



AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Council recognises locals' contributions

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GET READY FOR A DAY AT THE CREEK

Enjoy a day of music at Mole Creek

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MINE SHAFT MISADVENTURE FOR MAN AND DOG

Valley TFS and SES members to the rescue

▶ PAGE 8

Meander Valley Gazette

Free every month

February 2022

Meander Valley Gazette *Your independent community paper*

Elegant Calstock up for sale



▶ The iconic Calstock property in Deloraine is expected to sell for \$10 million. Photo supplied by Knight Frank.

DELORAINES HISTORIC Calstock property is for sale and is estimated to sell for more than \$10m.

On 12 hectares, the elegant Georgian mansion was described by former owners, Peppers hotel chain, as "a stunning example of Tasmania's grand pioneering homes".

Current owner Trevor Evans bought the Highland Lakes Rd property for around \$3.5m from Terence Fahey and Bronwyn Shakespear, who had bought it for \$3.15m in September 2018. It's believed Mr Evans has spent between \$3m and \$5m renovating Calstock.

Sam Woolcock of Knight Frank commented, "In the current market the asking price

is hard to gauge but given the demand for historic Tasmanian homes and the scale of the restoration it would not surprise me if it exceeded \$10 million."

According to Early Houses of Northern Tasmania by Graeme Robertson and Edith Craig, the original Calstock land grant was made to Lt. Pearson Foote in 1830. He is said to have named the property after Calstock in Devonshire, England.

In the past 20 years several owners have left their mark on the Calstock home, which contains 11 bedrooms. The property's land has substantially diminished in that time.

Remi and Ginette Bancal substantially renovated Calstock in the early 2000s; its current owner has created seven guest suites.

Referencing the local Aboriginal people, Calstock Estate's website says, "The original stables still exist and have been lovingly restored to encompass a commercial kitchen, the Quamby Guest Lounge, Pallitore Dining Room and the Palawa Workshop Space."

Calstock's Australian claim to fame relates to early owner John Field's breeding of two Melbourne Cup winner in those stables: Malua won in 1884 and Sheet Anchor in 1885.

According to Tasmanian

author Alan Dyer, John Field was the third son of successful convict William Field, part of a Tasmanian family owning prominent properties and huge tracts of land.

"Upon his marriage in 1854, he moved into Calstock Deloraine, an estate he purchased the year before. John and his brother Tom shared the responsibility of managing their thousands of cattle," Mr Dyer wrote.

"In 1863 John was elected to the first Deloraine Council. When his racing stable produced the winners of the

Melbourne Cup in 1884 and 1885, Calstock Deloraine became known as the principal breeding place of race horses in the colony.

"Widely known as the sporting Squire of Calstock, John Field was Deloraine's largest property owner. He had a family of two sons and four daughters."

Early Houses of Northern Tasmania says John Field was responsible for building the main part of the Calstock home in the 1850s.

▶ HISTORIC MANOR SOLD - PAGE 4

EST.
2013

Meander Valley Gazette

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

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Letter to the Editor

Letters to the Editor may be edited for reasons of space or clarity. The thoughts and opinions expressed in letters published do not represent the Meander Valley Gazette or associated organisations.

HOW MANY DEVILS NEED TO DIE?

I would like to bring your attention to healthy Tasmanian devils that continue to be killed on roads around Woolnorth, Tasmania's final frontier of facial tumour disease free devils.

Over the past year, 80 plus healthy devils have met their demise on Woolnorth Road in Tasmania's north west.

Healthy devils continue to be run over at a rate of 2 per week and nothing is being done about it.

I'm surprised and saddened at the negligible response by the Circular Head Council, the Save the Tasmanian devil program, the Department of State Growth (Roads) and the Threatened Species unit of the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, considering that Woolnorth devils have been disease free for so

long and represent the only disease free devils left in the wild in Tasmania.

It seems ludicrous that nothing is being done to mitigate the roadkill.

Apparently there are kilometres of "virtual fences" ready to deploy, but these have been ready to deploy by the Department of State Growth (Roads) for a whole year.

Why aren't other roadkill mitigation measures being urgently deployed such as better signage, road strips, underpasses, overpasses, speed humps, and meetings with locals and truck drivers to advise about roadkill hotspots?

Why do people care so little about this iconic, endangered species, and how many healthy devils need to die before somebody actually does something about it?

**Dr Colette Harmsen,
Tinderbox**

Opinion editorial

Well prepared for bushfire season

**Jacquie Petrusma,
Minister for Police, Fire and
Emergency Management**

WITH THE bushfire season now upon us, Tasmania is well prepared to respond and keep Tasmanians safe.

While the overall assessment for the 21/22 Bushfire Season is for a "normal" fire season, this means we will, and already have had, bushfires and Total Fire Ban days – because that is "normal" for our state during the summer months.

To better respond to bushfires, protect our communities and to support our hardworking and dedicated firefighters on the ground, the Government recognises the importance of having access to a sophisticated, flexible, aerial firefighting capability.

This is why our firefighting capacity has already been bolstered with the addition of our summer aviation fleet, through the collaboration of the Tasmanian and Australian Governments who jointly fund the aircraft through the National Aerial Firefighting Centre.

Tasmania now has an additional 12 specialised aircraft on hand to help fight fires from above, including a mix of firebombing, air supervision and aerial intelligence gathering aircraft. Eight are helicopters and four are fixed wing planes.

Importantly, the aircraft are strategically positioned right across Tasmania so that they can be moved quickly to respond to fires, with 20 local aircraft also available to call on to assist when required, taking our total firefighting aircraft available in Tasmania to 32.

This will ensure a rapid response to bushfires when they start, keeping fires small until our ground crews arrive.

The Tasmania Fire Service, Parks and Wildlife Service and Sustainable Timber Tasmania have also been preparing for this season through our Fuel Reduction Program, which is nation leading in its tenure blind, strategic risk-based approach.

This Government has already invested \$55 million in fuel reduction, and over the forward estimates we will

Westbury doctors to end bulk billing

WESTBURY DOCTORS Surgery will bring in a new billing structure from April 1 and end bulk billing.

The general manager of Your Health Connect Group Roman Kisselev said the group had avoided the change for a long time.

"We did not make the decision easily but to continue to offer as many services as we do currently and ensure the continuation of health and wellbeing for the local community, we had no other choice," he said.

From mid-February an updated price list will be available on the group's website at yhcgroup.com.au and the Westbury surgery's

reception/waiting room.

Mr Kisselev said the change was made because of a shortage of doctors, despite the company's best efforts to recruit.

It was also caused by the Medicare rebate freeze and ever-increasing costs of running the practice.

"We understand the impact that this might have on some of our patients, but we can assure you that we are trying to make this transition as smooth possible, with a minimum impact on patients," Mr Kisselev said.

"We ask you to please bear with our staff during this time and try to be understanding."

deliver another \$48.3 million to reduce the risk of bushfires.

As we have seen from the recent Sisters Beach fire, fuel reduction burns greatly assist to reduce the impact of bushfires. The Sisters Beach fire was halted by three fuel reduction burns that had already been undertaken by the Parks and Wildlife Service and TFS.

The Government is also diversifying its approach to fuel reduction, with \$2.5 million provided through the Program to support mechanical clearing in places where burning isn't appropriate.

Our specialist remote area firefighting capability has also been bolstered, with 144 TFS Remote Area Firefighters trained and capable of supporting our partner agencies in remote and isolated areas, such as the Parks and Wildlife Service who have approximately 134 personnel trained to fight fires in remote areas.

While the TFS, Parks and Wildlife Service and Sustainable Timber Tasmania are well prepared for the

bushfire season, we are urging the Tasmanian community to do the same, because we cannot afford to be complacent about the dangers of bushfire.

To help keep our community safe, Tasmanians are encouraged to complete their own 5-minute bushfire plan.

An easy-to-use template is available on the TFS website and is an excellent resource to get Tasmanians of all ages thinking about what you will need to do if a bushfire occurs near you.

