



IN FULL BLOOM

Westbury puts on a Spring show

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RESCUE DOWN UNDER

Mole Creek cave emergency simulation

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SALSA INTO SPRING!

A hot Miami night of music with the Big Band

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Meander Valley Gazette

Free every month

October 2021

Meander Valley Gazette *Your independent community paper*

Hanami, Deloraine style



Among the picnickers under the cherry blossom on the Meander riverbank this year were Hobart residents Seiko Kanda, Yukiko Burns and Chigusa Buchman. Seiko has lived in Tasmania for 50 years, Yukiko for 46 years and Chigusa for 40 years. *Photo by Sharon Webb*

Story on page 3

Meander Valley Council losing the plot on burials

Sharon Webb

IT DOESN'T pay to plan ahead if you're picky about your site in a Meander Valley cemetery.

In the name of keeping up with other municipalities, the council has just whacked up the price of reserving land in Mole Creek and Bracknell cemeteries by a whopping 41 per cent.

Yes, that's right. Reserving a 2.5m x 1.25m piece of land in those cemeteries has risen

from \$425 to \$600 in Meander Valley Council's 2021-22 budget.

On top of that, if you actually die and need to be buried in that reserved plot, the cost will be another \$200, 33 per cent more than last year.

The price increases follow Meander Valley's last big burial price surge in 2018, when residents aspiring to a general cemetery in Mole Creek, Bracknell and Deloraine were slugged with a 33-35 per cent price hike.

Spending eternity in a lawn cemetery is even more expensive at \$600. The cost of buying a plot there is now the same as reserving a plot in a general cemetery (increased by \$50 or nine per cent this year), a single or double depth burial is \$720, up 10.7 per cent on a year ago.

In Meander Valley you can't even escape a price rise by being cremated, unless you're happy to sit on the mantelpiece in an urn.

If your desired location is a niche in a Wall of Memory, reserving your niche is now \$300, up 20 per cent on last year.

The highly technical task of having your ashes interred in your reserved niche has risen an outstanding 53 per cent, and now costs \$230 on top of the reservation cost.

Those who don't reserve their niche pay a total of \$450, a 12.5 per cent hike on last year.

If money is a consideration then, it's cheaper not to reserve a niche next to your beloved.

In 2021-22 there is innovation in Meander Valley Council's cemeteries, with two new costs.

A bronze vase in the Wall of Memory will cost \$100. And if your plaque wears out or gets nicked, it will cost \$100 to replace.

After all that, if your family change their minds about the whole burial thing or you become evidence in a crime, exhumation costs \$1000, a 25 per cent increase on last year.

\$2m squash courts proposed for Deloraine



Sharon Webb

DELORAINES IS set to have four new squash courts at a cost of \$2m, according to a council planning application.

A process not made public has involved a visit by squash consultant Sarah Fitz-Gerald, who won five world open titles for Australia, and the design of two building options.

The new courts are to be located in a stand alone building next to Deloraine Community Complex on Alveston Drive.

According to Deloraine Squash Club president Corey Youd, funding will come from the council and the federal government, with the lion's share coming from funding promised in 2019 during the federal election.

'Our squash club welcomes the prospect of new courts. It's been a long time coming,' he said.

'While it may seem squash is a niche sport, Deloraine has the third or fourth biggest club in Tasmania.'

Meander Valley Council was frightened off by the \$33m price tag of a 2018 proposal for a consolidated recreation precinct at Alveston Drive. It now appears that a piecemeal approach, resulting from individual sports lobbying council and government, now exists.

In 2018 Mr Youd was among community working group

members pressuring the council to take on the \$13.3m first phase of the recreation precinct plan, covering football, squash and netball facilities.

After four years of work, councillors duded the plan, politely thanking the working group for their efforts. Then Deloraine Football Club president Shaun Donohue accused the council of having 'no vision for health and wellbeing'.

In 2019 two netball courts were built at Alveston Drive using a mish-mash of government, council and Bendigo Bank funding, and now new squash courts are proposed.

Deloraine's current squash courts under the Little Theatre are not regulation size and cannot be used for State and inter-State tournaments. In the past Mr Youd has described them as 'ageing and failing'.

He said four regulation size courts would attract use by junior State development squads, senior State competitions and masters competitions.

'I'm also in talks with Squash Victoria who alternated joint training camp locations with Tasmania pre-COVID.

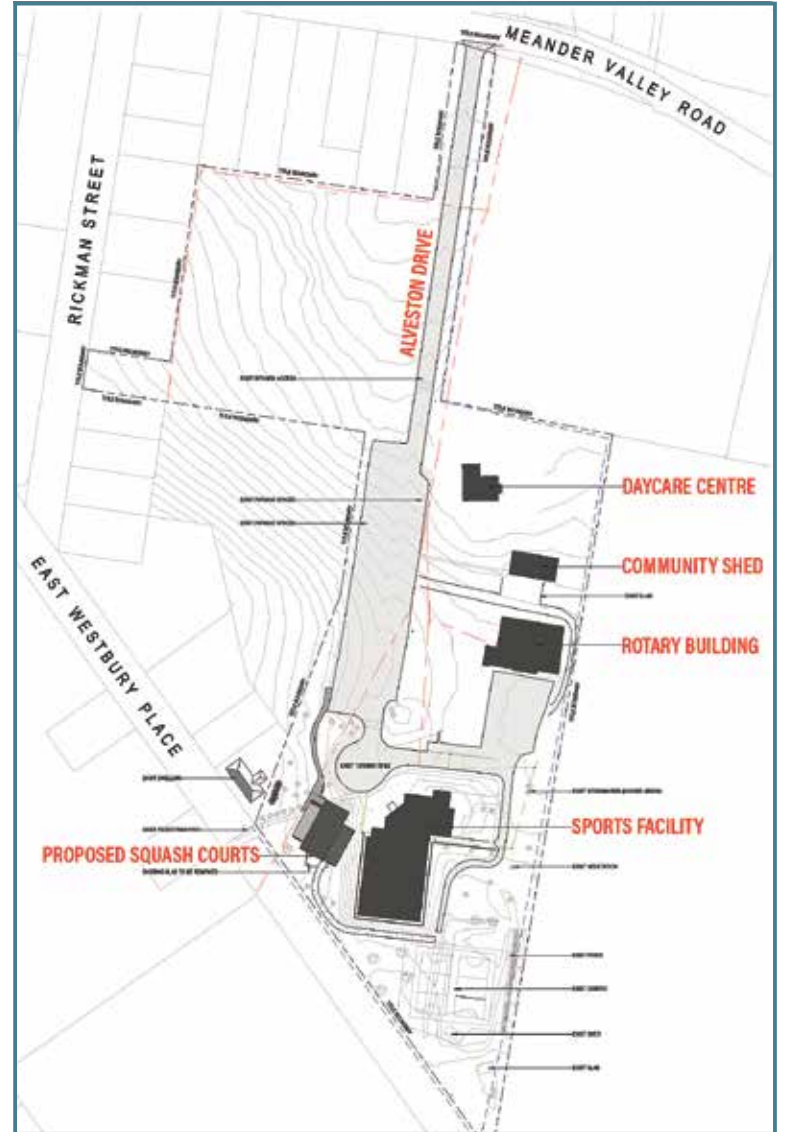
'Given that the new courts will be state-of-the-art, I think there will be a lot of interest in them.'

Mr Youd believes the courts will future-proof the Deloraine club, which has 50-60 playing members.

Above: Architect's rendering of Deloraine's proposed \$2m squash court. The design process offered two options, an extension to the existing complex or a stand alone building.

Right: the new building will be sited next to the Deloraine Community Complex. Philp Lighton of Launceston is the architect for the project.

The images shown are adapted from plans submitted to council. Red labels have been added to the original map.



Extra October forum on Meander School

MEANDER VALLEY Council will hold a second community forum on future use of the Meander School site this month. A date had not been announced when the Gazette went to press.

In answer to a question from Cllr Deb White at the September council meeting, general manager John Jordan said the forum was a response to Meander residents asking for a 'public search conference' or brainstorming style event.

Cllr White said that residents wanted to exchange ideas for the site and develop them along creative lines.

Mr Jordan said that while the August drop-in event at

Meander Hall provided great feedback and ideas from residents, there was less expression around how suggested ideas might be achieved.

'How ideas can be converted into viable proposals is a key focus for the council,' he said.

'The October event will also be an opportunity to explain the role and nomination process for the community short-listing group which will short list proposals ahead of providing recommendations to the council.

'More detail on the nomination process will be available soon.'

Mr Jordan said meeting to be held in November would give people considering submitting

an expression of interest in using the school site the opportunity to ask questions, obtain additional detail about the process and tour the site.

Other steps in the process include:

- **October 2021** Expressions of Interest invited, closing January 2022
- **November 2021** Community shortlisting group formed
- **December 2021** Council call for short term use proposals for the site
- **February 2022** Community shortlisting group assessment and recommendation
- **March 2022** Council decides on the successful tenderer
- **July 2022** Successful proponent commences operation.



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Ratepayer and reporter locked out by council

THE GENERAL manager of Meander Valley Council is preventing two ratepayers from entering any council-owned premises, including the council chambers, entertainment venues and even public toilets.

He also put them on notice they were at risk of being fined several thousand dollars.

John Jordan sent letters to Meander Valley Gazette journalist Sharon Webb and Westbury resident Peter Wileman advising them that if they do not sign documents pleading guilty to behaving badly at council meetings, they are 'not permitted to enter or remain on council premises'.

Mr Jordan advised Ms Webb that she is a 'risk to the health and wellbeing of councillors and staff'.

He wrote, 'You have now engaged in two separate and flagrant breaches of regulation 14 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the maximum penalty for which is 10 penalty units (currently \$1730) per offence.'

This reference for Mr Jordan's accusations is unclear.

Regulation 14 states, 'A meeting is to be open to the public unless closed under regulation

15'. It appears to bear no relation to Mr Jordan's letter.

Both ratepayers deny Mr Jordan's accusations.

'Mr Wileman is a vigorous anti-prison campaigner and I'm a journalist reporting on events in my local community.'

'So many council staff and councillors have left Meander Valley Council in the past 18 months it's getting hard to keep track of them all. Three councillors resigning in one term must be some sort of Tasmanian record. I wonder if there will be more?'

Ms Webb said Mr Jordan's and Cllr Johnston's exclusion of her from council meetings was the latest development in a deteriorating relationship between the council and the Gazette. She said their threats are aimed at preventing her from reporting on the council.

Ms Webb said Mr Jordan should prove his accusations are true.

'If I had disrupted the meeting to this degree, the police ought to have been called to remove me and impose the threatened fine. The fact that they weren't speaks for itself. A smear campaign seems preferable to the truth.'



New arrivals at Hagley Farm school are piglets Gizmo, Tambo and Peanut. Expect to see them in the Gazette again very soon, as the cute factor can only increase. Photo supplied

Deloraine's dazzling cherry blossom a hit with Japanese diaspora

Continued from page 1

A SUNNY spring day and a small forest of cherry blossom on the Meander River banks attracted many of Tasmania's Japanese population to Hanami in Deloraine last month.

Around 50 people from as far as Hobart, Launceston, Cressy and Mole Creek picnicked under the palest pink blossom of cherry trees donated many years ago by Rick Shiratori of Japan's Shiratori Flour Mills.

It was the first Hanami (viewing of the cherry blossom) held in Deloraine by the Tasmanian branch of the Australia Japan Society, but for many years local people linked with Japan through teacher and student exchanges and Meander's Aiki Kai Aikido club have also picnicked under the trees.

Lisa Walkden, a Japanese language teacher at Hagley Farm School, organised September's picnic. 'We can't go to Japan so what could be better than cherry blossom in Deloraine?'

Teacher Geraldine Pennicott of Reedy Marsh who worked for two years in Japan, said Hanami was huge there.

'As soon as the blossom comes out everyone downs tools and picnics under the blossom. They sit on blue tarps and have a jolly good time.'

'TV weather programs forecast peak cherry blossom season in different parts of the country.'

Ms Pennicott said Japanese people revere the blossom. 'It represents the change of seasons and its fleeting nature reflects the impermanence of life.'



Yuko and Shane Oriel of Mole Creek's Blackwood Cottages with their son Lucca, picnicking with Julian and Mina Worrall of Launceston with their son Leo.



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The letter from the editor can be found on page 5

Letters to the Editor

WE WOULD like to publicly thank Frank Nott for all the years of service he has given to Meander Valley and its community.

Always ready to listen and discuss community issues with anyone who needed help or

advice, Frank was the best type of councillor. Our valley, our council, our community will be the poorer without him. We are sorry to lose him and wish him well. Thank you Frank!
Heather and Chris Donaldson, Westbury

IT WAS depressing to read Felicity Holmes' letter in the September Gazette, pleading for some kind of response to climate change, and not only because Tinderbox has been mentioned as a likely future victim of inundation.

It's also because the Australian government's almost solo flouting of that emergency is so like the Tas government's and MVC's refusal to forthrightly address the prison issue.

Both seem to arise from some obtuse conviction that government powers extend to a sweeping right of officials to assume discretionary powers to ignore

statutes and the public interest in serving their own interests, as kleptocrats typically do.

This attitude has seen the public's financial interest in preserving native forests, unspoiled catchments and clean air being deferred in favour of almost no one except selected private industries, major political parties, and well-connected political donors. Many of these arrangements would be found unlawful if the public had a truly independent and principled legal system and integrity commission, unimaginable as that may seem.

