

Meander Valley Gazette

Free every month

May 2022

Your independent community paper

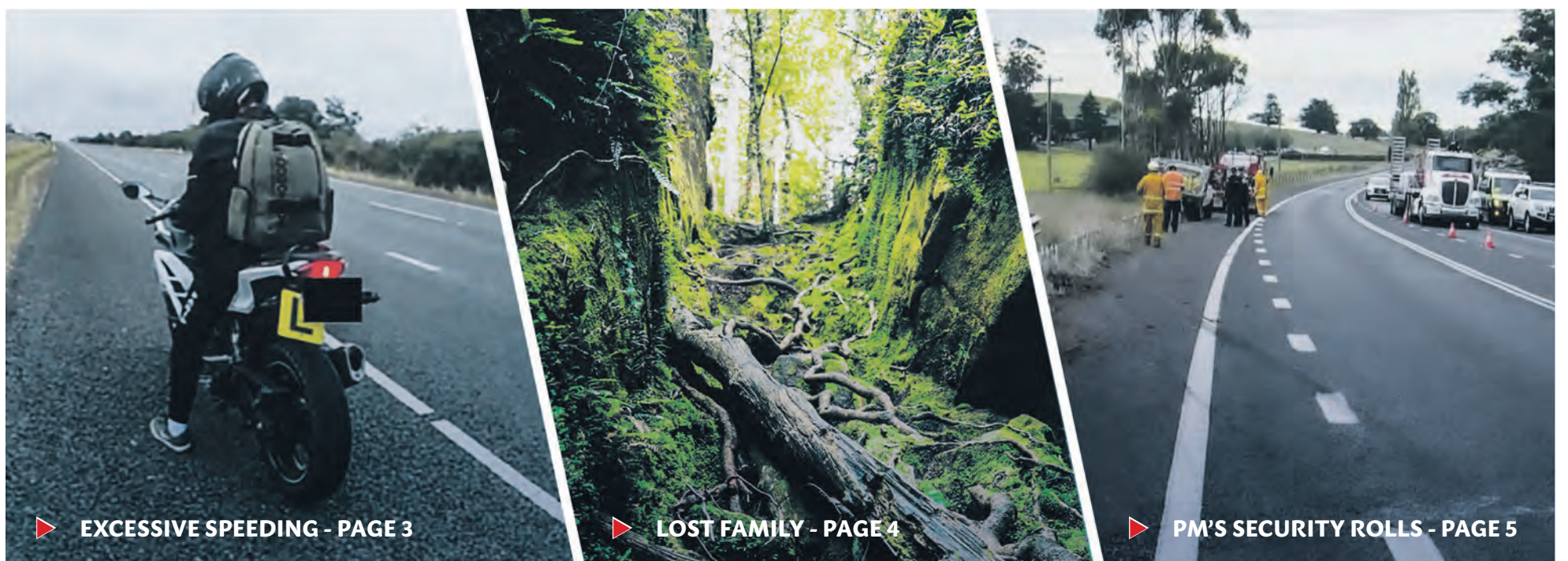


Getting involved in the community gardens

► Mole Creek Garden volunteers Jenny and Tom with the pizza oven. Photo by Sasha Lev.

PHOTOS AND STORY ON PAGE 7

Busy month for emergency services



► EXCESSIVE SPEEDING - PAGE 3

► LOST FAMILY - PAGE 4

► PM'S SECURITY ROLLS - PAGE 5

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2013

Meander Valley Gazette

This newspaper is published by Meander Valley Connect Inc, 21 West Parade, Deloraine 7304. ABN 89 090 614 412.

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

Home delivery

If you live in the Meander Valley municipality and are not receiving the *Meander Valley Gazette* each month, you may have a 'No junk mail' notice on your letterbox.

Call or email to get your free 'Please deliver *Meander Valley Gazette*' weatherproof sticker.

Website and digital editions

Every month, the stories from the latest edition of the Gazette are posted on our website. 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 web archives free of charge.

Please note

While every care is taken, the producers of *Meander Valley Gazette* cannot be held liable for any publication errors in written material or advertisements. The opinions expressed, whether by paid advertisement or editorial content, do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper. Some material may be abbreviated due to lack of space.

From the Gazette

ARE YOU OUR NEXT EDITOR?



Meander Valley Connect is looking for someone to take on the role of Editor of the Meander Valley Gazette.

About the role:

Working closely with the administration and production team, the Editor is responsible for the journalistic content of the Gazette.

We aim to provide the Meander Valley with informative and engaging content.

The primary responsibility of the role is writing and sourcing the material for our monthly editions, and managing volunteer contributors.

About the applicant:

- Experienced in journalistic writing
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- A proven eye for detail along
- Fact checking and critical thinking skills
- Prioritizing and meeting deadlines
- Residence and activity in the Meander Valley community is advantageous

This is a part time position with remuneration to be negotiated based on experience.

For enquiries or to apply, email general@meandervalleygazette.com with your resume and cover letter

Opinion editorial

Still waiting on consultation outcomes

Linda Poulton,
WRAP Inc President

FOLLOWING OUR last media release three weeks ago, on 4 April 2022, the Minister for Corrections said that an announcement on the future of the Ashley site would be made "shortly".

A further three weeks have passed, and there is still no announcement.

It has now been six weeks since the consultation

process on the future use of the Ashley site ended.

Will an announcement only be made after the Federal election has been and gone so as not to cause ripples?

The community has been through enough. We do not deserve to wait any longer. We call on the Tasmanian Government to immediately announce its plans for our region.

News

VALLEY EVENTS is bringing Australian darling Mia Dyson to Meander Hall as part of her nation wide Parking Lots tour!

Secure your tickets now: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/mia-dyson-parking-lots-tour-tickets-198686335177

FOUR TONE ARTISTS PRESENTS

MIA DYSON

Parking Lots

15TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR 2022

FRI APR 22 | THE LANSDOWNE | SYDNEY, NSW
 THU APR 28 | SOOKI LOUNGE | BELGRAVE, VIC
 FRI APR 29 | CARAVAN CLUB | ARCHIE'S CREEK, VIC **NEW EVENT**
 SAT APR 30 | SANDY POINT MUSIC CLUB | SANDY POINT, VIC
 SUN MAY 1 | BIRREGURRA HALL | BIRREGURRA, VIC **NEW EVENT**
 FRI MAY 6 | HOWLER | MELBOURNE, VIC
 SAT MAY 7 | THEATRE ROYAL | CASTLEMAINE, VIC
 SUN MAY 8 | MACEDON RAILWAY HOTEL | MACEDON, VIC
 FRI MAY 13 | THE LONGHOUSE | HOBART, TAS **NEW EVENT**
 SAT MAY 14 | MEANDER HALL | MEANDER, TAS **NEW EVENT**
 SUN MAY 15 | THE PALAIS THEATRE | FRANKLIN, TAS **NEW EVENT**
 SAT MAY 21 | BELLINGEN BREWERY | BELLINGEN, NSW **NEW EVENT**
 SUN MAY 22 | LIZOTTE'S | NEWCASTLE, NSW

FT FOUR TONE ARTISTS mgm Tickets & Vinyl release available at miadyson.com Photo by Jon Drummond

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May is the month of elections

EIGHT CANDIDATES have nominated to contest the seat of Lyons in the Federal Election which has been called for Saturday, May 21.