Being prepared can make it less stressful and may reduce the impact it has on you and your loved ones if a bushfire does occur near you.

Don't wait until it's too late, please go to fire.tas.gov.au to do your 5-minute bushfire plan now.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government is committed to keeping Tasmanians safe from the threat of bushfires, which is why we are investing \$111.5 million over the forward estimates for bushfire prevention, response and safety measures.

Council honours residents' service

MEANDER VALLEY Council has officially announced their 2022 Australia Day Award recipients ahead of a more formal event to be held in the coming weeks.

Council's Australia Day Awards recognise community contribution, leadership and voluntary service with nominations made by the local community.

"It is disappointing that COVID-19 has resulted in the postponement of Council's usual event.

"However, the sentiment remains, and we appreciate the efforts of all those in our municipality who volunteer to make their communities better for everyone.

"In these uncertain times, we can take inspiration from the fantastic work all our volunteers do. There is no doubt they make a huge difference." Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

The event was scheduled for 25 January at the Country Club Casino to recognise volunteers and Australia Day award recipients.

"We plan on celebrating the wonderful contributions of all our Australia Day and Volunteer Award recipients in a few weeks' time."

This year, Laura Richardson from Deloraine has been named Citizen of the Year.

Laura has been recognised for her extensive community service.

A director on the Meander Valley Financial Services Ltd. executive board, life member of the Deloraine Amateur Basketball Association and a founder of the Deloraine Devils Netball Club, Laura has helped campaign to establish local banking services and has contributed to local rural youth groups.



► Laura Richardson (centre) pictured while advocating for the Regional Recreation Precinct Working Group in 2017 with former Mayor Craig Perkins and Lindy Norton. She is the deserving recipient of this year's Meander Valley Citizen of the Year award. *Archive photo.*

Luke Cole has received the Meander Valley Young Citizen of the Year Award.

Luke is a valued member of the Westbury Preservation Association (WPA), formally known as Pearn's Steam World.

Despite having the challenges of living with a disability, Luke has continued to pursue his interest in restoring critical pieces of the Association's collection and became a member of the WPA Executive Management Committee in August of 2021. In addition to his work at WPA, Luke is a committed volunteer at Deloraine House, where he contributes to team meetings,

strategy workshops and events. Luke is also an advocate for people with a disability pursuing their passions.

The Meander Valley Sports Award recipient was Renee Walker.

Renee grew up amongst the sporting spirit and community of the Deloraine Football Club and has shown dedication to its future, volunteering as the Junior Development Officer and coaching two of the junior girls' teams. Renee has been instrumental in providing equal opportunity for girls to play football and encourages inclusiveness and development.

Chudleigh's Australia Day Breakfast took out Meander Valley's Community Event of the Year Award.

Run entirely by volunteers and the Chudleigh Hall Committee, the Chudleigh Australia Day Breakfast event was founded in 2012. Despite being scaled back last year, the event still catered for over 250 socially-distanced people amongst the hall's beautiful gardens.

"Committee members and volunteers contribute their time, resources, cooking skills and more to provide a heart-warming exhibition of community spirit that ensures

all are welcome and included," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

Council also formally announced the recipients of their Volunteer Awards, recognising seventeen residents for 1,000 and 3,000 volunteer hours and exceptional volunteering efforts.

Mayor Johnston said all of the award winners are a testament to their generosity and dedication to Meander Valley.

"These people represent the spirit of Meander Valley, and we thank them for their service and commitment."

Australia's warning system is changing Know the signs before a bushfire strikes



ADVICE:
Stay up-to-date in case the situation changes.



WATCH AND ACT:
Conditions are changing, you need to start taking action.



EMERGENCY WARNING:
You may be in danger and need to take action immediately.

australianwarningsystem.com.au





Cameron family buys Bentley

IN AN interesting historical twist, ownership of the Bentley property at Chudleigh has returned to a family who owned it in the 1880's, as part of their succession plan.

Donald Norman Cameron, a member of the Australian House of Representatives for six years and a member of the Tasmanian House of Assembly for four, built the stunning house at Bentley in 1879.

Now Bentley's neighbours, Max Cameron and Helen Baillie of the Wesley Vale property at Chudleigh, have bought 395 hectare Bentley from international antique dealer John Hawkins and noted botanical and landscape artist Robyn Mayo.

Mr Cameron said the Hawkins would lease the house and other buildings at Bentley for a period of time.

"We are excited to acquire Bentley," he said.

"We have a love of it through our dealings with the Cramp family because when they owned it we stayed there for three years while we renovated our house at Wesley Dale."

John Hawkins and Robyn Mayo put Bentley on the market in August 2021.

Even though Mr Hawkins

is in his 70s and Ms Mayo is seriously ill, they had misgivings about the sale; the arrangements with the Cameron family means they will live in the house at Bentley for the foreseeable future.

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

Since 2002 when they bought the property, John and Robyn have fenced waterways and removed every willow and radiata pine, replacing them with native trees to prevent stock from destroying water courses.

Max Cameron paid tribute to their work in developing Bentley.

"In the late 1880's Bentley was a large property but when John Hawkins bought it, Bentley had shrunk to the size of a small dairy farm.

"His acquisition of adjoining land to create a substantial property means Bentley's landscape is quite magnificent. He has every reason to be proud of it because he has created an exceptional property."

Mr Cameron also said that the arboretum of thousands of



► The majestic Bentley once more in owned by the Cameron family. Photos supplied.

native trees planted at Bentley by Ms Mayo was "a huge attraction" in buying it.

"The work she has done there is exceptional," he said.

Mr Cameron and Ms Baillie have two sons and two daughters, all of whom work at Wesley Vale.

"We are expanding our property as part of our succession plan," Max

Cameron said.

In selling Bentley, Christies of London described it as 'arguably one of Tasmania's finest landscapes and magnificent period homestead'.

It was established by John Badcock Gardiner on 340 hectares granted by Governor Arthur in 1829.

Phillip Oakden acquired Bentley in 1838, naming it

after his family home near Ashbourne in Derbyshire, England.

It's believed he planted the 9kms of hawthorn hedges which are a striking feature of today's Bentley.

Donald Norman Cameron (known as Norman Cameron) built the house at Bentley in 1879 and owned it until his death in 1931.



ADVERTISEMENT

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

Do you want to give back to the community, meet new people and enjoy it at the same time?

The Rotary Club of Deloraine has been working for the Meander Valley community for 64 years. We have a mixture of males and females, with members from long-established settlers to "newbies" to the area and backgrounds as varied as air hostess and architect.

The main fund-raising activity is the Tasmania Craft Fair (TCF), and through that, we have generated nearly \$4 million over its 41 years. The TCF provides benefits to the town, exhibitors, small businesses and other community groups who share in the surplus.



Projects of the Rotary Club that have benefitted from TCF funding include:

- development of the Meander River environs from weed-infested banks to grassy areas with walkways
- installation of both pedestrian bridges over the river
- financial assistance to the hospital and aged care facilities
- sponsorship of the local Giant Steps school for autistic children
- running the Model United Nations Assembly attended by children from around Tasmania
- running a Learn-to-Swim school for 40 years
- sponsoring children to attend programs designed to realise their potential
- funding tertiary scholarships, as well as apprentice and trainee awards
- volunteer teams sent to Tanzania, Nepal and Fiji to erect infrastructure, etc

Being a member of the Rotary Club of Deloraine isn't only about assisting the community. You can meet some great people - long-time locals and people new to the area - and have some fun.

If you would like to try us out, whether you have been here for two weeks or 25 years, **call John Dare on 0410 557 598** to arrange to come to one of our meetings as a guest.



Give it a go - we are friendly, and we all started out as the new faces in the Club.

For local knowledge & extensive experience selling property in the Meander Valley, be sure to talk to Lee and Kellie before listing your home.



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Kellie Challis
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Grab your groovin' shoes for A Day at the Creek



► Evan Thomas, Russell Fairey, Jeanine Dalziel, Cathryn Stol, Judi Beveridge and Philip Beveridge at last year's event. Archive photo by Darren Harris.