John Hayward, Weeena

HEARING MAYOR Wayne Johnston on the ABC radio on 24.9.2021 say that the Meander Valley Council had written to the State Government to ask if they would do a socio-economic impact survey for the Brushy Rivulet Reserve prison site brought to my mind one of the outcomes of the public meeting on the Northern Regional Prison held in early August.

This was that any questions that could not be answered that evening would be sent to the relevant people and an answer asked for within 30 days.

Since then there seems to have been no publicity of this happening.

I finally found the responses buried on the MVC website.

To find them you have to do the following.

- 1 Go to www.meander.tas.gov.au.
- 2 Scroll down to the bottom of the page.

3 Click on blue box 'View all news'.

4 Scroll down to 'Public meeting: Tasmanian Government's Northern Regional Prison proposal' and click.

5 Go to bottom of page and see 'Any questions submitted during the meeting but not answered due to time constraints have now been compiled. Click here to view the questions.'

6 Click there and wait until page loads.

Could it have been made any more obscure?

I would also remind people that at the public meeting Council was asked to carry out its own socioeconomic impact study and not rely on the State Government. As seems to be the norm these days, MVC has flicked responsibility as far down the road as it can. What has happened to the Meander Valley Council?

Sean Manners, Westbury

DR ANNA Chilcott started experiencing symptoms of MS on May 3. Her diagnosis came only weeks after her first symptom (*The Examiner*, 18 September). Lucky doctor. I wonder if private health insurance played a role in such a fast diagnosis? It took Tasmanian health services, 23 years after experiencing my first symptom, to diagnose me with secondary progressive MS (SPMS).

Unlike Dr Chilcott, I was not believed and was told all my symptoms were in my head.

Dr Chilcott said 'Immediately after the results of the MRI came through I was in hospital the following day having treatment.' Unlike Dr Chilcott, I was not offered a MRI scan, let alone treatment.

Following my son's death in 2007, I was told that all my neurological symptoms were simply post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In 2019, I was finally diagnosed with SPMS, for which there is no treatment or cure. To my shock-horror, after 5 years of symptoms, my daughter was also diagnosed with MS. On top of that, we both have a very rare genetic disorder.

Like Dr Chilcott, we would like to raise awareness about MS and the appalling state of the public health system. Remember Anna Moroney having to travel to Mexico for treatment? Remember the late Kylie Breen ending her own life (suffering)?

AR Trounson, Needles

IS IT possible for Deloraine to become any more beautiful one might ask earlier in the year?

Well yes it can and the answer is in spring time.

Beautiful blossoms opening all around us, each one a little miracle in itself, especially appreciated after the long, bleak winter we've just experienced.

Judith-Anne Tahir, Deloraine



THE ANNOUNCEMENT that the Premier had decided to close Ashley came as a shock to many people in the community and beyond when it came out of the blue on the 9th of September.

I and others have been fighting the prison proposal near Westbury for over two years. Then suddenly, like a *deus ex machina*, the Premier says that the Ashley site will also be on the table.

Prior to this announcement, the Department of Justice, led by the Minister for Corrections Elise Archer, had been taking painfully slow steps to progress the planning application for the most absurd of prison sites, the Brushy Rivulet reserve.

I am not a conspiracy theorist, but after the public meeting (at which the vast majority of folks in attendance made it clear that it was not welcome on that site) but before

the Premier's announcement about Ashley, there had been a flurry of activity within the Department of Justice. The gates of Barad-dûr opened, and a tender issued forth for a million dollar architectural services job connected to Brushy Rivulet.

Was this a shot over the Premier's bow by Minister Archer? A sign that the lady is not for turning away from Brushy Rivulet?

It would appear that the Labor Party is not the only party with a bit of infighting going on.

At the end of the day we need to remember that party infighting shows that neither Labor nor Liberal are really in it for us, most of them are in it for themselves.

The Liberal Party will carve up our municipality if it suits them, not just because it's the best thing to do.

Martin Hamilton, Westbury

USUALLY WRITING comes easily to me, but not today, as I am severely sleep deprived, due to the noise caused by heavy vehicle log truck movement through the Weeena community, all Thursday night-Friday morning, 23-24 September.

Not the first time. For the past year, a forest plantation company has been contracting heavy vehicle log trucks to haul plantation logs from plantations in Beulah.

This particular plantation company has signed on to the Forestry industry Good Neighbour Protocol, as have other timber companies, but alas are not adhering to it.

We are not against plantations, or jobs, we just want to be able to sleep at night. It is a rural residential lifestyle zone.

The community requested of the company last year that heavy vehicle log trucks cease between 11pm and 6am. A very reasonable request to ask of any neighbour, but quite often there are log trucks travelling in that time frame.

Heavy vehicle truck movement through communities that disturb residents' sleep does impact residents' mental and physical wellbeing. Flow-on effects of impaired memory, impaired judgement, stress, poor concentration, productivity loss, communication difficulties, fatigue from lack of sleep, to name a few.

And also, the landscape has changed from forested green hills to bare hills.

For those residents who moved to this rural residential lifestyle living area for peace and quiet, the log truck movements echoing through the valley has shattered that peace.

There are also airbnb accommodation houses along the road. Guests stay for a peaceful country experience only to be awoken by truck noise.

The log trucks at night start up dogs barking, which starts the roosters crowing, all creating a cacophony of sound. Of course, there is the inevitable roadkill of wildlife, far too much.

Why is one company allowed to disrupt a whole community, for their own profit, without any benefit to the community, or any thought that they are affecting that community?

Why is it that said company does not display a sign at the plantation with a contact number? Where is the timber going? Overseas? Why is there a shortage of building timber in Tasmania for house construction? Maybe someone can answer those questions?

I'm sticking my earplugs back in my ears to muffle the noise. I'm going to catch up on sleep, for at least an hour, before the next heavy vehicle roars through the valley.

Kathleen Green, Weeena

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Patsy Crawford scribbling away

I HAVE disconcertingly started to walk about town with what can best be described as a sneer on my face.

Well, not so much a sneer as an expression that falls somewhere between Miss Piggy and Tammy Faye Bakker in one of her more demented evangelical performances.

Remember Tammy Faye? Never has one woman 'Praised the Lord' with more thickly applied peach blusher.

But I digress. The reason for the change of face is because

a whole bunch of neighbours seems to have taken off and I'm having the devil of a job keeping up with the new lot.

Trouble is, you can take the permanency of the old guard for granted.

From the bottle shop bloke with the gammy leg on the corner to the frizzy-haired woman who drives the Hillman Minx at the bottom end of the street, you get to know the who's who of the hood.

Then one day you realise they're not there anymore. They've either departed the scene for parts unknown, decamped to a Sunny Smiles retirement condo or shuffled off this mortal coil. It may have taken you years to pin

them down by name and now they've done a runner on you. You've got to learn a new lot of names and memorise a new lot of faces.

Here's where the dilemma comes in. For those of us old enough to remember Tammy Faye, the powers of recognition aren't what they used to be.

You don't want to be rude but who the hell are these strangers walking briskly past your unkempt front garden? Where's bottle shop man? Where's Hillman Minx woman?

So, in order to be neighbourly and not come to be regarded as that nasty woman with the unkempt garden I'm adhering to the cunning

strategy of smiling at pretty well everyone. That includes dogs. And children. That way I offend no-one. All bases covered. Pleasantness guaranteed.

The only ones who might have a problem are people who find the fixed smile a bit manic

I will occasionally chirrup a little greeting of sorts. Here again, it's general rather than person-specific.

A smile, a chirrup of indeterminate nature and, when I feel on safe ground, a merry quip in passing and I'm home and hosed.

Unfortunately, once I'm on neutral ground, say, down the main street, in the dog park or shuffling through the checkout, I tend to drop my

guard. Neighbours previously greeted with enthusiasm are totally ignored. At best they get on the receiving end of the kind of sickly grin adopted by people desperately trying to remember who they're looking at.

It won't do. Already I've snubbed the man who moved into bottle shop's house, the lady with the backpack and a perfectly pleasant young woman with a child in a pusher. Retreat into total disregard is not an option. Strapping on the smile at all times seems the only way out. What with the turmoil of neighbourly reconstruction and in order to avoid social disapprobation it's the least I can do.

Letter from the Editor

'IT WAS also noted that you are not employed as a professional journalist by the Meander Valley Gazette and are a volunteer.'

Who said this? Mr John Jordan, the well paid GM of the Meander Valley Council, in a letter to Ms Sharon Webb.

When I first read this sentence, I was furious.

Firstly because Ms Webb is a highly qualified, experienced and award winning journalist, who writes for the Gazette for

free. We are extremely lucky to have her. The fact that she is a volunteer is irrelevant.

Secondly, because this sentence seems to imply that volunteering and professionalism are mutually exclusive.

Since when does not being paid exclude professionalism?

Since when does payment guarantee professionalism?

This attitude disrespects all volunteers and volunteering

Volunteers can, and do, use their professional qualifica-

tions and experience to work to the same standard as people who are 'employed'.

Lawyers work pro bono. Doctors work with Médecins Sans Frontières or the Red Cross. No one thinks these people lower their professional standards when they volunteer.

In Australia in 2019 almost six million people formally volunteered through organisations.

This is almost one third of people aged 15 and over (29.5%), not including informal volunteering, such as support to friends and neighbours. In Tasmania, the percentage of

the population who volunteered was 34.2%.

The most common reasons given for volunteering are to help others, gain personal satisfaction and do something worthwhile.

Skilled, experienced people freely donate their professional services.

Many semiretired or underemployed people volunteer because they love their work and enjoy practicing their professional skills.

From baking cakes, to fighting bushfires, to writing stories for a community newspaper,

volunteer contributions should never be judged by a price.

Should we judge other people solely on what they earn?

Mr Jordan seems to think so, yet he is currently on the committee for Deloraine House. As a volunteer?

Deloraine House is an outstanding Meander Valley organisation relying heavily on voluntary workers.

Perhaps Mr Jordan could take the opportunity to learn more about the worth of volunteers and their contribution to our community?

Liz Douglass

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'No comment' from mayor on mystery council investigation

Sharon Webb

A SECRET investigation of a matter involving the general manager of the Meander Valley Council has found that he has no case to answer.

In August Cllr John Temple told the Gazette, on instruction from the mayor, Cllr Wayne Johnston, that complaints against the general manager John Jordan had been found by an investigator to be not substantiated.

A week later this reporter received two letters from a council legal representative,

the second of which threatened likely legal action if the Gazette published anything attacking the reputations of council staff.

Hobart lawyer Daniel Zeeman of Butler, McIntyre and Butler wrote, 'Council will not permit you, or your associates, to use its meetings as an opportunity to publicly ask questions which in themselves imply some wrongdoing on the part of the person, the subject of the question.'

'This correspondence should also serve as notice to the Meander Valley Gazette that any publication by it, of and

concerning council staff, which attacks the reputations of those staff members, is likely to bring about fairly prompt proceedings seeking appropriate remedies.'

It is believed that a council-appointed investigator completed the investigation over several weeks between April and June. The investigator's interviewees included past and current council staff members.

After rumours of the investigation circulated in the municipality, the Gazette queried them with Cllr John Temple, who confirmed there had been

an investigation but under councillor confidentiality was unable to comment further.

There is no suggestion of wrongdoing by Mr Jordan. The council nevertheless appears unwilling to divulge what the investigation was about.

When the Gazette asked Cllr Johnston six questions about the company employed by the council to do the investigation, the investigation timeline and any aftermath of the investigation, he replied, 'No comment on your first six questions.'

Cllr Johnston gave two reasons for refusing to allow questions to the July council meeting on the investigation.

'This type of issue would clearly fall within the definition of either confidential, related to potential legal advice or

related to actual or possible legal proceedings.'

'This type of issue would normally be discussed during a closed section of the council meeting pursuant to R15.'

Cllr Johnston added, 'I will not be providing any comment on the substance of your questions. All further and future correspondence on any issues regarding the general manager's employment arrangements are to be directed exclusively to myself as mayor.'

'No further correspondence on this subject is to be sent to council officers, or through to council's general inbox.'

In Tasmania, local government councillors appoint and employ their GM and are responsible for their continuing employment or otherwise.

Northern prison on hold as government considers third site

Sharon Webb

THE GOVERNMENT'S choice of a site for a new northern prison is in limbo while its ministers battle over the choice between a bush reserve on Birrale Road or the Ashley Youth Detention Centre.

It's believed a decision may be announced in November.

Meander Valley Council also appears to be in limbo on the choice, with the mayor Cllr Wayne Johnston declaring that the council does not have a position on any specific site and is yet to discuss the implications of the closure of Ashley.

This has not prevented Cllr Johnston from telling Tasmanian media that he would consider the Ashley site if he were in government, and that Ashley 'would make sense' for an adult prison.

Nevertheless the council and the State Government appear to have learnt from some Westbury residents' outrage at not being consulted over a prison to be built near their town, and from the unilateral decision at the September 2018 council meeting to support a prison at the Ashley site.

Following a call by Westbury anti-prison group WRAP for

the council to urgently engage in transparent consultation with its ratepayers about the Ashley site's future and Labor MP Jen Butler's request for the government to hold a public meeting on any new site, both government and council rushed to consultation reassurance.