Brian Mitchell is the incumbent candidate and has held his seat since 2016.

These are your candidates in the order named by the Australian Electoral Commission:



Rhys GRIFFITHS,
Liberal Democratic Party



Anna GRALTON,
Animal Justice Party



Troy Robert PFITZNER,
Jacqui Lambie Network



Liz JOHNSTONE,
Australian Greens



Susie BOWER,
Liberal Party of Australia



Brian MITCHELL,
Australian Labor Party



Jason EVANS,
United Australia Party



Emma Jane GOYNE,
Pauline Hanson's One Nation

Aside from the Federal Election, the Legislative Council Election is on Saturday, May 7 and is compulsory.

The candidates for the McIntyre electorate are Tania Rattray and David Downie, who are both independent, and Mitchell Houghton who belongs to the Greens party.

Learner rider caught 49km/h over

A LEARNER rider will be disqualified for at least four months after he was detected travelling at excessive speed on the Bass Highway at Westbury on April 11, 2022.

Around 5 pm, members from the Northern Road Safety Task Force detected a green Kawasaki travelling at 129km/h in a 110km/h zone where it was intercepted.

The learner rider, who is restricted to a maximum speed of 80km/h, was travelling at 49km/h above their applicable speed limit.

The 20-year-old man from Miandetta has been issued with an infringement notice for travelling at 45km/h or

more above the limit, which attracts a monetary penalty of \$994.75, 6 demerit points and a disqualification period of 4 months.

Police urge motorists to slow down and obey all speed limits and restrictions regarding their licence.

Speeding is one of the 'fatal five' contributors to severe and fatal crashes. Travelling at such speeds puts many lives at risk, especially when they are inexperienced.

Police will continue to conduct patrols on highways and main roads to ensure that road users adjust their driver behaviour and help make our roads safer.



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COVID-19
VACCINATION

Australian Government

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.

Return of the MV Art Award

THE MEANDER Valley Art Award aims to increase participation in art making and engagement in the visual arts.

It returns in 2022, embracing concepts of change, growth and new beginnings.

The award is open to various media and styles, including digital, watercolour, acrylic, pastel, mixed media and oils. Other forms such as textiles, folk art, glass, wood, and sculptural works are also welcome.

The new "Shed Art" category aims to encourage creatives who don't consider themselves studio artists to take the step and release their work to the public.

All works should have their inspiration rooted in the local region.

While the theme of Metamorphosis affords exploration of traditional natural and agricultural subject matter, it also affords the opportunity to explore personal re-invention and contemporary political and social change issues in the region.

The Meander Valley Art Award is a collaboration between Meander Valley Council, Arts Deloraine and the Launceston Art Society.

It will officially open on Friday, 30 September 2022, in the Westbury Town Hall for three weeks.

Full details, including the prize details, call for entries and conditions of entry, will be released in early July 2022.

The Meander Valley Art Award could not be delivered without the generous support of sponsors, and this year a dedicated sponsorship package has been developed.

"The sponsorship package offers some real value. Not only will sponsors have the opportunity to display their brand, but there are some award naming rights available too," said Craig Zimitat of Arts Deloraine.

"Meander Valley identifies very strongly with the arts, and we welcome any support.

"Whether it's a little, a lot or in-kind, it all helps foster creative pursuits in the

whole region."

If you are interested in sponsoring the 2022 Meander Valley Art Award, contact Craig Zimitat at artsdeloraine@gmail.com or Nate Austin at Nate.Austin@mvc.tas.gov.au for more details about the sponsorship opportunities available.

The annual award began as the Meandering Art Award in 2007, managed by the Launceston Art Society with prizes sponsored by the Meander Valley Council and others, including Bendigo Bank, Heritage Tasmania, Quadrant Super, Bullock Consulting, 60 Degrees, Quamby Estate and Country Club Tasmania.

It had close ties to the Meander region, with many entries from local artists aligned with agricultural themes.

The award was usually exhibited at Bendigo Bank or the Country Club for several months over the summer.

The Meander Valley Council acquired award-winning works, and today they hang in



► Winner of the award in 2020, Judy Nelson chose art as her means to comment on the proposed prison at Westbury and the town's unique history.

the council foyer.

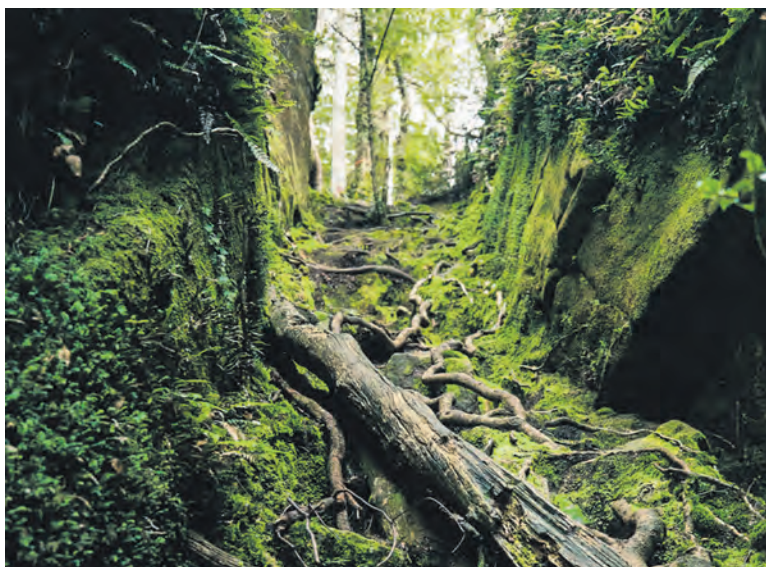
In 2018, the award transitioned to the Great Western Tiers Art Award with new sponsors but maintained rural themes.

The exhibition was hung at

Deloraine Creative Studios.

If you are interested in joining Arts Deloraine, nomination forms are available at the Deloraine Visitor's Centre or by email from artsdeloraine@gmail.com.

Lost family located near Meander Falls



► The group planned to undertake the Split Rock Track circuit to the falls and back when things went awry.

AT 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 27 April, Tasmania Police received an emergency call from an Invermay man stating that he was lost with his two young children, aged 10 and 11 years, near the Meander Falls track.

The group left for their walk at 10.30 am that morning with a plan to undertake the Split Rock Track circuit to the falls and back.

Police attended the area at 6.30 pm and located the family's Mitsubishi still parked in the carpark but could not find the family.

A search commenced with the assistance of Tasmania Police Search and Rescue,

Northern State Emergency Service volunteers and paramedics, who arrived at the scene around 9.30 pm.

Thirteen people took part in the search resulting in the group being located at around 2.45am, 16 hours after the family had begun their walk, 150m off the formed track near the falls.

They were all wet and cold and required medical attention at the scene for mild hypothermia.

The group were returned to Meander Falls campsite to rest and warm up but were found to be otherwise physically well.