EVERYTHING IS set for 2000 people to have their time of their lives at the Day at the Creek music event on February 26.

The annual event brings around \$700,000 into the western end of the Meander Valley and has never been cancelled because of COVID.

But this year in a nod to COVID rules, Mole Creek Pub owner Doug Westbrook said that patrons will need to wear masks and show their full vaccination certificate at the gate.

"The big drawcard this year is BABBA, the ABBA tribute band – they were magic at the 2014 and 2015 events," he said.

"The 11-strong Blues Brothers Revival from Hobart stole the show last year and they'll be bringing the Big Pontiac again this year. They're all about having fun."

Rewind 80s will also perform, along with Geelong's Adam Page, local Dave Hawkins and Tristan Webb & Friends.

On the day, gates open at 11am and the music starts at noon.

Patrons are instructed to bring their groovin' shoes and leave their pets and stresses at home. Camping is available for \$30 a night for unpowered sites.

Doug Westbrook said that since Rotary Tasmania and in particular John Dare from Deloraine Rotary had been involved in A Day at the Creek for the past four years, the event had been able to grow to more than 2000 people. This year is capped at 2000.

"This year Workplace Safety and the Health Department have been very helpful in guiding us through the COVID requirements.

"We'll also have food vans from Deloraine Lions; we try hard to involve local people on the event."

• For more information and to purchase tickets go to: www.adayatthecreek.com.au

Vehicles surveying Meander Valley roads

SINCE JANUARY 31, you may have spotted some strange looking vans, with cameras mounted on top, driving around the region.

Don't be alarmed! These kitted-out vehicles are utilised to assess the condition of the road and identify areas that need improvement.

Vans used in the program are clearly marked and carry high visibility signage and lighting.

The footage will help Meander Valley Council gain insight into the current condition of our roads and from this, help prepare effective maintenance and renewal programs to

manage them.

The cameras focus solely on the roads, kerbs and footpaths.

The footage is input into a computer modelling program to evaluate the priorities for maintenance.

Pedestrians, vehicles and homes/structures are not part of the survey.



► Road assessment vehicles are currently being utilised in Meander Valley.



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Labor Member for Lyons

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Authorised by REBECCA WHITE,
33 COLE ST, SORELL

Tasmanian Labor 



► Entally's beautiful begonias are in bloom - come and see on Gardenfest weekend! *Archive photo.*

Gardenfest in full bloom

GARDENFEST, featuring the Entally Begonias is Entally Estate's annual celebration their incredible begonias, bred and carefully cultivated by dedicated volunteers.

Featuring all the fun from the regular November Gardenfests, including a wide variety of stalls from plants, garden ornaments and homewares, there is something for the whole family.

The farmyard will be full of delicious food and beverage options, to keep you fuelled as you enjoy the stunning gardens and outbuildings, all maintained by the Friends of Entally volunteer group.

Your furry, four legged friend is welcome to come along on a leash.

All profits made go into the restoration and preservation of historic Entally Estate.

Acres of parking is available

inside the gate.

Gardenfest runs under a level two event plan approved by Public Health, please be respectful of all rules implemented.

These rules may change at a moment's notice in line with Public Health's requirements.

As part of the Entally's COVID Safety Plan, everyone attending will be required to check in using the Check In TAS app.

Masks are mandatory. Please bring your own mask, or alternatively, masks will be available at the gate.

Gardenfest will be held in the gardens at Entally Estate on February 26 and 27 from 10am to 4pm. Entry to the grounds is only \$5.

Come along and enjoy the beautiful grounds and delicious refreshments!

Flower show and concert cancelled

UNFORTUNATELY, TWO popular events, Something in the Valley and the Westbury Garden Club Flower Show have been cancelled.

The Westbury Flower Show, which was planned for February 12, cannot go ahead due to COVID-19 requirements and restrictions.

There is no word on plans to reschedule the popular gardening event at this stage.

Something in the Valley, a concert hosted by Valley Events, was scheduled for January 29.

Unfortunately, not enough tickets were sold, and it was called off a week in advance.

Valley Events often host dance events for children,

such as raves and discos and trivia nights, but the most recent event by the team at Valley Events was the hugely successful Afghan Feast fundraiser, which sold out.

Patrons enjoyed an evening of traditional Afghan food, storytelling, music, dance and support.

Something in the Valley was a hit with attendees in 2021, boasting food and drinks, stories, free camping and live music from a range of artists.

This year's lineup included Delilah McGill, Elliot Courtnage, Tom Vincent, Thomas Mitchell and Henry Rippon, Little Island, the Middle River Band and Raccoon Dog.

Those who purchased tickets have been sent refunds.

Valley Events hopes to reschedule for later this year, so keep an eye on the Valley Events online and the Gazette's event calendar for future updates.

Until Something in the Valley is rescheduled, music lovers in Meander can look forward to Mia Dyson at the Meander Hall on May 14 as she continues her nationwide Parking Lots tour.

It is the 15th anniversary of the ARIA-winning album, and Thomas Mitchell and Henry Rippon will support her on the night.

To register your interest and book tickets, please go to the Valley Events Facebook page.



► Raccoon Dog performing at last year's sold out Something in the Valley. *Photo supplied.*



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Northern Correctional Facility

Public Consultation on future use of the Ashley Youth Detention Centre site

The Tasmanian Government is committed to building a Northern Correctional Facility (NCF) to optimise the delivery of the State's prison service. The closure of Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) presents an opportunity to potentially consider the development of this important infrastructure project at this alternative location. Preliminary desktop assessment undertaken by the Department of Justice (DoJ) indicates that the site appears to be well suited as a location for a modern, fit for purpose correctional facility in northern Tasmania, with a custodial facility a permitted use within the current zone for the site under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme for the Meander Valley.

The Tasmanian Government will engage with the local Meander Valley community on the future use of the AYDC site before making any decision. Therefore, DoJ is seeking input from the local community on the option of the future use of AYDC site for the development of the NCF. Consultation with the community and key stakeholders will help inform the Government in making a decision on the future use of the AYDC site and its suitability for this project.

A series of shop front style information booths will be set up in Deloraine and its surrounds, to provide information to, and hear directly from, community members. The shop front/drop in sessions will be held in various locations across the Meander Valley over a 5 week period with the locations and dates for these sessions provided in the table below.

Location	Date	Time
Empire Hotel, Deloraine*	Wednesday 9 February 2022	12.00pm-4.00pm
Empire Hotel, Deloraine*	Wednesday 9 February 2022	6.00pm-7:30pm
Empire Hotel, Deloraine*	Thursday 10 February 2022	9.00am-1.00pm
Westbury Recreation Ground Clubhouse & Function Centre, Westbury	Tuesday 15 February 2022	12.00pm-4.00pm
Westbury Recreation Ground Clubhouse & Function Centre, Westbury	Tuesday 15 February 2022	6.00pm-7:30pm
Westbury Recreation Ground Clubhouse & Function Centre, Westbury	Thursday 17 February 2022	10.00am-3.00pm
Elizabeth Town Cafe, Elizabeth Town**	Tuesday 22 February 2022	12.00pm-4.00pm
Elizabeth Town Cafe, Elizabeth Town**	Thursday 24 February 2022	11.00am-3.00pm
Empire Hotel, Deloraine*	Tuesday 1 March 2022	12.00pm-4.00pm
Empire Hotel, Deloraine*	Tuesday 1 March 2022	6.00pm-7.30pm
Empire Hotel, Deloraine*	Thursday 3 March 2022	10.00am-2.00pm
Empire Hotel, Deloraine*	Saturday 5 March 2022	10.00am-1.00pm
Deloraine Community Complex	Tuesday 8 March 2022	12.00pm-4.00pm
Deloraine Community Complex	Tuesday 8 March 2022	6.00pm-7.30pm
Deloraine Community Complex	Thursday 10 March 2022	10.00am-2.00pm
Deloraine Community Complex	Saturday 12 March 2022	10.00am-1.00pm

*Any member of the community that has access needs to the function room at the Empire Hotel is recommended to enter from the rear of the building where there is level access to the room

**Any member of the community that cannot access the function room at ETC, should call 6165 6793 and a project team member will meet with them on the ground level.