'The Government's recent decision to close the Ashley Youth Detention Centre and stated willingness to consider it as a possible alternative site for a prison does not change the need to involve the community and keep them informed,' Cllr Johnston said.

'The messages about consultation and better information expressed in the public meeting hold true for any proposed location and the council will continue to advocate for an informed community.'

Greens leader Cassy O'Connor described a prison location at Ashley as 'an elegant solution', preferable to building a prison on a site containing wildlife, endangered and otherwise.

While some Deloraine people may agree, others see a strong contrast between Ashley with its ten inmates and a high security prison containing 270 prisoners.

The pause in prison progress has come with Mr Gutwein's sudden September announcement that the failing Ashley Detention Centre would close in three years.

After years of the government repudiating advice to close the facility and allocating millions of dollars to upgrade it, a two hour discussion with Ashley clinical practice consultant Alysha about events in the centre changed Mr Gutwein's mind.

In a joint statement with the Minister for Children and Youth, Sarah Courtney, he said, 'It is time for a major systemic change in our youth justice

system, with the need for a holistic approach that gives our young people a far better chance of gaining the supports they need so that they are in a better position to rehabilitate and to live better and more productive lives.'

Four years after receiving the recommendations of the 2016 Noetic Report into youth custodial options, the government has finally given up band-aiding Ashley for the sake of 60 jobs it provides to mostly Deloraine residents.

Mr Gutwein announced that the government would act on Noetic's recommendation of two new smaller facilities

located in the north and south of the State focusing on early intervention, diversion strategies and detention as a last resort measure.

A productivity report into government services early this year revealed that Ashley has a 58 per cent recidivism rate and assault and self-harm at the facility in the past year had increased fourfold.

In addition, the government is being bombarded with child abuse allegations from former Ashley detainees.

Noetic predicted that only six detainees would be in the centre by 2021 because young people on remand are now not kept there; currently the 51 bed centre has around 10 inmates.



Police on site at Ashley in March 2021 when six youths spent almost 8 hours on the roof of the facility, causing major damage. *Mike Moores archive photo*

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Blooming Westbury



Garden enthusiasts surged back to Westbury's Spring Flower Show in September with 250 people returning after the 2020 show was cancelled.

- Category winners:
- Grand champion daffodil: Noel Button, Gravelly Beach
 - Reserve champion daffodil: Joyann Branch, Wynyard
 - Champion miniature daffodil: Noel Button, Gravelly Beach
 - Best seedling daffodil: David Pyke, Westbury
 - Quamby daffodil school challenge: 1st, Fred Gunn; 2nd Isobel Gunn; 3rd Caden Kester
 - Cut flowers best exhibit: Geraldine King, Deloraine
 - Hellebores best exhibit; Flowering plant best exhibit: Ros Groom, Deloraine
 - Camellias best bloom: Helen Walker, Westbury
 - Floral art, open and reserve best exhibits: Ros Groom, Deloraine
 - Floral art, intermediate: Evonne Blackley, Westbury
 - Floral art reserve best exhibit: Stephen Gregory, Westbury
 - Novice best and reserve exhibits: Sheryl Calvert
 - Pot plants best exhibit: Ros Groom, Deloraine
 - Photography, flowers: Helen Walker, Westbury
 - Photography, foliage: John Cannon, Gawler
 - Photography, garden / landscape: Helen Walker, Westbury
 - Photography, garden creatures: Ruth Cannon, Gawler



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Sharon Webb

More unit subdivisions for Westbury

DEXTER STREET in Westbury is fast becoming Unit City, with an application for a \$1.5m development being considered by Meander Valley Council.

A \$3.7m stratum subdivision for 20 units at 150-152 Dexter Street was approved in October 2020, and now an application for eight units at 137 Dexter St has been submitted.

The 3,382 sqm L-shaped block, owned by Georgia Anne Pistor, currently has one brick veneer house and numerous sheds. It is surrounded by suburban style properties.

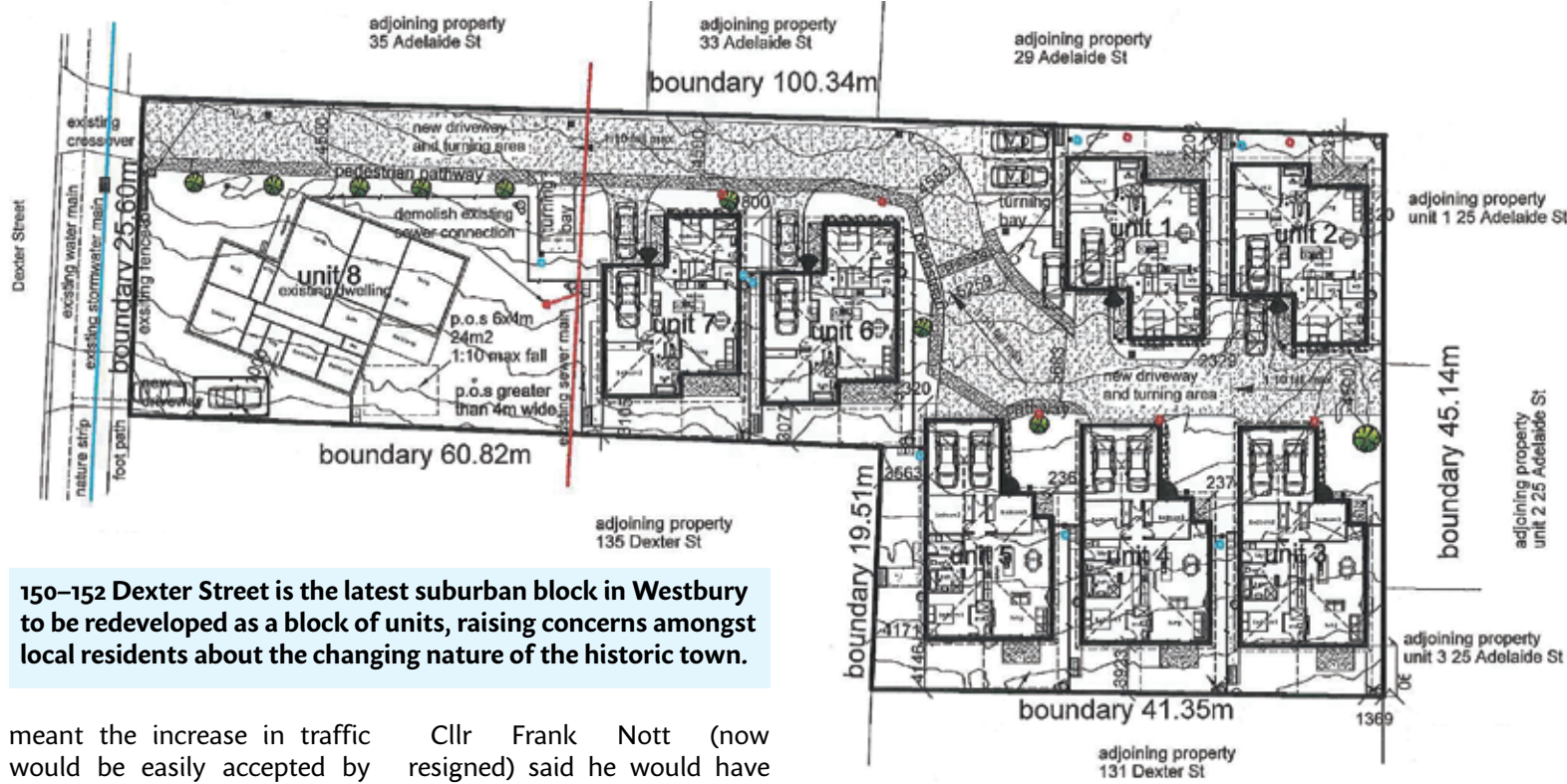
The developer plans to retain the house and demolish the sheds, mature vegetation, internal fencing and driveways to build seven brick units behind the house.

The two and three bedroom unit sizes range between 63 and 138sqm, with the current house at 252sqm.

Each unit is allocated one or two car parking spaces, with an extra two spaces in total for visitors.

The traffic impact assessment shows that currently 150 cars a day use Dexter Street, projected to increase by 2031 to 195 cars in the area of the development.

The report's author said that the low traffic activity level



150-152 Dexter Street is the latest suburban block in Westbury to be redeveloped as a block of units, raising concerns amongst local residents about the changing nature of the historic town.

meant the increase in traffic would be easily accepted by Dexter Street.

The 20 unit development at 150-152 Dexter Street is owned by a Victorian company. The application to Meander Valley Council attracted 14 letters from 19 people.

While some supported the project, many queried the level of infrastructure to be supplied, while other submissions objected on density and amenity grounds.

Clr Frank Nott (now resigned) said he would have preferred fewer units.

'That would still have provided enough space between them, but not as much profit,' he said.

'Is this a sign of things to come? Will lots in Westbury continue to be divided?'

More recently Meander Valley Councillor John Temple commented on pressure from developers to build as many houses in an area as possible, meaning

houses are crowded together and fewer trees are retained.

'Subdivision often favours the short-term gains of the developer and doesn't consider the long term community gains for hundreds of years to come,' he said.

Westbury resident Anne-Marie Loader wrote of the 150-152 Dexter Street development, 'An outbreak of high density

housing in a village of dwellings that are on larger blocks will destroy the amenity of the village.'

But council planner Leanne Rabjohns said, 'The proposal is in keeping with the zone purpose for the General Residential Zone.'

'The property and adjoining properties are not heritage listed.'

Company owning first prison site wins export award

Sharon Webb

THE WESTBURY business whose land was chosen as the first site for a northern prison has won the international health category of the 2021 Tasmanian Export Awards.

Selborne Biological Services is located on Glen Avon Farms at 35 Birralee Road, the first site chosen by the State Government for its Northern Regional Prison.

In 2020 the proposed site for the prison was changed to the Brushy Creek Reserve further

down Birralee Road, although a recent government decision to close Ashley Detention Centre on the outskirts of Deloraine may make that a third proposed prison site.

SBS exports animal blood products, including plasma, all over the world to supply the agricultural sector. The company also has facilities on the historic Mountford property at Pateena Rd, Longford.

The company's website describes it as 'a leading supplier of specialised products of animal origin for the biotech,

pharmaceutical, veterinary and diagnostics industries.'

SBS began in the 1970s in Selborne, Hampshire in the UK, the location from which it still supplies its European markets.

But with the advent of Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (commonly known as mad cow disease) some operations were moved to Tasmania and New Zealand.

SBS now uses only Tasmania as its southern hemisphere base.

Meander Valley Council's former general manager Martin Gill led the process of supplying the municipality's land options to the State

Government for Tasmania's proposed northern prison.

At the time SBS director Neville Pope said he had been approached by Meander Valley Council for consent to submit an expression of interest in selling land to the State Government for the prison.

He said his company initiated nothing. Meander Valley Council had approached him for permission and submitted the EOI with no involvement from his company.


'From that point on we [have] had nothing to do with and were not involved in the [choice of prison site] process other than some site inspections and

preliminary contract negotiations, until we were advised that we were the preferred site.'

Minister for Trade Guy Barnett said this year's Export Awards winners represent Tasmania's leaders in overseas exports based on their levels of success and ingenuity.

'Recognition of this success is particularly deserved, having gone through and come out of the coronavirus pandemic matching the nation's economic figures and, in many cases, coming out on top.'

SBS will compete in the international health category of the Australian Export Awards next month.



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Mole Creek Karst National Park expands but Western Tiers gets 'weak' protection

Sharon Webb

THE STATE Government will extend Mole Creek Karst National Park by 2,850 hectares including the catchment of the internationally significant Kubla Khan Cave.

At the same time the government rejected a proposal for Tasmania's first new national park in 30 years.

The Aboriginal land council and other Meander Valley groups pushing for a new kooparooka niara / Western

Tiers National Park are disappointed and angry.

Instead, Parks Minister Jacqui Petrusma is proposing that 22,550 hectares of future potential production forest land in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage

Area be listed as either conservation area or regional reserve.

New national park proposers have labelled this as 'weak' protection, with the land still at risk of logging and mining.

Land Council manager Rebecca Digney said, 'Here is an opportunity where unallocated crown land that was never ceded by Aboriginal people will be presented to parliament for a tenure change.'

'Logic, fairness and justice would suggest a return to Aboriginal ownership should be prioritised. We proposed an iconic new Aboriginal-owned national park but instead, the government looks set to disappoint and deliver the lowest common denominator, low grade reserves.'

Ms Petrusma said as many of the areas displayed evidence of past land use practices, reserving the land as either conservation area or regional reserve is consistent with the requirements of the Nature Conservation Act 2002.

'Management objectives for the world heritage area will ensure these areas are appropriately protected.'

'Importantly, this proposal does not preclude the involvement of Tasmanian Aboriginal people in land management nor does it create additional barriers to land return in the future.'

In March this year, the Wilderness Society, the Friends of Great Western Tiers / kooparooka niara, the Tasmanian National Parks Association,

Mole Creek Caving Club and Great Western Tiers National Park Campaign called for the creation of kooparooka niara / Western Tiers National Park in response to a State Government process concerning 16 areas of unallocated crown land in the world heritage area.

The Wilderness Society's Tom Allen said that with tourism rebuilding and an ever-increasing need to properly protect declining ecosystems, it would be a good time to create Tasmania's first substantial new national park in 30 years.

