



RUMBLE ON THE GREEN

Chassis on show at Westbury

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APRICOT DELIGHT

An old fashion recipe to dream of!

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SHOWTIME!

Get the lowdown on the hijinks!

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Meander Valley Gazette

Free every month

November 2021

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper

Country cooperation in Westbury



Outside Westbury Hardware on the Meander Valley Road are a few of the people working together under the roof of the old hardware store. From left: Rose Dean, Karen Chilcott of Café Verde Westbury, Wendy Kilroy, Vicki Casey, Craig Maney, Toby Ritter and Phil Steers of Westbury Lions, James Curtis and Bella Mercer.

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Get out, caravan park residents told

DELORAINE CARAVAN Park long stayers are worried about where they will live because the local Apex club plans to throw them out.

Deloraine House manager Deb Smith and Meander Valley councillor John Temple are concerned the eviction will create more homelessness in the municipality.

They said that in a market where demand for rental prop-

erties is grossly outstripping supply, finding a place to live is not easy.

Ms Smith said, 'Deloraine House already supports a number of homeless and displaced people and the eviction of the caravan park residents will add to the number of displaced people needing accommodation.'

Last month Apex members told the residents, two

of whom are in their 70s and several of whom are employed locally, that they needed to be out of the caravan park a week after the Tasmanian Craft Fair, which is held at the end of November.

In the face of the park residents' consternation, Apex members Roy Cresswell and Rhys Weeding took the decision back to the 15 member club.

They refused to say why Apex had made the decision and when asked, club president Andrew Moore told the Gazette he knew nothing about the eviction.

At a meeting at the caravan park, also attended by Apex members Brad Atkins, Kevin van Helfteren and Rohan Sheehan, they announced that the residents now must move by June 2022.

The Deloraine Caravan Park is on untitled crown land by the Meander River. According to the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Meander Valley Council holds a business lease and license and allows Apex to operate the caravan park there.

Residents estimate that Apex makes about \$36,000 a year from the park. It's not known how the funds are disbursed.

[story continued on page 2](#)

Apex leaves long stay caravan park residents in limbo

continued from page 1

Caravan Park resident Gordon Howard, who has lived there on and off for 20 years, said he does much of the handyman work there for free.

Gordon, 72, along with Maureen Joyce, 79, and other residents took on the cleaning of bathrooms and laundry during COVID-19, while still paying \$120 a week rent each.

Aside from potentially making at least seven people homeless, Apex's handling of the issue has been marked by disrespect for the caravan residents.

At the first meeting, the residents were kept waiting on a cold evening for an hour after the appointed time.

When the residents voiced concern about how an absent resident with mental health issues would take the news, they were told, 'What are we, social workers? We're running a business here'.

Ms Smith said at the second meeting, this time two hours late, the Apex members were not interested in discussing how best to handle the situation.

'I asked them whether they could work with us as two community organisations and they said, "Well, if you have to, you can put in a submission to us".'

'I asked them where their sense of social conscience was, and one of them said, "That's not our problem".'

Also present was Ben Dudman, an adviser to Brian Mitchell MHR, who observed the Apex members' behaviour.

Mr Mitchell's office and Deloraine House have written to Deloraine Apex saying the long-term residents are well-respected and appreciated by the Deloraine community and there is no other location in the town for them to move to.

Deloraine Caravan Park residents concerned about where they will live when they are kicked out in seven months include Peter Head, Piers Yates, Glenn Gower, Geoff Van Hoeven, Rita Fessler, Michael Doyle, Maureen Joyce and Gordon Howard.



'Furthermore, it is unreasonable and impracticable for the residents to move to nearby towns with similar facilities.

'Deloraine is a regional community so moving to another town is not as simple as moving down the road to another suburb, and the cost of doing so and then travelling from a new area for work provides an immense financial burden.'

Cllr Temple said a number of people had told him their rental properties were to be sold and accommodation was scarce.

'Even though this is not within the purview of the council, I completely understand people's concerns about their future accommodation,' he said.

Westbury Library temporary closure

Westbury Library is undergoing a refurbishment to improve the service experience for clients and local communities. The library interior is being redecorated with completely new modern furniture, state of the art shelving (including mobile shelving so events can be held), comfy seating, new computer equipment and increased space for clients to use.

The Library will be closed from 22 November and will re-open on 13 December, along with the popular returns chute. This is also the week Westbury Library turns '50 year young'!

Everyone is encouraged to come in and borrow in the weeks leading up to the short closure and an extension to loan periods for borrowers will be available.

The libraries in the surrounding regional areas at Deloraine, Longford, Exeter, Devonport and Launceston will be open as usual over this period.

Call 6701 2189 (Westbury) or 6777 2446 or check out www.libraries.tas.gov.au for opening hours and updated information for any of the libraries.

Westbury considered for new timber mill

WESTBURY IS one of three sites being considered for a new timber mill expected to employ 30-35 people.

In February next year Neville Smith Forest Products expects to announce their decision on a location, at either Westbury, Scottsdale or Exeter. The com-

pany is currently doing scoping work on the project.

If the location is Westbury, the mill will be established at the Valley Central industrial zone.

CEO of NSFP Andrew Walker said the mill's timber source will be *eucalyptus nitens*

grown in north-west and north-east Tasmania.

'It will be a value added product to be sold only in Tasmania and the rest of Australia in markets we already supply.'

'The timber should help ease the current shortage being experienced in the building industry.'

Mr Walker said the advantages of a Westbury choice for the site were that it was located between plantation catchments on either side of the Tamar and behind Devonport and Burnie.

'It's also centrally located for ports at Bell Bay and Devonport,' he said.

NSFP currently produces Tas Oak hardwood products such as dressed timber, flooring, architrave mouldings and weatherboards.

The products are made from timber from government and privately owned regrowth and plantation estates which is processed in Mowbray and Southwood, near Hobart.

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Joint effort transforms Westbury Hardware, Home & Co.

continued from page 1

ON A Friday morning Westbury Hardware is buzzing.

Mid spring, people are buying gardening gear, sugar cane mulch and plant stands.

Drifting over all the busy-ness is the tantalising smell of raisin bread cooking as it wafts from Café Verde Westbury.

As Westbury Hardware owner Vicki Casey tells it, the transformation from 'a stagnant place of nothing', from regular hardware store to a community hub, has taken about two years.

'I bought it 14 years ago and it badly needed a change of direction. We needed a point of difference,' she said.

'I could see Westbury growing and a number of great, supportive people in the area. I could see it had the potential to diversify into homeware.'

But that's not everything that happened.

Vicki always had a vision for a café to complement the shop and her friend Peter Wright stepped in, with Verde.

'Peter's flair and knowledge and culinary skills made it

successful, especially with the cakes and slices made on the premises.'

Artisans in the district have added their ironwork and obelisks to the giftware, homewares and garden furniture on sale, while an agreement with Mitre 10 means the essential hardware is not forgotten.

That's not all.

Westbury Health has established its upcycled clothing store in Westbury Hardware, James Curtis the joiner leases two bays at the back of the shop and Craig Maney the lawnmower repair man has his own section.

Westbury Lions sell their sheep manure at Westbury Hardware and Rotary members sell Glebe Gold. Members of both service clubs help out when the store needs a hand from blokes in boots.

The thing is, it's a joint effort. Everyone gives a hand, and has a few laughs on the way.

Vicki's friend Annette Clark has given great interior design advice and a supportive shoulder, Ann Talbot from Westbury Garden Club does

flower arranging, Emma Clark does the Mitre 10 ordering, Cathy Chilcott comes all the way from Bridport to do the accounting and book keeping, Rob Wilkinson is a sales assistant who's a dab hand with the heavy work and a couple of schoolboys do tidying up and customer service.

'I'm a bit of a dreamer,' Vicki said, and Annette added, 'Yeah, but you make it work.'

Creating this Westbury hub hasn't all been plain sailing either.

'If I get knocks, I put on my big girl pants and keep going,' Vicki said.

Nothing stays the same forever and change is in the air for Westbury Hardware.

Café manager Peter Wright has now moved on to a new phase of life.

Karen Chilcott and her daughter Amanda have taken over Café Verde and are already building their own reputation as the go-to coffee stop in town.

Life is always action-packed at Westbury Hardware and Home.



Vicki Casey, owner of Westbury Hardware, Home & Co., is looking after her customers and the community by providing shelter for a diverse range of businesses under the one roof.

Bushwalkers condemn 'secrecy' of Cradle Mt cableway plan

TASMANIAN BUSHWALKERS have called for walking clubs and other outdoor groups to get involved in coming public consultation on a proposed cableway at Cradle Mountain.

The Launceston Walking Club and the Blandfordia Alpine Group have described the project as being 'progressed in secret by the state government's office of the co-ordinator general'.

'There has been virtually no consultation with either the public or major stakeholder groups,' says an email from the Blandfordia Alpine Group to their walking groups.

Launceston Walking Club president and adventure tourism guide Graeme Pennicott, who lives in Reedy Marsh, said the co-ordinator general reported to the August Tourism Industry Council Conference in Launceston that cableway planning is well advanced. His office is inves-

tigating routes, impacts, and economic viability.

'Our concerns focus on the advanced state of the cableway planning, the secrecy and lack of consultation with key stakeholders regarding the proposal,' Mr Pennicott said.

'We are also concerned about the cableway's potential impacts on the visitor experience and world heritage values.'

'There is a distinct lack of evidence justifying this development and a focus on tourism numbers and economics with no consideration of the quality of visitor experience.'

'We also believe the state government has failed to inform the World Heritage Committee of this major project.'

According to a Department of State Growth spokesperson, the plan is to shunt 10 people at a time across the wilderness between the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre and Dove Lake in a mono-cable gondola system.

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

Once that is complete and cableway route options narrowed to enable a preferred option, 'detailed stakeholder engagement' will take place.

Consultation planning is under way. Environmental investigations and engineering assessments will follow the stakeholder engagement.

Mr Pennicott said, 'Cradle Valley is a renowned and iconic landscape, and many Tasmanians regard it as their precious place.'

'It should be managed in an open and inclusive manner, and major proposals such as this must be fully debated from beginning to end, before they become a fait accompli.'

The cableway proposal received a significant boost in the 2018 by-election when the Tasmanian government gave \$30 million to update the Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre, trans-

port in and out of the valley, and viewing facilities at Dove Lake, originally proposed in the *Cradle Mountain Master Plan 2016*.

If the project was demonstrated to be economically viable the federal government would match this funding.

President of the Tasmanian National Parks association Nick Sawyer, called the proposal an 'extremely silly idea' but NW tourism bodies have greeted the idea enthusiastically, seeing more infrastructure at Cradle Mt as having potential to attract tourists and provide jobs.



Cradle Mt Visitor Centre Image adapted from online concept

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Brian Mitchell MP

Your Federal Member for Lyons

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




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

Letter from the Editor

IT LOOKS like people actually do read this letter, given the number of responses on the issue of volunteering.

I was glad to see that many people in this community value the various contributions of volunteers and did not hesitate to say so.

But, from another quarter, it was suggested that some

volunteers must receive hidden rewards for their services. Why else would they bother to do it? Because they think that they are doing something worthwhile?

It seems that 'public service' is not a concept that is thriving where one would naturally hope to see it.

Liz Douglass

Letters to the Editor

LED BY the Bob Brown Foundation (BBF), hundreds of passionate environmentalists from all over the country joined the campaign to defend the high-conservation-valued Tarkine forest from the Chinese state owned mining company MMG, who were attempting to build a toxic waste tailing dam.