After an additional two-hour

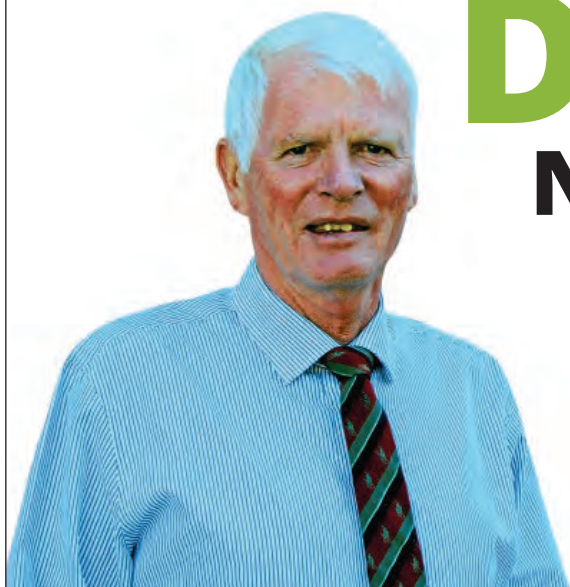
walk, the family and searchers returned to the Meander Falls Carpark around 6 am.

Weather conditions prevented the use of any rescue aircraft.

Since inclement weather is fast approaching, Tasmania Police would like to remind walkers to prepare for mishaps and delays. Let someone know where you are walking and what time you are expected back.

It is always a good idea to take a personal locator beacon such as a PLB or Spot device to assist with locating walkers who may become lost or injured.

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DAVID DOWNIE
NEW INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR
MCINTYRE
in Tasmania's Legislative Council

Authorised by D.J. Downie, 86 Valleyfield Road, Campbell Town. 7210.

PM's security rolls in Bass Hwy crash

POLICE ATTENDED a two-vehicle crash on the Bass Highway near Elizabeth Town on 14 April 2022.

The crash involved an unmarked police car and a Mitsubishi Triton, which were both travelling west between Deloraine and Latrobe.

The car was part of Prime Minister Scott Morrison's security detail as he took to the campaign trail.

Circumstances surrounding the crash are being investigated, however initial enquiries indicate that the Triton has collided with the rear of the police vehicle, while attempting to merge.

Four police officers (a man

and a woman from AFP, and two men from Tasmania Police) received non-life-threatening injuries, after their vehicle rolled down an embankment.

All occupants made a speedy recovery after treatment at the Launceston General Hospital.

As is normal process for a crash involving police, the Tasmania Police Professional Standards Unit was been advised and will monitor the investigation.

Anyone who witnessed the crash is asked to contact police on 131 444. Dashcam or other footage can be submitted via the Evidence Portal.



Catch up with the "Golden Oldies"

Barry Westwood

SOME YEARS back, a group of local men got together over a cuppa to discuss the possibility of forming a men's group. They would meet once a month to remember the good old days and share their stories of involvement within the Meander Valley.

The main locals included Kevin (Luke) Bowles, Murray (Mac) Kettle, Brian (Bill) Youd, Don (Simmo) Simpson and David (Doggie) Elmer.

Together with about ten other local men, they met at the Deloraine Bowls Club.

Word spread around and encouraged other retirees to contact the ex-locals who had moved from the area but had been heavily involved in

work, community, and sport in the Meander Valley.

It was an opportunity to re-establish contact after many years.

As time progressed, these gatherings had a steady increase in numbers reaching an average of 25 at monthly meetings.

Many stories and tales were shared and remembered - mostly true, but some had gained exaggeration over the years.

The group also had meetings at the Golf Club. However, three years ago, they moved to the Western Tiers Community Club (formerly the Senior Citizens Club) as it was deemed a central location.

The name "Deloraine Golden Oldies Men's Group" was established and



► The Golden Oldies are always keen for a cuppa.

continues to meet at the WTCC on the first Thursday of each month at 10 am.

Morning Tea is supplied, followed by some hilarious discussions and reminiscing of the days and times gone by.

A guest speaker is often

invited, and various topics are covered.


Currently, the group averages 35 in attendance but has had up to 50 on some occasions.

If you are a local or ex-local and would like to know more about us, please

attend or contact any of the names listed above.

Former locals live in Launceston and along the northwest coast and travel once a month to have a "cuppa and a bikkie" with their former school, work, and sports mates.

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I grew up in the Meander Valley region.
I fight every day to create greater opportunities for our community.

Senator Helen Polley

Authorised by Senator Helen Polley, Suite 101, 287 Charles Street, Launceston TAS 7250.

Council calls for feedback on dog policy



► **Westbury: Westbury Recreation Ground, Franklin Street.**



► **Prospect Vale: Lomond Views Estate Private Open Space, Chris Street.**



► **Hadspen: Hadspen Bull Run, Main Street.**

MEANDER VALLEY Council has drafted a new dog management policy and is asking for the community to have their say on the proposed changes.

What is Council's Dog Management Policy?

Under State Government legislation (Dog Control Act 2000), all Councils are required to implement their own Dog Management Policy which includes a range of regulations not limited to; where dogs are and are not allowed, registration, noise control and responsible pet ownership.

Why is Council's Dog Management Policy being updated?

All Councils are required to review their Dog Management Policy every five years and Council's current policy is now due for renewal.

What are the proposed changes?

Introduction of Declared Areas: A key aspect of any dog management policy is the inclusion of 'declared' areas which outline where dogs are allowed off-lead, allowed on-lead, restricted or prohibited.

The reviewed Dog Management Policy includes a number of declared areas.

Declared areas where dogs will be allowed off-lead:

In response to many requests from residents, Council has declared additional areas as suitable for off-lead dog exercise.

The areas proposed would be fully fenced and include:

- Dual gate access
- Dog waste bag dispensers and bins
- Seating
- Designated small and large dog areas
- Responsible dog ownership educational signage

The areas proposed to be new off-lead dog exercise areas are:

- Prospect Vale: Lomond Views Estate Private Open Space, Chris Street.
- Hadspen: Hadspen Bull Run, Main Street.
- Westbury: Westbury Recreation Ground, Franklin Street.

Declared areas where dogs will be restricted to on-lead only:

- Westbury: Town Common, Mary Street.
- All other public areas in Meander Valley.

Declared areas where dogs will be prohibited:

- Playing surfaces of all Council owned and managed sportsgrounds.

Introduction of educational signage

Signage will be erected to educate dog owners about their responsibilities across the various declared areas.

This will be achieved with the introduction of a "traffic light" system whereby red indicates dogs are prohibited, amber indicates dogs are allowed on-lead and green indicating dogs are allowed off-lead.

Introduction of lifetime dog registration options

Residents will be provided the option of paying a one-off lifetime dog registration fee instead of having to renew their dog's registration annually.

Where can I read a copy of the Draft Dog Management Policy?

Online: to read or download a copy of the Draft Dog Management Policy, go to tinyurl.com/mvg-dog-policy-draft

In person: copies of the Draft Dog Management Policy are available to collect from Council's customer service centre at 26 Lyall Street, Westbury.

By post: phone Council on 6393 5300 and we can arrange to have a copy posted to you.

How do I leave my feedback?

