



**SPRING SHOWS**  
Westbury and Deloraine  
get the crowds going

▶ **PAGES 3 & 23**



**CRAFTY DEVILS!**  
Tasmanian artists star  
at the fair this year.

▶ **PAGES 10 & 11**



**CHRISTMAS PUD**  
For those of us who are  
running out of time!

▶ **PAGE 17**

# Meander Valley Gazette

Free every month

December 2021

Meander Valley Gazette *Your independent community paper*

A very Merry Christmas to everyone in the Meander Valley from all of us at the Gazette, and a Happy New Year in 2022



Rosie Chugg and Clover, dressed in ribbons and flowers for the Fancy Dress Parade at Westbury Show, held in November. *Photo supplied*

more Westbury & Deloraine Show photos can be found on pages 3 & 23

# Springtime steam, sounds and sights





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From top, clockwise: Pearn's Steam Up, held on the same November long weekend as the Craft Fair, always draws the mechanically minded, whatever the weather decides to do.

On the same long weekend, Deloraine's Little Laneway Festival, next to The Empire Hotel, included the original music of the Ertler Girls, sisters Liz and Rose on bass, keyboard, electric guitar and ukelele.

At the Tasmanian Craft Fair, St Patrick's College Big Band entertained Craft Fair visitors taking a break for refreshments.

# Westbury on show

From top left, clockwise: UKE 3A Strummers and Drummers rock out some Christmas carols at Westbury Market on 20 November.

At Westbury Show, Jenna Lupo of the Tasmanian Moto Trials Club performs for the spectators.

Rebecca Woodiwiss of Royston Shorthorns, takes to the arena with her charge, Best Interbreed Junior Bull, Royston Razzle Dazzle.



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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

FOR MY last letter, I wanted to say thank you to the entire Meander Valley community and all the many people and organisations that I have come to know, during my time as managing editor of the Gazette.

Thank you to all the writers, photographers, event coordinators and community organisations who have kept the paper supplied with stories and photos about life in the valley.

Thank you to our advertisers and sponsors, past and present, who have provided the means to produce the paper for almost eight years.

The first proper edition of the Meander Valley Gazette was published at the start of 2014.

My association with the Gazette began in 2016, sub editing and creating press ads, before I was appointed managing editor at the start of 2019.

2021 is the eighth year that the Gazette has been in publication and I am deeply grateful I will not be around to help with the 10th anniversary edition.

A great many other people have come and gone at the Gazette over the past eight years and no doubt more will emerge to carry on the work.

To all of the volunteers and staff that have helped to keep the Gazette going, especially through difficult times, thank you all so very much for your commitment.

In particular, I would like to thank Sharon Webb, whose dedication and hard work have made my tenure as managing editor a lot easier.

And a huge thanks to Abbey McNamara whose good company and practical outlook has been invaluable as we wrestled with the invoicing and distribution!

And to the wonderful committee members of Meander Valley Connect, I will always be grateful for your assistance and empathy, despite the bucket loads of trouble that have come our way.

Good luck for the future.

I will miss you all.

Liz Douglass



EST.  
2013

# Meander Valley Gazette

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

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

### Editorial enquiries

Contributions welcome!

Email: editor@meandervalleygazette.com

Phone: 6286 8212 (Please leave a message – it will send an email.) For editorial, the closing date for the January 2022 edition is 24 December..

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Email: general@meandervalleygazette.com

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### Website and digital editions

Every month, the stories from the latest edition of the Gazette are posted on our website: www.meandervalleygazette.org.

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

All editions of the Gazette are available to be downloaded as PDFs from the website 'shop' free of charge.

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

### Please note

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## Letters to the Editor

### A message from Rebecca White MP, Labor Member for Lyons

What a year it has been for all Tasmanians. Together we have gone through the ups and downs of COVID-19, a snap lockdown in the south and the hope of seeing family come together again at Christmas once borders open.

I would like to thank Tasmanians for everything they have done to keep our state going through these challenges, supporting local businesses, looking out for others in the community and abiding by the rules outlined by public health.

Our vaccination rate continues to rise and we look forward to welcoming people from across the country through Christmas and the New Year. I know many of our amazing businesses and tourist destinations are looking forward

to lots of local and interstate visitors.

This year I have travelled around the electorate of Lyons, sometimes with my young son Hudson in tow. Thank you to everyone who made me feel so welcome.

I hope to make it to as many end of year school assemblies as possible if COVID restrictions allow and I look forward to meeting up with staff, parents and students.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in our community a safe and happy Christmas and New Year with your family and friends.

I'm looking forward to spending some time with my family over this break.

Please keep in touch with me throughout 2022. I can be contacted on 03 6212 2222 or by email rebecca.white@parliament.tas.gov.au.

Rebecca White MP

SINCE COVID arrived, they have been hammering us to 'buy local' and 'support small businesses'. I would if I could, but I can't. Deloraine Craft Fair/long weekend. Local butcher closed. Local restaurant/takeaway closed. It shows they don't need the tourism dollar or the local clientele. So keep the borders closed and keep Tasmania COVID-free for as long as we can. We're actually attracting more doctors and nurses that way, which is exactly what Tasmania's failing health system needs.

AR Trounson, Needles

A QUARRY at Reedy Marsh, on top of the waterways. When it floods it will send the settlings down the unknown creek to Dungiven Creek and ruin the waterways through the farms for miles.

Resident of Reedy Marsh (name supplied)

A front door in Westbury is decorated for Diwali.

Diwali is the festival of lights, celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists.

Diwali symbolises the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

The festival usually lasts five days and is celebrated between mid-October and mid-November.

In preparation for Diwali, people clean and decorate their home and work places with oil lamps, candles and decorative patterns known as rangoli.

Placed at the entrance to a home, rangoli welcome the goddess Lakshmi into the home and bring good luck to the household.

Fireworks and family feasts are also part of this popular festival that is celebrated around the world.

## Meander Valley Gazette managing editor

Meander Valley Connect is looking for someone to take on some or all of the duties of this position:

- finding and encouraging others to contribute through writing, editing and/or taking photos
- maintaining editorial standards – writing stories and editing content, supervising sub editing and proofreading
- liaising with administration and production
- working with MVC Inc. to establish policies and develop relationships within the community
- ensuring that the Gazette continues to provide quality public interest journalism for the Meander Valley community.

This is a part time position only, with salary to be negotiated.

A volunteer commitment would be welcomed.

Call 6286 8212 or email to mvolinc@gmail.com.

**Patsy Crawford scribbling away**

THERE'S NOTHING like a spider story to set the pulse racing and the brow breaking out in a cold sweat.

I mention this because summer is upon us and along with the raspberries, the cold beers and the badly barbecued sausages we can expect the usual contingent of bloody big huntsmen to come scuttling across our walls and ceilings.

What purpose they serve I refuse to acknowledge, even when spidery people disdainfully inform me they keep

the flies in line and fit neatly into the vast jigsaw puzzle of nature.