Over 80 people of all ages were arrested and charged after conducting a peaceful direct action protest to stop the destruction of the forest. My daughter was one of the brave conservationists that were arrested and charged.

As it turns out it was an unlawful construction. Thanks to the Bob Brown Foundation legal team, recent news has revealed that the minister Guy Barnett unlawfully approved a mining lease to MMG and the minister says this was an administrative error. REALLY?

What will happen to the protesters who were charged with trespassing? They were on public land after all and didn't

break the law ... but who broke the law in the first place? Who is paying a fine, the protesters or the minister?

Shouldn't he apologize and all charges be dropped? Minister Barnett has been strongly pushing to introduce the anti-protest laws in Tasmania saying that Tasmanians have had enough of radical extremists invading and threatening and endangering staff. If these laws are passed, how many more innocent people will be charged because of administrative error?

It was interesting to know that at my daughter's first court hearing, the judge was very compassionate and encouraged her brave action to save the environment but he had to give her whatever sentence the current law applies.

How many more brave young Tasmanians like my daughter will be charged and locked up trying to save their future if this awful law is pushed by incompetent ministers?

Tomoko Woods, Golden Valley

AN AIRSTRIP in Antarctica makes the new Nuyina icebreaker redundant

Why is the Australian government building an airstrip next to Davis station? The Nuyina icebreaker has just arrived in Hobart to service Antarctic stations and cost \$1.9 billion. Surely this investment provides for ongoing research and maintenance in the area?

Scientists say that the multi-billion dollar airstrip project is unnecessary and will be damaging to wildlife. The construction of the airstrip is likely to involve blasting of petrel rookeries, disturbance of penguin colonies, storm petrels and Weddell seals, and would encase a 2.7km length of wilderness in more than 115,000 tonnes of concrete.

Is Australia scrambling to assert its international standing in Antarctica when it should be focussing on issues closer to home?

Felicity Holmes, Tinderbox

THE GUY who sparked a total shut down of southern Tasmania [last month], and was rude and uncooperative with police, gets fined a measly \$3000.

Yet the peaceful environmental protesters who get arrested trying to protect our natural environment – they get similar fines and threats of imprisonment.

Who are the true criminals and why do they get away with so much damage?

Andrew Davies, Cremorne

AS A participant in the recent Westbury Car Show, I would just like to thank the organisers for putting on a glorious day, weather wise, in staging this highly important event in our motoring calendar.

Not only that, the Rotarians who manned the food truck all day did an absolutely fantastic job, I thought the hamburgers truly magnificent and the service fantastic.

The array of vehicles on display was amazing.

The old car movement in Northern Tasmania is certainly alive and well.

Chester McKaige, Carrick

Opinion

TIME WILL tell whether the Premier's decision to announce the closure of the Ashley Youth Detention Centre was as wise as it was abrupt, or whether it will join a list of calls that look nowhere near as good in the rear view mirror as they might have originally seemed.

These calls include the shut down and sale of the Hayes prison farm – a decision that has subsequently been shown to have been flawed and is now widely regretted. Health professionals also are questioning the closure of the State's mental health hospital and the consequent impact on both patients and mainstream health services.

As you would expect with every significant institution, it has not always been plain sailing. Ashley has been hampered over the years by a lack of investment, lack of professional development for staff and, although it has enjoyed strong support from Deloraine and the Meander Valley, a lack of appreciation in the wider Tasmanian community of the difficulties of the job.

As is the way these days, its shortcomings have been on prominent display while its successes have been largely ignored.

One of the most prominent criticisms over the years is that rather than reforming young lives, Ashley served as a training ground for career criminals. There was some substance to that criticism in the past because of the former practice of routinely remanding young people initially facing the court system to Ashley, where they mixed with more serious or repeat offenders.

As one of the many attempts over the years to improve Ashley and the wider youth justice system, I chaired a 2007 Legislative Council Select Committee inquiry into Ashley, Youth Justice and Detention. The Committee made 32 recommendations, almost all of which were eventually implemented. These included changes in remand policy, prioritising the diversion of young offenders from custodial youth justice in all but the most serious cases, as well as upgrading of the Ashley school and vocational training.

As a result, Ashley these days is barely recognisable from the Ashley of old. Instead of the remand centre of FIRST resort, it has become a place of LAST resort where the Youth Court determines that all other avenues have been exhausted and a young person's offending is sufficiently serious to require secure detention.

That means the number of young people in custody at Ashley has come tumbling down to the point where the average is around nine or 10 detainees at any one time.

At the same time, investment in facilities and staff has been increased, allowing more intensive efforts to turn around these young lives. For instance, the teacher to student ratio in the Ashley school and training programmes is around 1:1 – a level unheard of in mainstream educational facilities. Every effort is made to provide young people with practical skills to assist their return to the community and many staff and youth workers say that Ashley is now working better than ever.

Greg Hall AM, Deloraine

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In our October edition, on page 8, a plan of proposed units at 137 Dexter Street was incorrectly captioned as 150-152 Dexter Street.

Opinion

The key to rebuilding our regions

THE LIBERALS like to claim that they represent the regions while Labor only cares about the inner cities.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

It is the Liberals who for 8 years have been leaving regional Australia behind. But you don't have to take my word for it – we have evidence from the Australian National Audit Office.

On Tuesday 19 October, the ANAO revealed that since 2018, more than half of what were supposed to be 'regional' grants have gone to projects in major cities.

The story gets worse for rural and remote communities, many of which are found right here in the Meander Valley.

In total, 3,682 'regional' grants went to major city projects, compared to just 309 projects in 'remote' or 'very remote' communities.

Under the Liberals, the bigger the city, the bigger the chance of receiving 'regional' grant money. Smaller communities, which include the vast majority of Tasmanian regions, simply missed out.

Now, I'm sure readers of this paper will start seeing an awful lot of brand new blue and white checked shirts and Akubras around the Meander Valley as we count down towards election time.

But don't be fooled – the Liberals simply have not looked after our regions.

Remember, 90 per cent of Building Better Regions grants in the latest \$300 million round went to seats held by Morrison government MPs, or to seats they are targeting.

For example, only three Lyons projects received a total of \$4 million while the Government-held Mallee in Victoria received \$37.3 million for 33 projects.

Lyons is a sizeable regional electorate but received about ten per cent of the funding of a comparable electorate held by the government. That's simply not right.

And did a project in the Meander Valley get a look in?

No, of course not.

We've known for a long time that the Morrison Government always leaves Tasmanians behind. Our regions are suffering chronic GP shortages and chronic housing shortages, with no answers offered from the Morrison government.

And our young people are being locked out of training

Jazz musicians Gary Telford and Cameron Scott will play from the Great American Songbook at the Empire Hotel on 14 November. Photo supplied

and higher education opportunities, which are increasingly out of reach.

Tasmanians deserve better. Since my election in 2016 I have campaigned to Rebuild our Regions.

For too long our regions have been hollowed out, with essential services and government agencies centralising into big cities or automating and forcing people online.

I want essential services and government agencies back in our regions, with people the focus.

And I want a Prime Minister who understands the importance of regions, like Labor leader Anthony Albanese.

Regions are at the centre of his plan to rebuild Australia, with more manufacturing, more apprenticeships, more new energy projects and more affordable housing.

Labor has a plan for a future that's 'Made in Australia', and made in Australia's regions. We will heal our divided nation. And we will bring Australians together again.

Brian Mitchell MP, Federal Labor Member for Lyons



All that jazz at The Empire

THE GIRL from Ipanema will be steppin' out at Deloraine's Empire Hotel on 14 November as the Deloraine Jazz Club swings back into action after the COVID break.

The Sunday afternoon's tempting program will include music from the Great American Songbook, played by jazz trio Gary Telford, on piano and vocals, Simon Deeth on double bass and Cameron Scott on jazz drums.

'We'll play a mix of jazz standards, bossa nova, medium swing and jazz swing,' Cameron Scott said.

'The Great American Songbook includes compositions by jazz musicians over the past 100 years, but about half were written for musicals by specialist teams of musicians and lyricists.

'Musicians took those songs and improvised.'

The afternoon will be a special occasion, one of the first outings for the Deloraine Big Band's new 2021-model keyboard, bought with a community grant.

The Sunday jazz afternoon will run from 2pm-5pm, entry will be \$15.

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Patsy Crawford scribbling away

THE OTHER day I gave the son the compass, the headlamp and the bush maps. Before that I'd given the daughter the microlight tent and assorted bits of camping gear. The bush maps were in many cases tatty with the grime and soggy of accumulated storms and trudging off into muddy parts of Tasmania. The tent stank of mouldy socks, metho and spaghetti carbonara.

To be honest, I'd hung onto it all for far too long, but when a totter to the clothesline with a basket of damp underpants and pillowslips had become an exercise in hardiness I figured it was time to call it a day.

And damn me, even if it was a sobering realisation, I refused to acknowledge total defeat.

Surely I could saddle up and go one more round with the bush. Those legs were made for walking.

With a bit of a wriggle I could still fit into the fleecy-lined Nordic pants with the burn mark from where I almost set fire to the old Pelion hut.

I even had the hide to fall back on the 'not too bad for her age' one liner, surely the

last refuge of the vain and delusional.

Of course it was all stuff and nonsense.

I have about as much hope of climbing Frenchmans Cap again as I do of winning the ladies singles at Wimbledon.

But we are all the servants of hubris and here I was having to clamber down from the lofty heights of fighting fitness and stare in the face the ravages of time and the long-haul carting up hill and down dale of packs so naffing heavy I never should have chucked them on my back in the first place.

So anyway, out went the lot. I have now saddled the kids not only with bushwalk-

ing gear they may or may not want, I have also saddled them with the notion they should put everything to purposeful use.

Get cracking you two. Climb that mountain. Ford that stream. Dodge that tiger snake. I'm not playing lady bountiful with my stuff to have it sit around in the shed getting covered in mouse poo and dead blowies.

They've been mighty grateful I have to say. Daughter is planning a long walk with a pal. Son has just come back from a three-dayer to Frenchmans Cap.

It absolutely bucketed down most of the time and his party appears to have taken a climb-

ing route only marginally less perilous than the north face of the Eiger. His knees are a bit done in. Know the feeling.

But they had nice food. Back in my day it was Continental brand anything so long as it included freeze-dried pasta.

Many a dish of macaroni cheese got scoffed down in far places.

Now everyone dines on north African tagines and beef with Burgundian wine.

Some of those meals are so haute cuisine you'd swear Ainsley Harriot was trailing along in the rear with a catering crew.

If you weren't nearly killing yourself on a mountain you could enjoy that.

Council approves more units for Westbury



WESTBURY RESIDENT Barry Lee told Meander Valley councillors he was 'disgusted' with them in a passionate plea to prevent more units in a northern area of the town.

Commenting on a planning application for eight units at 6 Franklin Street, Mr Lee said they would create a total of 52 units in the area.

But councillors passed the \$1.8m planning application. Even though Cllr Deb White commented that she was 'perturbed by the density of the development', she said councillors couldn't oppose it unless there were good reasons.

Mr Lee listed, 'Six units at the sports centre, Southern

Cross Ainsley has six, there are two in Franklin Street, two in Allison Court, another three built on Franklin Street, ten in stage one of Aged Care Deloraine's Franklin Gardens and 15 more set aside for that. And now another eight are planned.'

Commenting that train noise in the area was not measured and no traffic data collected, Mr Lee asked councillors, 'Are you comfortable with the strategic priorities of this planning arrangement? Have you been forced by greedy developers to approve these plans?'