'There is also the prospect of this land being returned to its rightful owners, the palawa-pakana peoples, as well as this being the first national park managed by the island's First Peoples,' he said.

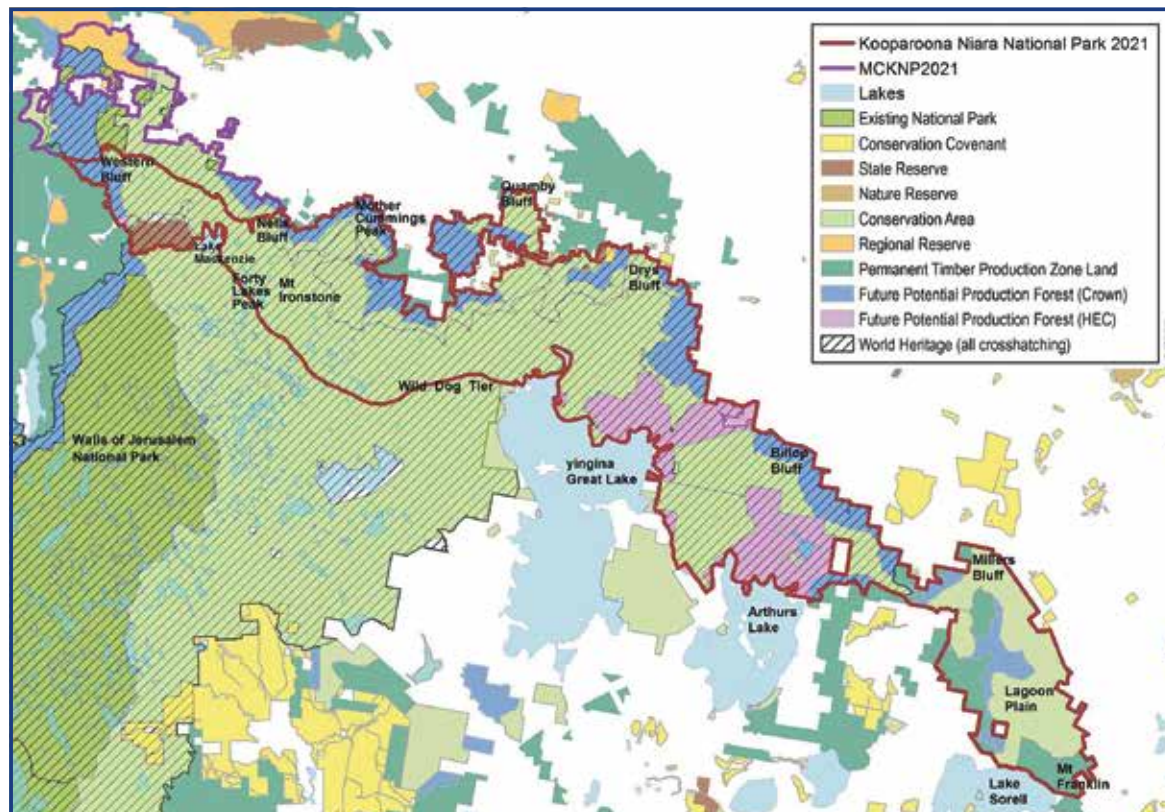
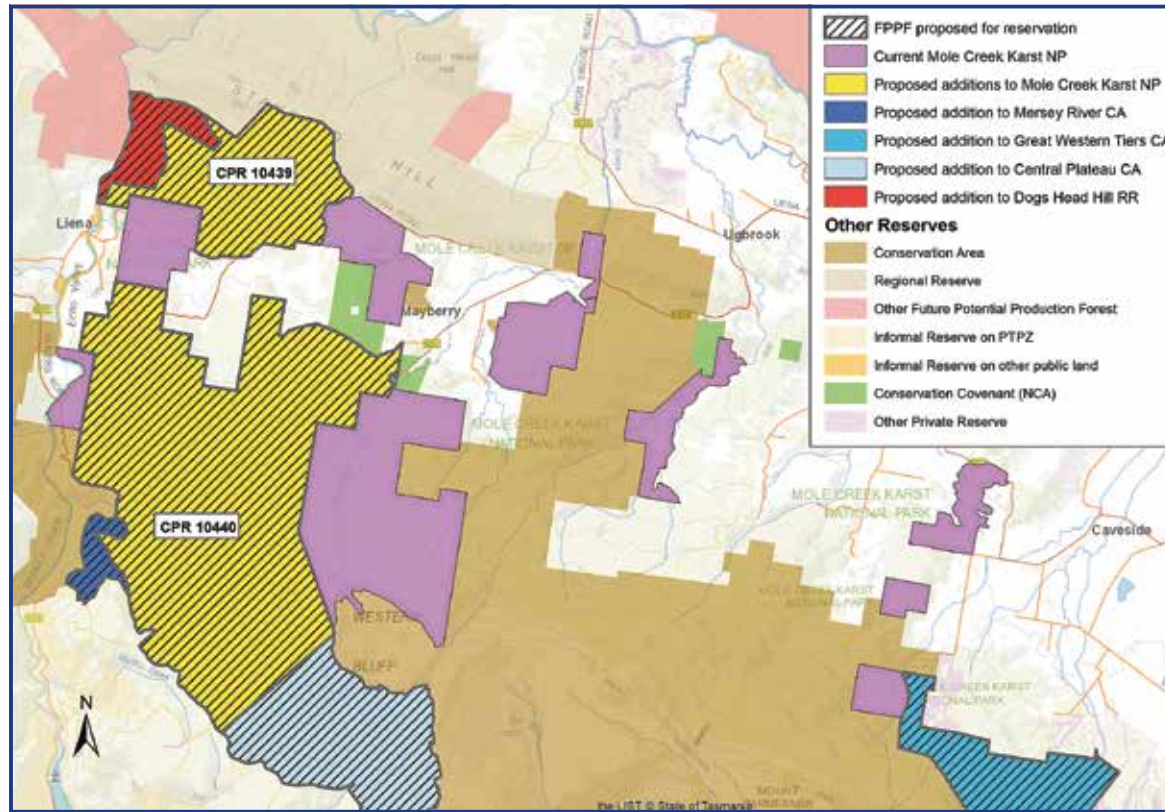
Ms Petrusma said expanding the Mole Creek national park would better protect the area's unique limestone cave systems.

Deb Hunter from the Mole Creek Caving Club welcomed a consolidated Mole Creek Karst National Park.

'Mole Creek Caving Club has documented the conservation values of the Mole Creek landscape since 1990,' she said.

'The existing national park, which is supposed to protect the caves, is only a series of disconnected blocks scattered across the landscape.'

The proposal will now go through the required statutory processes, including the approval of both houses of Parliament.



Above: Mole Creek Karst National Park, extended by 2,850 hectares. Below: the proposed kooparooka niara / Western tiers National Park, rejected by the State Government.

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A BIG SHOUT OUT TO ALL INVOLVED

I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone involved in containing a small fire incident which occurred in the Kanangra kitchen last month.

A huge thanks must be expressed for the swift response of the Deloraine and Westbury Fire Brigades, we are so fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers in our community. Thanks also to the Launceston Fire Brigade who attended and the Tasmanian Fire Service staff who were extremely helpful in assisting us to facilitate all safety and compliance checks which enabled us to return to relatively normal operations by the evening. Thanks also to all our contractors who were extremely responsive and who have assisted us, it is very much appreciated.



A special thanks to our residents for your patience during the incident and post incident with a modified dining experience. I am incredibly proud of our staff and their actions at the time of the incident and post the incident working as a team to ensure disruption to residents was minimal, thank you one and all.

While this was an unfortunate event, it enabled us to test our systems and validate they do work. We have been able to reflect and action learnings. The other positive is that 3 weeks after the incident we now have a wonderfully refurbished kitchen that looks better than ever and provides a more functional space for our staff.

Nadine Ozols CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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Mayor has 'absolute faith' in general manager after Frank Nott resignation

Sharon Webb

FOUR MEANDER Valley councillors were highly critical of former Councillor Frank Nott at their September meeting for saying he'd left the council having 'lost confidence' in general manager John Jordan.

In a barrage of criticism lasting more than four minutes, the councillors labelled Cllr Nott's comments as 'unwarranted' and 'misguided'.

Cllr Nott is a highly experienced local government councillor who spent nine years on Launceston Council and was elected as deputy mayor there. After only two years on Meander Valley Council he resigned at the end of August.

At September's meeting Councillors Deb White, Stephanie Cameron, John Temple and Rodney Synfield were silent while Cllrs Wayne Johnston, Michael Kelly, Tanya King and Andrew Sherriff read from prepared notes to castigate Cllr Nott and reiterate their 'faith' in Mr Jordan.

Cllr Stephanie Cameron questioned the author of the councillors' speeches.

'This might offend some people but I'm just wondering, Cllrs Kelly and Sherriff and the mayor, who helped you to write your statements?'

The mayor Cllr Johnston snapped, 'I did my own Cllr Cameron thank you!'

Asserting he didn't want to detract from Cllr Nott's service, Cllr Johnston then ripped into the absent former councillor.

Responding to Cllr Nott's comments that he had been 'stymied, gagged from speaking', Cllr Johnston said, 'I do not accept his view at all.'

Deputy mayor Cllr Michael Kelly said, 'I think Frank Nott's public criticism of the general manager is unfounded and poor form to say the least.'

Cllr Tanya King said, 'I'm saddened that Frank took the opportunity to make unnecessary and unwarranted comments.'

Cllr Andrew Sherriff extended his criticism to this newspaper for its story on Cllr Nott's resignation.

'It's another example of poor journalism and editorial integrity when such statements are reported in such a manner without a right of reply.'

Cllr Johnston also said, 'I note yet again the council was not given an opportunity to present its side of the story.'

In fact the Gazette contacted Cllr Johnston on the night of Cllr Nott's resignation and printed Cllr Johnston's comment in full. Mr Jordan could

not be contacted because it was a weekend, and at no time since the resignation has the council contacted the Gazette to comment further.

As the four councillors heaped praise on him, Mr Jordan kept his eyes on the table in front of him.

The councillors said he had led the municipality through the ravages of COVID-19 and created a 'contemporary' council structure.

'I for one have absolute faith in the general manager,' said Cllr Johnston. 'Those who know him will understand he is motivated solely by the best outcome for the community. He is hardworking and brings no personal agenda to the table.'

Cllr Kelly said, 'I also have absolute confidence in the general manager, who has managed the challenges of COVID, a restructure that councillors asked for, a prison and more.'

Cllr Tanya King said, 'I concur with the mayor and deputy. I think our general manager has done a fantastic job. At very short notice and not long after he started here he's navigated us through COVID and a pandemic with a team of people he barely knew.'

Cllr Nott is the third disgruntled Meander Valley councillor to resign in three years, following Cllr Andrew Connor and Cllr Susie Bower.

At the meeting in response to a question from Westbury resident Peter Wileman about a media report on Ms Bower seeking legal advice over an internal council matter, Mr Jordan replied, 'Ms Bower is reported as having made certain disclosures about a Code of Conduct complaint against her.'

'The complaint was being managed by the local government panel in accordance with due process. That process was suspended when Cllr Bower resigned.'

Sharon Webb

MEANDER VALLEY'S latest councillor was in St Petersburg, Russia, when he noticed a Mole Creek deer farm for sale on the internet.

'I asked my family back in Sydney to have a look. They visited and said, 'Dad, let's do it!'

Ten years later, Michal, born in Prague, experienced in worldwide shipping and ports development, is a replacement on recount for the third Meander Valley councillor to resign in three years.

'Obviously I had no idea Frank Nott was going to resign but I was happy to take it on,' Michal said.

'It's an interesting, challenging time. Tasmania's economy and population is growing and the council's work is even more important. There's so much happening that could affect the way we live here in Tasmania.'

'All people can expect from me is a fairly straightforward person who can understand the issues and needs coming up.'

'I'm not doing it for the hell of it. There must be some benefit to the community.'

From the huge window in Michal's living room, you can see all the way down into the Mole Creek Valley, miles of green, speckled with farmhouses.

