

Meander Valley Gazette

Your independent community newspaper

VOLUME 09, ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2022

FREE EVERY MONTH

Family fun at Deloraine Show



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DETAILS

The Meander Valley Gazette is an independent newspaper, printing and delivering 9,500 copies to all homes and select businesses in Meander Valley every month.

The Gazette is uploaded to our website where users can browse the complete archives and read the latest articles and newspapers.

The Gazette is run by a dedicated team of staff and volunteers who pride themselves on sharing local news with the community and providing businesses and community organisations a platform to advertise and promote themselves.

Towns and suburbs in the Valley include Blackstone Heights, Bracknell, Carrick, Chudleigh, Deloraine, Elizabeth Town, Exton, Golden Valley, Hadspen, Hagley, Jackeys Marsh, Meander, Mole Creek, Parkham, Prospect Vale, Reedy Marsh and Westbury.

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The opinions expressed, whether by paid advertisement or editorial content, do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper. Submissions may be edited for space or clarity.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Next year will mark the 10th anniversary of the Gazette's first edition.

So it was timely that we held a public forum to provide input into the future direction of the Meander Valley Gazette.

Over 100 people participated, through completion of a survey and attendance at the forum at the Empire Hotel, to shape and provide support for the Vision, Mission, Aims and Values of the Gazette.

Though there may have been some unwritten knowledge of these positions, the purpose of the consultation was to move them to concrete public statements.

These pillars provide the foundation and framework for how the Gazette should operate and guide decision making. The following statements, which stand together, are derived from the consultations and have been approved by the board of Meander Valley

Connect Inc.

The vision for the Meander Valley Gazette is to be an essential vehicle for keeping our community informed, connected and strong.

Our mission is to be an independent, trusted record of community news, views, and issues affecting the lives of the people in Meander Valley.

The Gazette aims to build and enrich social connections amongst community by:

- celebrating and promoting the successes of local people and businesses
- providing valuable information to the community in a fair and accurate manner
- acting as a voice for residents who wish to express their concerns, interests or ideas
- reporting on local government works, approvals and activities
- encouraging debate on relevant local issues

- linking consumers and local businesses through advertising

Underpinning decision making related to Gazette content and operations are a set of three values.

- Independence: we provide information impartially
- Integrity: honesty and trust are central to the relationship with our readers
- Public interest: we provide stories of significance to our audiences

There was also discussion about challenges and opportunities for the Gazette, which is one of the few independent community newspapers remaining in Tasmania.

We are committed to our main audience/s who appear to prefer the printed paper. (It may not seem obvious at first, but the font, spacing, cover-page and layout of the paper is designed for maximum readability.)

There is some potential and time for the Gazette to build its online platform.

Our social media posts reach an audience of up to 10,000 people, but it is inconsistently used to communicate, enhance content, and advertise.

Our greatest immediate challenges though are the impacts of inflation and the uncertain economic circumstances in which we are operating.

The Gazette remains free because of our community support and advertising. To that end we have taken the difficult decision to increase the cost of advertising.

We are using a more flexible and equitable pricing model to offset the impact of some price rises, whilst still retaining lower prices for small business and community groups and free listing in the What's On events directory.

Craig Zimitat, PhD Editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

WHO WILL PAY?

Dear Editor,
When Prime Minister Albanese visited flooded Deloraine in late October, the Gazette noted he went on to Hobart, announcing the Commonwealth, Victorian and Tasmanian Governments had reached a tripartite agreement to progress Project Marinus.
With the devil in the

detail, Minister for Energy and Renewables Guy Barnett was to be heard and seen everywhere, carelessly throwing numbers left, right and centre.

"Tasmania will pay only its fair share" and "no more than 15%". Fifteen per cent of what, exactly?

Given that the North West Transmission Developments have now been incorporated into the deal, it looks like a

\$4.6 billion build – plus the \$3.5 billion to be borrowed for pumped hydro to make the interconnector viable.