Use the form on www.meander.tas.gov.au/draft-dog-management-policy-have-your-say to submit your feedback online.

Alternatively, you can email Council to mail@mvc.tas.gov.au or phone us on 6393 5300.

Consultation is open until 5pm, Wednesday 25 May.

What happens next?

Following the closure of the consultation period, all feedback received will be considered and will help inform any further changes.

The revised Dog Management Policy will then be endorsed at the next scheduled Ordinary Council Meeting before being rolled out across the municipality over the next 12 months.



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DELORAINE

Getting involved in local gardening

DELORAINÉ COMMUNITY House operates two community gardens, one in Delorainé and the other in Mole Creek.

Both function as individual gardens and have completely different models, yet they are both very successful in their outcomes.

The Delorainé Garden is well-established and commenced in 2004 - its operation was transferred to Delorainé House in 2011.

The Mole Creek Garden is relatively new, established

in 2018.

The gardens are vibrant spaces catering for dedicated volunteers and various user groups, including the schools associated with the sites.

They are places where the local community shares knowledge, skills, and a passion for growing seasonal vegetables.

The Gardens host many community groups who hold dinners and have access to onsite Pizza ovens for creating the most delicious woodfired pizzas.

Many local children and young people have been involved in education and training opportunities.

More recently, workshops have been run for individuals to learn about what to grow and how to cook seasonal produce.

Since the onset of COVID 19 in the Tasmanian community, our gardens have become an even more vital resource.

The gardens mean that volunteers can stock the pantry on the veranda of Delorainé House as a source

of fresh produce for our community.

Additionally, the gardens are a welcome green therapeutic space for volunteers and for those struggling with lockdown situations.

They also support other groups in the Meander Valley region and beyond to plan and establish their gardens in their respective communities.

The Mole Creek Garden, next door to the Community Swimming Pool on Pioneer Drive, and a small section of

the Delorainé Community Garden are accessible 24/7.

The regular gardening day at Delorainé is on Wednesdays from 10 am - 2 pm, when the volunteers all come together to tend the space collectively and share lunch.

For more information about the gardens, please contact Delorainé House on 6362 2678.

New volunteers are very welcome!



▶ The Mole Creek Community Garden is regularly tended by students from the Mole Creek Primary School.



▶ Delorainé Community Garden is a green oasis in the spring. Photos supplied.

Celebrate our volunteers at BBQ Brunch

AS PART of the National Volunteer Week, Arts Delorainé Inc., together with the Meander Valley Council, is hosting a free Volunteer Appreciation BBQ Brunch.

The event will be held in the new Atkins Pavilion at the Delorainé Show Grounds on Sunday, 22 May 2022, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm.

Arts Delorainé recognises

with gratitude that key events could not happen without community encouragement and participation, without the support of local services and organisations, and without the commitment of their numerous volunteers.

WinterFire is a testament to how the community pulls together to create magical moments in the Valley.

The BBQ Brunch within the National Volunteer Week is a chance for all local volunteers to celebrate together and be recognised for their vital community contributions.

Whether you serve the pies at the local footy club, work on steam engines, cook lamingtons, put out fires, give time to op shops, spend days harvesting fruit

for neighbours or drive the community car, all volunteers are sincerely and warmly invited to attend this BBQ Brunch.

Laura Richardson (Meander Valley Council Citizen of the Year) will speak about how volunteering brings people together and how it creates healthier communities for everyone.

The Delorainé Show Society will provide the BBQ catering for this event. The Chudleigh Hall Committee will provide morning tea sweet delights.

The Delorainé Big Band will deliver a musical backdrop.

Together, through volunteering, we are changing our community for the better.

We are *Better Together*. Hope to see you there!

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VOTE 1
Linda Poulton
for the Senate

Authorised by A. Bateman, 680 Huon Rd, Ferntree, Tas 7054

GIVE YOUR COMMUNITY A REAL, INDEPENDENT AND LOCAL VOICE IN CANBERRA

Meander Valley responds to Launceston's amalgamation bid

AS PART of a proposed submission to the State Government's Board Review into the Future of Local Government, Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten has advocated for the establishment of a greater Launceston metropolitan council.

"It's disappointing that there has been no regional consultation or discussion from the City of Launceston. But they are entitled to their view," Mayor Wayne Johnston of Meander Valley Council said.

"We all want viable and focused local government and there is certainly room for a new model and reform. But a 'big is better focus' is too narrow."

Mayor van Zetten has claimed that Launceston is at a disadvantage due to a

so called 'spill-over effect' where services are used by residents from neighboring municipal areas for no financial contribution.

"This occurs along every council boundary and could equally be described as being mutually beneficial. That's the lot of a regional city and a bigger Launceston won't change that," Mayor Johnston said.

"Meander Valley, like other Launceston satellite councils contributes its fair share to regional initiatives and we do not always get a direct benefit. We pursue a shared interest.

"Brisbane is the largest local government in the southern hemisphere and they still have the same issue with their neighboring councils. Size doesn't matter.

"That said, Meander Valley would be happy to absorb Launceston, as we are after all, at the centre of the entire northern region.

"A new model for Tasmanian local government must address the needs of the many smaller regional communities and encourage people to participate and represent their community interests.

"I appreciate Mayor van Zetten and Launceston have a view and welcome the contribution to the debate around local government reform. We all need to contribute to make the most of this opportunity and Meander Valley Council will be preparing a submission to the Local Government Board in due course.

"For now, I agree with the reported position of



► Mayor Wayne Johnston had some thoughts to share regarding Launceston's amalgamation bid.

Launceston's submission that cost savings should not be the primary goal of future local government reform.

Curious that the focus of the media release is all about the financial aspects," Mayor Johnston said.

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or call Ray on 0418 124 171

Authorised by Ray Williams, 14 Circle St, New Norfolk 7140



CHILD ABUSE - ASHLEY YOUTH DETENTION CENTRE

Maliganis Edwards Johnson Lawyers (MEJ) is investigating claims of sexual abuse to have occurred at the Ashley Youth Detention Centre as early as 1970. The victims were all minors at the time they suffered abuse.

MEJ wishes to speak with any former employees, attendees or members of the community who may have been involved with or attended the Ashley Youth Detention Centre.

If you were, or a loved one was, a victim of child sexual or physical abuse whilst attending the Ashley Youth Detention Centre, our specialist personal injury lawyers are interested in hearing your stories, noting recent changes and developments in the law making it easier for victims to seek compensation (even those that may have previously settled claims).

MEJ's historical sexual abuse team is experienced in prosecuting institutions like the Ashley Youth Detention Centre and will guide you through the process.

Please contact us to speak about your experiences at the Ashley Youth Detention Centre regardless of when it may have occurred.

(02) 6257 2999

or

mail@mej.com.au

Statewide Mental Health Services update

Dale Webster
Deputy Secretary, Community, Mental Health and Wellbeing

community by reducing the risk of further transmission of COVID-19.

THE INCREASED number of COVID-19 cases in Tasmania is continuing to present challenges for Statewide Mental Health Services, with impacts on staffing due to community transmission of the virus.