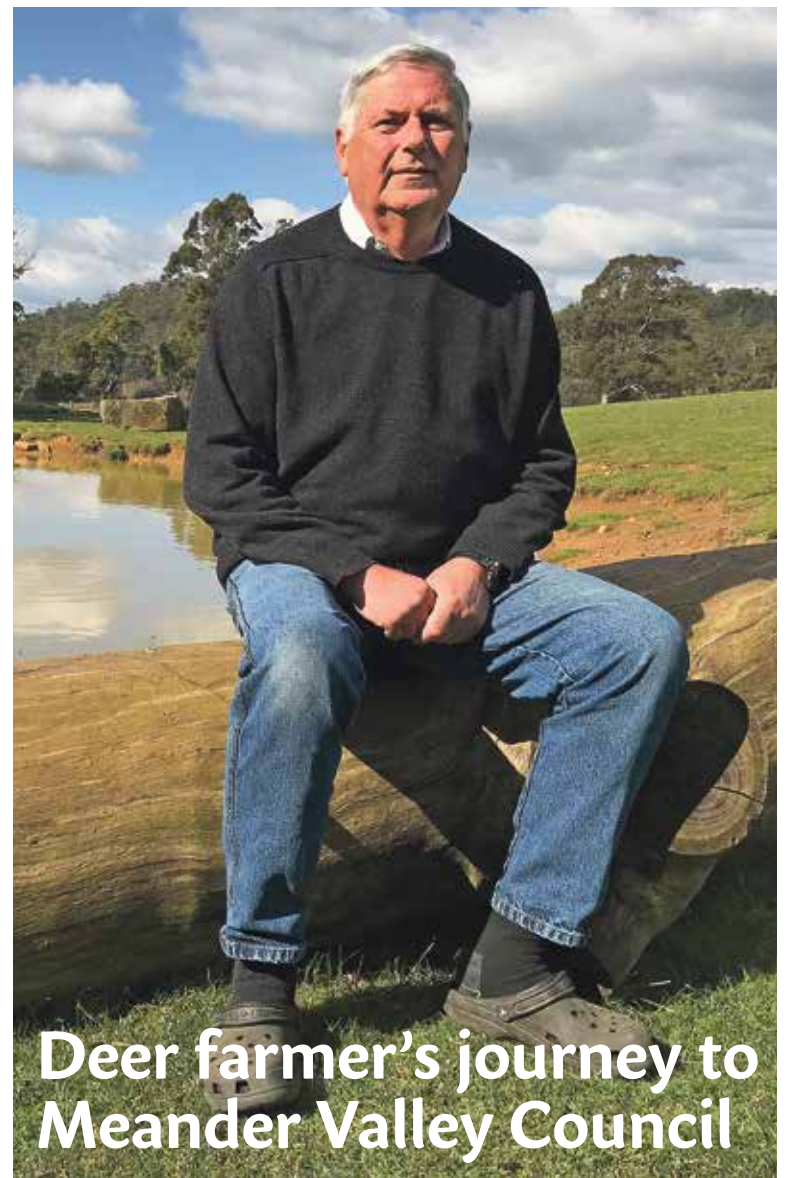
His front 'yard' is dotted with grazing deer and characteristic grey limestone protruding through the karst landscape.

Michal and Connie Frydrych live as far you can drive without hitting the Western Tiers, whose foothills rise directly behind their property.

It's an intriguing choice for a man of the world, whose work for shipping companies took him from Vietnam to the Congo and further, with space galore, privacy, fresh air and an intensely green environment.

After 10 years on the deer farm, COVID-19 brought challenges.

'I wanted something interesting to do with a healthy product,' Michal said.



Deer farmer's journey to Meander Valley Council

Michal Frydrych of Springfield Deer Farm at Mole Creek is Meander Valley Council's latest councillor.

'It was meant to be a different way of living, if not retirement, a way to be with family more. I used to work away three months at a time.'

'The farm isn't going well at the moment because we depend on tourism. But our B&B is doing well on local tourism.'

Michal is a man used to the privations of events with worldwide impact.

In 1968 when Warsaw Pact troops led by the Soviets invaded Czechoslovakia, he left his country and couldn't see his family for 25 years. In comparison family restrictions imposed by COVID seem smaller.

Michal is the current chair of Rural Business Tasmania and formerly was vice president of Meander Valley Tourism and president of the Mole Creek Progress Association.

How will he deal with the Tasmanian Planning Scheme?

'With my work I got used to that sort of thing. Like everywhere else, the council has rules and regulations. You have to navigate through them.'

So far Michal has attended the September council meeting as a guest before being formally inducted. Does he think he'll stand again for the council in October 2022?

'A number of people asked me to stand in 2018. I wasn't surprised because I'm not a person to stand on the sidelines,' he said.

'This opportunity is almost like training wheels. You've got to take it seriously, give it your best.'

'At the end you ask whether it was worth it for you and the council.'

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Mole Creek Caves exercise gives rescuers emergency practice

Sharon Webb

A SIMULATED rescue operation in the Mole Creek Caves last month has created a larger pool of people who understand what they are up against in a cave rescue.

Caveside caver Deb Hunter said, 'Having worked together makes a real difference because people know each other when it comes to the real thing.'

'We don't have many cave rescues in Tasmania but we can't afford to take chances.'

At the weekend event, Tasmania Police Search and Rescue squads were joined by Ambulance Tasmania and several rescue and volunteer groups, including the State Emergency Service, Surf Life Saving Tasmania, Northern Caverneers, Southern Tasmanian Caverneers and the Mole Creek Caving Club to do scenario-based training exercises.

In two planned training exercises they also practiced skills and tested interoperability, coordinating in-cave operations with a base at the cave entrance.

Ms Hunter said several teams worked with a police commander on each team, police in charge delegating authority to the rescuers.

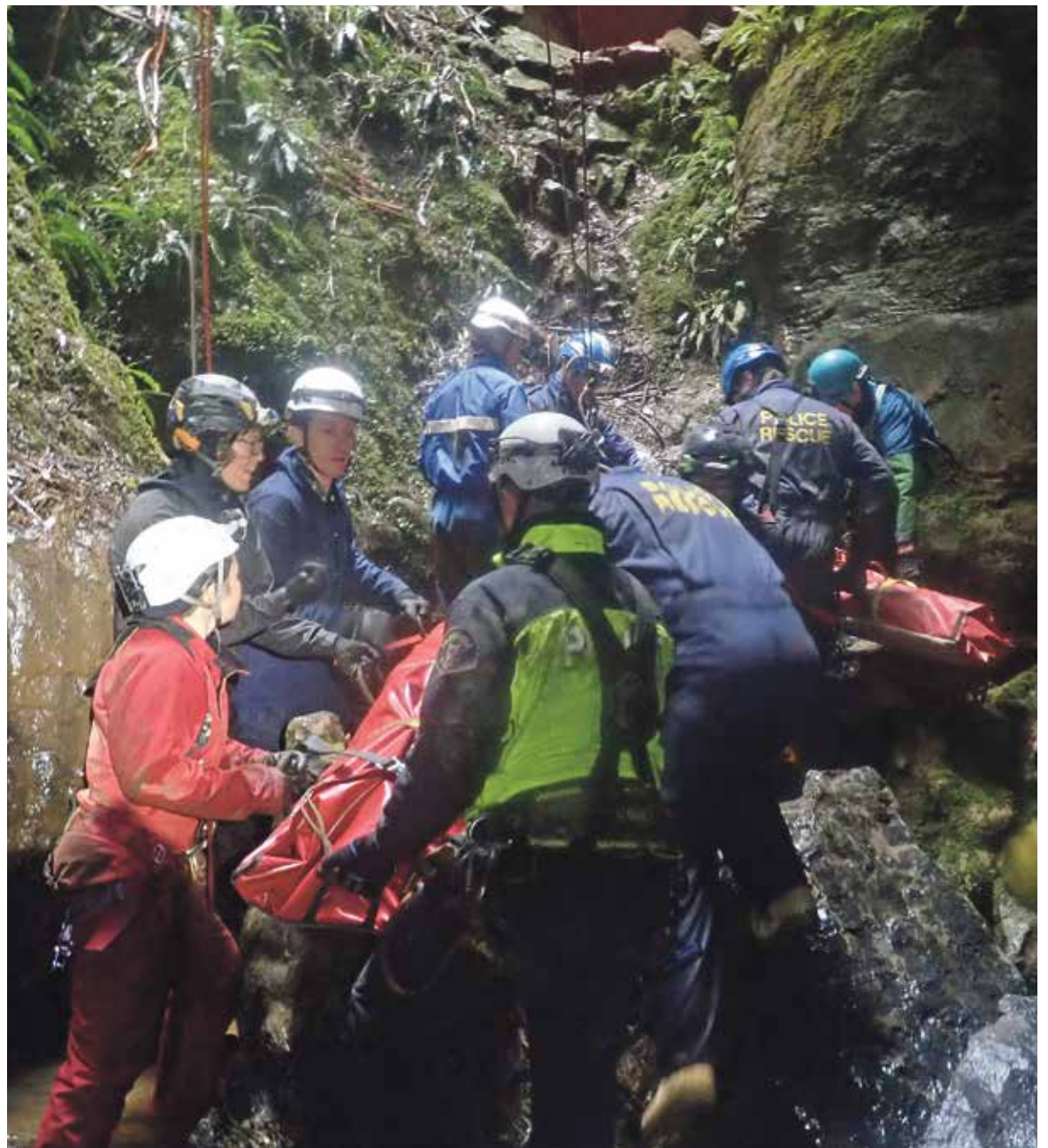
'Four local people designed the course, and for the first time at Mole Creek we were given permission to drill holes in the rock for our equipment so we could practice techniques.'

She said Tasmania has two specialised cave rescue stretchers called NEST. One located in the north with the Mole Creek Caving Club and the other in the south with Southern Tasmanian Caverneers.

In the Mole Creek exercise one stretcher was used with a live human and the other a dummy for dangerous fast water cave sections.

Tasmania's caving clubs are happy to have such interest from emergency services in learning what we have to do to get someone out of Tasmanian caves,' Ms Hunter said.

'The last multi-agency exercise in northern Tasmania was in 2014 but I believe we should do an exercise like this every three years, as they do in New Zealand.'



Two stretchers arrive at the final lift out of the cave (four ropes seen hanging down). The exercise had two 'casualties', Jess Bertels from the Mole Creek Caving Club and the other a dummy taken through more dangerous fast water sections so as not to risk a person's life. Photo supplied by Deb Hunter



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Deloraine shakes its Salsa on a Hot Miami Night



TUCK AN exotic flower behind the ear, rock up to Deloraine's Little Theatre on a Saturday night and where are you? Dancin' on a Hot Miami Night!

In early September the Deloraine Big Band revived a repertoire from before the 2020 COVID shutdown and Deloraine flocked to the opportunity to put on their JLo heels and dance.

Mambo, calypso, salsa and funky cha-cha were all on the dance card, relished by locals and visiting swing dancers.

Band leader Cameron Scott said he thought that post-COVID it was good for people's wellbeing to come out and dance to great music.

'It's a terrific thing about living in Tasmania to be able to put on a dance for the community,' he said.

'I watched one elderly lady dance in front of the stage all night long, having the time of her life.'

But many locals believe it's the other way around. That a small town like Deloraine is privileged to be able to attract musicians of the calibre of the Big Band.

On the night everyone got into the spirit of the music and Caroline Greig's stunning decorations – along with members of the Salsa Dance Society and a group of Argentinians.

Afghan food sold supported northern Tasmanian Afghan refugees and ticket sales went to the Big Band and Arts Deloraine.

Deloraine's Big Band revs up for Hot Miami Nights, a fabulous evening of Latin Dance Music at the Little Theatre in Deloraine.

Front row: Shannon McMonagle, Kat Dent, Leanne Wickham, Louise Schaap, Bloss Lorenz, Andi Mara, Deb Morcom. Back row : Janis Chaberka, Cameron Scott, Darren Llewellyn, Janet Morley, Gary Telford, Simon Death.



From top left, clockwise:
 Jackie Webster of Dunorlan with Liz Walker of Elizabeth Town.
 Richard Dunlop, Kevin Atkinson and Kylie Elkington of Deloraine.
 Linda Waddell of Swansea, Linda Pittard of Christmas Hills and Nancy Kowalski of Swansea
 Neil Gibson of Ulverstone and Kat Jeffree of Deloraine.

EARLY MORNINGS are a time of big anticipation at Kanangra aged care home in Deloraine.

That's when residents are craning their necks towards the carpark to see if Alfie Dog has arrived.

If he walks in with Kanangra's clinical care coordinator, Vik Salter, it's smiles all round. If Vik has a meeting at the hospital and can't bring Alf, there's a smidge of disappointment.

'He brightens my day,' said resident Anne Haines. 'I love patting and hugging and talking to him.'

'He's not here every day but I check when Vik arrives to see if Alfie is getting out of the car.'

Alan Adams finds Alf relaxing to be around.

'I see him every day he's here,' the former farmer said. 'I used to have border collies on my dairy farm.'

Alf is a kelpie cross cattle dog, two years old. Amazingly

serene for such a young dog, he's a calm presence in any room at Kanangra. And a magnet for its residents.

Irene Mantle, who came to Tasmania from the UK aged 80 to be with her UTAS lecturer daughter, claims Alfie can 'read' people.

He's certainly perceptive enough to know when a resident doesn't like dogs, staying away from them.

According to Vik, Alfie has visited aged care residences with her since he was six months old.

'At Meercroft Care [in Devonport], if anyone was sick he'd lie down beside them so they could pat him,' she said.

Vik quotes a study showing that people who patted a dog over time had lower blood pressure.

But Kanangra residents don't think about that. They simply enjoy being around Alfie Dog.

Kanangra residents Irene Mantel, Alan Adams and Anne Haines enjoy the company of Alfie Dog, who visits with clinical care coordinator Vik Salter. Photo supplied

Alfie Dog is a hit at Kanangra



New hall for Bracknell

BRACKNELL WAR Memorial Hall is to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$1.3m.

The new building on the corners of Louisa and Amelia Streets will be metal and brick veneer, with a Colorbond roof.

Meander Valley Council general manager John Jordan said, 'The existing structure is due for replacement.'

'The council will be going out to tender soon, which will inform construction timeframes.'

Recently the mayor, Cllr Wayne Johnston, said the old hall has had a noticeable lean for a number of years.

'A replacement building will best meet the needs of the community.'

'The council and the Bracknell Hall committee recognise the rich history associated with the hall. A dedicated foyer display featuring key artefacts and some of the original timber have been incorporated into the design.'