The only thing certain about the Marinus deal is that the three governments will fund 20% (6.6% each).

The Feds will lend the remaining money – currently \$3.68 billion – but who'll be liable for that debt is as unclear now as it was in 2016.

Readers should be asking our elected members for unambiguous financial information about this make-or-break investment.

A new Facebook forum will provide a place for discussion and sharing of information on Tasmania's Energy Future.

Greg Pullen, Miena





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\$10K award for talented potter

Craft Fair 2022 forged ahead despite flood damage



► Premier Jeremy Rockliff and Ian Clare.

THE 41ST Tasmanian Craft Fair has closed.

This year, the fair was back to full strength featuring over two hundred artists and stall holders, entertainers and food and coffee vans to sustain attendees.

The availability of the four day pass certainly encouraged people to come

Despite lingering evidence of the recent flood event, the Craft Fair organisers were able to garner community support to clear the site and prepare alternative venues to welcome thousands of Tasmanian and interstate visitors.

The event was the culmination of roughly 10,000 volunteer hours by Meander Valley service

clubs, social groups and residents over the last 12 months.

The 2022 Recipient of the prestigious \$10,000 Premiers Arts Prize was Ian Clare, Studio Potter.

His entry *Copper Red Vase* was considered an outstanding ceramic piece for its glaze and form.

Mockingbird Glass was highly commended for their green vase.

The best working exhibit was awarded to West Tamar Woodcrafts, who have exhibited at almost every Craft Fair!

The next craft fair will be held 3-6 November, 2023.

State of the art recycling facility at Westbury

POLYFOAM HAS commenced construction of a \$10m state-of-the-art recycling facility at Westbury's Valley Central industrial precinct.

The company manufactures expanded polystyrene boxes which are used to insulate and transport food and medicines, as well as building materials.

Polyfoam's new Westbury facility will be world leading, incorporating both re-manufacturing and recycling capabilities to ensure that a significant amount of waste polystyrene product can be diverted from landfill and re-manufactured for use in the building industry.

Polyfoam hopes to fully meet the needs of their Tasmanian market without importing any product from interstate.

"Valley Central continues to go from strength to strength and we are proud that this long-standing Tasmanian company has chosen Meander Valley to grow, develop and continue their journey," said Mayor Johnston.

He also extended a warm welcome to the 50 member construction crew and 18 new staff who will be working in Westbury.

Polyfoam's new facility is expected to be up and running by mid-2023.



► Polyfoam Managing director, Simon Picket and Mayor Wayne Johnston at the new Westbury site. Photo by Craig Zimitat.



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Flood recovery continues

MAYOR WAYNE Johnston, on behalf of Meander Valley Council, wished to thank and acknowledge the work of volunteers and other community members who rolled up their sleeves and worked alongside Council's team to help out in the immediate aftermath of the flood.

This was a true demonstration of working together and is what makes me so proud to represent our community.

"While we cannot control the weather, we can control how we respond to it. The flood and the remediation work have and will change some things, but we have an opportunity to reset, build resilience and achieve outcomes that will better support us and our region," Mayor Wayne Johnston said.

Infrastructure Priorities

Council is prioritising the repair of local bridges and roads to make them safe, and to facilitate the movement of residents and tourists, and the transport of goods to aid economic recovery.

Further work being

undertaken include road shoulder repairs, reinstatement of table drains and bridge abutments at multiple sites across the entire municipality, but particularly at the western end and at Liena Road and Gads Hill Road.

A temporary bridge has been installed on Mayberry Road to enable residents to have access to their properties and this will remain in place until further engineering and site works are completed ahead of the construction of a new structure.

Approximately 3,500 square metres of our sealed road network has been washed away.

These roads now have a formed gravel surface and we have crews working to prepare these surfaces for re-sealing.

Road works in some areas of Selbourne and Westwood are being further assessed to ensure remediation includes additional work to reduce the impact of future floods

Recovery works will ramp up over coming weeks with more favourable weather conditions and availability of more contractors.