I'm having none of that talk, thank you very much. In my book, places where spiders may be permitted to show their face are limited to the jungle, to be poked and prodded at by David Attenborough; the zoo, in a glass case secure enough to withstand having a hand grenade thrown at it; and in Donald Trump's underpants.

We're a funny lot, us spider worriers. Huntsman in particular seem to strike in us the sort of terror you'd associate with having Freddy Krueger knock on our front door. It was ever thus. Even in childhood, in the days when we called

them triantelopes, huntsmen put the fear of god into us. Nothing has changed. To illustrate the point, I give you two women travelling.

So, they're heading home at night from Hobart towards Broadmarsh when a mega-triantelope rips up the passenger door and across the dashboard. This was a hum-dinger of a spider. Naturally the women did what any normal woman would do under the circumstances. They started screaming their heads off.

Possibly invigorated by this reaction, the spider hovered behind the dashboard waving its legs in the air. More screaming ensued, now accompanied by erratic driving. Keeping a

terrified eye on the dash the women sped the car into an IGA store, where one leapt out to buy insect spray while the other armed herself with weaponry, i.e. a shoe.

Repellent to hand the two journeyed pluckily on, not before spraying enough insecticide down the dash to stun an ox and with the passenger now bringing her mobile phone into play as a torch. They're still screaming. The driving is still wobbly. The insecticide fumes are making them feel faint.

Anyone passing the car on the road would have seen one woman hunched tensely over the steering wheel, another woman hunched forward training her phone on the

dashboard,. Faint screams may be heard.

Through the night they went, women and spider, joined in terror. Finally, they got home. The women leapt from the car, leaving behind a huntsman that could not possibly have withstood all those fumes, plus the shrivelling bodies of every insect in the car. Men from the house were despatched to deal with the aftermath. The women drank too much Chardonnay.

It's just another spider anecdote but all you dear readers who are fellow arachnophobe travellers will be as one with it. Christmas is night.

May peace be with you and may triantelopes never scurry across your dashboard.

**Extractas expands its medicinal cannabis capabilities for global markets**



Tasmanian MPs Guy Barnett and Michael Ferguson at the opening of the new medicinal cannabis facility at Westbury in 2020. Archive photo by Mike Moores

EXTRACTAS BIOSCIENCE, the Tasmanian pharmaceutical company originally established in Westbury as Tasmanian Alkaloids, has signed a three year partnership deal with Victorian based manufacturing company Ensign Laboratories.

As part of a reciprocal partnership, Extractas will substantially increase its medicinal cannabis formulation capacities and be a preferred supplier of medicinal cannabis APIs (active pharmaceutical ingredients) to Ensign.

Extractas has already established a reputation for reliability and quality over more than four decades.

In 2019, Extractas constructed a purpose-built, fully dedicated medicinal cannabis facility at Westbury and supplies global customers with materials for essential medicines.

Dr Ross Murdoch, Extractas CEO said, 'With the signing of this agreement, our capacity for manufacture of finished products under GMP (good manufacturing practice) con-

ditions exceeds 30,000 bottles per week. In combination with our extraction capacity of 90 tonnes of biomass/annum we believe that this makes us the GMP medicinal cannabis manufacturer of choice with one of the largest production capabilities in the Southern Hemisphere.

'This is extremely positive news for the future of the industry in Tasmania and gives security to our existing staff as well as providing new employment opportunities into the future.'

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# Australia's prison rates are up but crime is down. What's going on?

**Rick Sarre**

*Rick Sarre is Emeritus Professor of Law and Criminal Justice, University of South Australia, President of the SA Council for Civil Liberties and a South Australian patron of the Justice Reform Initiative*

IMPRISONMENT RATES in Australia are currently the highest they have been in a century, despite a significant fall in crime, and the Productivity Commission is stepping in to determine why.

The commission is due to release research around imprisonment rates in coming weeks, suggesting this key component of the criminal justice system is not providing value for money.

It also recognises the efficiency of our prisons is important. Apart from the expense involved, they are supposed to provide justice and keep our community safe. And yet for a substantial part of the prison population, there is a 'prison-crime-prison' revolving door.

Let's look at the figures.

## It's not a crime wave

The rate of offending in Australia fell by 18 per cent in the decade to 2020. Over the same period, the imprisonment rate rose by 25 per cent. There are now more than 40,000

Australians in prison. Put simply, crime is down, but more and more people are being incarcerated.

As commissioner Stephen King explains, the rise in incarceration rates over the past 20 years had come principally as a result of 'tough on crime' government policies. This has cost taxpayers about \$13.5 billion more than if the imprisonment rate had remained steady.

He notes Australia is 'out of line' with other developed countries in this respect.

*[United Nations] data shows the growth in our imprisonment rates since 2003 was third highest in the OECD, exceeded only by Turkey and Colombia [...] These numbers wrongly suggest some sort of Australian 'crime wave.'* \*

## So why is crime falling?

One could be forgiven for assuming crime is falling now precisely because more people are being incarcerated. Is there perhaps a causal link?

There are two clear reasons why this is not the case:

1 There are many other reasons why crime rates can fall. Those studying the long term drop in crime in western democracies since the mid-1990s say these include, economic prosperity, good policing strategies, demo-

graphics (in 1995, the last of the baby boomers turned 35, the age at which criminality drops away significantly), welfare support, and cheaper, better security devices.

2 There is no consistent relationship between crime rates and imprisonment rates. Indeed, there have been crime drops in jurisdictions where the rate of imprisonment has remained the same or declined.

Let's look more closely at this.

## The Queensland example

Queensland provides a good case study. From 2003 to 2012, the state's imprisonment rate fell at the same time as violent and property crime rates were in decline.

Other countries, such as Finland, enjoy a very low crime rate and a very low imprisonment rate at the same time.

Conversely, until the mid-1990s, the United States had a very high crime rate and continues to have a very high imprisonment rate. But when New York, New Jersey and California reduced their prison populations by some 25% in recent years, their crime rates generally declined at a faster pace than the national average.

True, longer sentences may reduce the rates of some crimes simply by shutting perpetrators out of the crime market for a while. But this can be subject to diminishing returns. That is, money spent on extra prison beds will eventually exceed any savings that may have been made by having less crime.

## Jail is not the only option

The Productivity Commission says the question facing policymakers now is whether our 'current prison policy is providing the best value outcomes for Australia'. If it is not, what are the alternatives?

The commission notes there are several other options for low-risk offenders, such as home detention, especially if they are linked to mental health and drug and alcohol services.

There is also the argument put forward by theorists such as criminologist Elliott Currie that a secure community is built on equality of opportunity and the development of strong social capital, which simply means creating more resilient and more vibrant communities that leave no one behind. This would include building and embedding culturally-safe programs that are led by First Nations communities.

Just imagine what could have been achieved if \$13.5 billion had been spent on these initiatives thereby limiting the chances that people will turn to crime, or continue to offend, rather than on custodial services.

## Spending justice dollars differently

In summary, prison sentences, necessary as some may be, are a blunt (and largely counter-productive) instrument in the fight against crime.

It would be far better if we applied our minds to finding more efficient ways to spend our criminal justice dollars. As criminal justice scholar Bronwyn Naylor has written, imprisonment is a political choice. It's worth repeating her call to invest 'much more in schools, families and communities, and much less in prisons'. Wise words indeed.