DoJ strongly encourages anyone in the area who has a view on this project and its potential development at the AYDC site to engage with the project team during these sessions. Members of the public can also make a submission either by email to northerncorrectionalfacility@justice.tas.gov.au or by post to the Department of Justice, Strategic Infrastructure Projects, PO Box 56, ROSNY PARK TAS 7018.

At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society

Clare Andersen

World premiering at the Sundance Film Festival, *Herself* is an Irish drama that turns into a heart warmer charting one woman's journey with resilience, empathy and grace.

The after effects of domestic abuse linger in this compelling family drama as single mother Sandra struggles to get by with her two daughters.

After the housing system refuses to give her a new home, she decides to secretly build her own with a lot of help from new friends and strangers to guide her way.

With this renewal of purpose Sandra rediscovers herself: that is until her abusive ex-husband sues her for custody of the children.



**MARCH 12
HERSELF**

2020 MA15+, Drama Ireland/UK, 97m
Director Phyllida Lloyd

'Some of the major beats in "Herself" verge on cliché but everything in between rings true thanks to co-writer Clare Dunne's steadfast performance and the film's delicate sense of humanity. With insightful elements like shame-spirals, fear and helplessness, Herself shows an unexpectedly realistic barn-raising.'
- AP, 1/2021

Critics 93%
Audience 83%
- Rotten Tomatoes

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

Mine shaft misadventure for man and his dog



▶ Susan and Kerry with Luna, and senior firefighters Adam Stacey (left) and Andrew Clarke (right). Photos supplied.

ON WEDNESDAY January 26 Launceston man Kerry was taking a walk with his wife Susan and their dog Luna, when their jaunt took a turn for the worse.

Walking near Highland Lakes Road at Golden Valley, Luna followed her nose and slipped straight down a disused mine shaft.

In an effort to retrieve Luna, Kerry followed her into the hole and the pair became stuck in there together.

The couple had managed to create a makeshift basket and rope system to attempt to hoist Luna out, and had her halfway up before they were unable to progress further.

Emergency services were

contacted at 3.05 pm and a combined rescue effort from Deloraine and Launceston TFS members, and Meander Valley SES members was launched.

Kerry and Luna were approximately 11 metres down the shaft and rescuers conducted a roping rescue to bring the two back to safety and sunlight.

Launceston Fire Station manager Adrian Gill said, "We don't really see many rescues like this, but we were happy to go help."

"We set up a system then lowered a firefighter down to get them both out."

After spending about six hours in the shaft, both Kerry and Luna were uninjured.



Burned down in Elizabeth Town

TWO MEN were taken to hospital after escaping a fire that engulfed a home in Elizabeth Town early on January 19.

Emergency services were called to the house on the Bass

Highway just after 4:00 am. TFS crews from neighbouring areas quickly joined local brigades.

Three medium tankers remained on the scene for hours, causing traffic delays

on the busy stretch between Devonport and Deloraine.

Paramedics treated the men for mild smoke inhalation before transporting them to the Launceston General Hospital with minor injuries.

The house was entirely destroyed, and investigations found that the fire was deliberately lit.

One of the occupants, a 54-year-old man, was charged for the arson of the home.

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Authorised by PCousson, Liberal Party of Australia, 105 Invermay Road, Invermay TAS 7246

Questions asked and answered

THE FIRST meeting of the Meander Valley Council for 2022 took place on January 18, with all councillors in attendance either in person or via Zoom.

The meeting began with the acknowledgement of country and well wishes for the new year.

Cr Deborah White enquired for updates regarding the council's annual plan.

When asked about Council's upcoming collaboration with UTAS to respond to the local impacts of climate change, General Manager John Jordan confirmed that it would be addressed during a workshop in March.

Cr White also asked about the consideration of a Reconciliation Action Plan and was informed by Mr Jordan that the issue will be addressed at a future workshop.

Cr Stephanie Cameron asked for an update regarding Council's Pump Track development on Alveston Drive. A contract had been awarded at the meeting, and work has since commenced on the project.

Council is taking action to install new light towers at the

Deloraine Recreation Ground and was in possession of the lights and poles at the time of the meeting.

Mayor Wayne Johnston asked for an update on the project.

"We are in negotiation with a supplier at the moment to see if they will undertake the works," Mr Jordan said.

"The main issue is getting a licensed building contractor to undertake the work, which is a requirement.

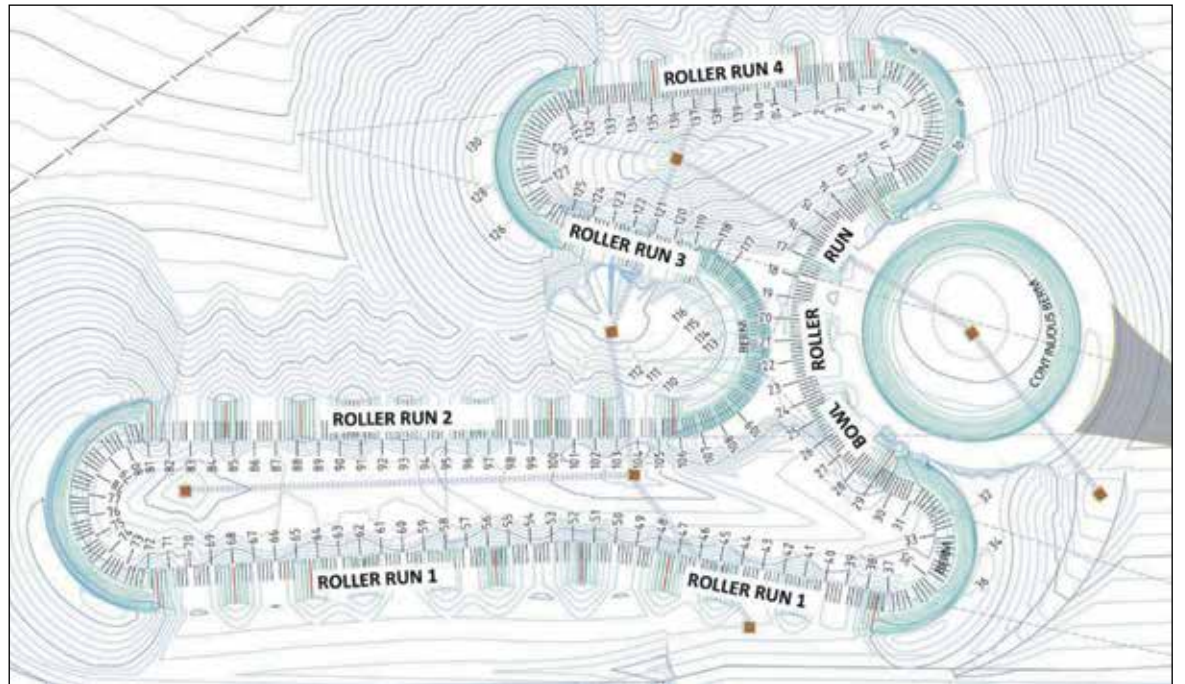
"The Senior Football Club representatives suggested a firm that could do it, but unfortunately, it turned out that they didn't hold the required licence.

"Hopefully, in the next 2-4 weeks, we will have a response from a licensed contractor and be able to land an installation date."

Cr John Temple asked if there were any updates regarding the proposed Northern Regional Prison.

Mayor Johnston had received no further information. However, Mr Jordan said the project's community engagement officers had contacted him.

"They reached out and



► The Alveston Drive Pump Track contract has been awarded and work is underway.

asked for some assistance in contacting neighbouring properties to the Ashely Site," he said.

"They are shortly going to ramp up community consultation and advertising in the Meander Valley Gazette and other publications.