Reparation works around Deloraine

Meander River, just south of the Deloraine township near Rotary Park is a priority area for Council.

There is an interesting accumulation of general bulky waste, a fridge, agricultural products, drums, chemical containers, pods, sawn logs and milled timber entangled in willows and other vegetation.

Removal of this material is not straight forward.

It a sensitive area with important environmental, visual and recreational values that must be protected or reinstated after works.

Council has approached the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and the owners of the land, Crown Land Services, to seek agreement on the best way to recover the site and minimise further environmental damage.

Clean-up works will start once advice from the Parks and Wildlife Service is obtained.

"It is inevitable that the clean-up and use of heavy equipment will have an impact.

"To create working space to access and safely remove the debris and rubbish, selective

cutting of the willows and trimming of vegetation will be needed.

"We have no plans to pull any willow stumps out, we intend to leave them in place to help preserve the integrity of the riverbank until succession planting is established.

"Wood cut from the willows will create a pathway for machinery to get in, carefully collect the waste and then back out along the same path. This will help minimise soil compaction and disturbance.

"To reduce heavy machinery use for carting away, we may also burn some debris on site," Council's Director of Works, Matthew Millwood said.

"While the work will change the outlook along this stretch of the riverbank, over time Council will work to reinstate the look and feel of the area.

The remediation will also improve overall water flow and water quality in the duck pond area and lead to better environmental outcomes for the future of the site," Council's General Manager John Jordan said.

The Deloraine Swimming Pool is another facility that

did not escape nature's wrath, sustaining damage to the kiosk, change rooms, showers and the pool's pumped heating and filter systems.

The opening of the pool will be delayed until all the pumps and filters are checked and the kiosk, change rooms and shower facilities are repaired or made fit for public use," said Mayor Wayne Johnston.

The suspension footbridge spanning the Deloraine river, near the Train Park, remains closed.

During the flood, the bridge sustained structural damage and is still undergoing engineering assessment before any remedial work can be undertaken.

Mayor Wayne Johnston said that the flood recovery work is ongoing and he appreciates the community's patience.

"We know that the closure of these facilities is disappointing and, in some cases inconvenient, but we must maintain safety for the public.

"We ask for everyone's support by respecting the closures so that work can be finalised as quickly as possible."

Something for everyone at the show



▶ The Holme family from Caveside and the Pellican family from South Gippsland enjoying the games.



▶ Sheep breeders and exhibitors were out in force for the show this year.



▶ Tom Slater of SillyUs Circus with his nephew Sebastian.

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Best's Butchery brings home the bacon

RECENTLY DELORAINE'S local butchery entered the 2022 Australian Charcuterie Excellence Awards, a national smallgoods competition.

These are the premier awards for the Australian smallgoods industry, recognising products of the highest quality.

Over 350 products from across Australia were submitted and judged by an impressive line-up of judges which included fleischmeisters, award-winning celebrity chefs, artisan smallgoods makers and industry legends!

Best's were thrilled to find that their bacon entry won a National Gold Award.

This award follows on from the 2021 Tasmanian Fine Foods Awards, where they were awarded 'gold' for both their leg ham and bacon.

This 2022 national award further recognises the quality and excellence of their local, handcrafted product.

Best's Butchery products



are sourced locally and made in-store.

Their ham and bacon have always been highly popular

and sought after, and with this award their bacon now has been nationally recognised as one of the very "Best".

First Australian's music on MVFM

The voices of MVFM

John Phelps

ONE THING about which the Meander Valley Community Radio has always been proud has been the great range of music styles and genres which the station has been able to broadcast.

With a significant exception – apart from special occasions, such as NAIDOC week - there has been no regular program dedicated to the music of Aboriginal people. Until now!