As a result, SMHS has moved to COVID Escalation Level 3 for SMHS Community teams and community residential services. SMHS in-hospital services at the Royal Hobart Hospital and Launceston General Hospital are already operating at COVID Escalation Level 3, as part of the hospital escalation process.

This change in escalation level will ensure the continued delivery of high-quality care to our clients, while appropriately responding to the current COVID situation.

The decision has been made in order to protect clients, staff and the

From 6 April 2022, the following changes have commenced implementation statewide across all SMHS community teams and community-based residential services:

- Where clinically appropriate, client contact will be undertaken via telephone or video conferencing,
- Where face-to-face contact is necessary, a heightened use of personal protective equipment will be in place.

The changes will be in place for the following services:

- Alcohol and Drug Service,
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services,
- Older Persons Mental Health Service,
- Forensic Mental Health Services,
- Community Residential Services.

Our priority is to continue



► Some changes are being made to Tasmania's mental health services.

to provide a high standard of care to all of our clients during this time.

I encourage anyone with concerns or issues about the changes to discuss them with the individual services in the first instance.

SMHS will continue to monitor the COVID

situation and its impact on services and will continue to work hard to minimise disruption.

I want to reassure the public that clients requiring clinical intervention will continue to receive service.

Assistance is available 24/7 by calling Lifeline on 13

11 14, A Tasmanian Lifeline for psychosocial support from 8am-8pm seven days a week on 1800 984 434, or the Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467.

Importantly, if anyone is in immediate danger, they should call triple zero immediately.

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Tania RATTRAY

Independent Member
for McIntyre Legislative Council

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and re-elect Rattray
Saturday, May 7 2022.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Office - 6350 5000
Facebook - [TaniaRattrayMLC](https://www.facebook.com/TaniaRattrayMLC)
Website - www.parliament.tas.gov.au/lc/Rattray/rattray.html

The Legislative Council Election will be held on Saturday, May 7 2022. Your number one vote at this election would be greatly appreciated.

Authorised by Tania Rattray, 16 King St, Scottsdale, TAS, 7260.

"It has been an extraordinary privilege to represent and advocate on behalf of the McIntyre electorate.

I'm here to listen and talk about what matters most to you.

I am available to you any time as your full-time Independent Legislative Council Member."

MEANDER VALLEY GAZETTE SCHEDULE 2022

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

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Severe shortage of housing in Deloraine

Lois Beckwith

THE LACK of housing to rent or buy is evident every day.

We all observe the rising house prices and rents, and the increasing costs are unbelievable.

They have led to an increase in homelessness, people sleeping in cars, couch surfing, sleeping on friends' floors, and legal evictions of young and old.

I currently have 20 people seeking a room, unit or house.

When I advertise a room in a share house/boarding house, up to 30 people will respond within hours of placing the vacancy.

In the past 12 months, I have been heavily involved in trying to find accommodation for young, highly educated people moving into the area to fill critical jobs in farming, age care, food production/distribution and disability care.

Our community would be better off if we could house these young people who are highly motivated to work in these sectors where there are shortages.

Rising prices and fierce competition for every vacancy

make it harder than ever for young immigrants and renters of all age groups to find accommodation.

The government at all levels appears to have ignored the problem even when the media have described Deloraine as having the most significant housing problem in Tasmania.

I am sharing this issue from my recent experience to try and help solve the housing shortage in our area.

The situation highlights the dire need for government assistance in finding and building accommodation.

My involvement started when an international student (stranded in Australia due to COVID) arrived in Deloraine to work and found no accommodation available.

She knew no one and had no support.

Within weeks I had another ten, all seeking somewhere to live.

Pressure in the market led to families and international workers being legally evicted and forced to live in their cars.

We also have young people who have lived in Deloraine all their lives a who can't move out of their family home or are

couch-surfing with friends.

We may also have many retirees wanting to downsize and move closer to services.

I now have 20 young people housed in the Deloraine area whom all work in critical care and on farms.

I readily admit this is not a large number as I have a huge list of unmet needs.

I could do so much more if the government helped just a little.

Homeless people need immediate help, but obtaining a building permit in Meander Valley takes over a year to navigate all the requirements.

No wonder new housing has been slow for many years!

We all agree we do not want new buildings that are not sensitive to a proposed location, but the vigorous application process is a bureaucratic nightmare, requiring up to ten consultant reports on every conceivable topic.

It seems to be a money-generating industry for all the add-on investigations needed for even the most simple build.

It is incredibly focused on every possible risk in the acts and regulations.

Over time, the system

has grown into a giant risk mitigation exercise protecting governments and keeping everyone in the community happy.

It is no individual's fault, but the system is focused on every possible risk. It treats each one as a high risk requiring hours of highly paid consultants' assessments. There is no common sense to it at all.

It slows down progress, puts people off, is very expensive, and often has nothing to show for all the upfront expenditure.

The process significantly adds to building costs and makes it hard or impossible for a large part of the community to even think about building.

The short-term visitor market has grown dramatically, which has had a massive impact on rental homes available for permanent residency.

Governments are only now looking at this problem that has been with us for several years.

We have many larger houses within our area highly suitable for use as a share and boarding houses.

For young people moving into Tasmania and Deloraine for work, these new arrivals

have no idea where to start to secure a bed and meet rental application requirements.

Most of these home seekers are highly educated professionals.

Some are foreign graduates forced by the permanent residency process to work in specific jobs in designated areas; they are not temporary backpackers. They work long hours, shift work, and often have two or three low paid jobs.

A housing shortage leads to a labour shortage, especially in the areas we rely on; care for the elderly, ill and disabled.

I am trying various approaches to help alleviate some homelessness: share houses, boarding houses, leased boarding houses, and purpose-built and designed accommodation such as tiny houses and large group houses.

A room with a bathroom and kitchen and laundry access is preferred.

If you think you might be able to help, don't hesitate to contact me on 6369 5393 or at loisbeckwith@bigpond.com

AGED CARE DELORAIN SUCCESSFUL IN ANOTHER AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GRANT ROUND



WE HAVE RECEIVED \$197,776 (EX GST) IN FUNDING SPECIFICALLY FOR KANANGRA.

Aged Care Deloraine received this funding predominately for solar installation at Kanangra. Last year we installed solar at Grenoch (thanks to another successful grant) and we have noticed a significant reduction in power costs. We are excited to be able to install solar at Kanangra as well, at no cost to the organisation. We hope to have the installation complete before the end of June.

This grant also will fund some specific marketing activities and a project to assist us to transition to our new funding model commencing in October 2022. We also received some funding to assist in covering the cost of the revaluation of our assets (this is quite a costly exercise).

We are grateful to the Australian Government Department of Health for our success in these grant rounds. We are also lucky to have an exceptional grant writer, Matt Flakemore - our Chief Financial Officer. Matt has worked to secure several grants in the last couple of years, working closely with the CEO.

This funding is a fantastic bonus and will help us reduce operating expenses and drive our organisation further.

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

Call us today to see how we can help.

AGED CARE DELORAIN INC

Phone. 6362 8300 Web. agedcaredeloraine.org.au

Hot rods hit the streets

WHAT: Australian Street Rod Federation Central Coast Nationals
WHERE: West Parade and West Church Street, Deloraine
WHEN: Friday April 8, 2022
WHO: Over 400 classic car and hot rod enthusiasts



▶ Roger Nutting enjoying the show.