"They have also asked for the use of Council facilities as a base for consultation. They want to hold a couple of events

where the community can come and talk to the project team, so we are negotiating the details in terms of timing and venue."

If you have a question you'd like answered, questions can also be submitted ahead of time by lodging an online form on the council's website, via email, by mail or over the phone.

Questions may also be

asked during the meeting but, due to COVID-19 restrictions, only a handful of community members may be in the gallery during question time.

Those intending to attend must register their interest with the council's Customer Service Centre by phoning 6393 5300.

The full audio and minutes of the meeting are available via the council's website: www.meander.tas.gov.au


agedcare
DELORAINÉ

We need your help compiling our history

Do you have any information or personal experiences of Aged Care Deloraine's history?

We've recently started a project to compile a comprehensive record of our organisation's history and how we got to where we are today.

We would like to pay tribute to all the wonderful people who have contributed to our organisation by capturing their stories which will be shared amongst our residents, staff, and the wider community via our website.

Christine Chilcott, one of our many fabulous volunteers, has kindly put her hand up to start the process of collating all the information for us.

We are hopeful that we may be able to pursue a grant or some funding to help with this project and to ensure we create a document which pays homage to our rich history which can be kept and shared in our community.

We invite anyone with any information to contribute (records, documents, pictures, etc.), to please drop off any documents to either Grenoch or Kanangra main entrances during business hours weekdays.

Alternatively, please email info@agedcaredeloraine.org.au or post to **PO Box 270, Deloraine TAS 7304.**

Additionally, if you think you could fill in vital bits of information as a contact point for us, we would encourage you to leave your contact details with us by calling **6362 8300** during business hours weekdays.

agedcaredeloraine.org.au

Tasmanian Volunteering Awards 2022

NOMINATIONS ARE open for the seventh annual Tasmanian Volunteering Awards.

The awards showcase inspiring stories and recognise excellence in volunteering. Volunteering is critical to our state and volunteers can be found in almost every sector, and most certainly in every community.

There are approximately 297,000 Tasmanians who volunteer, contributing on average 4.4 hours a week to their fellow Tasmanians.

Attracting nominations from around the state each year, nominations are open until midnight 14 March 2022. Nominees will be considered for one of the ten state-wide awards, with the winners announced on Friday, 20 May 2022 - during National Volunteer Week - at a special awards ceremony.

Chief Executive Officer of Volunteering Tasmania Dr Lisa Schimanski, says this

is a perfect way for people to recognise volunteer contribution by nominating a volunteer or volunteer program.

“The Tasmanian Volunteering Awards celebrate those amazing people contributing across Tasmania, and every contribution is significant.”

“Volunteering is not measured through the number of hours people give, but by the connection and impact of what they’re doing.

“It doesn’t matter if you are giving one hour a week, a few hours each month, one day a year or more, collectively volunteers are contributing an estimated \$4 billion dollars to Tasmania each year and most importantly, making an enormous difference in our communities, and for this we thank them all,” she said.

The Tasmanian Volunteering Award categories:

- 1 Arts, Heritage, Tourism and Events Volunteer Award
- 2 Community Care and Health Volunteer Award
- 3 Sport, Recreation and Service Group Volunteer Award

- 4 Volunteer Group or Program Award
- 5 Best Practice in Volunteer Management Award
- 6 Emergency Services Volunteer Award
- 7 Environment, Animal Care and Conservation Volunteer Award

- 8 Education, Science and Technology Volunteer Award
- 9 Lifetime Achievement Volunteering Award
- 10 Youth Volunteer Award

Nominations close midnight Monday, March 14 2022.



▶ Do you know a volunteer who goes above and beyond for our community? Now is your chance to nominate them!

New COVID-19 business support package

THE TASMANIAN Government recently announced a package of targeted assistance for Tasmanian businesses adversely impacted by the spread of the Omicron variant.

The package is designed to assist those Tasmanian businesses - including tourism and hospitality operators - that have seen a reduction in business due to COVID-19 since mid-December 2021.

CEO of the Tourism Industry Council Luke Martin said, “The package of financial assistance announced by the

State Government provides welcome relief for the many businesses impacted by the Omicron wave, especially in the hospitality sector.”

The downturn may be caused by a loss of staff due to COVID-19 exposure that has affected the business’s ability to operate, or loss of business due to significantly lower than usual local customer demand.

Funding of between \$1000 and \$5000 will be available to eligible businesses, depending on business size.

Support of up to \$5000 will also be available to

business that experienced an unavoidable loss of perishable goods because they have had to close.

“Since COVID first hit nearly two years ago, we’ve had different groups of businesses disrupted by every decision to close or re-open our borders,” Mr Martin said.

“The State Government has always been responsive in delivering packages of support to impacted businesses when they most need it, and giving them the best opportunity to ride through each disruption with their business models and

staff structures intact.

“We are dealing with a situation right now where we have many businesses within our visitor economy doing really well, while at the same time many are struggling in managing staff levels and the drop in local trade.

“It’s a really challenging set of circumstances, and the package is an important leg-up for those businesses who have been most impacted by the Omicron wave.

“We are hopeful this Omicron wave does come under control sooner than later, and we can

look forward to a more normal set of operating conditions for all businesses through 2022.”

To be eligible businesses must be able to demonstrate a minimum of 30% reduction in turnover when comparing December 15 - January 14 2022, with the same period in 2021, have a COVID-19 Safety Plan, a completed risk assessment in place and, where required, a COVID-19 Case and Outbreak Management Plan, and have been using the Check in Tas app.

Guidelines are available on the Business Tasmania website.



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Making your own sweet summer treats

Wendy Hays

I HAVE a friend with a strong culinary affinity with Betty Crocker, White Wings and Green's.

Her signature Green's Chocolate Brownies have had the most fastidious of foodies fooled and requesting the recipe.

Now I'm a bit of a purist when it comes to food, must confess that I have a small stash of cake mixes, bought on special, in the cupboard.

These rather maligned time-savers do have a place in the kitchen and have come a long way since the super sweet, soft, palate clinging products of previous decades.

For readers without the skill or fondness for baking, cake mixes offer economy, consistency and are sufficiently robust enough to cut, shape and transport.

With a bit of creative thinking, they can also form the basis of something really special.

This month's recipe for Lemon Cheesecake Slice can

be served as a morning or afternoon tea treat or can be dressed up for a dessert with a few berries and some softly whipped cream.

Lemon Cheesecake Slice

Ingredients

Base

- 1 x 440g packet of golden butter cake mix
- 100g of butter – melted
- 2 ts finely grated lemon rind

Topping

- 250 g block of cream cheese – at room temperature
- 3 eggs – at room temperature
- 2 C pure icing sugar
- 2 ts. finely grated lemon rind
- 1/3C lemon juice

Method

- 1 Grease and line a 18cm x 28cm slice pan with baking paper. Extend the paper a few cm. above the sides of the pan.

- 2 Turn oven on to 180C.
- 3 Mix together the cake mix, butter and lemon rind. Keep the icing mix from the cake mix packet for another use.
- 4 Press the mix over the base of the prepared pan.
- 5 Bake for 15 -20 minutes or until just starting to brown around the edges.
- 6 While the base is baking, make the topping. Beat the cream cheese in the small bowl of an electric mix master until smooth.
- 7 Gradually beat in the eggs, icing sugar, rind and juice. Beat until combined.
- 8 Carefully pour the topping mix over the back of a spoon onto the precooked base. The base will be quite soft and delicate.
- 9 Cook for a further 25 minutes until the topping is set in the center and the edges are golden brown.
- 10 Cool in the pan then refrigerate until firm.
- 11 Cut into square to serve. Store in the refrigerator.



The new school year
and **COVID-19.**

It is important to know that our schools are safe

Give your child the best start to the new school year and make every day of learning count by attending school regularly.

COVID-19 safety measures are in place across all schools, in line with Public Health advice, including:

- Frequent cleaning and increased hygiene practices
- Increased ventilation in classrooms with open windows and use of air purifiers
- Use of outdoor learning areas
- Vaccination of all Department of Education staff, volunteers and contractors
- Wearing face masks indoors by all staff and high school students (masks will be provided to students as needed).