Another resident of the area Sean Manners described the crowded nature of the units

as 'unethical, disgusting and a rot'.

He said, 'It seems to me that the developer is being over greedy in their desire to build eight units without any consideration of pedestrian safety.'

'What about young children? It is not enough for the developer to say that only "old" people will buy the units.'

'Meander Valley Council may like the idea of more ratepayers but at what cost to personal amenity? Just because something may tick the boxes or be in the rules does not make it right!'

Cllr Stephanie Cameron said, 'I don't know if we're ever going to get it perfect, par-



Located at the end of a no through road in Westbury, eight units at 6 Franklin Street are creating concern amongst some residents about the density of development in the town.

ticularly in Westbury, but if it meets the [planning scheme] criteria that's something we have to be mindful of.'

Cllr Rodney Synfield said he would not support the development because of issues with private open space, lack of a footpath and its 'packed in' nature.

The mayor Cllr Wayne Johnston said, 'Supply and demand usually dictates what can be built and what can be sold. It ticks the boxes so I'll be supporting it.'

But new Cllr Michal Frydrych said, 'I cannot agree with that sort of development in what is a rural area.'

'I'm certainly not satisfied with parking space, turning space, visitors' parking, sewage. You name it, it's all there.'

'I think the whole thing should be reviewed and we cannot say 'tick the boxes'. That's not what we're here for.'

Cllr Johnston responded, 'We will probably have a discussion with you going forward as you get your head around the planning scheme.'

The application was supported by Cllrs Cameron, Johnston, Kelly and White. Cllrs Frydrych, Synfield and Temple voted against it.

Cllr King was an apology and Cllr Sherriff did not vote because he is related to the developer.

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



All dressed up and places to go!

Lenore and Keaton Beattie of Westbury are definitely a two car couple, dressed to match for a day on the Westbury Village Green with their vintage and classic cars. Keaton harks back to the interwar era of his 1926 Austin 12/4 Clifton Tourer 'Daisy' while Lenore gets in the swing for the sixties to come, alongside 'Maisy', her 1958 Morris Minor 1000. Every era and every purpose, from campervans to muscle cars, the 2021 Westbury Car Show got visitors all revved up.



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Meander Valley GM pre-empts state on review of councillor code of conduct

JOHN JORDAN, the general manager of Meander Valley Council has produced his own draft code of conduct for councillors, appearing to be attempting to gazump the state government's current review of the code.

In his statement attached to the draft code of conduct, John Jordan said the government review would produce an inadequate result.

Meander Valley Council's draft code of conduct is specific about councillors bullying or harassing staff.

It emphasises that councillors must respect each other's views 'and endeavour to ensure that issues, not personalities, are the focus of debate'.

It says that councillors must not

- * threaten, bully or harass, discriminate against any person
- * engage in any prohibited conduct (such as sexual harassment) towards any person
- * contact a council employee in relation to council matters unless authorised by the general manager, or
- * direct, pressure or denigrate an employee in relation to the making of decisions or recommendations.

The Gazette has not heard of any councillor involved in these activities and Mr Jordan did not reply to a query asking whether these activities had occurred.

In fact, the reason for Mr Jordan's involvement in councillor behaviour is unknown, especially when considering the *Local Government Act 1993*, which clearly states that it is the mayor's responsibility to oversee the councillors in the performance of their functions and the exercise of their powers.

The general manager is responsible for the employees of the council.

Meander Valley Council's draft will go to the Minister of Local Government, Roger Jaensch, for his consideration, but the move is curious considering that in 2021, all Tasmanian local councils were invited to join a review of the councillor code of conduct.

Meander Valley Council submitted nothing by the due date of 9 August, unlike 13 other councils, eight individuals, four government departments and the Integrity Commission.

The preamble to the draft code of conduct written by Mr Jordan and the council's governance officer Jacqui Parker appears to excuse Meander Valley Council's neglect to place a submission by stating that the government review was inadequate.

Mr Jordan wrote, 'This is not expected to produce reforms that would satisfy the obligation of this council to align itself with community expectations, set the right internal culture, and to come out strongly in support of employee and community wellbeing. Nor would the expected reforms seem to enable council's duty of care to be fully discharged.'

'As an alternative to continuing to await reform, it is suggested that Meander Valley Council demonstrates state-wide leadership by signalling its open support and advocacy for change.'

'A variation of its own codes of conduct for both staff and councillors is a relatively simple and timely means by which council can lead by example while the sector continues to work on its broader reform agenda.'

Carrick is becoming Launceston suburb say frustrated residents

RESIDENTS OF Carrick are waiting impatiently for Meander Valley Council to conduct a survey of residents' opinions about development in the area.

They promised the survey when residents Sally and Chester McKaige spoke to a councillors' workshop about their concerns about subdivision and blocks crowded with units.

'We're objecting to multi-dwellings on small blocks and regular sized houses on small blocks,' Sally McKaige said.

'We're not opposed to development but to me this is a rural location, almost a village, and the more development that goes on makes it like a suburb of Launceston.'

The couple, who have lived in Carrick for eight years, say the proliferation of units without enough parking is causing residents to park on nature strips and on the road, especially at the bottom of Church St.

A Liffey Street resident who asked not to be named said soon after she moved to Carrick, she was stunned to find five units being built by Badcock Constructions on the block next door when she thought she had come to the countryside for peace and quiet.

'I live on half a hectare. I don't want people living on top of me. That's not why I bought a place here. I wake up here and hear the birds and think, "Yep, I'm still in the country".'

'I'd hate to be in the front unit next door with the cars of four other units driving past my front door. If my peace and tranquillity goes, I'll go elsewhere.'

Resident Cath Blackwell is critical of Meander Valley Council for allowing what she believes is inappropriate development.

'I think it's been done too hastily and without much consideration,' she said.



Sally and Chester McKaige are two Carrick residents still waiting for Meander Valley Council to conduct a survey of residents' opinions about development in the area. Photo supplied

'A lot of things seem to be rushed through without consideration of heritage and services such as water and sewerage.'

'There are issues here with water pressure, and with the big subdivision going in at Hadspen, will our sewerage system cope?'

'The council is not taking into consideration the historic feel to the village.'

'We have a walking tour pamphlet of heritage buildings here in Carrick. It feels like the heritage buildings will be sandwiched between blocks of units and excess cars parked around the place.'

Many residents are proud of Carrick's historic buildings.

Ms Blackwell lives next door to a white workers' cottage built by Thomas Reibey who was born at Entally House and was Tasmania's Premier in the 1870s.

The old schoolhouse is nearby and up the road is award winning accommodation at gothic Hawthorn Villa, built in 1875 by the prominent flour miller, Thomas Monds.

'It's not that I have a thing about units, I just don't think Carrick needs to be a subdivision like the one behind Bunnings in Kings Meadows.'

A sea of grey characterless roofs, the eaves 30cms apart and people living cheek by jowl,' Ms Blackwell said.

'I get that we've got a housing crisis but you can't sneeze in some of these houses without being heard next door.'

'Meander Valley Council seems to have no regard to the thoughts and concerns of its ratepayers.'

'It's time this council was brought to account and ceased its seemingly ad hoc "approve at any cost" planning.'

'This council needs to begin to encourage development that both reflects and consolidates Carrick's heritage.'

The McKaiges are also concerned about whether Carrick's infrastructure can cope. The tip is almost full they say. More people means more refuse.

They claim there will be a stormwater issue. With blocks completely covered with buildings and no gardens, run-off water will overwhelm the stormwater system as happens in Melbourne.

'The council's general manager said they usually allow the development to happen and then do the infrastructure. How will that work?' asked Sally McKaige.

'Meander Valley Council talks about doing sustainable things. How does that fit in with small gardens, loss of trees and habitat for birds and animals?'

Carrick residents concerned about development issues placed petitions around the town. The McKaiges said the council proposed to send out a survey instead.

'We thought it was a good idea,' said Sally. 'If the majority of residents want multi-development we'll just have to live with it. But people need a chance to voice their opinion instead of being ridden over by the council.'

Instead, Carrick residents are still waiting for the council's promised survey.



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Councillor fails to defend her patch from subdivision

A MEANDER Valley councillor stepped down from her council role in October to argue that her neighbour not be able to subdivide property at 277 Jones Street into three blocks.

Cllr Tanya King, who lives adjacent to the Jones Street site at 18 Clark Street, recused herself from the whole October council meeting to put the case that Sarah Pike should not be allowed to subdivide her land.

She did not succeed as her fellow councillors, Wayne Johnston, Stephanie Cameron, Michael Kelly, Andrew Sherriff and Deb White supported her neighbour's right to subdivide the land.

Councillors Michal Frydrych, John Temple and Rodney Synfield voted against the motion.

In the past year Cllr King has voted against subdivision of properties in her home town of Westbury at 40 Suburb Road, 23 Five Acre Row, 5 Five Acre Row, 138 Ritchie Street and Black Hills Road.

In May 2020 she said, 'I have never been in support of these subdivisions and the intensity of living density in Westbury.'

But Cllr King has voted for the subdivision of properties in other areas of the Meander Valley at 77 East Church Street in Deloraine, 2 Seymour Street in Carrick and in Reedy Marsh at 209 Farrells Road and 239 Wadleys Road.

At the October meeting Cllr King excoriated people who subdivided land in Westbury, saying, 'The introduction of the special area plan has allowed these properties to be subdivided to the detriment of the town.'

'We are losing these properties for the short term financial gain of a greedy few at the expense of amenity.'

Cllr King described her situation, that she and her husband Danny had set out to bring up their daughters in a spacious rural environment.



Meander Valley Councillor and Westbury resident Tanya King

But Ms Pike's representative said that Ms Pike, now based in Sydney, had been born and raised in Westbury, inherited the property from her grandmother and wanted to retain the character of the building on the largest subdivided block.

Ms Pike also wants to retain as much of the hawthorn hedge on Jones Street as possible, recognising that hedges add to the charm of Westbury.

Cllr King described how, not wanting to see the Jones Street property 'carved up for financial gain', she had approached Ms Pike's mother and father to offer to buy the property and been refused.

Cllr Cameron said, 'As much as I look at this, it's allowed [under the planning scheme] and I have to support it.'

Cllr Kelly said, 'Our hands are tied. There's a high chance of losing at a tribunal if we refused it.'

But Cllr Rodney Synfield said subdivision would have a detrimental effect on the surrounding area and the arrangement of the resulting battleaxe blocks was 'ludicrous'.

Cllr King left the meeting straight after the decision.



Reverend Josephine Pycroft of Quamby Parish was one of the four nominees for Senior Tasmanian Australian of the Year.

Meander Valley priest is a finalist for senior Tasmanian of the Year

AN ANGLICAN priest who asked parishioners to pray every day at noon to save three Meander Valley churches, Reverend Josephine Pycroft of Quamby Parish was one of four nominees for Senior Tasmanian Australian of the Year.

Bruce French AO, a 76 year agriculturalist from Burnie was the 2022 finalist chosen to represent Tasmania.

Aged 84, Reverend Pycroft works with the three historical churches of Westbury, Hagley and Carrick, still ministering weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Reverend Pycroft was a key figure in saving the Quamby churches from being sold in 2018, when the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania needed to raise money it was obliged to pay to the Child Sexual Abuse National Redress fund.

The three Quamby Parish churches, given to the people in perpetuity, were eventu-

ally saved from the Anglican church and cemetery fire sale when a church-owned block of land in Carrick was proposed instead.

The plan was that if the parish could raise \$400,000 from the sale of vacant land on the corner of Meander Valley Road and East Street in Carrick, three churches would be saved.