*This article was published on <https://theconversation.com>, 22 October 2021. Copyright © 2010–2021, The Conversation Media Group Ltd*

*\* 18.10.2021, article by Stephen King, Australian Government Productivity Commissioner, 'Australia has fewer criminal offenders but more people in prisons'*



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**KEEP ON TOP OF COVID** Tasmanian Government



Sharon Foley, Miss Westbury 1971, helped raise funds for a community sports centre. Photo supplied

## A community of champions

IN 1971 the current sporting facilities at Westbury for basketball and badminton were not able to cope with the constant demand.

Council acknowledged this, and the pioneering Mehegan family came to the rescue, providing a large parcel of land in Franklin Street.

Sporting clubs and the general community were then challenged to raise adequate funding to build the new community sports centre.

Believe it or not, the tight knit community of Bracknell responded and nominated local lass Trudi Ross to represent them in the Miss Westbury Quest. Not to be outdone, the Badminton Club nominated Helen Lynch for the West Westbury area. Then a very proud Irish mother goaded daughter Sharon Foley to participate in this worthy cause.

No time for lamingtons, but a host of fundraising events commenced in earnest with fashion parades, pigeon races, wood chopping, darts and eightball competitions, and the list goes on.

Council cleared the block, and numerous local contractors supplied goods and labour free of charge. During the mid seventies the structure was completed with state and Commonwealth grants.

It's an old saying, 'A champion team will always defeat a team of champions'.

# A new memorial for remembrance in Carrick



On Thursday 25 November the Carrick community gathered to celebrate the completion of Carrick's new cenotaph.

Carrick Community Committee was assisted throughout the project by Meander Valley Council, with help from local businesses, individuals and other community organisations.

The memorial was completed earlier this year with simple landscaping and a simple wall with new plaques. Further aid came from Saluting the Service and Teddy Sheean Memorial grants, local Lions Clubs, RSL Tasmania and others.

Jen Butler MP  
 Your Local Member for Lyons  
 7A Wellington Street Longford  
 03 63242070  
 Labor Tasmanian  
 jen.butler@parliament.tas.gov.au

**Learn-to-Swim & Water Safety 2022**  
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On Monday 25th October, work commenced on installing 91.41kW of solar at our Grenoch Home.

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We are exceptionally fortunate this has been fully funded through a successful Business Improvement Fund grant we applied for from the Australian Government Department of Health.

It is anticipated we will save at least 10% on our current power bills. These savings will be reinvested back into direct care hours for our residents. The Board and Management are committed to ensuring all cost savings that we continue working on are reinvested back into direct care for our residents.

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[coronavirus.tas.gov.au/checkintas](https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/checkintas)





JAK JOINED Di and Rob Robinson's family 14 years ago, after he was found alone and living on road kill in the Reedy Marsh Sawmill area. Dodging heavy traffic for about eight months, local residents said he was too aloof to trust efforts to befriend him.

When Rob Robinson saw him, he shared meat from his lunch for two days to be able to pick him up and bring him home to Di and their family of two German Shepherds, two cats and two miniature horses!

The Robinsons were able to accommodate Jak at short notice, by starting him off with a crate on that first night, to get him acquainted with everyone and gain his trust.

Jak required a full vet check immediately. Two ticks were safely removed and his age was estimated to be 3-4 years old.

Despite all their efforts to trace where Jak came from, no records were ever found for Jak Australia wide.

Unsuccessful in finding his owner or a suitable adoption family, Jak had already settled into the Robinson household with two adopted Shepherds who really liked him. He was also shown very quickly by Jarbu and Mollii 'just how cats work'!

Jak quickly became the latest forever family member. He was very happy with his new pack, his tail wagging all day and a constant, very visible smile on his face.

Jak took to the daily routine of walks around Westbury, visits to the Town Common and to the miniature horses.

More recently, a little red rescue hen joined the family, and would lay down next to Jak when he was having a nap in the garden.

Jak is Di Robinson's constant shadow. 'Jak is a very social little animal with all people and dogs that he meets. He loves to go in a trolley at Bunnings, choose a treat on visits to Launceston pet stores and enjoy Tamar River and Meander River walks. He loves all bush walks and beach combing and has many friends in Westbury and beyond.



# Tassie Jak forever

Jak is a very lucky little dog who turns 19 on January 13 2022, the anniversary of the day he found his forever home 14 years ago, with the Robinson family in Westbury.

Below: 'Tassie Jak', the day lily named for Jak by Sue Gebicki of Birralee. Jak's memory can now live on in the gardens, as well as the hearts of family and friends.

In Autumn this year, Di and Jak visited Sue Gebicki at her Birralee nursery to choose a celebration plant for Jak's 18th birthday, last January.

With a huge range of perennial plants to choose from, Di chose a day lily in Jak's gold coat colours and Sue told her it was a new hybrid she had bred, yet to be named or registered.

Sue offered to register the day lily in Jak's honour as 'Tassie Jak'.

'We were very humbled by Sue's honour to Jak for his 18th birthday. Jak will now be immortal through this beautiful gesture,' said Di.

'Sadly there are many dogs just like Jak who need to be rescued and loved ... I encourage everyone to consider an instant rescue situation'

'Jak's journey has just been amazing. He's gone from a very scared little dog, stressed by storms, fireworks or if he couldn't see us, who wanted to chase wildlife for his food!

'Jak is now transformed into a very confident little dog, compatible with all animals, loving all people and enjoying a full and happy life.

'We've enjoyed all our adventures together in this almost 15 year journey. All these memories are so valuable.'

'We've also had lots of visits to Sue's Birralee nursery and strongly recommend a visit to everyone.'

Sue Gebicki's Birralee nursery and garden is 14km from Westbury. Well worth the journey, as regular visitor Jak will confirm.



## Day lily and garden lovers!

Sue Gebicki's garden and nursery are now open at 369 Priestleys Lane, Birralee, 10am to 4pm, Thursday and Friday until the end of April 2022. Other times by appointment. For more information go to [www.facebook.com/bscdaylilies](http://www.facebook.com/bscdaylilies) or email [bscdaylilies@gmail.com](mailto:bscdaylilies@gmail.com).



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Authorised by PCoulson, Liberal Party of Australia, 185 Invermay Road, Invermay TAS 7246



# Tasmanian art and craft on show



The Craft Fair attracts creative people from all over Tasmania and beyond. But some artists ply their trade year round in Deloraine. Leanne Ames and Jim Deghand are both longterm residents at Deloraine Creative Studios, where they show their skills 12 months of the year. Leanne weaves, sews and contact dyes fabric and paper, creating wall hangings, scarves and other items. Jim has spent a lifetime mastering the arts of plant dyeing, spinning and weaving to create his much sought after rugs.

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*Greetings ISLAND*

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2pm on Sunday 12 December at the Little Theatre  
For information and to book, head to [artscreenevents.com.au](http://artscreenevents.com.au)

# Craft Fair 2021 music and makers



From top left, clockwise: Joanne Mitchelson, musician and artist of Westbury, entertained Craft Fair visitors with her harp playing, while musician husband Hamish attended to their stall.