▶ Dennis, Cooper and Helen Briggs with Anne and Mike Talbot.



▶ David Sheriff on duty at the show.



▶ The sunny Autumn day drew quite a crowd.



▶ Photos by Garry Edwards.



▶ Sandra Winnen with Abby and Deb Hall.

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VOTE 1

PETER WHISH-WILSON

FOR THE SENATE

LIZ JOHNSTONE

FOR LYONS




Authorised by Debra Rees, Tasmanian Greens, 298 Argyle St, North Hobart, TAS 7000.





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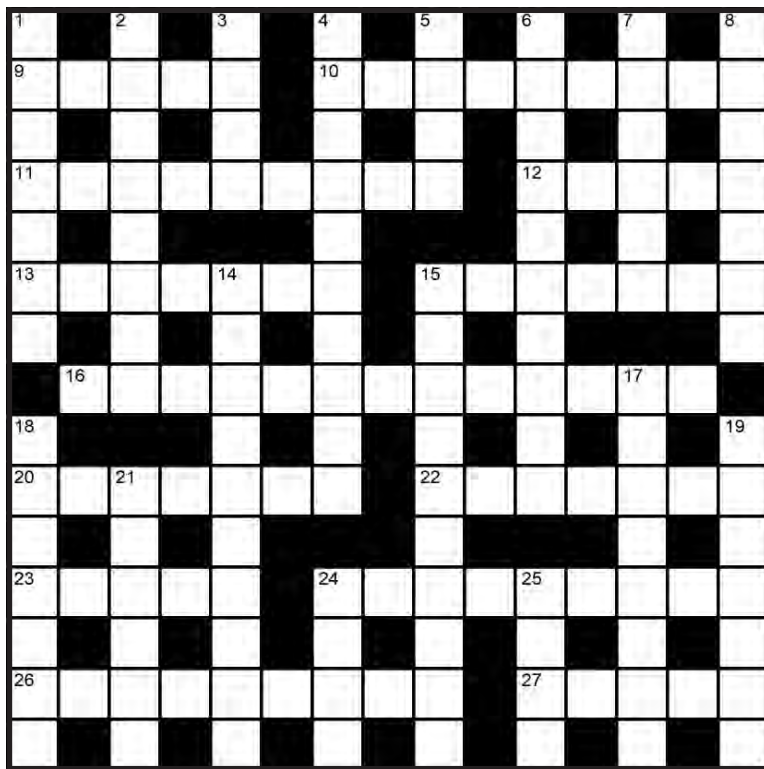
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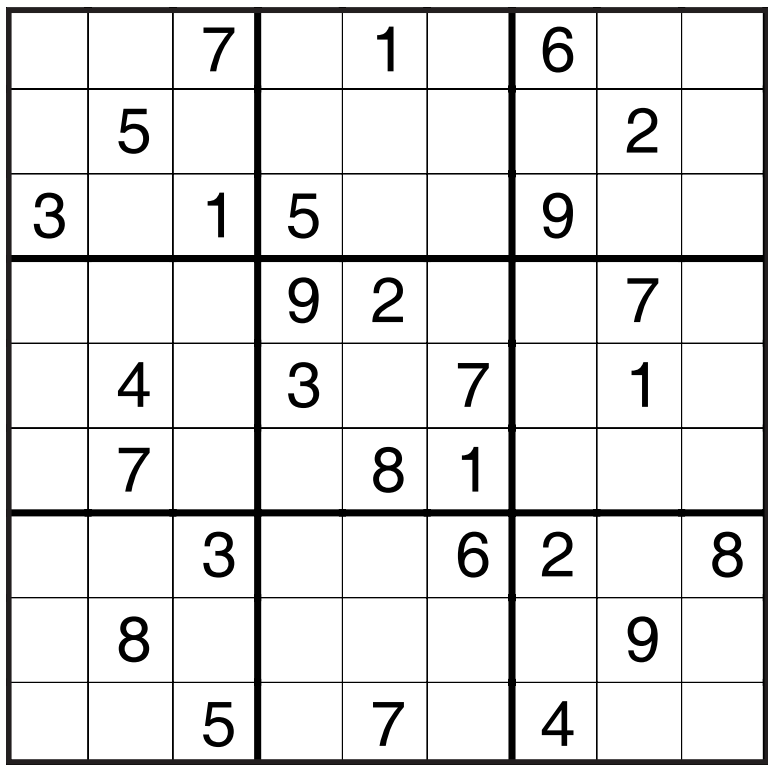
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deloraine.oac@education.tas.gov.au
21 West Parade Deloraine

Crossword



- Across**
- 9 Quickly (5)
 - 10 Exaggerating (9)
 - 11 Overly harsh (9)
 - 12 Basra native, perhaps (5)
 - 13 Arms (7)
 - 15 Some newspapers (7)
 - 16 Supervised place for the infirm (3-4,6)
 - 20 Compel (7)
 - 22 Sri Lankan capital (7)
 - 23 Name (5)
 - 24 Former Wallabies captain, who died young (4,5)
 - 26 Dictate (9)
 - 27 Mixture of metals (5)
- Down**
- 1 "The clock struck one, the mouse --- ..." (3,4)
 - 2 Sydney beach suburb (8)
 - 3 Tramp (4)
 - 4 Electric spit (10)
 - 5 Bird's nest ---, which can be grown indoors (4)
 - 6 Extra (10)
 - 7 Former national field hockey captain Sandy --- (6)
 - 8 In opposition (7)
 - 14 Event (10)
 - 15 G W Bush's Vice-President (4,6)
 - 17 Transfers of furniture from one house to another (8)
 - 18 Symbol of bureaucracy (3,4)
 - 19 Lunch feature, often (4,3)
 - 21 Shackle (6)
 - 24 Broad smile (4)
 - 25 Double (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 May 2022 solution



Sudoku May 2022 solution

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

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 & Centre. Call 6701 2150 for health & community services.
Mon, 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.
Mon, 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. 47 Main Road, Hadspen. Contact Abby Johns 0417 264 378, hadspenplaygroup@gmail.com.
Every Tues, 10-11.30am	Happy Hands Art Time, 1-5 Year Olds	School term. Deloraine Seventh-Adventist Church Hall, 4445 Meander Valley Rd.
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 Fri, 7.30pm	Upbeat SQRZ - square dancing	Western Tiers Community Club.
Every 1st Fri, 7-9pm	Celtic Nights @ The Empire	The Empire Hotel. 19-23 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine. Table bookings recommended. 03 6362 1029.
Sun 1 May, 2 - 5pm	Raw Jam	Cycles @ The Empire Hotel, Deloraine
Fri 6 May, 7 - 9pm	Tessa Lee Live @ The General Store	Wandering Trout, Mole Creek
Fri 6 May, 7 - 9pm	Celtic Players	Cycles @ The Empire Hotel, Deloraine
Sat 7 May, 9am - 1pm	Deloraine Market	Deloraine Showgrounds
Fri 13 May, 7 - 9pm	Eddie Tuleja Live @ The General Store	Wandering Trout, Mole Creek
Sat 14 May, 7.30pm	Movie: Heroic Losers	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine
Sat 14 May, 5.30 - 9pm	Mia Dyson Parking Lots Tour	Meander Hall
Sun 15 May, 2-5pm	Deloraine Jazz Quartet	Cycles @ The Empire Hotel, Deloraine
Fri 20 May, 7 - 9pm	Zac Henderson Live @ The General Store	Wandering Trout, Mole Creek
Sat 21 May, 9am - 1pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Church, Westbury
Sat 21 May, 9am - 1pm	Mole Creek Market	Memorial Hall, Mole Creek
Fri 27 May, 7 - 9	Ben Lawless Live @ The General Store	Wandering Trout, Mole Creek
Fri 27 May, 9.30 - 11.30pm	Throwback To The 80s Party	Country Club Casino, Prospect