The combined effect of these measures will ensure a safe learning environment.

The best way to protect your child from COVID-19 is to get them vaccinated. Children aged 5 to 11 years are now able to get the COVID-19 vaccine, with dedicated children's clinics operating statewide.

Find out more at:
education.tas.gov.au/COVID-19



Patsy Crawford scribbling away

I'M LISTENING to the Trout Quintet on a CD player that's so tinny I feel I should apologise to Franz Schubert every time I put it on.

Funny name, Trout Quintet.

The piece has a grander title with numbers and letters attached and the word opus thrown in but no-one takes much notice of that.

Were it not for my tinny CD player, Classic FM and the local radio station I'd have gone mad by now.

One more mention of Covid over the airwaves and I would

have been off to the wood heap to grab the axe and do serious damage to the radio.

But common sense has prevailed.

Switching off the station that's banging on and on about Covid has become the preferred option.

Enough is enough.

Every man, woman, child and their dog in Australia must by now be so up to speed on every aspect of this damn virus they could knock out their own daily bulletin.

There's nothing for it but to get those knobbly fingers on the dial, twiddle along to 96.9 or 93.3 or one of those stations that broadcast in a one-kilometre radius from a shed up the bush, and let the music rip.

You can dodge the early morning regurgitations of Covidspeak very nicely with a quick sprint to Classic FM when all the bum-tit-tit stuff is being played.

It's wall to wall overtures you can hum along with.

Bit of sing-along opera thrown in.

Plenty of scope for releasing your inner Carmen or pretending you're Escamillo the toreador.

You might even muster enough enthusiasm to do a little dance or stamp your feet in vixen-like tempestuousness.

Hells bells, there's every chance of becoming so suffused in Spanish fervour you'll go all bull-fighter and flourish the tea-towel at

the fridge.

Then it's off to all the fun of the local radio station.

The programming here is so fabulously eclectic there's something for everyone.

Tchaikovsky gets a belting, as does Arthur 'Big Boy' Crudup. Johnny Cash is on every playlist in town and so is Aretha Franklin.

But who'd have thought Madonna trilling Like a Virgin could segue so brilliantly into Chad Morgan's snaggle-toothed rendition of The Sheik From Scrubby Creek.

Touch of programming genius, that.

Basically all you have to do is tune in and hang around.

Sooner or later The Stranglers will come along. The Bee Gees will be there.

And someone singing My Way. That one should have been shoved in the Only At Funerals box years ago.

And it's worth wading through all her syrupy corn-patch ditties because you know eventually Dolly will get to Jolene.

What a song.

Amid this embarrassment of musical riches there's not a c-word to be heard.

Spot on.

We've had our needles, we've put on our masks, we've pirouetted around each other in the shops, all we need now is one daily Covid bulletin and we can get back to singing along with Abba.

Altogether now.

'Can you hear the drums Fernando..'

OPINION EDITORIAL

Northern Correctional Facility plans unclear

Linda Poulton
WRAP Inc
President and Spokesperson

WHAT IS really on the cards for the Meander Valley now?

There appears to have been a fundamental shift in the government's thinking on the facility it intends to build in the Meander Valley as part of its correctional system infrastructure.

We have a copy of the tender documents issued in September 2021 for the architectural design of the 'Northern Regional Prison' earmarked for the nature reserve near Westbury.

These show that a maximum-security unit was still a component of the project envisaged for that site.

But the department seems to have jettisoned this element in terms of what's being considered for the Ashley Youth Detention Centre site.

There has been a complete rebranding exercise within the Department of Justice, with the former "Northern Prison Team" now referred to under the moniker "Northern Correctional Facility."

WRAP has asked the Department to advise whether there has been a fundamental shift in the nature of the

project, no matter where it will be built, but there has been no answer.

This means that we don't currently know whether a correctional facility with a rehabilitation focus is being considered for both sites or whether it's just for the AYDC site.

If a fundamentally different proposition is being considered for our municipality, that is something that must be clearly communicated sooner rather than later.

The Jack-in-a-Box approach hasn't worked for the government so far.

We ask that they come clean



► Since the Ashley Youth Detention Centre site came into consideration, more questions are being raised about the intentions for a northern facility. *Archive photo.*

with the nature of the proposal sooner rather than later to give the community more time to absorb and adapt to what's going on.

The department has told us that the times and locations of the "drop-in sessions" for community consultation on the AYDC site will be organised "later this month" at locations which are yet to be disclosed.

The nature reserve near Westbury is still on the table.

So, it's completely appropriate for the Minister to give the people of Westbury a fair opportunity to comment on the new direction the government is taking with this.

We should not be locked of consultation like we have been to date on the nature reserve."

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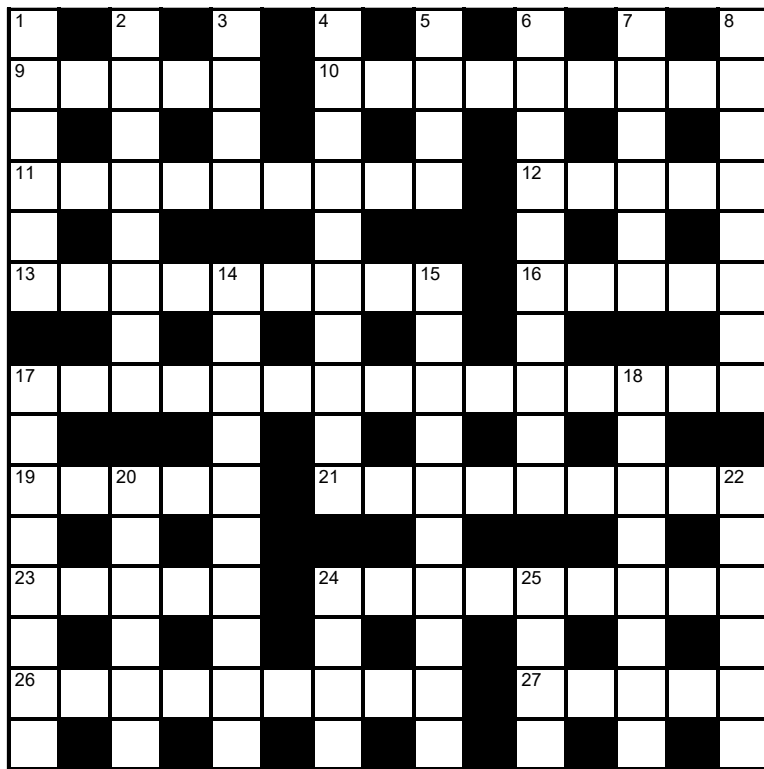
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Crossword