A marvellous array of finely made baskets was on display from the Basket Makers of Tasmania, with Jilly Spencer of Liffey demonstrating her skills.

Lois and Mary from Days for Girls showed off the patchwork crafts that have been made from fabric offcuts from the production of Days for Girls sanitary items. With nothing going to waste, the patchwork sales will all go to the same good cause.



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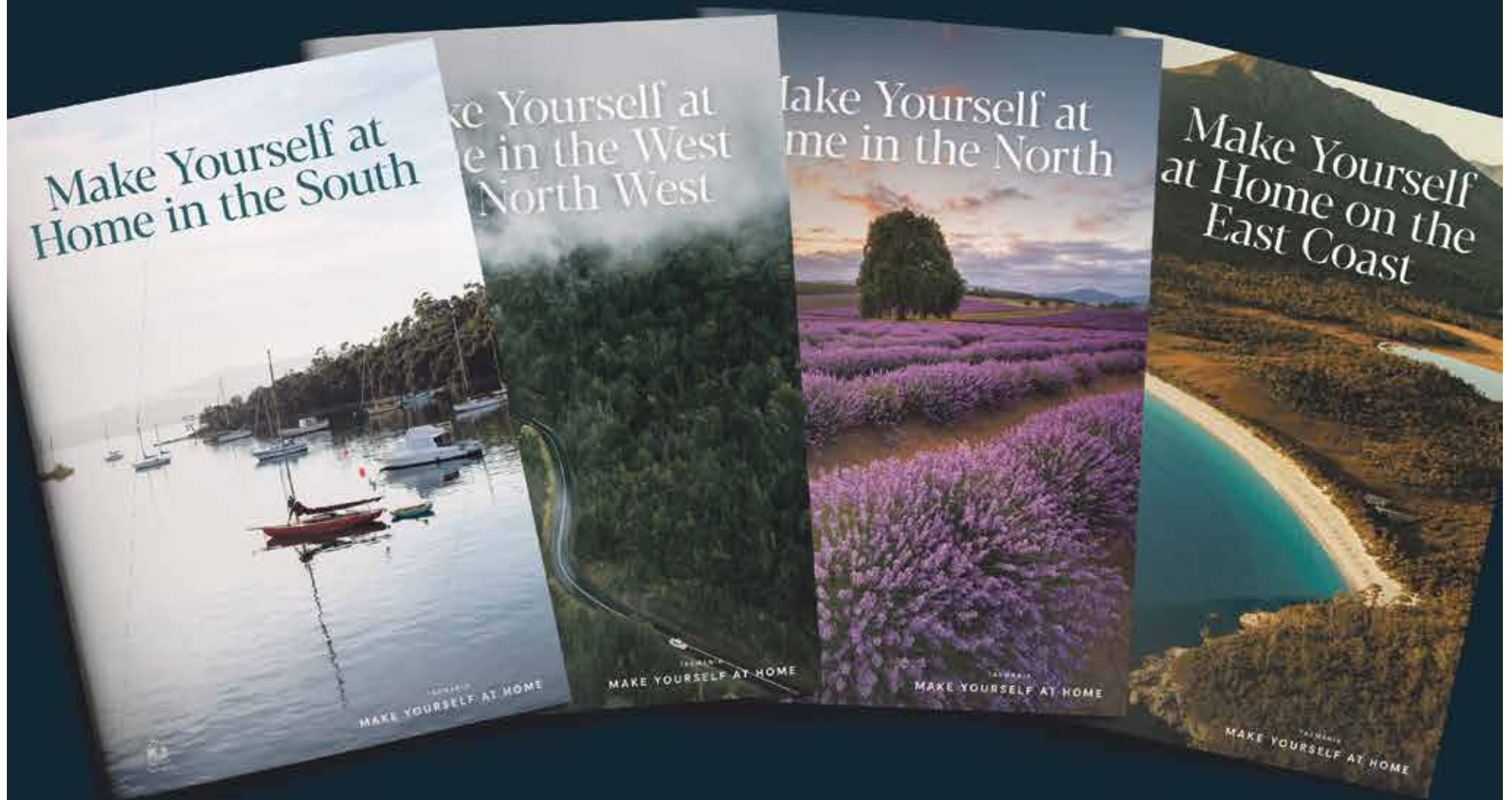
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# Hollow-bearing eucalypts



WHETHER IN forests, woodlands or as scattered or isolated trees on cleared land, stately old gum trees characterise the Australian landscape.

Large old eucalypts are not only aesthetically pleasing, they are crucial for the survival of many of our native animals that use hollows for shelter, feeding, nesting, rearing young, regulating temperature and as a source of water.

When Europeans first arrived in Tasmania, they selected the best quality stands of timber they could find to build houses for early settlers, both here in Tasmania and in the growing cities on the Australian mainland.

Since then, numerous large old trees have been used for housing, fencing and firewood, and more recently, a more rapacious approach to timber harvesting has seen wide scale clearing and 'conversion' of native forests to pines and non-native eucalypts.

Plantations are harvested before trees reach maturity and trees with hollows are now scarce in many areas. Conserving hollow-dependent fauna is an increasingly important conservation issue.

The shortage of hollows is exacerbated by a number of factors.

Non-native hollow users such as feral bees and starlings, the introduced laughing kookaburra, and the (probably) self-introduced little corella, galah, rainbow lorikeet and Australian wood duck have been favoured by land management practices and in many areas their large populations

mean that there are few, if any, hollows left for native species.

For example, the Australian wood duck, a grazing goose-like bird, was rare in Tasmania before the 1970s. More farm dams adjacent to rich pasture has seen an increase in these cavity-nesting ducks.

Since British settlement, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos have also increased because wildlife parks, cattle feed lots and grain silos provide them with a ready source of grain and water which means they can breed more often.

One important factor influencing the formation of cavities is the presence, or absence, of woodpeckers.

These efficient excavators of tree hollows occur on every continent except Antarctica and Australia. They have special shock absorbers in their heads designed to withstand the impact of drilling into tree trunks with their chisel-like bills. They can create a hollow in a matter of days or weeks. In contrast, hollows in Australia take much longer to form.

The process of hollow formation in Australia often begins with fungal decay in the heartwood of old trees, especially those already damaged by wind

or fire. The heartwood is further excavated by the activities of vertebrates and invertebrates such as white ants (termites).

It takes 80 to 100 years to form hollows for small species, such as striated pardalotes, pygmy possums and bats.

It takes a further 100 or more years to form cavities large enough for sulphur crested cockatoos, yellow-tailed black cockatoos, green rosellas, eastern rosellas and masked owls.

It is essential to preserve existing old-growth trees and paddock trees. It will take many centuries before today's revegetation creates a new home for a masked owl.