Nowadays, the station has Stephen Norwood presenting such a program. It's called The First Australian Music Hour and it is broadcast weekly – on Tuesdays at eight o'clock and, not surprisingly, lasts for an hour.

Stephen, who has now retired after a 30 year career as a nurse specialising in mental health, has lived in Castlemaine in Central Victoria.

For many years, he was involved in local radio, preparing a regular two hour program.

His home town has suffered a great deal of flooding recently and he is relocating to Adelaide, in South Australia.



He says that he has always been interested in indigenous music, including other music styles performed by indigenous performers.

He helped to set up a personal music collection, specifically for Aboriginal bands. Some of the well-known performers whose music he especially enjoys are Kutcha Edwards and Yothu Yindi and their music appears frequently in his programs.

Other bands he features are from Northern Australia and include Kings Stingray, and

then there are the jazz artists such as Charlie Woods and Tilly Tjala Thomas.

The music Stephen plays goes across genres, including desert reggae, rock'n'roll and hip hop.

He says that hip hop is a good way of telling stories in language and to help keep languages alive and revitalised.

Stephen Norwood has spent some time in Tasmania and has visited, among other sites, Cradle Mountain, Ben Lomond and Chudleigh so he feels at home broadcasting on MVFM.

PRIVATE VENDOR AUCTION



Saturday 10th December 2022

Deloraine Showground

- | | |
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TANIA RATTRAY MLC INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR MCINTYRE



I would like to wish all Meander Valley residents a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year and I look forward to assisting and supporting those in the McIntyre Electorate in 2023.

Our office will be closed over the Christmas/New Year break from Friday 23rd December 2022 re-opening on Monday 23rd January 2023.

Please contact me for any enquiries or assistance - 0427 523 412 or by email tania.rattray@parliament.tas.gov.au



Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a happy New Year!




SENATOR WENDY ASKEW


LIBERAL SENATOR FOR TASMANIA

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From Aged Care Deloraine Inc Board and Executive to Grenoch and Kanangra Residents and their loved ones, staff and families, volunteers and families, Contractors and Suppliers and the entire Meander Valley Community. Wishing everyone a safe, happy and healthy Christmas. We thank everyone for your ongoing support of Aged Care Deloraine; the fantastic support of this beautiful community is greatly appreciated.

AGED CARE DELORAINÉ INC. Phone. 6362 8300 Web. agedcaredeloraine.org.au

Celebrating 100 years of Deloraine Fire Brigade

THE DELORAINÉ Fire Brigade celebrated 100 years of operation with an open day at the Deloraine Fire Station.

Fires in early Deloraine were dealt with by informal groups of residents banded together to protect the town.

In the late 1800s fire devastated many local buildings – Harvey's Mill, Westbury Place; Spicer's Flour Mill (Elizabeth Town); Rooke's Retreat Brewery; Henry's Brewery in Beefeater St, Daven's sawmill in Bonney St; and Fawknér's workshop in the old Bush Inn.

Residential fires were common events too because of fireplaces and the predominance of shingle roofing. It wasn't until 1922 that a Fire Brigade formally began (after the Fire Brigades Act, 1920).

It comprised 11 men who operated the horse-drawn soda acid and hose carts housed in a tin shed (with bell tower) opposite the Church of England rectory.

The first fire station was built in West Church St in the 1946, which roughly coincided with improved water supplies for fire fighting.

The Brigade moved into the current building in 1973, before the merging of various town and bush brigades in the 1980s.

Today it is one of the busiest units in the state covering Deloraine and the surrounding towns of Elizabeth Town, Chudleigh, Golden Valley, Meander and Mole Creek.

The Deloraine unit has a proud history of service.

They fought significant fires at the Rainbow Chalet (Breona), Harris' Store, Christian School

Hall and the Shell Service Station.

More recently they have assisted with the Western Tiers fires 2015-2016, the Great Lakes fires 2019 and recent 2016 and 2022 flood events.