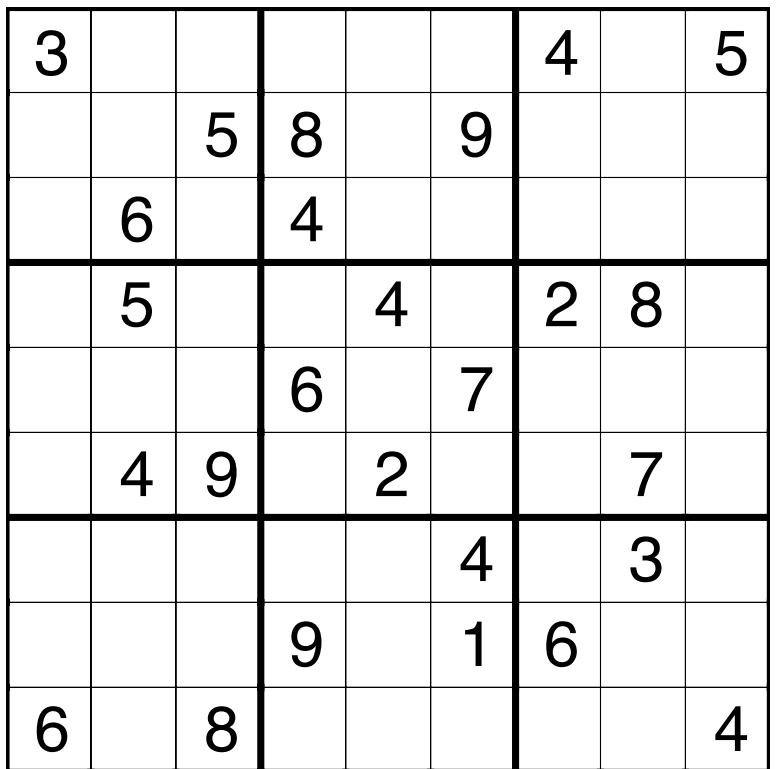
Across

- 9 Appearances (5)
- 10 Serious offence (6,3)
- 11 Accumulation of water on the Paroo River, Wilcannia, NSW (5,4)
- 12 Sound (5)
- 13 Interplanetary transport (9)
- 16 Sheep menace (5)
- 17 Tree often seen in Darwin gardens (11,4)
- 19 Diving kit (1,1,1,1,1)
- 21 Cease operations (5,4)
- 23 Large Florida city (5)
- 24 Type of pea, or Susan (5-4)
- 26 Recall past experiences (9)
- 27 Not concealed (5)

Down

- 1 Inclines (6)
- 2 In all honesty (2,2,4)
- 3 Barbecue cooler (4)
- 4 Feeling the pain of others (10)
- 5 Large plant (4)
- 6 Champion surfer/shaper, father of Noa (5,5)
- 7 Allocate (6)
- 8 Reception area (8)
- 14 Side views (10)
- 15 Illustrious people (10)
- 17 Fine, soft goat's wool (8)
- 18 Assistants (8)
- 20 Largest Western military force (1,1,4)
- 22 Having no clothing (6)
- 24 Surname of two US Presidents (4)
- 25 Imperfection in a plank (4)

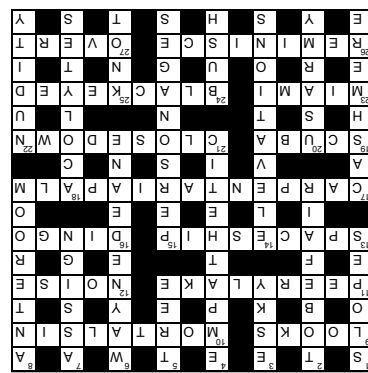
Sudoku



© 2022 Syndicated Puzzles

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

Crossword February 2022 solution



Sudoku February 2022 solution

4	2	1	5	7	3	8	6	9
7	5	6	1	8	9	4	2	3
8	3	9	4	6	2	1	7	5
6	7	3	8	2	5	6	4	1
1	4	5	7	6	3	2	8	9
9	8	2	3	4	1	6	5	7
3	1	8	2	5	4	7	9	6
2	6	7	9	3	8	5	4	1
5	9	4	6	1	7	2	8	3

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.



Events diary

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

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


DATE	EVENT OR BUSINESS	DETAILS
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 Tues	Hidden Talents Craft Group	10am-12 noon. Deloraine Gospel Chapel, 46 Parsonage St, Deloraine. All welcome..
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. www.delorainewalkingclub.weebly.com for program of events, contact & membership info.
Oct 2020 to 30 June 2022	The Sewing Room Exhibition	9am-5pm Deloraine & Districts Folk Museum, 98-100 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine.
Until February 7	Find the Thylacine	9.30am-4.30pm. Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre, Deloraine.
February Friday 4	Celtic Players	7-9pm. The Empire Hotel, Deloraine.
February Friday 4	Seth Henderson Live @ The General Store	7-9pm. Wandering Trout, Mole Creek.
February Saturday 5	Deloraine Market	9am-1pm. Deloraine Showgrounds.
February Sunday 6	Meander Valley Hazelnut Fest	11am-4pm. Hazelbrae Hazelnuts, Hagley.
February Sunday 6	Raw Jam	2-5pm. Rotunda, APEX Train Park, Deloraine.
February Friday 11	Summer Music with Matt Edmunds	6.30-9.30pm. Great Lake Hotel, Miena.
February Friday 11	Scott Mainwaring Live @ The General Store	7-9 pm. Wandering Trout, Mole Creek.
February Saturday 19	Mole Creek Market	9am-1pm. Memorial Hall, Mole Creek.
February Saturday 19	Westbury Market	9am-1pm. Anglican Church, Westbury.
February Sunday 20	Sunday Cider Sessions	12-7.30 pm. Red Brick Rd Cider, Deloraine.
February Saturday 26 - Sunday 27	Entally Gardenfest	10am-4pm. Entally Estate.
February Saturday 26	A Day at the Creek	11am - 11 pm. Mole Creek Hotel.
February Sunday 27	Summer Music with Seth Henderson	3-6 pm. Great Lake Hotel, Miena.

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- providing valley-wide IT support for individuals, homes and small business
- publishing the community newspaper, the *Meander Valley Gazette*

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Deloraine & Westbury Medical Centre

would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year

Covid-19 vaccinations start again in 2022 from 15 January

For appointments at D&WMC, phone 03 6362 2266
 22 Tower Hill Street, Deloraine and 80 Meander Valley Road, Westbury

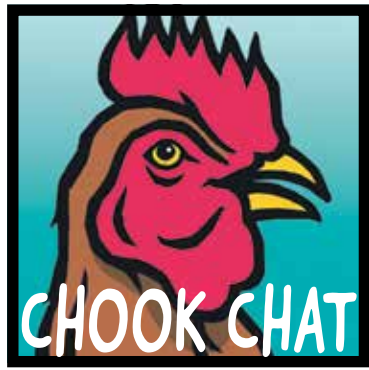
'committed to comprehensive, compassionate, community health care'

MEANDER VALLEY GAZETTE SCHEDULE 2022

EDITION	ADVERTISING BOOKING DUE	AD ARTWORK DELIVERY	EDITORIAL DEADLINE	PUBLICATION DATE
March	Monday February 14	Friday February 18	Friday February 18	March 3
April	Monday March 21	Friday March 25	Friday March 25	April 7
May	Monday April 18	Friday April 22	Friday April 22	May 5
June	Monday May 16	Friday May 20	Friday May 20	June 2 June
July	Monday June 20	Friday June 24	Friday June 24	July 7 July
August	Monday July 18	Friday July 22	Friday July 22	August 4
September	Monday August 15	Friday August 19	Friday August 19	September 1
October	Monday September 19	Friday September 23	Friday September 23	October 6
November	Monday October 17	Friday October 21	Friday October 21	November 3
December	Monday November 14	Friday November 18	Friday November 18	December 1

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Broody chooks



BROODY CHOOKS can be a good thing if you want to breed chickens but are a pain if you don't.

What causes broodiness? Well, it's a natural instinct.

The hen feels it wants to become a mum, and the pituitary releases the hormone prolactin – the same hormone that stimulates breast milk production in humans (hence the term "you're clucky"). The hormone release stops egg-laying in hens.

It also increases the hen's body temperature. Broodiness can occur at any time during the egg-laying season but usually late in the season when the weather is warmer.

Broodiness varies between breeds, and it's a genetic trait. It was bred out of the commercial breeds (hyline, Isa

brown, etc), it is not common in the light Mediterranean breeds (Leghorn), but it is common in the heavy breeds (Wyandotte or Australorp etc).

Wyandottes can be particularly broody - out of a pen of ten hens, I had eight that were clucky!

How do we stop/cure broodiness? To help prevent them from being broody, collect their eggs daily.

Make sure when you lock up your chooks at night, there are none in the nest boxes.

It is common practice to place a clucky hen in a wire cage with food and water raised off the ground.

I was never happy with this method, as it confines the hen to a small space. I have since stumbled on a more efficient and humane way.

I have several small, portable pens (approximately 1.8m long, 800mm wide and 800mm high) that are half-enclosed with tin and the other half with wire. There is also a wooden floor on the enclosed half – this lets the hen move around freely, thus reducing the hormone.