*Sarah Lloyd OAM*

**From top, clockwise: A small bird such as the striated pardalote only needs a small hollow to nest in.**

**The yellow-tailed black cockatoo needs a much larger cavity to make a home.**

**It can take 80 to 100 years to form a tree hollow for smaller species of birds and animals.**

**The Australian wood duck is not native to Tasmania, a cavity-nesting species whose population has increased since the 1970s.**



Season's greetings  
to all our  
members  
& friends!

**from WESTBURY REGION AGAINST THE PRISON**

Thank you for your ongoing support in the battle against the proposed maximum security prison on the nature conservation reserve near Westbury.

This site is the most senseless place to put a prison. It will be prohibitively expensive because it is sloped, on dolerite, and with no nearby services. It will add danger to an already treacherous road. It will need to get Federal Government approval because the Feds bought it, and it's chock full of threatened species.

We will fight this proposal until the end. To add your voice, keep writing to Minister Sussan Ley in the lead up to the Federal election. She could stop this proposal with the stroke of a pen, so let her know this matters to you!

For now, we wish you a wonderful festive season, with your loved ones.  
And thank you once again!

For further information please go to our website at [www.westburyregionagainstthepison.org](http://www.westburyregionagainstthepison.org)  
or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/WRAPTas/](https://www.facebook.com/WRAPTas/)

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## Heritage haven for Halls Hut



IN THE Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, at Lake Malbena in the Walls of Jerusalem, stands Halls Hut.

Halls Hut was constructed in 1955–56 on an island in the lake by Launceston lawyer and passionate bushwalker Reg Hall.

Reg Hall first entered the Walls of Jerusalem in 1928 and, with no other official names to any of the natural features, applied many of the biblical names still in use today.

In November 2021, Halls Hut became a permanent entry in the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

In the last few years Halls Hut and the wilderness sur-

rounding it have become part of the conservation battle over the state government's wilderness privatisation agenda.

There is widespread public interest in the proposed commercial ecotourism activities on the island and the future of Halls Hut itself.

The Greens' Cassy O'Connor has welcomed the permanent entry, but believes the historic hut and island deserve the further protection of the TWWHA Management Plan.

'Just like the TWWHA it is part of, Reg Hall's hut, Halls Island and Lake Malbena all belong to the Tasmanian people.'

## At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society

Clare Andersen

Welcome to our 2022 program with *Knives Out*, a modern pastiche, in a celebratory visual style, of the Agatha Christie genre.

This season, our Film Selection Committee has sourced offerings from the UK, Czech Republic, Argentina, USA/China, ranging from mystery to comedy, drama to music documentary, or a combination of all.

The WTFS Committee begins the year with Deb resuming as President, Lyn on Projection/Technical, Annette as Treasurer, all ably supported by John, Allan, Jo and Clare.

To ensure a fresh outlook and more eyes to research, the Film Selection Committee is joined by Denise and Linda.

The WTFS looks forward to continuing to take members on the journey of cinema. Enjoy your monthly viewing at Deloraine's Little Theatre.



January 8 **KNIVES OUT**

2019 PG-13, Comedy/mystery/thriller, US, 130m, Director Rian Johnson

The circumstances surrounding the death of crime novelist Harlan Thrombey are mysterious.

The plot thickens when the will is read and the heir to Harlan's vast fortune is revealed. One thing that renowned Detective Benoit Blanc knows for sure, everyone in the wildly dysfunctional Thrombey family is a suspect.

Now, Blanc must sift through a web of lies and red herrings to uncover the truth.

'*Knives Out* has a sense of glee that's infectious. It's pleasurable and occasionally silly but it's consistently fun. And that's a real accomplishment.'

Film Companion 12/2019

Critics 97%/Audience 92%  
Rotten Tomatoes

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

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Even the fanciest chooks can get worms. A silver laced and a gold laced Wyandotte take a stroll. *Photo supplied*



# Worms!

NOW IS a great time of year to worm your chooks.

There are a few different methods that you can choose from to worm them. It all depends on what works best for you.

There is a tablet that you can buy online that is effective. Another option you can try is a liquid wormer that goes into the chooks' water bowl.

From experience, chickens often don't drink the water as they don't like the smell.

With both these methods, you will need to stop collecting the eggs and eating any meat birds for a set amount of time because they will not be safe for consumption. The time may vary with the different brands of wormers.

There is also an organic worming mash that I have found effective to help get rid of worms. This recipe is by Paul Healy.

For 20 pullets, heat 2 litres of whole milk to which you will add 2 whole cloves of garlic that have been crushed.

Then add six hot sweet chillies that have been finely chopped, and one tablespoon each of ground paprika and turmeric.

You will need to warm this mixture up to a serving heat then let it stand overnight.

Warm the mixture again in the morning and mix in 2 kilos of laying mash.

If your birds are really infected with worms, you can add two whole grated carrots per 1 kilo of mash to the mixture. You will then feed this out to the chickens for their morning meal instead of their normal food.

It is important that you clean out the chook pen three days after you worm your chickens.

This will help reduce the chance of the worms reinfesting your chickens. The clean out should include all bedding, even the bedding that is in the nest boxes. You can add derris dust to the nest boxes to help with lice at the same time.

A great little tip that can help all year round is to put garlic in the chooks' water bowl. The chooks may try to eat the garlic so you can put it in a glass jar with holes in the lid.

# Entally in full bloom



Despite the uncertain weather, Entally Gardenfest put on a wonderful Spring display to accompany the displays of art, craft and garden delights in the grounds of Entally House this month. Music, Devonshire teas and the historic surroundings brought out the crowds, well prepared for rain or sunshine. *Photo supplied*

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Tasmanian **Labor**

# Lovely, lovely Ludwig van



TSO Livestream and Arts Deloraine have brought some wonderful concerts to Deloraine in 2021. Photo supplied

DIT DIT dit dah! Those famous first four notes of Beethoven's 5th Symphony figured in the final TSO Livestream Concert of the year.

This concert was brought to the Meander Valley by Arts Deloraine in conjunction with TSO, livestreamed at the Little Theatre on 27 of November.

It was the culmination of a very popular concert series featuring Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, Mussorgski's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No 3, Mozart's *Serenade* and Barber's *Adagio*.

And of course, there was Beethoven's First Symphony,

Third Symphony (*Eroica*) and 4th Symphony and his Fifth Symphony. What a season!

Each concert was preceded by commentary and discussion with the conductor and other presenters.

The enthusiastic audience members, including young music students, were able to sit back in their comfortable seats, seeing close ups of the musicians and listening to the beautiful music waft over them.

Next year it is hoped to continue Arts Deloraine's successful relationship with TSO to bring more sublime music to the Meander Valley.

# Christmas carols by the river



Deloraine's Carols by the river is a much anticipated Christmas event every year. Archive photo

THERE WILL be a few surprises at this year's Carols by the River, hosted by the Combined Churches of Deloraine.

A group of singers and dancers from Samoa will be taking part, in traditional costumes. Another group from Timor Leste, will also be sharing some of their musical culture. These two groups, now a part of our local community, are renowned for their amazing, energetic singing and dancing and will be a highlight of the celebration.

The Meander Men will get things under way in their usual exuberant style and then there'll be entertainment from Shakale Mamas, the Wickham Girls, Josh Skeat, a children's choir and a combined choir. Josh will be the master of ceremonies and Margot Malek will tell a story!