This year the Deloraine Fire Brigade has attended more than 50 callouts to bushfires, structure fires, car crashes and medical emergencies, assisting the SES and Ambulance Tasmania when necessary.

Their work has been enhanced through the recent acquisition of a Compressed Air Foam (CAFS) firefighting appliance, which allows for better fire management and improved safety for the crew.

Brigade members are volunteers with competing work and family commitments, yet still able to find time to protect our community.



► Volunteers Jaron Oosterloo, Alistaire Horsburgh, Minister Felix Ellis, Mayor Wayne Johnston, Dan Watson, Andrew Sherriff, Kerryn Harris. Photo by Robin Foster.

The Meander Valley community is grateful for the commitment of the Fire Brigade volunteers, some of whom have been with the unit for 10-20 years.

The brigade is keen to add to its base of 20 members, if you are interested drop in, or email fire@fire.tas.gov.au to arrange contact with their local brigade.

Bringing the crunch this Christmas

Wendy Hays

WHEN MANY of us think of Christmas desserts we think of Plum Pudding and Brandy Sauce, Trifle and Pavlova topped with our beautiful local berries.

This year my family will deviate from the usual rich pudding and celebrate the end of Christmas lunch with Frozen Chocolate Crunch.

Although this recipe is a little more complex than many I have offered, it can be made well in advance and brought out of the freezer half an hour or so to soften a little before serving.

I'm sure it will be a real hit with the younger members of my family.

Happy Christmas to all and let's hope that this really is the season of goodwill and kindness to others.

Frozen Chocolate Crunch

Ingredients

- 125g or half a packet of butternut snap or coconut biscuits – coarsely crushed
- 125g hazelnuts – chopped coarsely
- 155g butter – softened
- 1 C icing sugar
- 3 eggs – separated
- 1 and ½ ts. vanilla
- 3 Tb Tia Maria or other liqueur
- 250g dark chocolate – melted and cooled
- About 2 litres of vanilla ice cream

Method

- 1 Prepare all ingredients and line a 24cm square or round tin or 24cm spring form tin with foil extending it up over the sides.
- 2 Spread the chopped nuts and coarsely crushed

biscuits onto an oven tray and bake at 180C until toasted and starting to brown. Stir often during the toasting process. Once toasted, set aside to cool.

- 3 Cream the softened butter, icing sugar, vanilla and Tia Maria in the small bowl of an electric beater until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolks one at a time.
- 4 Transfer mixture to a larger bowl and stir in the cooled, melted dark chocolate.
- 5 Beat up the egg whites in a small, clean, dry bowl using the electric beater and carefully fold the egg whites into the butter/egg/chocolate mixture.
- 6 Sprinkle half of the cooled biscuit/hazelnut mixture over the base of the prepared tin.
- 7 Carefully dot half of the butter/egg/chocolate



- 8 Place in the freezer for half an hour to set a little.
- 9 Get the ice-cream out of the freezer to soften.
- 10 Using a metal spoon, dot and spread the ice-cream over the set butter/egg/chocolate layer. Use enough ice-cream to come up to about 2 cm from the top of the tin.
- 11 Working quickly, evenly

spread the other half of the butter/egg/chocolate mixture over the ice-cream layer.

- 12 Sprinkle with remaining biscuit/hazelnut mixture pressing it down slightly into the layer below.
- 13 Cover securely with plastic wrap and freeze.

Serves 10-12 decorated with whipped cream and fresh berries if desired.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

from **Anne-Marie Loader**
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Northern Correctional Facility

Project Update-December 2022

One of the four strategic goals identified in the recently released Department of Justice's Strategic Plan 2022-2027 is to improve access to justice through the provision of contemporary infrastructure. Modern well designed correctional infrastructure is critical to deliver targeted rehabilitation and reintegration programs and processes that improve lives and reduce harm for sentenced offenders within the Tasmanian corrections system.