The three churches were St Mary's Church, rectory and cemetery in Hagley, built with donations from the Dry family, St Andrew's Church in Carrick, given by the Reibey family, and St Andrew's Church in Westbury, built by the British Government with convict labour.

At the time, Reverend Pycroft said she was amazed at the decision.

'I thought we might save Hagley because Sir Richard Dry, the first Tasmanian-born premier of this State, is buried beneath the altar there but all

three churches were off the list,' she said.

'In the lead-up to the decision I asked parishioners to pray every day for two minutes at 12 noon and I'm silly enough to think that had a lot to do with it.'

During the COVID-19 lock down Reverend Pycroft harnessed modern technology to post her sermons on the Quamby Parish Facebook page using her iPhone.

Before moving to Tasmania, Reverend Pycroft was one of the first ordained women in the Anglican Church and the first female precentor (congregational leader) in the world, looking after the Anglican Cathedral in Brisbane.

The other nominees for Senior Tasmanian Australian of the Year were Michael Barrenger, a George Town paramedic, and Margaret Hoban, founder of the Launceston Youth and Community Orchestra.



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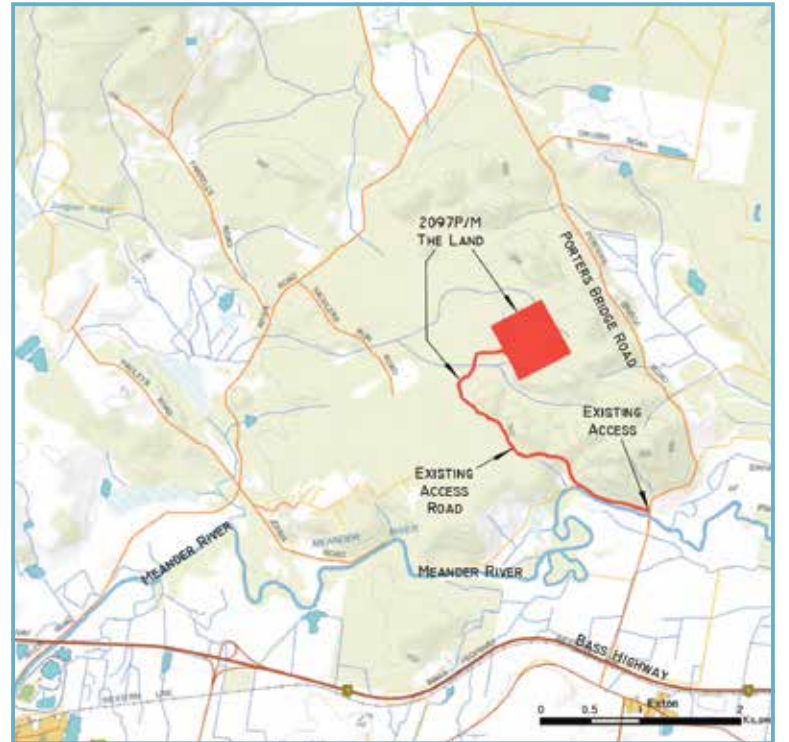
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Reedy Marsh quarry blasts could disrupt lifestyle and wildlife



Above: the entrance to the proposed quarry entrance, on Porters Bridge Road, next to the narrow Porters Bridge. Right: map of Reedy Marsh showing the quarry site and the existing access.



RESIDENTS ON bush lifestyle blocks in Reedy Marsh are concerned they will be bombarded with blasting, earth vibrations and dust from a proposed quarry with a 50 year lifespan.

The \$100,000 quarry development, to be excavated on a dolerite hill owned by Carl Porter and operated by Walters Contracting, will operate seven days a week. The 33.3 hectare site is currently used for forestry and grazing.

Six properties on nearby Saddlers Run Road are most at risk of being disturbed by the proposed blasting and grinding activities. Blasting is allowed on weekdays from 10am to 4pm.

Residents are also concerned about potential road accidents caused by up to 64 B-double

heavy vehicle movements a day, into and out of the quarry entrance road onto the narrow Porters Bridge Road and the single lane Porters Bridge.

Margaret Brown, who operates a poultry farm on Saddlers Run Road said, 'I'm concerned about quarry run-off affecting my water supply and the blasting and grinding putting my hens off the lay.'

Only a week before objections to the project were due to Meander Valley Council, Mrs Brown said she had just learnt about the quarry from a neighbour who had received a council letter about the project.

Four Saddlers Run Road residents who spoke to the Gazette said they all had concerns about the quarry to be located east of their properties.

Two residents said they would not object, Dave McCarthy because it was 'progress', and Rob Crowden because several other properties were between him and the quarry.

One of the closest residents said they would object to the quarry planning application on the grounds of flora and fauna loss.

'*Ovata* [eucalypt] species is threatened by this quarry and the curved rice flower, which is listed as rare. There's been so much clearing in Reedy Marsh recently that I get a large number of wallabies on my lawn each night because they have nowhere else to go.'

An extractive industry such as a quarry is a permitted use within the planning scheme's rural zone but the usage is dis-

cretionary because it is a level two use. Zoning for Saddlers Run Road is rural living.

The environmental report by Richard Barnes of Van Diemen Consulting listed not only *Ovata* and the curved rice flower as potentially affected by the quarry, but two wedge-tailed eagles, the threatened tussock skink, masked owl, green and gold frog, spotted tailed quoll, eastern barred bandicoot, grey goshawk and the Tasmanian devil.

'Approximately 75 curved riceflower plants will be taken by the activity based on the plant numbers within the maximum extraction area,' Mr Barnes wrote.

'At least 120 plants in the main portion of the land will be undisturbed by the quarry.

'Tasmanian devil, eastern quoll, and spotted-tailed quoll are known to occur in the region and may occur sporadically given they are territorial and have large home ranges.

Mr Barnes recommended areas to be cleared 'should first be surveyed by a suitably qualified person to identify if dens or woodpiles supporting dens are present ... and any dens or suspected dens removed via a procedure approved by the EPA.'

He said no trees [for masked owl habitat] were observed but recommended potential roost trees be 'checked for any signs of occupation to see if a bird is flushed, prior to removal'.

It is planned that 19m B-doubles trucks each carrying 30 tonnes of dolerite gravel turn onto Porter's Bridge Road at the southern end, then turning right straight onto Porter's Bridge.

Doug Tangney from Walters Contracting confirmed that no trucks would travel into Deloraine via Porter's Bridge Road and River Road.

The planning application's traffic report said both Porter's Bridge and the bridge over the Bass Highway towards Exton were able to support the trucks but a special license would be needed as neither was the required 8m width for B-doubles.

The report also recommended removal of vegetation obscuring driver view near Porters Bridge.

The landowner, Carl Porter, has 872 hectares of his property up for sale and has also recently applied for subdivision of 347 hectares of his land.

The property has been in his family since 1846.

Ashley continues despite planned three year reset

THE GOVERNMENT continues to advertise positions at Ashley Youth Detention Centre despite its announced closure in three years.

The job ads come as the *Mercury* newspaper reports that the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian government response to child sexual abuse allegations will hear evidence in February and March.

The *Mercury* reported that council assisting the commission, Maree Norton, said abuse at AYDC may have been happening at much higher rates than has been reported.

At least five new positions have been advertised at AYDC, with salaries ranging between \$54,000 for a full time grounds maintenance officer, and \$95,000 to \$107,000 for a full time policy and project support officer.

Other positions advertised include an operations support officer, a full time training co-ordinator and a youth worker.

Building works are also obvious at the site but the government has avoided answering questions about their purpose.

The current occupancy of the centre is around ten inmates.

Commenting on the advertised positions, a government spokesperson said, 'The AYDC will continue to be important in meeting the needs of young people in custody over the next three years.'

'The Department of Communities will continue to maintain a skilled workforce at AYDC during this period.'

'Recruitment of youth workers and other positions will continue to occur as necessary. 'Importantly, there is no immediate impact to anyone who works at the centre.'

In a recent comment piece in *The Examiner*, Tanya Rattray MLC said she asked what different outcomes the government expected by closing AYDC.

'I was told the decision was about setting our approach to the youth justice system and

young people at risk on a new footing,' Ms Rattray wrote.

'The government will invest in a contemporary, nation-leading, therapeutic approach, across the whole youth justice system.'

She said Australian reviews had concluded inmates in centres such as AYDC need professional care.

'They concluded youth detention centres have detrimental effects on children.'

'Separation, segregation and confinement as a means of punishment is associated with physical and psychological damage which can often interrupt education and rehabilitation.'

'All reports conclude detention is to be used as a last resort and there should be an increase in the use of diversion programs.'

'Youth justice detention costs the state \$1 million a year for each child. About 10 times more expensive than an adult prisoner.'

'The costs don't stop there as the effects of detention can lead to a child's repeated involvement in the youth justice system and later to the adult justice system,' she said.

TANIA RATTRAY MLC INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR MCINTYRE

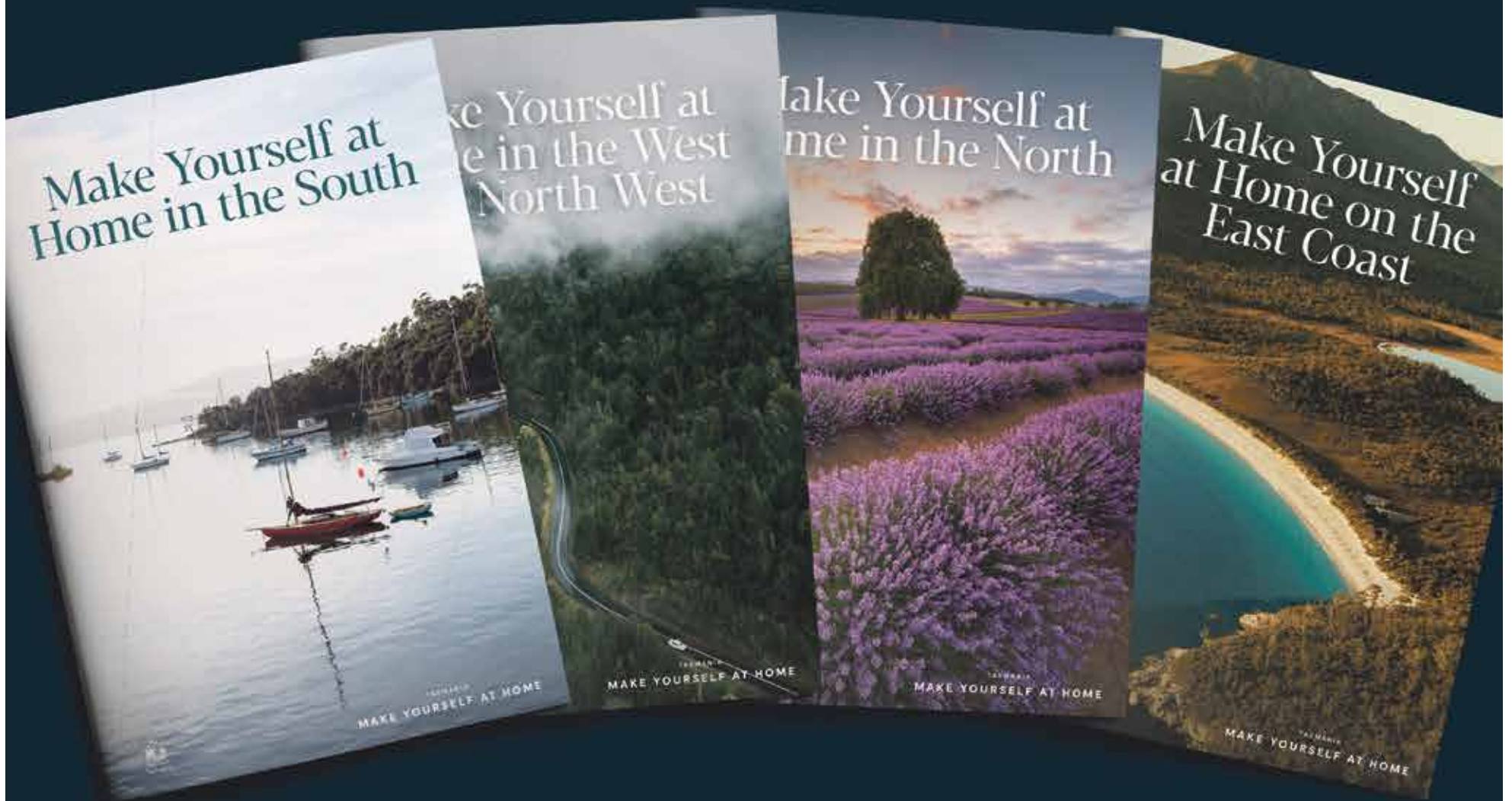
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Councils failing on GM appointments

THE APPOINTMENT of the of Meander Valley Council general manager John Jordan is one of several GM appointments found to be flawed, partly because there is no documentation supporting either the shortlisting or preferred applicant decision.