And, perhaps the most enjoyable part of all, community carol singing when everybody gets their chance to join in with those well known and much

loved songs such as *O Come all ye Faithful*, *Silent Night* and *Joy to the World*.

The event gets under way on Saturday 18 December, beside the rotunda on the riverbank in Deloraine.

Starting at 6pm with a sausage sizzle, music will start at 7pm. The event is the Combined Churches' Christmas gift to the community so everything will be free of charge.

So, bring along your picnic, your chairs or rug and your voices and prepare to enjoy yourselves.

Carols by the River will be a Covid-safe, alcohol-free family event.



# Specialising in the seventies

Debby Kemsley – with the radio station for a short time and a good time!

## The voices of MVFM

Debby Kemsley is a program assistant at Meander Valley Community Radio (MVFM).

She is a volunteer with the station for 15 hours per week, using her considerable technological skills. Some of this time she works at the station in Deloraine and some of it she works from home.

The 'at station' work includes uploading most of the coming week's programs presented by her colleagues. The 'from home' work includes the preparation of her own programs.

Debby says that working with MVFM has built up her confidence, her creativity and skills, and she loves it.

Her program 'Stuck in the Seventies' will be broadcast as specials throughout next year.

She enjoys collecting the songs which she remembers fondly from her teenage years. They include songs performed by Joe Cocker, Skyhooks and Eric Clapton. And she is a wild fan of ABBA!

Debby was born in Western Australia and, in due course, was a property manager in Karratha. Then she moved to Tasmania and sold home-made ice cream at markets!

She has a background in theatre, directing and producing. She says she just loves bossing everyone around.

Her other great source of enjoyment is square dancing. She describes it as 'exhilarating and social'.

Unfortunately for the radio station and its audience, Debby will be leaving the station at the end of 2021 as she will be training for competence as an asbestos assessor!

Is there no end to this woman's talents?

# 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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For more information about **NURSE ADVISORY and HEALTH PROMOTION CLINIC** please call:

- Sheffield Medical Centre – 6491 1166
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For more information on YHC Group visit [yhcgroupp.com.au](http://yhcgroupp.com.au)



### Wendy Hays

ONE CHRISTMAS day our family had brandy sauce for dessert but without plum pudding.

You see, my elderly mum didn't get around to making the plum puddings until a few days before Christmas.

As is the usual procedure, she hung the steaming, cooked puddings out to dry. A well ventilated hook under our back verandah was chosen for this purpose.

During the night we heard a commotion outside.

To her dismay (and fury), an investigation revealed two brush tail possums had launched themselves from the barbecue, and, having torn through the cloth, were feasting upside down on the said puddings.

With much yelling and the aid of a conveniently placed mop, the two bulging rogues were dispatched into the nearby bush.

The chooks that year enjoyed a splendid Christmas dinner but we had to settle for Easy Brandy Sauce served with fruit salad and ice cream.

Since then, I have discovered this easy microwave plum pudding which would have kept our Christmas dinner in the family tradition.

Happy Christmas and a safe 2022 to you all.

## Microwave Plum Pudding

### Ingredients

250 g butter, softened  
250 g brown sugar  
4 eggs, beaten  
1 kg mixed fruit  
1 1/2 cups fresh breadcrumbs  
1/2 tsp each of ground ginger, nutmeg and all spice  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1 cup dry, stewed apple  
1 tbl golden syrup  
1 tbl Parisian essence  
1/2 cup sweet sherry, orange juice or other spirit of choice  
1/4 tsp almond essence

### Method

Grease and flour a large microwave safe bowl.

Sift the flour, salt and spices together.

In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy, using an electric mixer.

Gradually add in the beaten egg and golden syrup.

Using a metal spoon or plastic scraper, gently stir in all of the other ingredients.

Spoon the mixture into the prepared bowl and microwave on medium/low for about 35 minutes.

Cut a 4 cm wide strip of baking paper and crimp around the edge of the bowl covering the outer edge of the pudding.

Cook for about another 20-30 minutes until only just set in the middle. As microwaves vary a great deal in cooking capacity, watch the pudding very carefully during the last 20-30 minutes of the cooking.

The pudding will continue to cook once it is out of the microwave. Take care that it doesn't overcook or it will be tough and rubbery.

A Tupperware lettuce crisper is an ideal container for cooking this pudding in. This recipe can be successfully halved but adjust the cooking times accordingly.

## Easy Brandy Sauce

### Ingredients

2 tbl butter  
2 tbl cornflour  
3 tbl sugar  
2 tbl golden syrup  
1 cup milk  
1/4 cup brandy

### Method

Using a microwave safe jug, melt butter on high for 30-40 seconds.

Using a wooden spoon, blend in the cornflour, sugar and golden syrup and cook on high for 1 minute.

Gradually stir in the milk and cook on medium/high for 2 to 3 minutes until thick and boiling. Stir after each minute.

Stir in brandy. Serve hot or cold.

# Christmas traditions



Pudding and brandy sauce, followed by shortbread biscuits (if there is any room left) are all favourite Christmas treats. A microwave pudding and refrigerator shortbreads make it just a little bit easier to prepare for the festive season. *Photos supplied*

## Shortbread Biscuits

### Ingredients

250 g butter, softened  
125 g castor sugar  
2 3/4 cups (approximately) plain flour, sifted

### Method

With an electric mixer, beat the softened butter and castor sugar until white and creamy.

Using a knife, mix in most of the flour to make a soft dough. You may need all of the flour and even a little extra.

Once the mixture comes together around the knife, form into 2 x 30 cm long logs. Avoid over-kneading.

Wrap logs in plastic or foil. Refrigerate until firm or ready to bake.

Cut logs into 7mm rounds and place onto trays lined with baking paper. Decorate if desired with nuts, cherries or Christmas sweets.

Bake at 140°C for about 45-60 minutes until pale in colour.



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James Dean (inside) winning the Page Transport Carrick Cup in 2021. Archive photo by Stacey Lear



# Setting the pace at Carrick

THE CARRICK Park Pacing Club would have to be the success story of harness racing in Tasmania.

The track is considered to be the oldest race course in continual use in Australia and its longevity is no surprise as the club regularly puts on a great day of entertainment and racing, with something to please every member of the family.

The club's three race meetings this season will be run on Friday 31 December, Sunday 6 February and Sunday 6 March.

The first meeting on Friday 31 December will feature the Cressy Transport Tasmanian Country Championship.

Sunday 6 February will feature the Maxfield Drilling Meander Valley Cup

The Page Transport Carrick Cup meeting will be held on Sunday 6 March.

All meetings will start mid to late afternoon and finish around 8pm.

As always, there will be a wide range of food available and a well-stocked bar.

The pony trots are always a popular feature and on New Year's Eve, music will play until late.

If interested in attending, a very generous membership offer is available. At \$20 for the season, members receive admission for two, to each of the three race meetings, plus a stubby of beer or soft drink at each meeting.

If interested please contact Sandra on 0400635070 or email sandratmca@dodo.com.au for full details.