To support this plan, the Tasmanian Government has committed to build a new, purpose-built Northern Correctional Facility (NCF) which will optimise the operation of our state's corrective service and support strong rehabilitative outcomes for people who come into contact with the state's corrections system.

To ensure the NCF's primary focus on rehabilitation and reintegration for minimum and medium rated offenders, the Government is also investing in additional maximum security facilities at the Risdon Prison Complex in southern Tasmania. This includes \$50 million for the development of a new maximum security unit within the existing Risdon Prison Complex, which will also help alleviate current bed pressures for maximum rated offenders.

Following consultation with the Meander Valley community earlier this year, and given what is currently understood about the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) site in terms of its suitability for a correctional facility and the impending closure of the existing facility, the Government has determined that it is the best site for the development of this project.

The Department of Justice, through its dedicated NCF Project Team, continues to progress the due diligence investigations required as part of the normal statutory planning process for the development of this important project at the AYDC site.

Specialist consultants appointed

Responding to the community's request that a social impact assessment (SIA) be prepared as part of due diligence investigations, the Department of Justice has engaged social planning consultants Andrea Young Planning Consultants and BBC Consulting Planners to prepare an independent SIA. Over the coming months the consultants will investigate the issues raised by the community and recommend ways to reduce or avoid any negative impacts and strengthen the positive impacts.

Building on the comprehensive public consultation already undertaken, the specialist consultants will engage with key stakeholders (e.g. local community services, business and industry), including near neighbours of the AYDC site to further understand the social impacts that this development will have on the region. An important outcome of this work will be to identify how any identified impacts can be mitigated through the development of the facility's operating model and design. The work will be undertaken in a series of stages with the first stage consisting of the scoping of potential impacts that require further assessment, and an engagement strategy with impacted stakeholders.

In addition to the SIA, an Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) has also been commissioned. The Project Team has appointed Deloitte Access Economics as the consultants that will undertake the EIA. The purpose of the EIA will be to model the economic impact of the NCF project in the region. Importantly it will examine the impact on Gross Regional Product (GRP), employment, and industry impacts.

Due Diligence Assessments

The Project Team is committed to providing regular updates and information regarding the progress of the project to all interested parties. This will include making any reports from the due diligence investigations available at the earliest opportunity. It is anticipated the SIA (Stage 1) and EIA reports will be completed in early 2023 and reports on Natural Values and Bushfire Hazard assessments are expected to be finalised and publicly available by the end of this year.

If you would like to receive updates on the project's progress, including information about the SIA, please visit the project website at www.justice.tas.gov.au/ncf, or register for the project mailing list via email to northerncorrectionalfacility@justice.tas.gov.au.

Join the festive fun in the Valley

Christmas with Deloraine House

Deloraine House is hosting a few events to bring our community together.

Christmas Hampers will be offered again this Christmas.

Please contact Deloraine House to register your interest by Friday 2nd of December.

Please note due to cost and availability, Deloraine House cannot guarantee everyone who registers will receive a hamper. Those with the highest need will be prioritised.

A Community Christmas event will be held this year in the Community Garden (Pultney Street, Deloraine) on Friday 16th December, 6pm with wood fired pizzas, music and lots and lots of laughter.

This is a free event to celebrate with our community.

Please RSVP to Deloraine House, 6362 2678.

Deloraine House will also be holding its Orphan's Christmas lunch on Christmas Day (25th Dec).

Last year this event was well supported and those who attended enjoyed the social occasion. Please register at Deloraine House by 16th December. All enquiries/registrations to Deloraine House 6362 2678.

Carols Service, Hadspen (4 December)

Grace Presbyterian Church invites everyone to come to their Carols service from 3-4pm on Sunday 4th December at the Hadspen Memorial Centre. We'll sing some great Christmas songs and share

some delicious Christmassy snacks together.

Parkham Community Christmas Party (10 December)

Hi everyone, it's been a big year with a lot of wind and rain! Time for a Party! Get the family and friends together and join us for the 2022 Parkham Christmas Party at the Parkham Community Hall, 9 Brady's Plains Road, Parkham.