An October report by auditor general Rod Whitehead listed Meander Valley Council as one of six councils failing in the recruitment and appointment of general managers.

In response, local government minister Roger Jaensch confirmed he will make the *Local Government Act 1993* more specific in this area.

Mr Whitehead recommended that the state government develops mandatory requirements and supplementary guidance on recruitment, appointment and performance assessment processes that are consistent with contemporary HR practice.

Other councils assessed were Brighton, Burnie City, Clarence, George Town and West Coast.

The report does not single out examples of poor practice by named councils.

Mr Whitehead said that in the majority of recruitments examined, neither the consultant nor the council could provide documentation that rated and compared applicants using the selection criteria at the shortlisting or interview stages.

Often conflicts of interest were not documented or were reported after the shortlisting process had been completed.

Mr Whitehead wrote, 'It is my conclusion councils have not managed the recruitment, appointment and performance assessment of local government council general managers effectively.'

'The recruitment and appointment of general managers was not conducted in accordance with the principle of transparency because for

two councils there were deficiencies in the approach to declaring and managing conflicts of interest.

'For all councils there was an absence of documentation to support either shortlisting or preferred applicant decisions.'

Unlike other Australian States, Tasmania does not have guidelines for the appointment of general managers even though these five-year appointments, often with salaries of more than \$200,000, are pivotal in a council's good operation.

Mr Whitehead found that despite many councils using a consultant for the appointment and recruitment, costing on average \$26,300, the process was still inadequate.

The report also recommended that:

- councillors with limited recruitment experience involved in such activities do relevant training
- councils manage potential conflicts of interest once applicants for the position become known
- councils retain documentation that demonstrates how applicants were compared against each other to determine applicants to be interviewed and the preferred applicant.



John Jordan, Meander Valley Council GM



From little things...

THIS OCTOBER, Westbury Primary School Fair launched a new community recycling hub.

School Principal Christine Brown and state Labor leader Rebecca White spoke to those present about the importance of grassroots recycling and the difference it can make to the environment.

Ms Brown described the long journey from the initial plan to buy extra bins for the school to collect recyclable items.

Over 18 months ago, the school received a grant from RACT to upgrade an old storage shed. Community interest and encouragement then led to another application for a grant from the Deloraine & Districts Community Bank.

This second grant provided the means to remove the old shed and replace it with a new structure.

With further assistance from Westbury Health, Meander Valley Council and the

Northern Tasmanian Waste Management Group, Westbury Primary School now has its own purpose built community recycling hub.

Westbury Primary has been actively recycling for a number of years, composting food scraps, collecting soft plastics and filling three kerbside recycling bins every fortnight.

One class has even started a worm farm to use up their food scraps.

Ms Brown explained that the school's commitment to recycling 'comes from a deep-seated philosophy to be able to leave this planet in a better place and ensure that the generations to come have something to enjoy.'

She emphasised that it is the 'many small things that we can all do to facilitate change'.

Christine Brown, Westbury Primary School Principal and Rebecca White MP, Labor leader and member for Lyons demonstrate their sorting skills at the new recycling hub now open at Westbury Primary School.

Photo supplied

'Every little bit counts, and this recycling hub is another step in making our world a better place.'

Recycling items at the hub will reduce landfill and allow more efficient recycling, make it easier for the Westbury community to make better choices about their recycling and waste disposal.

The hub has clear directions for what can be recycled, providing separate 'postboxes' for clearly marked categories.

Everyone who has items to recycle is welcome to drop them into the hub which is accessed from Dexter Street.



At a recent meeting of the Lions Club of Deloraine, District Governor Robert Mantach outlined goals for 2021-2022 with the motto being 'Change a life today'.

James Redgrave (pictured with Robert Mantach at left) is District T1, Disaster Relief Chair, District Chair of Environment, a Guiding Lion and a popular high profile member of the Lions Club of Deloraine.

James has visited a number of clubs outlining Lions' potential involvement with the State Government's proposed container recycling scheme, to be tabled in State Parliament. At a joint meeting of the Lions Club of Wynyard, James shared the stage with Minister for Environment Roger Jaensch, to discuss the project.



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For more information on YHC Group visit yhcgroupp.com.au



Jade Hallam with some of the sewing items on display.

A stitch in time at the Deloraine Folk Museum

THE DELORAINE and Districts Folk Museum has curated an exhibition on the history of the sewing machine.

The 'Sewing Room' exhibition has a combination of miniature sewing machines and larger crank handle machines of various makes and models.

There is also an assortment of machine accessories and paraphernalia, some very fragile and decorative.

An information panel on the history of the sewing machine is on display and a small biog-

raphy of the woman who has loaned many of the machines and objects to the museum.

It is a lovely intimate exhibition, sure to evoke nostalgia of a time gone by. Fond memories of grandmothers will definitely spring to mind.

The exhibition is free and the museum is open 7 days a week, from 9am to 5pm, at the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre, 98-100 Emu Bay Road.

The Visitor Centre is a COVID ready workplace to ensure the safety of all staff and visitors.

At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society

Clare Andersen

WTFS offers two **bonus** films a year which are optional and thus free to our members. They often have unusual or offbeat storylines (*Swiss Army Man*), or show a different way of life or thought (*Lebanese Capernaum* and the popular *Turkish Honeyland*).

Sometimes the bonus film is one that may create discomfort in viewers because of violence or out-of-the box alternative themes.

Making such films optional allows us to include a wider range over the year. For realism and escapism, the creativity and openness of the arts is a healthy outlet.

Our bean voting continues and is a valued barometer. Thank you to our members.



December 11 MINARI

2020 PG, Drama/semi-autobiographical, US, 115m, Director Lee Isaac Chung

The planting of strong and resilient *minari* (Korean for water celery), is the challenge this Korean-American family face when moving to a farm in 1980s Ozarks in Arkansas, in search of their American dream.

Amidst the instability of this new life, *Minari* shows the undeniable resilience of family and what really makes a home.

Premiering at Sundance, *Minari* won both the US Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award. It scored numerous nominations at the Academy and British Awards, Best Picture, Director, Actor, Original Score and Screenplay.

Receiving critical acclaim, *Minari* was declared one of the best ten films of 2020.

'As part of an Asian family growing up and assimilating in a western country, I related to this film. I love the little Asian culture nuanced jokes, especially involving the grandma. It's a real down-to-earth and wholesome film.'

Audience reviewer, 09/2021
87% Rotten Tomatoes

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

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Rough stuff? Saddle up!

THERE COMES a time in the hen house when the girls get too much of a good thing.

If you see your hens' backs denuded of feathers, sometimes even scratched, what you're observing is too much sex in the farmyard.

Yes, at this time of year roosters can get a little over-enthusi-

astic and actually damage the hens in the mating process.

Sometimes it's not very visible. But when you lift the over-feathers on a hen's back you can see baldness.

What to do? You could separate out the rooster/s for a while to give some relief all round.

The problem is that a rooster has a serious role in your flock. He's the organiser, the protector and the checker that no hen is left behind or lost.

If your hens have chicks, he's the one keeping an eye out for birds of prey overhead.

I've seen chooks and chicks dart under the hedge at one squawk from a rooster and sure enough, there's a beady-eyed harrier or a hawk overhead.

Chook owners sometimes get carried away by their concerns about crowing aggravating the neighbours but a rooster is the great protector of a free ranging flock.

The best solution for rough stuff in the garden is a hen saddle. This is a saddle made of toughish fabric that can withstand a rooster's claws and allow ripped out feathers to regrow.

You can buy them online; Amazon has lots for about \$20, from sturdy plain ones to fancy frilly ones.

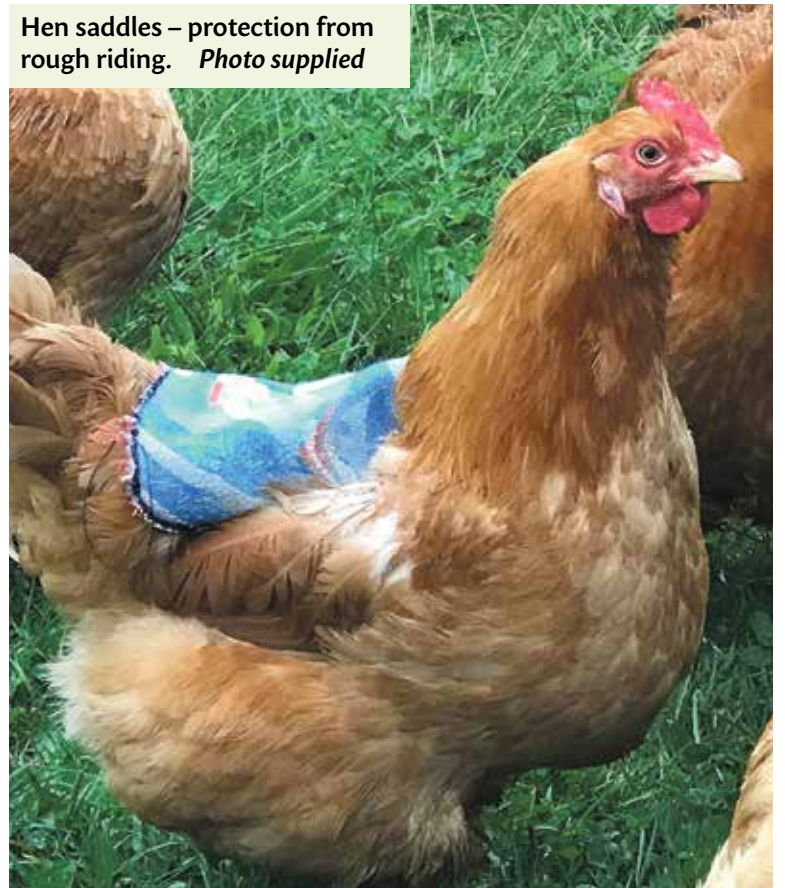
Or if you're average with a sewing machine, you can make your own. All you need is fabric, elastic and some velcro. Iron-on interfacing (from Spotlight) is optional.

I used left-over upholstery fabric for mine and the result is a chook happily running around in a stunning turquoise saddle.