The proposed new structure will be an extension to the existing Boys and Girls Club building and will follow the same profile.

It will be designed to accommodate existing user groups and a range of community activities including indoor bowls, a community gym and health and wellbeing classes.

The area around the building will also be considered, allowing for the future relocation of the playground and options for installing a remembrance memorial.

The council has included the project in this year's capital works program and has sought additional funding from the federal government. The Tasmanian government also allocated \$400,000 for the hall in its 2021-2022 budget.

The council said it will consult with the community on the project and use feedback to refine the design before work begins.

At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society

Clare Andersen

October 23 HIGH GROUND

2020 MA15+, Drama, Australia, 104m, Director Stephen Maxwell Johnson

Our October bonus film, *High Ground*, has brutal violence and may be difficult to watch but even harder to dismiss. The opening scene tells of a police massacre of Aboriginal people and the repercussions that follow.

At a gala screening premier, the 70th Berlin International selected *High Ground* for the 2020 Berlinale Special section. A storyline that pushes one to think deeply about the past of this country. It captures the raw beauty of Arnhem Land as it does the brutality of colonialism and systemic racism.

Set in the 1930s, Gutjuk is a young Aboriginal man who survived a massacre as a child and is taken in by an ex-soldier and his family. Years later, Gutjuk's heritage is threatened again when his outlaw uncle is targeted, and he's unsure who he can trust.

'The well-acted, multilayered story provides a confronting history lesson that resonates powerfully today. It blends stories and language from Indigenous Nations across the region.'

2021 Critics 89% Rotten Tomatoes

November 13 THE PAINTER AND THE THIEF

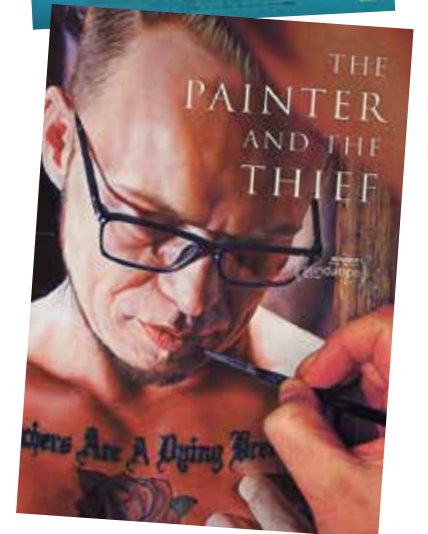
2020 M, Documentary, Norway, 102m, Director Benjamin Ree

Premiering at Sundance, this Norwegian film won the 2020 World Cinema Documentary Special Jury for Creative Storytelling; was ranked best documentary by the BBC and collected the London Film Festival's Audience Award. It follows Barbora Kysilkova, an artist, forming a friendship with Karl-Bertil Nordland, who stole her artwork: he then became her muse.

'A true-crime tale reconfigured into a unique relationship saga, replete with twists, turns, heartbreak, failure and redemption that's as surprising as it is well-earned.'

The Daily Beast 2/2021, Critics 96% Rotten Tomatoes

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Smearred with the Flanagan brush, 41°South fights back

Sharon Webb

THE MEANDER Valley's only salmon farm has been knocked by blowback from Richard Flanagan's expose of the Tasmanian salmon industry.

41°South co-owner, Ben Pyka, said locals and tourists visiting his Moltema business are complaining that he is killing the ocean, when he is more than 70km from Bass Strait.

'In the early days of the book, we were smearred with the same brush as the coastal salmon industry,' Ben said.

'We've been hit by the perfect storm.'

As if it wasn't enough to have 41°South, the business started by Ben's parents Angelika and Ziggy, wrecked by COVID-19, Pyka's business has also been hit hard by what he calls 'Australia Post's inability to be efficient'.

Accessing the domestic market during COVID has been difficult because perishable goods need to be delivered on time, and apparently Australia Post hasn't managed that.

At a time when many Australians don't have much money for a niche market product like hot-smoked salmon, Flanagan's book, *Toxic, the rotting underbelly of the Tasmanian Salmon Industry*, has tipped the scales for 41°South.

COVID's lockout of interstate and overseas tourists has hit 41°South hard, and Pyka has halved his staff.

In normal times around 70 per cent of his sales are to international tourists, with the rest to domestic tourists. Apparently few Tasmanians

are willing to drive to Moltema for Pyka's product.

The problem with Flanagan's book is that many people are willing to grab a sound bite from the media and run with it without knowing more.

Pyka's salmon farm does not pollute the ocean, or anywhere.

He grows Atlantic salmon in 20 freshwater ponds and uses the surrounding wetlands as a filter for the waste produced.

The plants in the wetlands absorb the fish waste,' he said.

'The fish poo drops to the bottom and becomes soil. The trees, reeds and weeds absorb the soluble waste.

'With our system, even though it is flow through and not closed loop, we don't have an impact on the environment.'

The problem with the ocean-based fish farms is their density, Pyka said.

'If you have 20-50 pens in one estuary, the water movement needed to flush out the system drops.

'The difference between us and these fish farms is huge.

'We produce 10 tonnes a year. Tassal does that in two or three hours.'

Ironically, 41°South has put plans for a project 10 times larger than their current operation to Tasmania's Environment Protection Authority, and been refused.

'They won't accept wetlands as biofilters even though water flowing out of our farm is cleaner than when it went in,' Pyka said.

'All industry pollutes but it's the density of the ocean fish farms that's the problem. And the EPA allows them to do it.'



An egg a day ...

A FEW years ago I gave up eating eggs.

Living in another country, all I could buy were bland-tasting eggs with pale yolks, different from the tasty, orange-yolked Barnevelder eggs at home.

There's nothing like a perfectly poached egg on a golden piece of toast, sprinkled with freshly ground pepper.

Or eggs lightly scrambled with a handful of chopped parsley straight from the garden. The simple egg is a joy on the palate.

This is the time of year to eat eggs. Chooks are churning them out. My girls produce nine a day.

People have their favourite egg colours but to me it doesn't matter whether they're white, brown or those disturbing pale blue ones from Araucanas. They taste the same.

The colour is simply a matter of pigment, porphyrin creating



a brown outer shell with white inside and oocyanin making a blue eggshell inside and out.

At egg producing time come oddities. Lumpy, bumpy shells. A hen laying for the first time, a pullet, may produce a shell-less egg, weird to touch, an egg in a translucent skin.

It's because the pullet hasn't got the system going right yet; the next egg is usually fine.

Shell-less eggs can also happen if your chooks' diet isn't right. The point of feeding them shell grit along with their grain is to give them the right amount of calcium.

Some people fret about whether they should eat fertilised eggs.

Don't fret, eat. They taste the same as unfertilised and they look just the same so you can't tell.

What to do with all these eggs? Family and friends love them.

Or preserve them. Don't wash the eggs, seal their porous shells with clarified butter and set them wide end down in a bed of bran in a container.

Cover the first row with bran then start the next row on top, and so on. Don't have any egg touching another.

Come autumn, when your chooks are in moult and not laying, chomp on your preserved stash.

Happy chooks, happy life.

New council appointment to take care of business

Sharon Webb

DR BRUCE Williams has been appointed acting manager of business and economic recovery at Meander Valley Council to replace Neil Grose who resigned suddenly in February this year, just nine months into a two year appointment created to boost business in the Meander Valley post-COVID.

Dr Williams was formerly senior economic adviser at Launceston City Council for almost nine years and has a PhD in plant pathology from Latrobe University.

In early September he said he had almost completed two three month appointments with Meander Valley Council and hoped for a third.

Dr Williams' LinkedIn page lists his professional experience as including chair of Rural Business Tasmania,

regional manager of Housing Industry Association and CEO of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association.

Dr Williams' paper to the 2019 Northern Tasmanian Development Corporation's population symposium advocated population growth for northern Tasmania.

'Northern Tasmania Region population growth is forecast to be 3,168 people over next 25 years, a 0.1 per cent growth rate. This is among the lowest population growth in Australia,' he said.

'But all of the evidence suggests that a business as usual approach to population growth will have a very poor long term outcome for our people and our community.'

Dr Williams said that the Northern Tasmanian Population Taskforce regional target was 1.2 per cent per year or 16,000 people over 10 years.

'But to a range of investors our population is currently 6,000 people below the threshold for attractiveness as identified by the coordinator general.'



Residents taking their regular walk along the Meander riverbank in Deloraine may be wondering about a huge hole that appeared on the western side in September.

While the ducks may have wondered at the sudden appearance of large earth mounds, Meander Valley Council's general manager John Jordan said the work is routine maintenance / replacement of stormwater infrastructure. Photo supplied

Digging a hole



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Tom and Gail Marik are shutting shop at the Tasmanian Copper and Metal Art Gallery in Carrick. Photo supplied

Moving away from metal

IT'S THE end of an era for Tom and Gail Marik and their Tasmanian Metal and Copper Art Gallery in Carrick. The business is due to close on 24 October.

After his father Mirek started the metal and copper art gallery and ran it for 22 years, Tom took over, clocking up another 21 years.

Now he reckons it's time to take a break and do other things with his life.

'This is about a lifestyle change. I'm conscious that my dad died at 55 years old and you need to achieve some balance in life,' Tom said.

'Gail's parents in Ross have had some health scares so we'd also like to spend more time with them.'

Part of the decision is the couple's consciousness that Carrick has changed and business has changed.

'Tourism here has changed and the dynamic of this business is more demanding as you are constantly trying to respond to people ordering online,' Tom said.

'We'd like time to enjoy our lives in Tasmania – make space for more camping and fishing.'

Tom and Gail currently live in Hadsden and that won't change. But the gallery building has been sold and will become a home for its new owners.

Work at the gallery is on sale until 17 October.

After closing the business, the couple will sell leftover work online and at markets. They will also be visible at the Tasmanian Craft Fair and Gardenfest at Entally House later this year.

After a break of six months or so, Tom may begin making individual pieces again by hand.

The voices of MVFM

DR JOHN Phelps, President of MVFM 96.9 Community Radio, completed his notable career in education, as an international consultant of eighteen years, working mainly in the UK and in the South Pacific.

But John has had another career. He was an actor during the 1970s and 80s performing mainly in Hobart and Launceston.

He played a lot of leading roles especially in musicals. In fact, in almost every role John played, he was cast as a king, as in *The King and I*, *Camelot* and *Beckett*, to name a few.

John Phelps claims to be the only person who has appeared in solo roles with all three Tasmanian companies, the Tasmanian Theatre Company, the Tasmanian Opera Company and the Tasmanian Ballet Company.

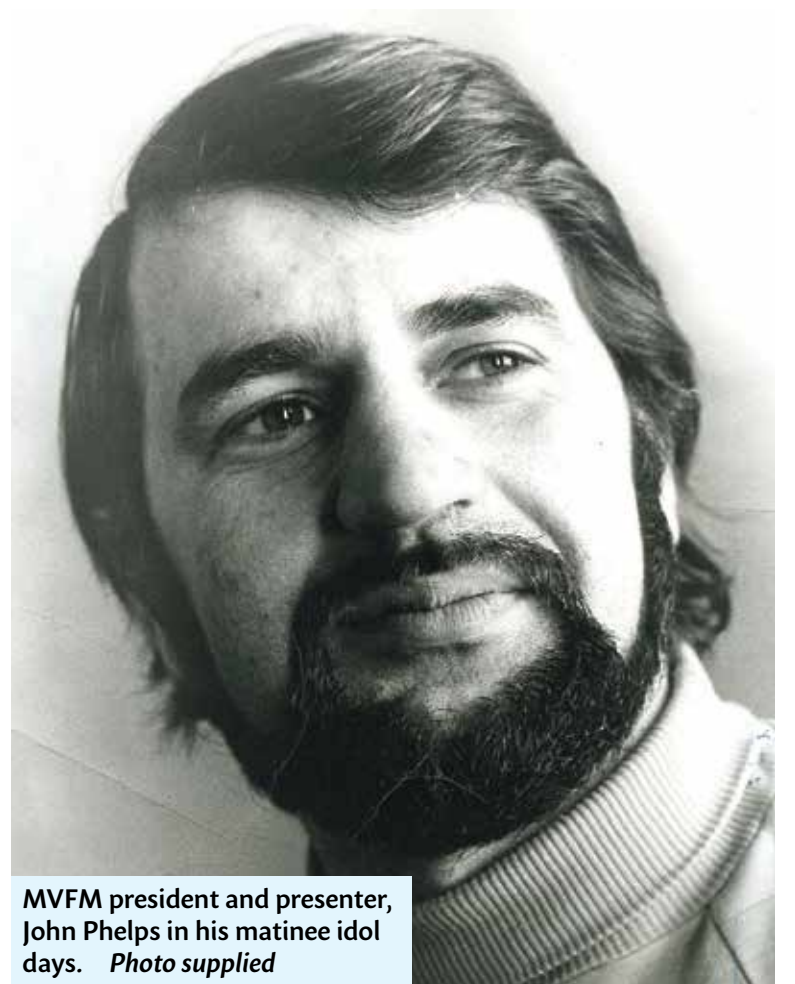
Yes, ballet! By the way, all three companies then became defunct.

An inveterate traveller, especially to Europe, John makes a habit of celebrating his zero birthdays on Greek islands.