CLASSIFIED ADS

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ACCOUNTING & BOOKKEEPING

Deloraine Bean Counter looking after all your business accounts, MYOB, payroll and training needs. Call Zsuzsanna on 0427 362 058, delorainebeancounter@gmail.com. Central office located at Room 4, 62-64 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Tas 7304.

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Authorised by P.Coulson, Liberal Party of Australia, 185 Invermay Road, Invermay, TAS 7248

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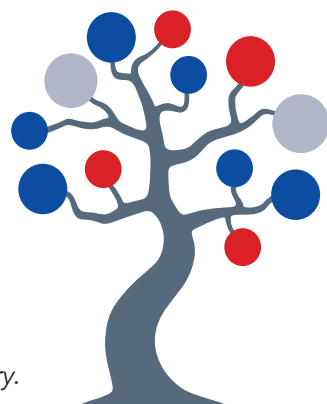
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Aged care volunteers heed the call

A CAMPAIGN to address the critical shortage of volunteers in Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) hopes to inspire more Tasmanians to provide social support for some of the most vulnerable in the community.

The Re-engaging Volunteers into Residential Aged Care Facilities program is encouraging thousands of new and experienced volunteers an opportunity to experience the satisfaction of giving back to the community.

Volunteers are needed for non-clinical social support to help in aged care facilities, providing companionship and assisting with leisure activities.

Volunteers will be matched with one of the hundreds of facilities that have registered for the program, which will run until August.

Volunteers will need to complete a short online training session and police checks and show proof of COVID-19 and flu

vaccination, as relevant.

National volunteer numbers fell dramatically during the height of COVID-19, with more than 70 per cent of volunteers unable to assist as a result of the pandemic.

Tasmanians are now being invited to experience the sense of community that volunteering provides, to help bring joy to residents of aged care facilities and make a real difference in their lives.

CEO of Volunteering Tasmania Dr Lisa Schimanski said: "The program is an important initiative to reinvigorate volunteering in aged care.

Volunteering has always been a vital part of the non-clinical care in aged care facilities, with data clearly showing that a sense of social engagement and companionship has a meaningful impact on the quality of life and mental wellbeing of our most vulnerable citizens.

"Volunteer programs only ever seek to complement,



► Our aged care workers such as Nadine Ozols, pictured with Spyros Marinos, go above and beyond in the Meander Valley. *Archive photo.*

not replicate or replace, the functions of a paid professional workforce.

They provide assistance, companionship and support to residents, which is essential to their wellbeing.

The volunteers we are calling for won't replace paid workers in hands-on care roles, but will instead provide vital companionship and social connection

through conversations, games and outings, in a time when connection has been hampered," Dr Schimanski said.

"Volunteering has a vital role in aged care and we welcome this program as key part of the holistic care our most important citizens deserve."

Australia's volunteering peak bodies are committed

to making the volunteering process as easy as possible, offering all the necessary training and paperwork and matching each volunteer with the most appropriate aged care facility.

Anyone interested in the program can register at www.volunteeringtas.org.au/for-volunteers/residential-aged-care-volunteers/

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The boy who cried knickers!

Wendy Hays

DURING THE late 1980s, I taught at a high school in Hobart's northern suburbs.

The school was of open plan design, and the dress code for both staff and students was very casual.

Grade 8D on Wednesday afternoon was an extremely challenging class.

Having taken some time to settle the group, I began demonstrating this month's biscuit recipe to teach the creaming method of mixing ingredients.

Not long into my spiel, I was interrupted by a particularly difficult student, "Miss, what have you got down the back of your trousers?"

I brushed him off as being obstructive but realised that something was truly amiss when some more reliable students insisted that something was there.

Putting my hand up the leg of my trousers, I was horrified to extricate the knickers that I'd been wearing the day before.

Much laughter ensued, and from then on, these biscuits have been known as Smarty Pants Cookies.

Now I can't condone displaying one's underwear as a classroom management strategy, but Grade 8D was a completely different class from that moment on.



Smarty Pants Cookies

Ingredients

- 90 g softened butter or margarine
- 80 g castor sugar
- 80 g brown sugar
- a few drops of vanilla essence
- 1 egg - beaten in a cup
- 180 g self-raising flour
- 1 C of Smarties, M&Ms or choc bits

Method

- 1 Line 2 oven trays with baking paper and preheat the oven to 180C.

- 2 Cream butter, sugars and vanilla until light and fluffy using an electric beater or wooden spoon.
- 3 Beat in the egg.
- 4 Using a metal spoon, gently stir in the flour and lollies
- 5 Leaving room for the biscuits to spread, use a spoon and a knife to place balls of mixture (about the size of a walnut) on trays.
- 6 Bake for about 15 -20 minutes. Cool on trays for a few minutes, then lift onto a wire rack to cool completely.

At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society

Clare Andersen

With the Federal Budget now behind us, our May film brings to life the reality of the 1998-2002 Argentine great recession, known as corralito (corral/enclosure).

The economy was stagnant, businesses were closing, and many citizens were without jobs and losing or unable to access savings.

Most ordinary Argentines dealt only in cash, with debit cards not widely known or used.

The bank owners and corrupt officials shared the blame that led to the cash freeze.

The corralito was renamed "corralon" (vacant lot) when people could no longer withdraw the limit of \$250

per week because banks no longer had any dollars. "Heroic Losers" manages to re-imagine this catastrophe into a crowd-pleasing comedy.



MAY 14

HEROIC LOSERS

2019 M, Dark Comedy/Adventure, Argentina, 96m. Director Sebastian Borensztein.

Winner of the 2020 Goya for Best Iberoamerican Film, Borensztein has rural

Argentines conspire to steal back from the elites who robbed them during their country's recession.

Hoping to bring business back to their town, Fermin and Lidia decide to recreate a cooperative using their banked capital.

However, the national bank freeze limit (corralito) sees their capital trapped in banks.

Neighbours band together to recover their savings when they discover a corrupt lawyer has received their monies in his account.

'What follows is a well-written and acted caper yarn in which the mood is mostly lighthearted.' The Australian (David Stratton)

Critics 96% Audience 85% Rotten Tomatoes

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

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Rebecca White MP

Labor Member for Lyons

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Authorised by REBECCA WHITE, 33 COLE ST, SORELL

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Brian Mitchell MP

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



Authorised by Brian Mitchell MP (ALP, Tasmania)
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Preparing your nesting boxes



AS THE days get shorter and colder, winter is not far away. The chooks are moulting and have stopped laying, now is an excellent time to give the nest boxes a good clean as they won't be in use.