# Westbury Central shutting up shop



Westbury Central takes part in its last mini-market day at Westbury Hardware, Home & Co. in November Photo supplied

SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED in July 2020, Village Central Westbury is closing down on 10 December.

A fashion reseller established by Westbury Health to raise funds for the benefit of the community, Village Central aimed to provide good quality second hand and vintage clothing, shoes and accessories at affordable prices.

Starting on William Street, the shop then settled into the rambling premises of Westbury Hardware, Home & Co. on the Meander Valley Road, another reason to call into the thriving cooperative of mixed businesses and a popular café.

Run by a team of dedicated volunteers, all proceeds were channelled into community initiatives in Westbury, but sourcing quality stock was becoming

more difficult and volunteer staff were harder to find.

The closure may not necessarily be permanent. Treasurer of Westbury Health, Dinah Fitzgerald has floated the possibility of re-opening the shop some time in the future.

Any remaining stock will be donated to Longford Rotary's opportunity shop and thence to any other organisations who may have need of it, a preferable option than going to landfill.

Village Central has helped Westbury Health raise in excess of \$25,000, all of which has been, or will be used for worthwhile projects in the community.

Past recipients of donations include Free 2B Girls, Westbury Primary School, Westbury Scouts, Westbury Community Centre and the newly formed Westbury Men's Shed.

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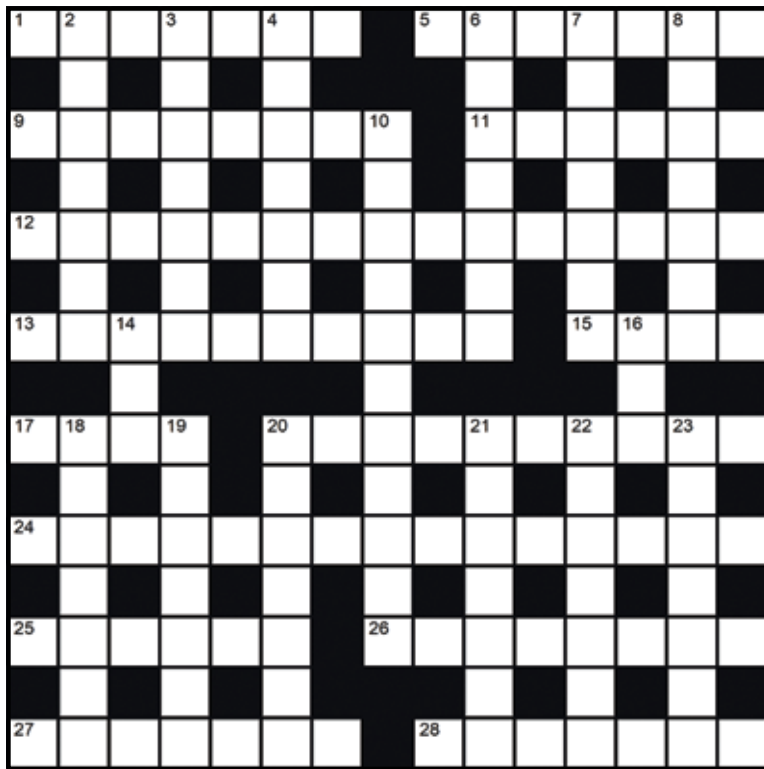
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## Crossword



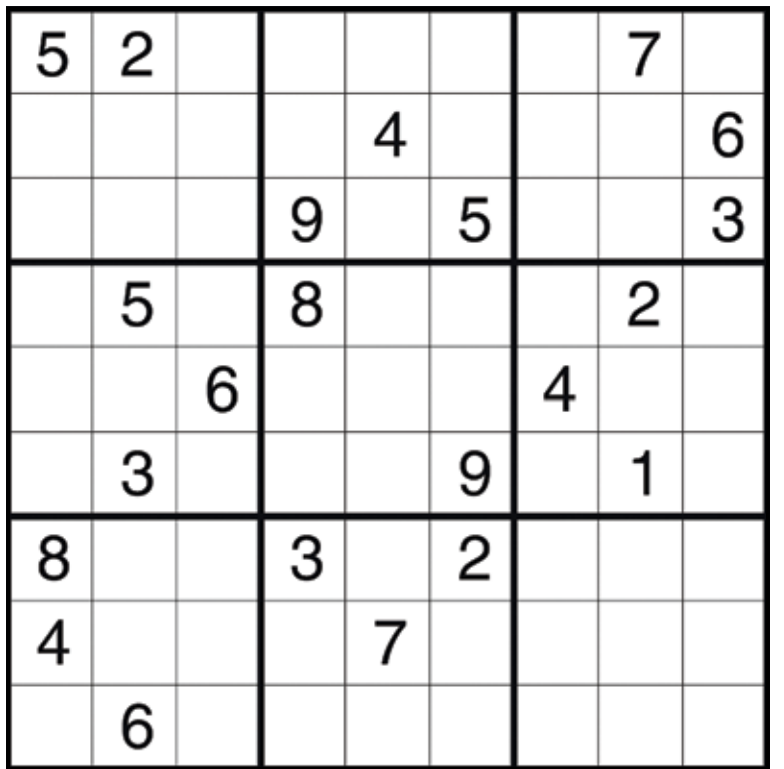
**Across**

- 1 Four-sided pillar (7)
- 5 Gulp down (7)
- 9 We drones got drunk, went downhill (8)
- 11 Former South Vietnam's \_\_\_ Van Thieu (6)
- 12 Sky worker (6, 9)
- 13 They're not rural (5, 5)
- 15 Ollie's ally (4)
- 17 Tom Clancy hero Jack \_\_\_ (4)
- 20 Small NSW seaside resort with brilliant white sand (5, 5)
- 24 Arising at the same time (15)
- 25 Panda food (6)
- 26 Moron (8)
- 27 Bizarre (4, 3)
- 28 In a tasteless manner (7)

**Down**

- 2 A very hot day (7)
- 3 Italian restaurant choice (7)
- 4 Artisan fixed singer (7)
- 6 Players at the edge (7)
- 7 Saint Bernadette's city (7)
- 8 Australia is its biggest component (7)
- 10 '\_\_\_ Holt', and disappear (2, 3, 6)
- 14 Fur scarf (3)
- 16 '\_\_\_ With Mussolini', 1999 Zeffirelli film (3)
- 18 Salty Western Australia Nature Reserve (3, 4)
- 19 In a remarkable way (7)
- 20 Olympic hockey gold-medallist Robert \_\_\_ (7)
- 21 Australasian \_\_\_, a porgie (7)
- 22 Brought to bear (7)
- 23 Local government body (7)

## 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 December 2021 solution



Sudoku December 2021 solution



**Meander Valley Gazette** is looking for contributors, writers and photographers to help keep our community newspaper up to date and in touch with events and activities in the Meander Valley. Call 6286 8212 or email [editor@meandervalleygazette.com](mailto:editor@meandervalleygazette.com).