Now given that there are a lot of Greek islands, he could be around for a long time to come.

But what kind of music does he like? Well, ever since John was a boy growing up in Beaconsfield, Tasmania, he has been fascinated by classical music such as Tchaikovsky, Strauss, and Debussy.

All the world's a stage



MVFM president and presenter, John Phelps in his matinee idol days. Photo supplied

With these classics surrounding John as he attended University at the age of 17, the first record he bought was an LP of a Strauss medley.

How about that for teenage oddness?

Dr Phelps brought that attitude of his love for classical music to Community Radio and twice each week you can hear his program called

Classical Time on MVFM 96.9 every Tuesday evening at 7pm and repeated on Sunday afternoon at 3pm.

What better way to spend a beautiful Sunday afternoon, sitting out in the sun on a comfortable armchair, a glass of wine on one side and a slice of Camembert cheese on the other, listening to some Mozart. Wow! What a way to go!

Conference gives Deloraine a boost

THIS SEPTEMBER, the Tasmanian Neighbourhood House Conference was a bonanza for Deloraine community groups wishing to top up their coffers.

Deloraine Neighbourhood House manager Deb Smith, whose team organised the conference, said that catering and decorating for the three day event was done by local groups.

'The idea was for the whole community to benefit,' she said.

'Breakfast was done by the Lions, morning teas by Rotary. For the annual dinner the Bowls Club made hors d'oeuvres, the basketball club did main course and the football club ran the bar.'

Deloraine's schools didn't miss out. Primary students did

the decorating for the dinner, high school and vocational students served.

More than 200 people from 35 neighbourhood houses all over the state attended the conference, filling accommodation far and wide.

'The feedback we're getting from Deloraine cafés and pubs is that they experienced a boost.

'Even op shops got a share of the business as conference goers searched for dress up clothes for the Meandering Country themed dinner,' Ms Smith said.

CEO of Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania, Michael Bishop, said the main themes arising from the conference were:

- concern about the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable people – emergency relief needed
- the positive impact of community gardens
- potential neighbourhood house action to support youth mental health services
- the need for support people to work cooperatively around the state in a neighbourhood house network.

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Liz Douglass and Hayley Manning (2019)

THE MEANDER Valley Gazette has published Nell's popular garden column every month since January 2014.

But now, Nell has finally decided to retire from writing her column and we must say goodbye to a grand lady of the Meander Valley.

Two years ago, Nell Carr became a Paul Harris Fellow at a surprise Deloraine Rotary presentation at the Bush Inn on 12 August.

The Gazette story at the time, written by Hayley Manning, paid tribute to a remarkable woman, who at 93, was showing no signs of slowing down.

The award was presented to Nell in acknowledgement of a lifetime of volunteer work, with Meals on Wheels, Deloraine Film Society, Deloraine House Community Garden and Days for Girls, to name a few.

She began her career as a garden writer for the Western Tiers, Deloraine and Meander Valley News, which was published from 1980 to 2004.

In her own words, 'I wrote for the Western Tiers, the paper published and edited by the headmaster of Meander school, Geoff Woods.'

'I volunteered to write a gardening column. I did not know a great deal about gardening

at that time, but it was an easy learn for me, and I learned as I went along. If I wanted to see my article in print, I had to pay \$1 for the privilege.'

Nell tended the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre garden with the Garden Girls for many years, and became their garden consultant.

Nell also introduced and coordinated Adult Education courses in Deloraine, including short gardening courses with Peter Cundall, the former host of Gardening Australia, .

The third of six children, Nell Carr grew up on the Dunorlan farm founded by her soldier settler father. Her mother was the daughter of a neighbouring farmer. Nell, her husband and first two children returned to Tasmania from Scotland in 1953 and she has lived on the farm ever since.

As a mature age student, Nell completed an Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in History and Politics, when university courses came to Launceston.

Nell credits her robust resilience to her active life on the farm where she was born, only now choosing to slow down.

'At 95, I think I am justified in my decision to call it a day. I value the Gazette for its coverage of local news and events, so I wish it a long and successful life.'

Thank you, Nell.



Farewell to Nell

Nell Carr of Dunorlan.
Photo by Mike Moores, 2019



Spring? Cleaning!

Wendy Hays

ALTHOUGH MOST people find household cleaning tasks boring and arduous, the health benefits from vigorous, heart rate and temperature raising, cleaning and gardening cannot be disputed.

Government guidelines recommend that we do at least 150 minutes of strenuous exercise per week.

Whilst age, weight and gender play a role, on average, it is possible to burn anywhere from 4,000 to 12,000 kilojoules per hour doing housework,

depending on the type of activity and the vigour with which you do it.

By way of comparison, a Big Mac contains about 2,431kj and a slice of chocolate cake about 895kj (4.2kj equals 1 calorie).

Now, I am not advocating these foods as healthy choices, but am using them to illustrate the energy value of food.

So rather than thinking of housework as a chore, adjust your mindset to exercise mode. Don your lycra or favourite trackie and use the All Purpose Cleaner to do some energy burning spring cleaning.

Treat housework as a work out, with this all purpose cleaner. Photo supplied

This cleaner is great for stainless steel and can be used undiluted on stubborn stains, but always patch test if unsure of the effect on various surfaces and materials.

All purpose cleaner

Ingredients

- 1 cup of methylated spirits
- 2/3 of a small bottle of eucalyptus oil
- 1/4 cup of a good quality dishwashing liquid

Method

Mix all ingredients together in a 2 litre bottle then fill the bottle up with warm water.

To use in a 500ml spray bottle, add 1 cup of this mixture to the bottle then top up with warm water.

Alright Spring, do your thing!

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Seven siblings make Gypsy Rose an expert



Gypsy Rose Blackberry (back, second from left) with her mum and the double twin sisters who inspired her to study, Gracelyn and Lily (back), Indii and Charlee (front) Photo supplied

A BIG family has been the key to success for a Deloraine childcare worker who has won a Skills Tasmania vocational award.

Gypsy Rose Blackberry grew up with four sisters (two sets of twins), two brothers and a step brother, so even before she did fabulously well at her TasTAFE Diploma of Early

Childhood she knew a lot about kids.

'I love working with children. They're open and honest, they have no filter,' Gypsy Rose said.

'Each one has their own charm and personality, and watching them grow from baby to preschooler is amazing because they change so much.'

Since she did a prac at Deloraine's Toddle Inn for her TAFE course, Gypsy Rose has worked there as a child educator for four days a week.

'It's been great to do this while I figure out my next direction,' she said. 'I'm thinking I may do a Bachelor of Education degree.'

'I really enjoy building relationships with children and their families to give them the best start in life. Birth to five years is the most influential time in anyone's life.'

'At Toddle Inn, children's learning is individualised. We work with children and their families to extend what they can do.'

Gypsy Rose's award was sponsored by Deloraine Rotary. She was nominated by her TAFE teacher, Rachel Woods, who recognised Gypsy Rose's sustained excellent work through her studies.

Gypsy Rose says her biggest supporters are her parents. Her double twin sisters are now aged 15 and 11. 'I took on the responsibility of being big sister, and when I went to college I thought, 'Why not do something I'm already good at and keep going with it?''

Mitchell's Westbury foothold

Sharon Webb

FEDERAL LABOR MP Brian Mitchell has rented a building on the main street in Westbury in the fight to retain his seat in the coming federal election.

A former pizza shop on Meander Valley Road is being renovated as Mr Mitchell's Meander Valley base in the sprawling electorate of Lyons. His current office is in Perth.

Mr Mitchell said the Westbury campaign office would not be open to the public but his team would use it for storage and as an election signage point. 'We'll use it for meetings and as a launchpad as the election kicks off,' he said.

The choice of Westbury for an office is significant. Mr Mitchell's Liberal opponent Susie Bower lives there. Ms Bower recently resigned her seat on the Meander Valley Council to focus on her federal election campaign.

In addition, local dissatisfaction over the choice of the Birralea Road site near Westbury as a location for a new northern prison may spill

over as an election issue into the federal arena.

The prison site issue is currently in limbo because the recently announced closure of Ashley Detention Centre puts that location in play as another site option for the new prison.

On the choice of prison site Mr Mitchell said his view is that if the site changes from the Brushy Creek Reserve to the Ashley Detention centre site, the State Government must consult Deloraine residents.

Like many other politicians Mr Mitchell is keeping his ear to the ground for a possible Federal election date.

In June and July there was talk of an October election. In August there was talk of a November election.

It's becoming apparent that March may be a more realistic option. The Morrison government's COVID-19 vaccine roll out is viewed negatively by many Australians, as is the government's confusing global warming stance and the controversy over the axing of the French submarine deal.

The Federal election must be held by May 2022.

Table tennis winners are grinners



From left: Phoenix Newitt (most improved), Liam Collins (9/10 champion), Harri Poke (7/8 champion). Photo supplied

HARRI POKE and Liam Collins were the winners of the Deloraine High School table tennis tournament, held every Friday lunchtime during Term 3. Deloraine Table Tennis League helped organise the competition and donated the prizes.

Harri Poke beat Felix Page in the final of the 7/8 competition. Liam Collins beat Drew Leugis in the final of the 9/10 competition. Phoenix Newitt won the most improved award. Congratulations to all involved.

Deloraine Table Tennis League plays at the Deloraine Performing Arts Centre every Wednesday, from 3.30-5pm (inclusion table tennis) and again from 7-9.30pm (social roster competition).

Tennis anyone? Shining some light on the game

A DOUBLING of the number of people wanting to play tennis at the Australian Italian Club's tennis courts motivated an application to instal lights at the Prospect Vale courts.

Meander Valley Council approved an application to install the \$55,000 lights and now all the club needs is government funding to be approved.

AIC Tennis Club president Robyn Hanson said player numbers at the club had increased from 30 to 60 in the past three years.

'A few years ago we started a twilight roster for people who wanted to play after work, but in the early part of daylight

saving we are running out of light,' she said.

'We've had to rent extra courts from the Casino and for our winter President's Cup tournament we went to Tennis World near the Kmart.

'We desperately need lights to accommodate new players.'

The club's need highlights a community tennis trend away from weekend tennis towards evening tennis.

'When seven-day trading came in weekend tennis dropped off. More women were working as well,' Ms Hanson said.

'During COVID people were looking for more exercise and wanted to play after 6pm.'

'We have husbands and wives playing together, as well as children. We're a family club.'

Club captain Christine Gleeson said the new joiners were a younger set, male and female.

She said the AIC Club, 40 years old in March this year, has applied for a grant from Improving the Playing Field Grants Program, and will contribute \$15,000 from club funds.

The lights will be on six poles seven metres high and will not be permitted to operate before 8am or after 10pm. The supplier is Deloraine based company, Decrolux.

The club will know if its grant application is successful in late November.

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ON A crowded dance floor at the Westbury RSL three Boot Scootin' Bunnies were a standout.

Showing off their line dancing skills at a spring dance where locals were invited to celebrate the season by wearing floral frocks and Hawaiian shirts, their well-practised steps outshone even the perfect quicksteppers.

Dawn Larcombe of Deloraine, Sue Ryder of Meander and Lola Flowers of Deloraine attend classes on Mondays at the RSL with their line dance teacher Margaret Donovan of Westbury.

'It's fun and exercise,' said Sue, 'and it's great for people without a dance partner.'

Marg has run the line dance classes in Westbury for 18 years, having fallen in love with the skill years before.

Currently they only have one man in the class. 'We get the occasional man. All gentlemen are welcome,' Marg said diplomatically.

Six Boot Scootin' Bunnies share the fun every month, wearing their red shirt and black trouser uniforms to entertain the older folk at Grenoch and Kanangra.

Anyone is welcome to join Marg's line dancing classes.

Boot Scootin' Bunnies line up for fun



The cost is \$3 and goes to charity.

'It's all very social except when Marg starts singing, then we all vanish,' said Sue Ryder.

Boot Scootin' Bunnies Marg Donovan, Dawn Larcombe, Sue Ryder and Lola Flowers strut their stuff on the streets of Westbury. Photo supplied

Grant boost for Deloraine Aged Care

RESIDENTS' ROOMS at Kanangra and Grenoch aged care facilities will be upgraded with a \$2.4m federal grant.

Deloraine Aged Care CEO Nadine Ozols said the funding was a welcome boost, with Grenoch to receive \$1m and Kanangra \$1.36m.

'At Grenoch we will upgrade the rooms with shared ensuites so that fewer residents share, and we'll make some rooms bigger,' she said.

'At Kanangra we want to upgrade some of the older rooms to increase their size and allow more natural light in.'

Ms Ozols said that at Kanangra in particular, the small room size made ageing in place challenging because it was difficult to get equipment into them.

In addition, Aged Care Deloraine will install ceiling hoists in the renovated rooms, reducing the heavy machinery being moved by staff.

The capital grant is from the Federal Department of Health; \$150m was available Australia-wide.

'We couldn't have afforded to make these changes without the grant,' Ms Ozols said.

