table tennis!

IN TERM 2, Deloraine High School and Deloraine Table Tennis Club ran a weekly lunch-time table tennis tournament.

The tournament was very successful with over 20 players competing each week on the school's five tables.

Deloraine High School and Deloraine Table Tennis Club are purchasing more tables and equipment for next term as the interest continues to grow.

Stephen Blizzard, Deloraine High School assistant principal said, 'It has been great to see so many students get involved with the table tennis tournament and I hope we can continue to work with the Deloraine Table Tennis Club to get more kids involved in the sport within the community.'

The winners each received a high-quality bat and bag

donated by Deloraine Table Tennis Club.

Liam Collins, who is a member of the table tennis club and helped coordinate the school tournament, generously donated his prize to the grade 9/10 competition runner-up, Drew Leugis.

The tournament has also been good news for Deloraine Table Tennis Club, with a growing number of high school players joining the club.

Every Wednesday evening, from 7-9.30pm, the club plays at the Deloraine Performing Arts Centre (between the bridge and the police station). All player standards are most welcome.

For more information about Deloraine Table Tennis Club contact Chris Gard on 045552908.



From left: Jack Heathcote, the winner of the grade 7/8 competition; Liam Collins, the winner of the grade 9/10 competition; and Drew Leugis, grade 9/10 competition runner-up. Photo supplied

The show must go on!

WESTBURY AGRICULTURAL Society is going ahead with the 2021 Westbury Show on Saturday 6 November.

Awaiting official confirmation from Worksafe Tasmania and Events Tasmania, newly appointed show coordinator Stephen Gregory is working with both organisations to ensure the 2021 Westbury Show will meet all COVID-19 event guidelines.

'Westbury Show Committee is determined to run our historical show in 2021,' said

Kevin Lattin, Westbury Show president.

The show will be held at the historic showgrounds on Marriott Street, popular attractions such as show jumping, draught horses, home industries and kid's activities for will all be present.

'We are still finalising show attractions and welcome vendor and entertainment inquiries,' said Stephen.

As a COVID-19 Safe Event, Westbury Show will require all show attendees to use the

Check-In Tas app, as well as comply with social distancing and hand hygiene protocols.

For updates on Westbury Show information, go to www.westburyshow.com.au or facebook@westburyshow.

For general inquiries, contact Stephen Gregory at candsgregory@bigpond.com or Kevin Lattin at klattin@bigpond.com.

For publicity enquiries contact Westbury Show media coordinator Stacey Tweedale at staceytweedale@gmail.com or on 0413 453 567.

Roll on Westbury Show 2021!

Archive photo by Mike Moores



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