# Events diary

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NOTE that events listed here may be cancelled or changed after publication, especially if they are affected by Covid-19 restrictions. If you have an event you wish to publicise, email the details to [advertising@meandervalleygazette.com](mailto: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	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	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	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 info
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 11 December, 9am-1pm	Liffey Valley Market	Old Liffey School Devonshire tea, sausage sizzle and more Free More info, call Quenton Higgs 63973670
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
Sat 18 December, 9am-1pm	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall, cnr Pioneer Drv & Caveside Rd Maree Martin 0419 631 210
Sat 18 December, 9am-1pm	Westbury Market	St Andrew's Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Prom, Westbury Rob Menzie 0417 931 619
Sat 18 December, 9am-1pm	Deloraine Market	Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Rd, Deloraine Bodhi McSweeney 0409 695 321
Sat 18 December, 7pm music	Combined Churches Carols by the River	Deloraine Rotunda Family picnic and sausage sizzle from 6pm Covid-safe, alcohol-free event
Thurs 20 December, 10am-4pm	Learn-to-Swim & Water Safety Registration Day	Deloraine Council Pool, West Parade Program days 3-14 Jan, 10am-1.15pm & 1.45-3.45pm Info 0411 188 212
Fri 31 December, 3 pm	Carrick Park Pacing Club	Harness racing featuring Cressy Transport Tas Country Championship live music til late food and bar available
Sat 8 January, 7.30pm sharp	WTFS <i>Knives Out</i>	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine M mystery/crime/comedy 2019 USA 125m Info 0418 389 868

# Wrapping up WOAD

DID YOU notice the yellow footpath stickers along Emu Bay Road during the weeks around the Craft Fair?

Well, you may know by now that this was the 'Windows on Art Deloraine' street exhibition, also known as WOAD.

A great relationship between the Arts Deloraine committee, about 30 shop proprietors (donating window space) and almost 40 local artists created this unique exhibition, featuring sculpture, pottery, textile works, installations, drawings, paintings and mosaics.

Quirky match ups between shop windows and artists' works revealed a still life painting portraying lemons at the

veggie shop, a colourful textile coat at the tattoo shop, a happy Tasmanian devil painting at Best's Butcher and a striking hand-woven garment matching Bendigo Bank's colours.

Listed as a venue during the Craft Fair, patrons were encouraged along the trail of the street exhibition where they could explore the retail opportunities and artworks, many of which were sold through the exhibition.

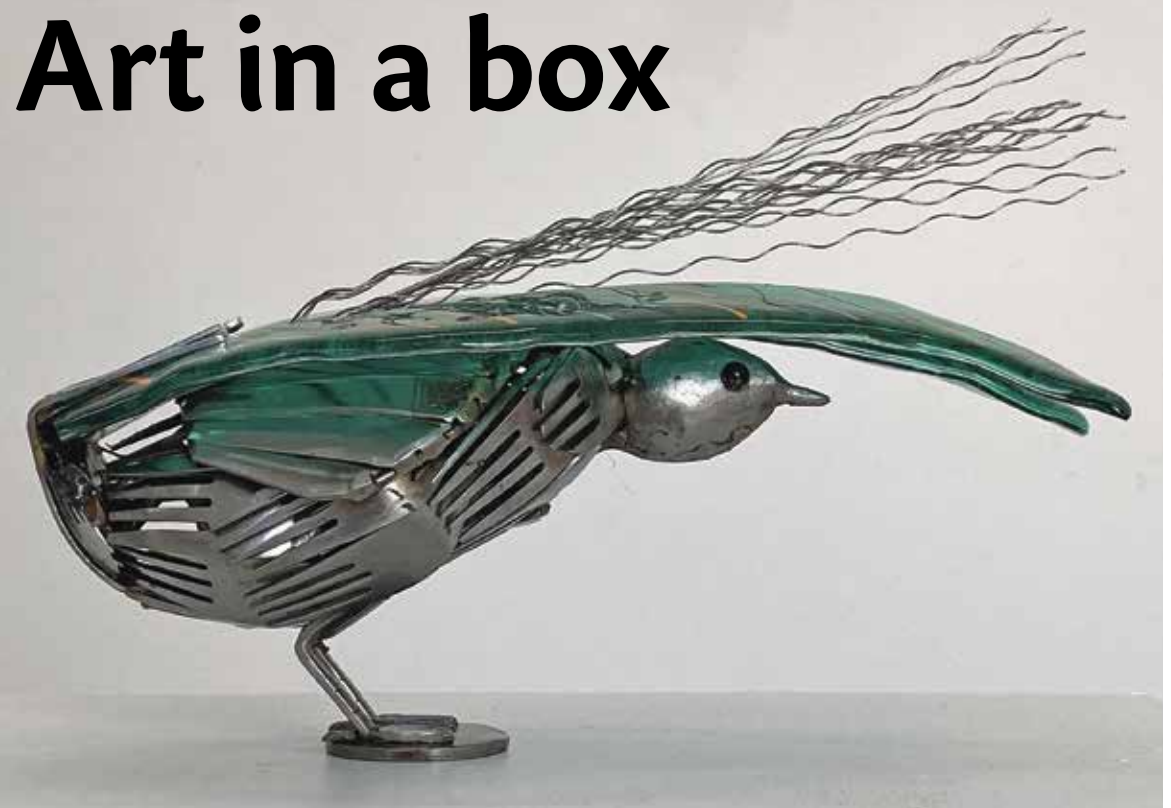
One feature of the exhibition was a magnificent huon pine sculpture, *Cosmic Vase*, exhibited in Seppenfelts by lifelong artist, 95 year old Alan Lane.

Arts Deloraine are now looking forward to WOAD 22.


Margaret Tabor of Arts Deloraine and Alan Lane with his sculpture *Cosmic Vase*, on display during WOAD. Photo supplied



# Art in a box



Sculptures that could fit in a shoebox were on display last month in Deloraine at The Empire Hotel, Brush Rabbit and Deloraine Creative Studios. Part of the National Shoebox Sculpture Exhibition, these small delights were eligible to win the acquisitive prize of \$5000 offered by Mersey Valley Council. *The Elusive Superb Lyrebird* was created by Lawrence Marshall and Ellen Mangen of Victoria. Photo supplied



**Rotary**  
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**TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIP**

The Rotary Club of Deloraine invites those students commencing Tertiary Education from the Deloraine and Westbury districts, to submit applications for a Tertiary Scholarship being offered by the Club, to the value of \$3000.

Written applications outlining academic record, intended study program, and other relevant information to be forward to Anette Viney by 21st January 2022. Interviews of short listed applications will be held late January, early February 2022.

Please post applications to  
 Rotary Club of Deloraine  
 Attention Anette Viney  
 PO Box 85, Deloraine, Tasmania 7304

More information can be made available by contacting Anette Viney at [annetteviney@gmail.com](mailto:annetteviney@gmail.com) or on 0412 437 417.

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# On show at Deloraine



At the far end of the showgrounds, the equestrian events provided some action, with Charlotte Chilvers and Mandala taking their turn at the jumps. *Photo supplied*



A Japanese bantam checks out the opposition in the poultry shed during judging. *Photo supplied*

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