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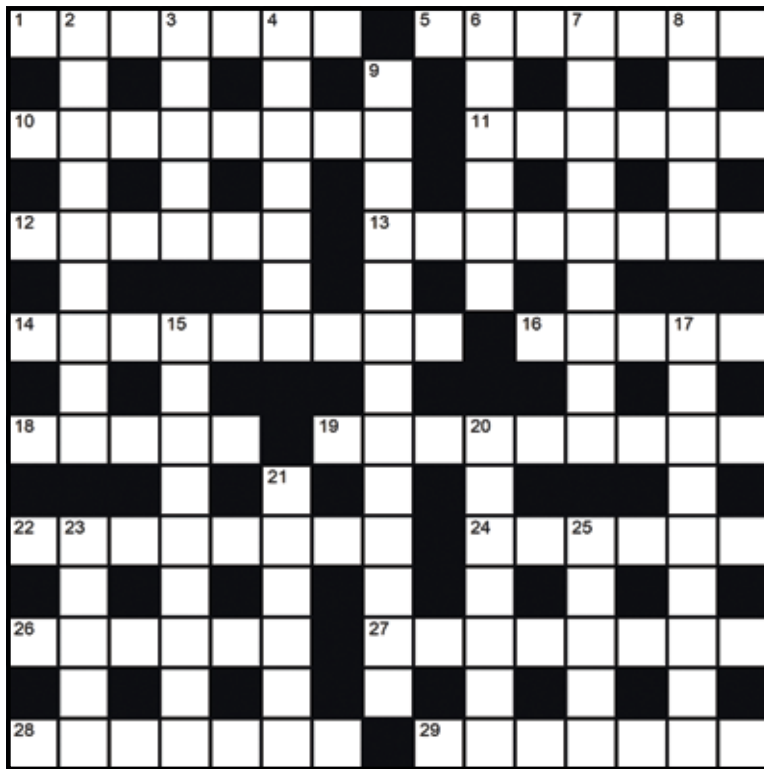
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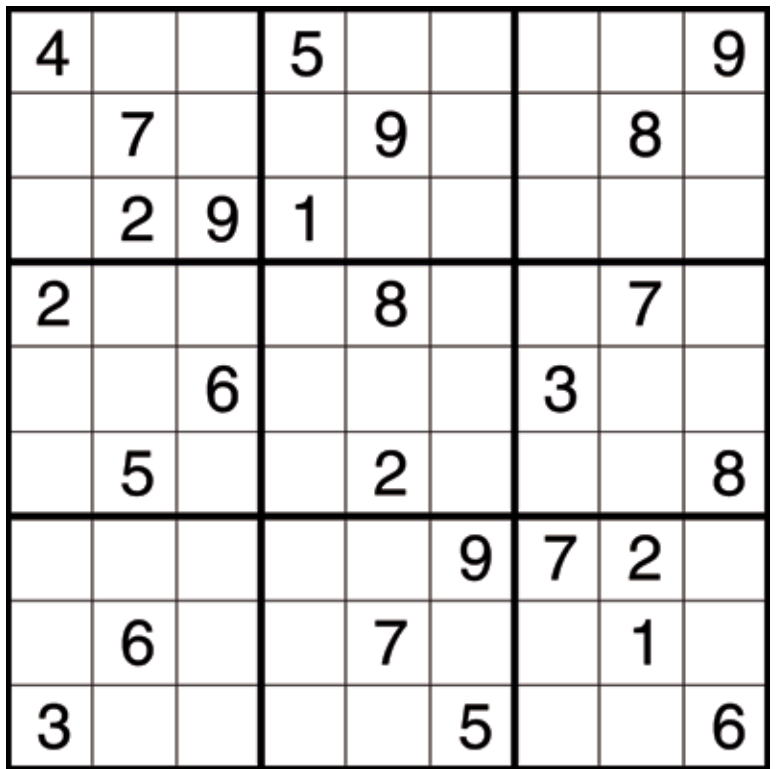
Across

- 1 Gentleman of the road (7)
- 5 Kicking around (7)
- 10 Future threat (4, 4)
- 11 Caller's fate (2, 4)
- 12 Mocha native (6)
- 13 Deeply absorbed (8)
- 14 Former international cricketer, brother of fellow-cricketers Steve and Dean (4, 5)
- 16 Clean vigorously (5)
- 18 Grins from ear to ear (5)
- 19 What a gyroscope should provide (9)
- 22 Where WW1 started (8)
- 24 Walked lamely (6)
- 26 Wild horse (6)
- 27 Poison remedy (8)
- 28 Mutts' huts (7)
- 29 Rich fabric with raised design (7)

Down

- 2 The banded ____, a bird of dryer regions (9)
- 3 Cacklers (5)
- 4 Island site of US victory in 1945 (3, 4)
- 6 Flourishes (6)
- 7 Laser chip turned round in all directions (9)
- 8 Nick ____ of 'Lorenzo's Oil' (5)
- 9 Epic film about Operation Market Garden, 1944 (1, 6, 3, 3)
- 15 Perth rocker with The Scientists and The Surrealists (3, 6)
- 17 Deter a nut running wild without drugs (9)
- 20 Long pillow (7)
- 21 The other side of Mr. Hyde (6)
- 23 Give consent (5)
- 25 Frontline physician (5)

Sudoku



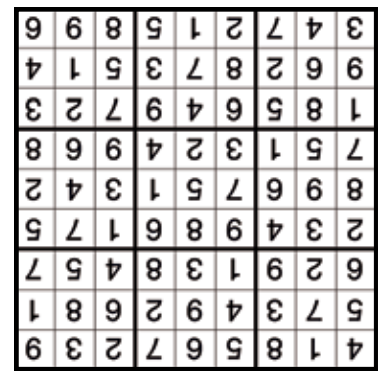
© 2021 Syndicated Puzzles

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

Crossword October 2021 solution



Sudoku October 2021 solution



Events diary

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NOTE that events listed here may be cancelled or changed after publication, especially if they are affected by Covid-19 restrictions. If you have an event you wish to publicise, email the details to advertising@meandervalleygazette.com and we will add them to the list.

Date	Event or business	Details
Any time	Bonorong Wildlife Rescue	Call to report finding injured & orphaned birds & wildlife 0447 264 625
Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm	Community House	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd Call 6362 2678 for advice on a wide range of services & programs
Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm	Community Health Centre	Westbury Community Health Centre & Day Centre Call 6701 2150 for health & community services
Mondays, 11-11.30am	Story Time at Deloraine Library	Term 4, 11 October to 16 December Deloraine Library, 2-4 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine 6701 2180
Mondays, 1-1.30pm	Story Time at Westbury Library	Term 4, 11 October to 16 December Westbury Library, 33 William Street, Westbury 6701 2189
Every Tues, 10am-12 noon	Hadspen Playgroup	During school term Uniting Church Hall, cnr of Clare & Main St, Hadspen Contact Andrew Keena 6393 6324
Every Tues, 10-11.30am	Happy Hands Art Time, 1-5 year olds	During school term Deloraine Seventh-Day Adventist Church Hall, 4445 Meander Valley Rd www.happyhandsart.com.au
Every Thurs, 10-11am	CHAT Westbury Play Gym, 0-5 year olds	During school term Westbury Sports Centre, Franklin St \$3.50 per child (under 12 months free) 1st visit free
Every Thurs, 7.30-9.30pm	Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting	Westbury Uniting Church Hall cnr William and Dexter Sts Contact phone 0409 931 727
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
Sat 9 Oct and 13 Nov, 9am-1pm	Liffey Valley Market	Old Liffey School Devonshire tea, sausage sizzle and more Free More info, call Quenton Higgs 63973670
Sat 23 October, 7.30pm sharp	WTFS High Ground	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine MA15+ drama 2020 Australia 104m Info 0418 389 868
Fri 15 & Sat 16 Oct, 2-10pm	Festival of One Act Plays	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine More info, call Patricia Woods 0409 568 291 or patriciawoodsgdt@yahoo.com
Sat 16 October, 9am-1pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drv & Caveside Rd Maree Martin 0419 631 210
Sat 16 October, 9am-1pm	Westbury Market	St Andrew's Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom, Westbury Rob Menzie 0417 931 619
Sun 17 October, 10am-2pm	Rotary Club of Westbury Car Show	Westbury Village Green Entry by donation, money raised for mental health awareness More info, call David 0408 747 374
Fri 22 October, 3-7pm	Westbury School Fair	Westbury Primary School, Taylor St Kids activities, jumping castle, community stalls, food & drink, entertainment
23 October to 4 November	WOAD	Windows on the Arts in Deloraine For more information, email artsdeloraine@gmail.com
Fri 29 Oct to Mon 1 Nov	Tasmanian Craft Fair	Tickets online or at Western Tiers Visitor Centre, Deloraine \$19, family \$50, BYO masks More info, tascraftfair.com.au
Fri 29 Oct to Sun 31 Oct, 3-8pm	Little Laneway Fringe Festival	Little Laneway, between The Empire Hotel and Seppenfeldts, Deloraine Program yet to be announced
Sat 30 Oct to Mon 1 Nov, 10am-4pm	Steam Up!	Pearns Steam World 65 Meander Valley Rd, Westbury More info, contact@steamworld.com.au or 03 6393 1414
Sat 6 November, 9am-1pm	Deloraine Market	Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine Bodhi McSweeney 0409 695 321
Sat 6 November, 9am-5pm	Westbury Agricultural Show	Westbury Showground, Marriott St, Westbury More info, contact@westburyshow.com.au or Kevin Lattin 0417 104 520
Sat 13 November, 7.30pm sharp	WTFS The Painter and the Thief	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M documentary 2020 Norway 102m Info 0418 389 868

THE LAST weekend in October will see the Tasmanian Craft Fair return to Deloraine to celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Tickets this year are not available at the gates. They must be pre-purchased online or at the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre.

But Fair Director Rob van Elst is excited to share the information of all the things to see and do for this fair which has been 2 years in the making.

The fair usually hand picks international artists, but this year there are four Tasmanian artists who have created works on an international stage and were also part of the fair's early years.

Neil Hoffmann produces gas fired sculpture and tableware, and his work features in the National Gallery of Australia.

Helmut Schwabe is a sculptor who creates works that mimic the natural world and has private and public collections in Germany, Japan and the USA.

Tony Smibert AM is a renowned painter with numerous publications.

McLachlan Studio have private and public collections across the globe including works at the National Gallery of Australia.

2021 Craft Fair – 2 years in the making

In addition, the \$10,000 Premier Arts Award, awarded to Penguin based luthier Billy Tarrant at the last fair, will this year be presented by the Premier himself.

The Tasmanian Craft Fair is an initiative of the Rotary Club of Deloraine, utilising local tradespeople to make the event happen, with electricians, builders and cleaners in addition to local bus companies and the hiring of local venues.

To organise and run a craft fair each year takes approximately 10,000 volunteer hours.

About 500 volunteers will work on set up, cleaning, pull down, managing gates and managing each of the nine venues.

Twenty-three service and local community organisations receive a donation for their services, including local schools, churches, Rotary Clubs, Lions and Apex.

Rob adds, 'We were so disappointed to have had to cancel the event last year, especially as we know how our exhibitors, hospitality and retail businesses in the Meander Valley rely on the income.'



The 2021 40th Anniversary Tasmanian Craft Fair will be held over the long weekend of October 29 to November 1, in venues across Deloraine.

Tickets and event information are available online at www.tascraftfair.com.au.

'We'd always ask locals to be our best ambassadors. Jump on social media pages and

share our posts to their friends and family from abroad. If they can't come this year, make sure it's on their bucket list for next!

Billy Tarrant, of Tarrant Guitars won the \$10,000 Premier Arts Award at the Tasmanian Craft Fair in 2019. Photo supplied

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Festival of One Act Plays

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

Entries close on 1 October so there is still time for more plays to enter

Contact Patricia Woods, Festival Director on 0409 568 291 or at patriciawoodsdgt@yahoo.com

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We're gonna need a bigger shed!

Community interest in Westbury's proposed Men's Shed has been overwhelming. *Photo supplied*



THE RESPONSE to plans for a Men's Shed in Westbury has been overwhelming, according to the president of the Interim Organising Committee, Harley Nicholls.

The committee held an information and consultation session on 24 August at Westbury Community Health Centre to gauge local interest in the concept and to seek

input and advice from the local community.

'There were fifty men in attendance. That was a lot more than we expected. I'm sure there would be many

more in favour of the idea who didn't make the meeting,' he said.

Mr Nicholls said that the response to the public meeting was on such a scale that the committee really needs to rethink its strategy.

'Our original plan was to operate in two locations. In a space behind the Westbury Community Health Centre for woodwork and in a section of a shed at the Franklin Street Council depot for metal work and other activities.

'Clearly, the space at the Health Centre will not be able to accommodate our numbers so we will have to concentrate on the Franklin Street site, which itself is probably too small.

'Consequently, we find ourselves having to reconsider our options.

'Meander Valley Council have been very supportive so far and we're negotiating with them regarding use of the Franklin Street site.'

Mr Nicholls said that the community response to the Men's Shed project demonstrated that the medium to long term aim must be the establishment of a stand-alone, purpose-built facility.

'Ideally, we want to have all our activities under one roof. That remains our aim but we have to start somewhere and the Franklin Street site will meet our immediate requirements.'

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If you have any information or recollection of or about Catholic priest, Fr Francis Donovan, during his period in Deloraine or elsewhere in Tasmania in around 1980, 1981 and 1963, please contact Nadine at [Judycourtin Legal](mailto:nadine@judycourtinlegal.com) at nadine@judycourtinlegal.com or call 03 9521 2265. We would be interested in speaking with anyone who may have information to share about Fr Francis Donovan.
With thanks, *Judy Courtin Legal*

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