You can find a simple pattern for a hen saddle at <https://www.motherearthnews.com/diy/how-to-make-a-chicken-saddle-zbcz1604>.

Happy chooks, happy life.

Hen saddles – protection from rough riding. Photo supplied



A new riverbank food business will be built on the footprint of a flood damaged riverbank property on West Parade. Photo supplied

Deloraine kiosk will cater for riverbank picnickers

A DELORAINE couple have applied for planning permission to establish a takeaway food kiosk opposite the weir on the Meander River at Deloraine.

Tess Kasper and Benjamin Whittle propose to spend \$100,000 on a timber framed building within the existing building footprint.

The building has been heavily damaged by flooding.

Ms Kasper said the site at 5-7 West Parade was opposite a beautiful riverbank setting with a footbridge.

'We want to provide a takeaway food and drink service for

locals and visitors to Deloraine to take back to enjoy the park,' she said.

The couple proposes to sell takeaway coffee and fresh juices with seasonal food such as rice paper rolls and sushi made from vegetables grown on-site.

In winter they would serve soup and curries.

'We'd like to use local produce for visitors' picnics and offer hired picnic rugs,' Ms Kasper said.

'We'd like to attract more people to an under-utilised area.'

Community makes progress on finding a use for Meander School

MEANDER VALLEY Council held a second community forum in October allowing Meander residents to contribute ideas for the use of the former Meander School site.

Held on 27 October at Meander Hall, the non-facilitated session grouped interested people according to potential use themes such as tourism or learning and training.

According to the council the next step is to invite expressions of interest in using the building, followed by the formation of a group to shortlist applicants.

Shortlisting of the applicants will happen in February 2022 with Meander Valley Council deciding the successful tenderer in March.

Many residents of the Meander community believe the continued use of the buildings by the current user, the Beacon Foundation, is a foregone conclusion.

But some are holding out hope that people in the Meander community, who historically have contributed a lot to the school, will get at least some use of the site.

Recently the Mercury newspaper revealed that the old Queenstown school has been established as PressWEST, a community art centre which includes printmaking, exhibition and studio spaces, and holds workshops and artist residencies.

The new president of Meander Area Residents and Ratepayers Association Kim Booth is optimistic, saying that he looks forward to working constructively with the council and the community to see the old school retained and utilised for the whole community.

'The school represents an exciting opportunity for the community to use the infrastructure for a myriad of uses,' Mr Booth said.

'It is a fresh canvas on which to paint a great future for the whole community, to achieve their visions and build cohesiveness and social capital.

'The final result will be decided by the Meander Valley Council following public consultation, after distilling what will no doubt be a myriad of suggestions into a workable outcome.

'Just some of those dreams include farmers markets, men's and women's sheds, education and training, a tourism information and local history hub, a first nation's centre, performance spaces for arts and theatre, makers workshops, a wooden boat building school, musical instrument making, community kitchen, crèche and children's playground and community garden.'

At MARRA's recent annual general meeting, retiring president Bodhi McSweeney congratulated members for their commitment in campaigning

to see the Meander School now being available for community purposes.

MARRA has raised around \$49,500 towards the cost of legal fees incurred during its successful appeal. Anyone with unused goods to donate for

sale by MARRA can drop them at Timber World's offices in Deloraine or Meander.

New MARRA office bearers include Eddie Tuleja as vice president, Kerin Booth as secretary and Diana Tuleja as treasurer.

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The River Women and Valley Vocals will send you meandering down the river with their choice of song, movement and rhythm, as they start off the evening's entertainment at the Deloraine Dragon Boat Regatta on Saturday 4 December at 5.30pm on the banks of the Meander. From left, Kim, Linda, Pip, Bloss, Bonnie and Georgia get ready to go with the flow (Kat J and Shannon absent from photo).

Take me to the river

Home for Men's Shed at MVC depot

THE PROPOSED Westbury Men's Shed has been allocated a building in the Meander Valley Council Depot in Westbury and members hope to move in by the end of the year.

Spokesman Paul Kilroy said the building is in the depot on the corner of Franklin and King Streets. The group's first project is to divide the building and fit it out.

'We were to use space at the back of the Westbury Health Centre but it wasn't viable because of the huge response to men's shed proposal,' he said.

'Around 35 men have signed on to be members of the organ-

isation and locals have signed up to be on the committee to make the shed happen.

'Word has got around the town, which is great because it's worth doing to get it up and running.'

The Men's Shed group has submitted a planning application to the Meander Valley Council for the change of use.

Work needing to be done to make the building habitable includes installing partitions, a toilet and a tearoom.

'Meander Valley Council has been very supportive in giving us a two-year lease on the building,' Mr Kilroy said.

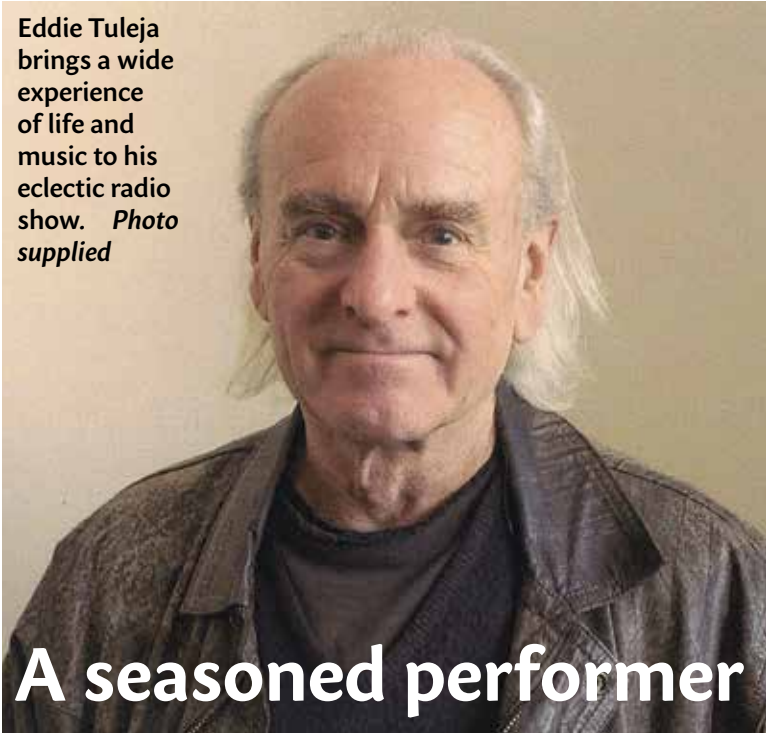
'Initially Westbury health came up with the idea, then Lions, Rotary and other community members got together to make it happen.'

The activities of the shed remain shrouded in mystery; Mr Kilroy doesn't want to be too specific about what the men will get up to inside it.

'People tend to associate men's sheds with woodwork but people get up to all sorts of things inside them,' Mr Kilroy said.

'We'll wait to see what the local preferences are. The most important thing is for men to be able to gather there.'

Eddie Tuleja brings a wide experience of life and music to his eclectic radio show. Photo supplied



A seasoned performer

The voices of MVFM

ABRAHAM LINCOLN is renowned for many things. One of them is the fact that he shares birthdays with Meander's Eddie Tuleja (not the same year, it must be added).

Eddie, a member of a military family, grew up in New Jersey, USA, and later lived in quite a few other states and countries.

Attending Cornell University and graduating in the History of Art, in due course, he also studied aquaculture.

All this prepared him for a lifetime as an amazing musician, of course. His music career began with a band playing soul music, rhythm and blues and African American music.

While living in Paris in the early 1970s, he recorded 'Dancing in the Moonlight', a song which continues to be played to this day.

Then Eddie was back in the US where he toured with a band and, while in California, was invited to join the Beach Boys. He then played in a country and western band in Florida.

A change of direction led him to France and sailing. He brought a boat to the Caribbean and there he met his future wife, Diana.

Back to New Jersey, then in 1988, Eddie arrived in NSW and paid a visit to Tasmania.

He's still here, in Tasmania, and has worked as a carpenter and as a guitar tutor. He led a course in Creative Listening with TAFE and last year made a CD, 'One in a Row'.

Eddie is well known these days as a very recognisable performer in the Meander Valley, appearing frequently in concerts, at markets and special events. And, of course, there are the musicals such as 'Shrek'.

With his colleague, Greg Rossiter, Eddie presents a relaxed, informed program on MVFM, 'The Eclectic Show'.

It's a cavalcade of good music and may be heard on Monday evenings at 7pm and Saturday afternoon at 1pm.

Eclectic, by the way, means 'selected from many different sources' and Eddie and Greg's show is certainly that.

Deloraine Dragon Boat Regatta Annual 2021 Teamboat Challenge

Community Team Challenge on Sat 4 Dec, 1pm-5pm
Tasmanian Dragon Boat Clubs' Challenge on Sun 5 Dec 9am-3pm

hosted by Deloraine Flames Dragon Boat Club Inc..

This year's Regatta is a 2-day event with community teams racing on Saturday afternoon followed by an exciting evening program of performances by local entertainers, with drumming, singing and dance starting from 5.30pm. A band will play until after 8pm on the riverbank. Food stalls will be available.

If you would like to participate in Saturday's community racing, please contact Angela McKay on 0400024261 or email Angelamckay2021@outlook.com.

A team must consist of 10 people. Free coaching is provided prior to the event and all equipment is supplied.



TOOSEY Caring for our community

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

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



Wendy Hayes

AS A young teacher at Winnaleah District High School in the early 1980s, I was often invited to the homes of students for family dinners.

The meal served was often roast meat with baked vegetables followed by an old fashioned dessert.

There were some marvellous cooks amongst these families and I'm sure my presence at the table often stretched their food budget.

Students regularly hand wrote their favourite family recipes into my now tatty recipe book and this month's simple, economical dessert recipe came from Kathryn, one of my students.

I have long since lost touch with Kathryn and her family but remember with great fondness the kindness and hospitality shown by them.

When I make Apricot Dream, I often wonder where life has taken Kathryn and the other students whose family recipes I frequently make.

Kathryn's Apricot Dream

Ingredients

- 1 can of apricot halves – save the juice/syrup and cut apricots into quarters
- 8 tbs of sugar
- 4 tbs water
- 4 tbs cornflour
- 60g butter
- 2 tbs apricot brandy or any other liqueur (optional)
- about 250ml cream, whipped
- 2 tbs toasted coconut or slivered almonds to decorate

Method

Place the sugar and water into a saucepan and stir without boiling until the sugar is dissolved.

Boil rapidly without stirring until the mixture is a rich amber coloured toffee, about 10 minutes. Take care as it will go from a caramel colour to being burnt very quickly.

Remove from heat.

Drain the apricots and make the juice/syrup up to about 420ml with water.

Blend the cornflour with a few tablespoons of the juice/syrup mixture then stir back into the remaining liquid.

Carefully stir the juice/syrup/cornflour mixture into the hot toffee. The toffee will go into lumps.

Return saucepan to the stove and stir over medium heat until the toffee dissolves and the juice/syrup thickens.

Cook a further few minutes. Remove from heat and stir in the butter and liqueur.

Cool a little before pouring over the apricot quarters into individual serving dishes or a serving bowl.

Chill until sauce sets.

Decorate with whipped cream and sprinkle with toasted coconut or slivered almonds.

Serve with a scoop of vanilla icecream and a toffee shard if desired.

A simple and economical dessert made from pantry staples, Kathryn's Apricot Dream should never go out of fashion. Photo supplied



Lavender (and bee) in planter boxes at Deloraine Town Café on Emu Bay Road. Photo supplied

Susan Haas

HELLO. I'M Susan and I will be your new garden correspondent, if everything turns out well.