They must have food and



water readily available. You will also need to remove all nesting material.

If the hen is placed in the pen when it first gets broody, it will take 2-3 days for the hormone to reduce significantly, and it

should be ready to put back in the flock after around seven days.

It could take longer than this, especially with heavy breeds.

When the hen is roosting on the perch at night, it is a sign

that the hen is ready to go back to the flock.

Wear gloves when handling broody chooks for your own protection! Broody chooks can be aggressive, not only to you but to other chooks as well.

Exhibitor applications open for Agfest

RURAL YOUTH Tasmania are excited to advise that exhibitor applications for Agfest 2022 reopened on Tuesday 1,

February 2022. Preparations are now back underway for the 40th Anniversary Agfest 2022,

which is to be held at Quercus Park from 24 to 27 August 2022.

Applications to exhibit at the 2022 event opened on February 1 and close on February 28.

For more information please visit: www.agfest.com.au

Despite the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the staging of large-scale events, the Agfest Committee is determined to deliver a safe and successful Agfest 2022.

Agfest Chairman Caine Evans said, "We are still

hopeful, even considering the current COVID-19 breakout, that attendance numbers will be reviewed in time for our August event.

"We want to see as many people attend Agfest 2022 as is safe to do so.

"The committee understands the challenges this presents for all involved."

All Tasmanian businesses are encouraged, that haven't done so far, to apply for a site at the 40th Anniversary of the Field Days.

Being an exhibitor gives businesses the opportunity to put their brand in the spotlight and increase face to face connection and engagement with customers.

Rural Youth Tasmania currently has over 360 exhibitor applications in their system.

Exhibitors who have started but not completed their applications will be able to log back in and finalise their application.


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Upgrades to support bee industry

THE TASMANIAN Government is continuing its support for the State's bee industry through its Bee Industry Futures initiative.

A second round of funding

totalling \$96,789 will support nine key apiary infrastructure projects in West and North-West Tasmania.

The funding will collectively

improve or maintain vehicle access to more than 4,300 hives of a range of apiarists from commercial operators to small beekeepers across the

nine remote hive sites.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government understands the importance of our honey and pollination sector and the projects are aimed at protecting access to floral resources. Most of these hives are then rotated to farmed land for crop pollination.

To date, the Apiary Infrastructure Program has allocated up to \$200,000 for selected infrastructure upgrades to improve access to leatherwood and other valuable floral resources on public land.

The Program is a commitment under the Government's Bee Industry Futures Initiative which aims to ensure beekeepers, and industries that depend on them

for pollination, can have a viable future.

Nominations for the Program are considered by the joint Apiary Infrastructure Fund Advisory Committee comprising beekeepers, land managers (Parks and Wildlife Service and Sustainable Timbers Tasmania) and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.

A third round of nominations is expected to be open later this year.

The bee industry is an important part of the Tasmanian Government's target to sustainably grow the farm gate value of Tasmania's agricultural production to \$10 billion by 2050.



► Lindsay Bourke and Guy Barnett at the Australian Honey Products extraction centre.

Are you Tassie's Young Farmer of the Year 2022?

THE RURAL Youth Organisation of Tasmania, along with naming rights partner Woolworths, are excited to announce that the 2022 Woolworths Tasmanian Young Farmer of the Year Competition is now open for entries.

The competition was launched at Quercus Park, Carrick on Friday January 14, 2022.

Josh Mison Rural Youth Tasmania State President spoke at the launch and said, "As Rural Youth State President I am very proud to be welcoming Woolworths on board as naming rights sponsor and to launch the 2022 Woolworths Tasmanian Young Farmer of the Year Competition."

The competition is open to any Tasmanian aged between 15 and 30 and you don't have to be a farmer to enter!

Mr Mison commented that previous competitors, including himself, came from a wide array of backgrounds from bankers and agronomists to builders and homemakers.

He said, "A love for agriculture is all you need".

The organisation aims to foster the great farming culture present in Tasmania through

education and a bit of healthy competition.

Mr Mison encouraged all Tasmanians aged between 15 and 30 to jump onto their website and get their entries in before the February 14 closing date and to be part of this great and very rewarding event.

Woolworths Riverside Store Manager Wesley Polden spoke highly of Woolworths relationship with Rural Youth Tasmania and Tasmanian farmers.

"We are really proud of our relationship with the Tasmanian farmers and producers and sponsoring the Rural Youth Tasmanian Young Farmer Competition is amazing.

"We are so proud to be able to be part of the Rural Youth Young Farmer of the Year competition and are really looking forward to the competitors and what they have to go through."

The winner of the 2021 Tasmanian Young Farmer Competition Andrea O'Halloran said it was a privilege to be named the 2021 winner for the Tasmanian Young Farmer of the Year Competition.

"Having been involved in the competition and participating

since 2017, it was a fantastic opportunity and I have certainly learnt a lot along the way."

Ms O'Halloran said, "I really would encourage any young person to have a go. You don't have to be off a farm.

"It is about participating, meeting people, testing your skills, and learning new skills as well. I really encourage everyone to hop online, register and participate this year."

The competition tests the practical and theoretical knowledge of our contestants through a series of 12 agriculture-related modules spanning a range of skills from sheep handling, soil health and sprayer calibration to public speaking and finance.

Contestants battle it out for top spot, a chance to win some amazing prizes and the title of Tasmanian Young Farmer of the Year!

Entries close February 14 2022. Run-offs will occur on Saturday March 26 2022 at Hagley Farm School and the State Final is to be held on Saturday May 28 2022 at Quercus Park, Carrick.

More details can be found on the Rural Youth website: www.ruralyouth.com.au/youngfarmer



► Andrea O'Halloran, Tasmania's Young Farmer of the Year 2021. Photo Supplied.

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Gap year program to entice young people to regional farms

AN UNCERTAIN job market and the inability to travel overseas has led to a decline in high school graduates participating in a “gap year.”

But there’s plenty of opportunity for growth and experiences right here in our own backyard.

The Australian Government has partnered with the National Farmers’ Federation (NFF) to develop AgCAREERSTART – a gap year program which matches young Australians with an on-farm job in regional Australia while addressing barriers and attitudes to work

in Australian agriculture.

AgCAREERSTART applicant Romy Ainslee is a young Australian who graduated in 2021 from Hawkesbury High school in Lower Portland, NSW, an hour and half from Sydney.

Ms Ainslee is excited for the opportunities AgCAREERSTART will give her.

“I’ve been stuck in the same place my whole life and I’m keen to get out there and try something different,” Ms Ainslee said.

“I originally started an agriculture course in high

school. However, the program ended up not running as not enough people signed up to do it. I’ve had an interest in agriculture ever since.

“With AgCAREERSTART I don’t mind what type of agriculture I end up doing or where I get placed, as long as I get the opportunity to learn some new skills,” Ms Ainslee said.

NFF Chief Executive Officer Tony Mahar said a gap year with AgCAREERSTART will give young people the opportunity to explore some of Australia’s most beautiful

regions while learning new skills.

“Young people are finishing school in a world of uncertainty. They still need that well-earned break from study, and they want to gain independence, even more so after almost two years of online lessons and being stuck at home,” Mr Mahar said.

“A g c a r e e r s t a r t participants will be matched with an on-farm job, given training and development, and granted access to industry events and experiences with their AgCAREERSTART cohort.

“They can learn something new in a hands-on way, while gaining valuable life experience.

“If the pandemic has taught us anything, it’s to make the most of every opportunity.

Travel may always be possible, but a program like this doesn’t come along every day,” Mr Mahar said.

Through AgCAREERSTART, participants will be employed under award wages on qualified farms for up to 12 months.

Participants will receive safety training, on-farm induction and VET scholarships to upskill on the job.

Participants will also be able to access government funded relocation assistance.

The first on-farm placements for AgCAREERSTART will commence in March 2022.

Applications for both farmer hosts and participants are now open.

For more information and to register your interest visit www.agcareerstart.com.au



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