Remove all nesting material, clean and disinfect, and then replace it with new nesting material. This is also an excellent time to dust the nest boxes to kill any unwanted lice/mites - dust the boxes before putting in the nesting material. I like to use straw or grass hay in the nest boxes for my nesting

material, but you could use wood shavings.

Nest boxes should be placed just off the ground in the hen house in a shaded area, not in direct sunlight; they like their privacy. Perches should always be higher than the nest boxes as this encourages the hens to use the perches and not the nest box.

It is recommended that you have one nest box for five hens, but I like to have two. It just leaves their options open, and nobody is left waiting.

For every additional five hens, add one nest box. I use a false egg in the nest box to encourage the hens to lay. It is also effective in stopping egg eating.

Roll away nest boxes

Roll away nest boxes have a slight slope on the box's floor.

When the chook has laid an egg and left the nest, the egg rolls to the front into an enclosed area that the chooks can't access.

You can buy roll away nest boxes, or if you want a cheaper option, you can buy the plastic insert to convert your existing nest box. You can also build your own as there are many plans online.

The advantages of the rollaway system are cleaner eggs, no egg-eating, less broody chooks, reduced external parasites, and easy cleaning. Also, you won't need to get extra bedding as this restricts the eggs from rolling down.

Trap nests

The name says it all: the hen enters the nest and triggers the door to shut behind it.

Using trap nest boxes, you can identify which chook laid which egg - this is a handy tool in breeding as



you can select your best chooks.

It is also valuable for identifying poor layers.

You must check trap nest boxes regularly. There are

many different types of trap nest plans available online.

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Authorised by Margaret Reynolds, 1/169 Newcastle Street Fyshwick ACT 2609

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Susie Bower supports a prison being built in her own community of Westbury, even though 80% of the people in Westbury don't want it.

IF SHE WON'T STAND UP FOR HER OWN COMMUNITY, HOW CAN YOU EXPECT HER TO STAND UP FOR YOURS?

Authorised by Peter Wileman, 13A Lyall St, Westbury, Tasmania 7303

Fire permits no longer required

TASMANIA FIRE Service (TFS) has declared fire permits will no longer be required.

TFS Chief Officer, Dermot Barry said the Fire Permit Period had mitigated the risk of bushfires during the bushfire danger period.

"As we head into cooler weather, the high-risk period for bushfires is coming to an end, but people still need to

take caution when burning on their property," he said.

"While permits will no longer be required from 2am next Wednesday, anyone wanting to conduct a burn on their property should still register it with TFS," he said.

"By calling us on 1800 000 699 and registering the burn, you can help us avoid having a brigade turn up to your property unnecessarily."

"Of course, anyone conducting a burn needs to be capable of managing it, and people must be mindful of weather conditions."

"Make sure your neighbours are aware of your plans, and that your burn won't adversely affect their health, or farming operations - particularly the wine industry which can be vulnerable to smoke."

"Burning on private property is governed by local council by-laws, and there are environmental regulations around smoke emissions."

Remember:

- Never light fires in peat, humus, or marram grass.
- Ensure fuel loads are as dry as possible to minimise smoke.
- Make sure an adult is always attending the burn,

until it is fully extinguished.

- Have suitable working firefighting equipment available, just in case.

- Burning on private property is governed by local council by-laws and there are environmental laws about smoke emissions.

Controlling invasive weeds with insects and fungi

JOIN LANDCARE Tasmania for a free info session about biological control for weeds.

Over thirty biocontrol agents, insects and fungi, have been released in Tasmania.

They are used to target weeds such as gorse, thistles,

brooms, boneseed and ragwort.

Hear from John Ireson from the University of Tasmania, who has been researching biocontrol for over 35 years.

He will introduce you to the current biocontrol methods available, give an update

about their successes, as well as provide an outlook for the future of biocontrol.

Whether you are a farmer, looking after your local patch, or simply concerned about weeds in your local area, this workshop is set to provide some great insights.

The event is part of Landcare Tasmania's Gorse Biological Control Project, which distributed biological control agents of gorse in the North and North-West of Tasmania.

This has been made possible by generous funding from the

JM Roberts Charitable Trust.

Location: Claude Road Hall, 787 Claude Road TAS 7306

Date: 10th of May 2022

Time: 10:00 – 11:30

Admission: Free

Patsy Crawford scribbling away

GOT YOUR virtual Bitcoin wallet yet? What, no? I can't say I blame you.

We started to watch a doco-film about cryptocurrency the other night, and we lasted fifteen minutes.

It was so arcane that it almost required sub-titles. We cannot be this dumb, I thought.

If Snoop Dog and Fifty Cent can get on top of Bitcoin, surely we can.

Sadly it was not to be.

Our fifteen minutes of staring at the television screen was an exercise in hyper-frustration.

Not only was the cryptocurrency concept outlined in total gibberish, the people on screen - young, nerdy-with-attitude, supremely self-confident - were so damned condescending.

"If you don't get what we're on about, tough luck you old coots!" seemed to be the show's leitmotif.

I would invite anyone who can explain a currency with no visible coinage, no bank,

no central authority, and no bored tellers, that is run from huge sheds crammed with computers that beep at one another to write in - preferably using words of few syllables! Bear in mind, there's a vast mass of humanity who know naff-all about it.

Not wanting to capitulate so spinelessly on the subject, I dug around the Net to see who was into this sort of nonsense.

I expected captains of industry, financial giants or at least a clutch of Bendigo Bank branch managers to be up there, snootily looking down on the uncoined.

Wrong! Bitcoin appears to be where rappers, luvvies and movie stars go to turn their readies into tokens.

Have they, by some quirk of nature, been blessed with a special insight that allows them to negotiate the labyrinthine trails that lead to cryptocurrency?

Frankly, I doubt it. Let's face it; Snoop Dog is not exactly Warren Buffet in the high finance department.

Then there's Steven Seagal - all that karate chopping and leaping from high industrial fixtures appears to have paved the way nicely to Bitcoin.

I could - and will - go on.

A quick sprint through the list of top crypto-players turns up Gwyneth Paltrow, Paris Hilton and Mike Tyson.

Kanye West (since he has a church, perhaps that should be "Reverend West"?) has dipped his toes into Bitcoin waters.

Johnny Depp probably needs the crypto price to go through the roof, given the eye-watering amounts of cash he and his ex Amber Heard are forking out for their ludicrously self-centred day in court.

Despite my brief troll through the Net I remain none the wiser.

The most fun has been finding out who's lavishly promoting cryptocurrencies. It's a who's who of the monied up and celebrity-prone.

It takes an awful lot of electric power to mine it too.

One doesn't print or create cryptos; one mines them via enough electricity to spark up the Tasmanian power grid.

The sneaky crypto miners will stop at nothing.

Next time you get a crank call, it could be one of them, digging away virtually at the computer power in your phone.

If it's Gwyneth trying to flog her Goop gear, hang up.

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