We have had lots of rain this winter and we will continue to have a wet spring and into summer.

What you might have noticed is that some plants, trees and shrubs in your garden, especially roses, have grown a great deal from when they were pruned.

With spring arriving, the soil has warmed a little. Spring has delivered some lovely bulbs, flowering shrubs and perennials in the garden.

It's a good idea to maintain the growth if at all possible. This can be done by supplying your favourite plants with

a good fertilizer in the form of aged manure or good compost.

Lavenders are flowering and it is important to cut the flowers off. This will enable the lavender to grow and to flower again.

It is ideal to remove the flowers when all the activity of bees and other insects has ceased and they have collected all the pollen they need.

Removing flowers from long-stemmed lavender is easy, as stems are easy to hold. Hold the bunches and clip off in sections. Just make sure it is all the same height.

Lavenders do not like wet feet. They hate sitting in water and if they do, you may find that some of them will have pieces that are dead, not green and dry.

Planting on a slope is ideal or in a pot. The plant will be damp

This month, as Nell Carr has stepped down from her role as the Gazette's garden guru, the Gazette is very pleased to have found Susan Haas, a Deloraine local and keen gardener who will be trying on the role for size.

but not wet and very happy because all the water can run away.

Happy growing.

In the vegie garden

It is time to plant French beans, strawberries and tomatoes.

With tomatoes, add some lime, to reduce 'bottom rot' of the fruit and to add calcium to the plants. Try putting pine needles around your strawberries. It keeps them away from the soil and they love it!


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Accompanied by Tony Fox

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SAT 20 NOV :	LITTLE THEATRE, DELORAINE
FRI 26 NOV :	PALAIS THEATRE, FRANKLIN
SUN 28 NOV :	PORT ARTHUR HISTORIC SITE

TICKETS : www.angeboxall.com

Ange sings Joni in Deloraine

A BIG Yellow Taxi will roll into Deloraine this month when singer Ange Boxall performs Joni Mitchell songs at the Little Theatre.

'Joni Mitchell has long left an imprint on the lives of countless admirers and 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of her seminal album *Blue*, a coming of age travelogue,' Ange said.

'That album has been a trusted and wise companion to many devoted fans over the years, and for those still discovering her genius.'

Ange, accompanied by pianist Tony Fox, is taking some of the songs of *Blue* to venues around Tasmania this November, from 'A Case of You', to 'Both Sides Now', to 'Big Yellow Taxi'.

Ange Boxall is a performing country pop songwriter from the East Coast.

She lives in a big old country house built in the early 1800s and co-owns Tasmanian gin Company, 'The Splendid Gin'.

Ange is the founder and creative director of ECHO Festival, the East Coast Harvest Odyssey.

The concert will be at the Little Theatre on 20 November, 7.30pm, bar available. Tickets \$25 at <https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/angesingsjoni>.

Spring Concert

featuring organ, harps, accordion, piano and and guitar
 St Andrews Anglican Church
 Lonsdale Promenade, Westbury
 2.00 pm, Sunday 14 November 2021



Tickets \$15 including afternoon tea
 For booking and information contact Wendy 0413 437 720

Picking up dinner?

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coronavirus.tas.gov.au

Visit the website for details and to download the Check In TAS app. No smartphone? Others in your group or the business can check you in.



WOAD 2021 creates their gallery on Emu Bay Road

ARTS DELORAINE has once again mounted Windows On the Arts Deloraine, a shop window showcase of wonderful and interesting artworks by local painters, printmakers, sculptors and textile artists.

WOAD21 turned the windows of Emu Bay Road into an art gallery where visitors and residents could stroll past the shops and businesses, looking at the artworks on show.

Yellow and black street signs and pavement stickers indicated the places where the artworks could be viewed.

In every window, to accompany the artwork, yellow cards were displayed, containing the artist's statement and other information.

Works for sale were paid for and collected from the Western Tiers Visitors Centre, at the end of the exhibition.



Spring by Sylvie Wylie, one of the many artworks at WOAD21.

TONY SMIBERT, Neil Hoffman, Helmut Schwabe, Hugh and Mary McLachlan were among the artists showing their work in the early days of the Tasmanian Craft Fair.

At the recent 40th Anniversary Craft Fair they came together in a joint exhibition, showing recent work in paintings, ceramics, sculpture and jewellery.

'It's a unique event in the southern hemisphere, in that it runs across the whole town of Deloraine and a small group of Rotarians make it happen,' Deloraine artist Tony Smibert said.

'We four exhibited in the early days of the craft fair and our careers grew from that time. I know the craft fair was an important part of my career development.'

The work of ceramicist Neil Hoffman has not been seen at the Tasmanian Craft Fair for 20 years.

'Forty years of craft fairs is a good innings. It's a commendable effort by Deloraine.'

'The craft fair has been significant for my practice.'

More photos from the 2021 Tasmanian Craft Fair will be in the December Gazette



Tony Smibert of Deloraine was one of the first artists to show their work in the early years of the Tasmanian Craft Fair.

Creators share early Craft Fair memories

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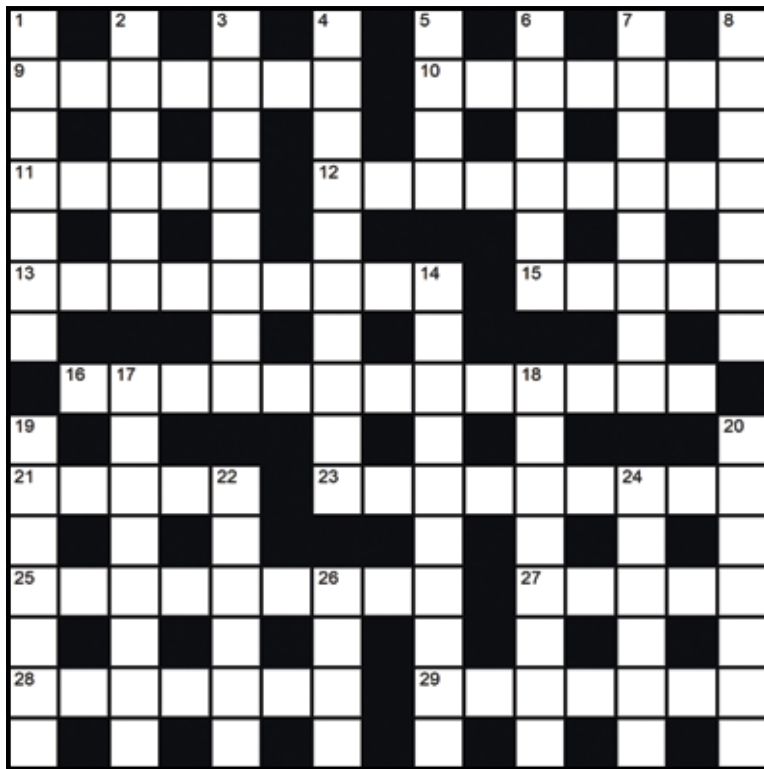
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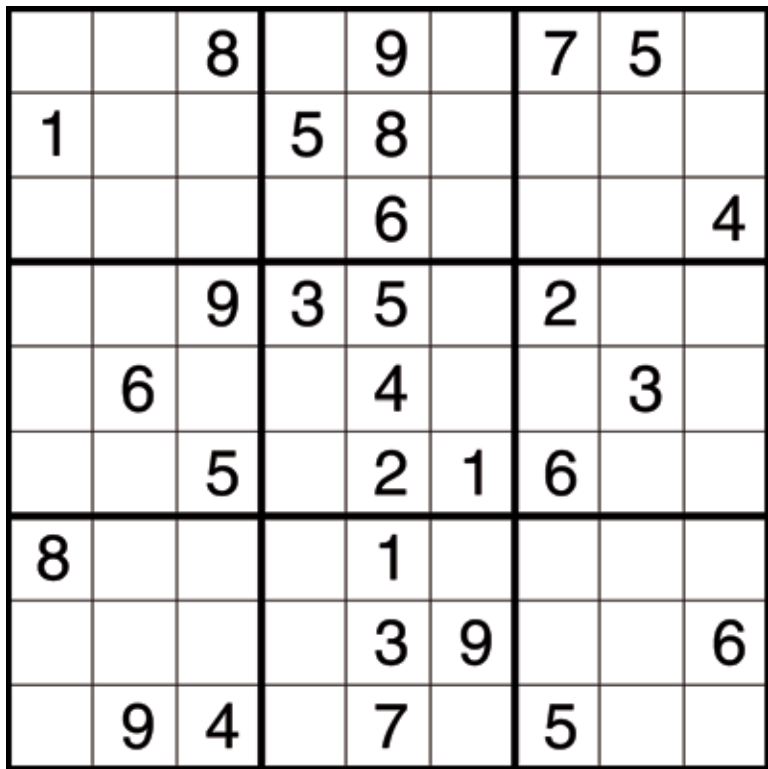
(03) 6362 3537
deloraine.oac
@education.tas.gov.au
21 West Parade
Deloraine

Crossword



- Across**
- 9 Small carnivorous marsupial of central Australia (7)
 - 10 Visceral (7)
 - 11 Have a little (3, 2)
 - 12 SUV-lite, perhaps? (9)
 - 13 Southern Tasmanian mountain (5, 4)
 - 15 Poe's 'Nevermore' bird (5)
 - 16 South Australian site once used for rabbit disease research (7, 6)
 - 21 Pet pests (5)
 - 23 Practised (9)
 - 25 String puller (9)
 - 27 Clean kind of energy (5)
 - 28 Where Steven Bradbury would have practised (3, 4)
 - 29 Awkward nag wins sun shades (7)
- Down**
- 1 Incomplete (7)
 - 2 Actor (6)
 - 3 Baby's state after leaving the font (8)
 - 4 Place for stained suits (3-7)
 - 5 Oil lamp fuel (4)
 - 6 Spoilsport (6)
 - 7 Criminals' transport (5, 3)
 - 8 Tell the truth (2, 5)
 - 14 'The Voice' judge and country singer/songwriter (5, 5)
 - 17 Generally recognized (8)
 - 18 Alison is prepared for illicit affairs (8)
 - 19 Intervenes (5, 2)
 - 20 Formal speech (7)
 - 22 Furious (6)
 - 24 Bone immobilizer (6)
 - 26 The Royal Queensland Show (4)

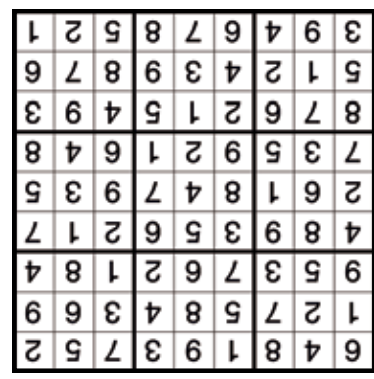
Sudoku



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

Crossword November 2021 solution Sudoku November 2021 solution



Events diary

Become a sponsor of the Meander Valley Gazette.
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Call or email us for details.

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

Date	Event or business	Details
Any time	Bonorong Wildlife Rescue	Call to report finding injured & orphaned birds & wildlife 0447 264 625
Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm	Community House	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd Call 6362 2678 for advice on a wide range of services & programs
Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm	Community Health Centre	Westbury Community Health Centre & Day Centre Call 6701 2150 for health & community services
Mondays, 11-11.30am	Story Time at Deloraine Library	Term 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 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
Oct 2020 to 30 June 2022, 9am-5pm	The Sewing Room Exhibition	Deloraine & Districts Folk Museum, 98-100 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Info 03 6362 5280, info@greatwesterntiers.net.au
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
Sun 7 November, 2pm-5pm	RAW JAM Deloraine	The Empire Hotel An acoustic jam session Info Facebook RAW JAM Deloraine or 0410132272
Sat 13 November, 9am-1pm	Liffey Valley Market	Old Liffey School Devonshire tea, sausage sizzle and more Free More info, call Quenton Higgs 63973670
Sat 13 & Sun 15 Nov, 10am-4pm	Entally Gardenfest 2021	Entally Estate, \$5.00 site entry, \$2.00 House entry per person Info 0418 389 868 or https://entallyestate.com.au/gardenfest
Sat 13 November, 7.30pm sharp	WTFS <i>The Painter and the Thief</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M documentary 2020 Norway 102m Info 0418 389 868
Tue 16 & Wed 17 Nov, 9.30am-4.30pm	Botany Art Class	Art as Mania, 20-22 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine Booking call 0488 137 315 or contact@artasmania.com.au
Sat 20 November, 9am-1pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drv & Caveside Rd Maree Martin 0419 631 210
Sat 20 November, 9am-1pm	Westbury Market	St Andrew's Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom, Westbury Rob Menzie 0417 931 619
Sat 20 November, 9am-4pm	Deloraine Show	Deloraine Showground, Marriott St, Westbury More info, secretary@deloraineshow.com.au or website, deloraineshow.com.au
Sat 4 December, 9am-1pm	Deloraine Market	Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine Bodhi McSweeney 0409 695 321
Sat 4 Dec, 1-5pm & Sun 5 Dec, 1-3pm	Dragon Boat Regatta	Deloraine riverbank, community teams and racing More info Angela McKay 0400 024 261 or angelamckay2021@outlook.com
Sat 11 December, 7.30pm sharp	WTFS <i>Minari</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine PG drama/semi-autobiographical 2020 US 115m Info 0418 389 868
Sun 31 December, 3 pm-midnight	Carrick Park Pacing Club harness racing	Featuring Cressy Transport Tas Country Championship, live music Info 0400 635 070

WESTBURY HEALTH Centre on Meander Valley Road has launched an exciting new partnership with Free2b Girls.

Free2b Girls is the brainchild of Tani Langoulant, a trained counsellor and social ecologist based on Tasmania's east coast.

Tani developed Free2beGirls to help open up spaces in regional communities where girls can experience freedom, choice and creativity within the boundaries of safety, tolerance and respect.

The Free2b Girls program has been steadily growing over the past few years, and there are now groups in St Helens, Beaconsfield, Campbell Town, Youngtown, and Longford.

The girls themselves create each group's activities with the support of women from the local community.

Westbury Health chairperson Dinah FitzGerald sees the far-reaching benefits that the program can offer girls.

'We are delighted to partner with Free2b Girls and offer Westbury Health Centre as a safe place for girls to explore their creativity and freedom.'

'The inclusion of Free2b Girls into Westbury Health's existing programs adds the final link in showcasing a whole-of-life approach to the centre. We have programs for seniors and a reading program for toddlers, but we were missing the pre-teen years. With further success, we will be able to expand the program to teenagers.'

Volunteers run the program, with local resident Stacey Tweedale as facilitator.

'We currently have one other volunteer assisting with the program, but to increase our number of participants, we require more volunteers. You don't need any special qualifications, but you must have a Working with Vulnerable People's card and be female. Training is provided to all volunteers,' said Stacey.

If you are interested in your daughter attending or becoming a volunteer, please contact Stacey Tweedale at free2b-westbury@gmail.com or by phoning 0413 453 567. For more information on Free2b Girls, please go to www.Free2bGirls.com.au.

Free2b Girls in Westbury



Above, from left: Charlie, Talia, Stacey Tweedale, Amba, Elena and Amanda at Free2beGirls in Westbury. The program runs on Monday afternoons from 3.30pm to 5.15pm, for girls between 10-12 years of age.

THRILLING STUNTS on mountain bikes are set to be the hit of the 2021 Deloraine Show, to be held on 20 November at the Deloraine Showground.

Show committee spokesperson, Sophie Folder, said stunt performer Borys Zagrocki of Extreme Bicycle Stunts is sure to be a crowd favourite.

'Moto Trial Championship rider Chris Bayles is back again to wow with his hair-raising motor bike stunts and Psychles Crazy Bikes will also be there after their 2019 success.'

Visitors can expect to see all the usual favourites, traditional exhibitions and competitions

in the wood chopping, sheep, beef, poultry, horses and home industries sections, with equestrian events in the main arena.

'This year we also have lots for children to enjoy,' Ms Folder said. 'PCYC's Project You(th) will be running Archery tag and games. The mechanical bull is back by popular demand and will be joined by a log saw ride, bouncy castles, zorb balls, pony rides and much more.'

Deloraine Anglican Lego Club will host Lego building competitions throughout the day, the Music Tree will be running interactive kids music shows and Chilli FM's

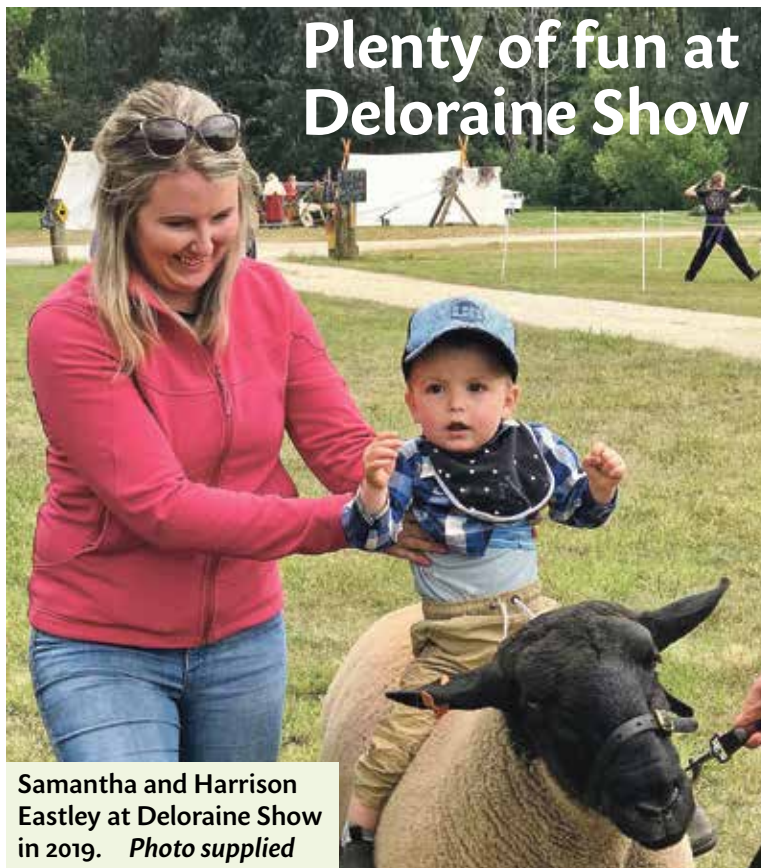
Children's Fun Tent will provide activities for little ones.

Entertainment promises to be lively with music from Jason Taylor, the Deloraine Junior band, dancing demonstrations from Dance Connections and Tech Steps Irish Dancing.

With loads of prizes to be won, patrons should check out the Deloraine Show Facebook page or deloraineshow.com.au.

The Deloraine Show is a safe event for families and everyone over 12 years should wear a mask, do the QR check-in and be aware of social distancing.

Entry: Adults \$12, children \$5, under five years free.



Plenty of fun at Deloraine Show

Samantha and Harrison Eastley at Deloraine Show in 2019. Photo supplied

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A NEW table tennis session established by the Deloraine Table Tennis League is attracting up to 30 players a week to the performing arts centre.

The league runs the 1.5 hour session on Wednesday afternoons, providing an opportunity for disabled people to join a mainstream sport.

League president Chris Gard said it's a session for people who like to play differently, a pilot project that could be a model for other municipalities.

'There's a high proportion of people with disabilities here but few of them are included in mainstream sporting clubs.

'We started the program in August. Most of the players are young people living with a disability and their carers, family or friends.

'Other people playing include primary and high school students, older League members and people just wanting to give it a go.

'This is the mix we were hoping for. Inclusive table tennis is all about using the sport to break down barriers and promote connection, belonging and self-development.'

One parent, Sarah Grima said the table tennis experience has changed life for her son Hayden.

Table tennis project makes for a richer life



Terrific at table tennis, Tyler Cook and Nick Rivett of Deloraine, Rosella Hickman of Chudleigh, Ajay Barnard and Myles Kirkman of Deloraine.

'Table tennis is the only activity that my son will happily leave the house for,' she said.

'It provides a safe place, free from judgement, where he can belong to a club, meet new people and learn new skills. We are so grateful for this group. It means the world to us to see him enjoy an activity where he is really included and valued.'

The state government and other community groups have jumped on board to help out.

Westbury Health has funded table tennis bats, Deloraine Lions are funding equipment and insurance, and the State Government's Ticket to Play scheme pays club membership for players under 18 if they are on a health care or pensioner concession card.

The Deloraine Table Tennis League is also working with Deloraine High School's trade training centre to get support for a two-year pilot project in

2022 for a cadet sport and recreation officer.

'The project will enrol a young disabled person into a school based apprenticeship to become a Certificate II sporting organisation officer', Mr Gard said.

'Their on the job training component will be to manage the inclusive table tennis program, alongside a support mentor also funded through the project.'

Table Tennis Australia and Special Olympics Australia have now included that pilot project in their federal government grant submission.

Players wanting to join in Wednesday afternoon's table tennis sessions should just turn up at the Deloraine Performing Arts Centre from 3.30pm-5pm.

Others can join the Deloraine Table Tennis League's regular social table tennis roster on Wednesdays from 7pm-9pm.

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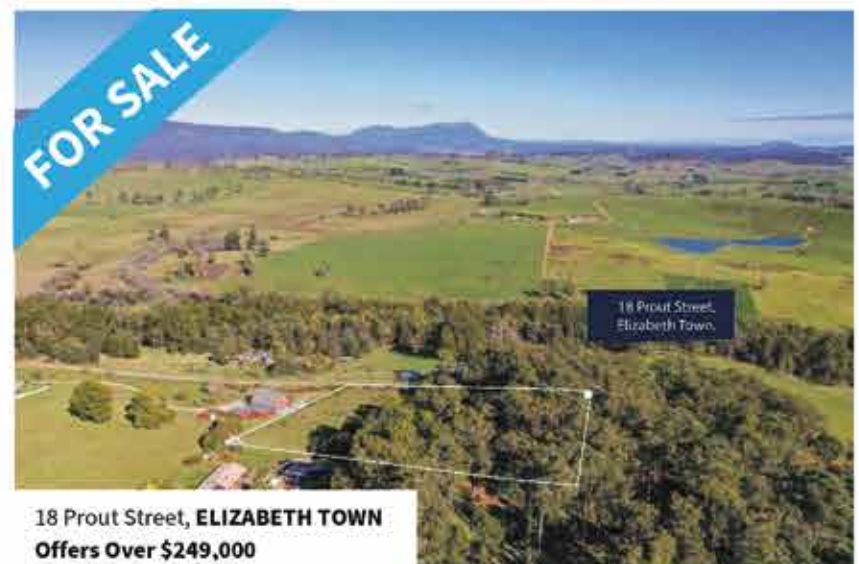
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