10th December...4.00pm at the hall. \$10.00 per family. Santa will be there for the kids.

Bring along a present valued at no more than \$10.00 for Santa to pull out of his magic sack! (child's name should be clearly attached).

Activities for the kids. Soft drinks, ice-cream and lollies for the kids, and sausage sizzles will be provided.

Come along and relax with the community. BYO if you want a beer or wine.

Christmas Pilgrimage, Westbury (16 December)

The Combined Churches of Westbury are planning a 'carols event' with a difference this year, in lieu of the traditional 'Carols on the Green'. The event will be 'A Christmas Pilgrimage' - with the Christmas story being told with carols and readings.

Each of the four local churches will feature part of the story, along with carol-singing, and, as the name suggests, we will move from one church to the next, either on foot or by car, to continue the story.

The evening will be held on Friday, December 16th, beginning

at 6pm at Parklands Baptist Church, Franklin St., moving on to Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Meander Valley Rd., St. Andrew's Anglican, Lonsdale Promenade, and finishing at Westbury Uniting, cnr William and Dexter Sts., where the Lions Food Van will be in attendance to provide refreshments at around 7.30pm

The 'Three Wise Men' will distribute small treats for the children, who are encouraged to dress up as part of the Christmas story. We hope this will be a fantastic family event

Carols by the River, Deloraine (17 December)

For the past four decades, the Combined Churches of Deloraine have been organizing "Carols by the River" as a Christmas gift to our community. And it's about to happen again!

Saturday, 17th December, the weekend before Christmas Day, at the Rotunda near the War Memorial on the banks of the Meander River in the centre of

Deloraine.

The event will start at 6.30 p.m. with a sausage sizzle and then the program will get under way at 7 o'clock.

As in recent years, the program gets off to a rollicking start with the Meander Men.

As well as other local performers, there will also be some international entertainers - singers and dancers from Timor and Samoa with their exuberant music and colourful costumes.

These men and women work as fruit pickers in the area and are becoming well-known around town.

Ray Robinson will be the master of ceremonies.

And, of course, there will be plenty of opportunities for some communal carol singing, always a highlight of the event.

So, come along, bring your chairs or blankets, a candle perhaps, something to eat and non-alcoholic drink, make a family occasion of it and be ready to sing "Joy to the world", "Silent Night", "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer"



► Carols by the River is back on 17 December.

and all the other favourite Christmas carols and songs.

Being a gift, of course, the whole event is free.

Launceston Christmas Carols, Prospect (18 December)

The Launceston Carols by Candlelight will be held at the Country Club of Tasmania, Prospect on from 7.30pm on Sunday December 18 2022.

Gates open at 5.30pm.

Tickets are essential and available online at TryBooking.com.au



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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Deloraine & Districts

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Applications open Thursday 1 December 2022 and close Tuesday 31 January 2023 for students attending University or TAFE in 2023.

bendigobank.com.au/scholarships

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Community Bank Scholarships will be funded from management accounts of the Community Enterprise Charitable Fund ABN 12 102 649 968 (the Fund), The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. Sandhurst Trustees Limited ABN 16 004 030 737 AFSL 237906, a subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL 237879, is the trustee of the Fund. OÜT_26850453, 15/11/2022

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

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TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIP
The Rotary Club of Deloraine invites those students commencing Tertiary Education from Deloraine and Westbury districts, to submit applications for a Tertiary Scholarship being offered by the Club, to the value of \$3000.
Written applications outlining academic record, intended study program, hobbies and community involvement to be forwarded to Annette Viney by 20th January 2023. Interviews of short listed applications will be held late January through early February 2023.
Post applications to:
Rotary Club of Deloraine
Attention Annette Viney
PO Box 85, Deloraine 7304, Tasmania
More information can be made available by contacting Annette Viney at annetteviney@gmail.com or on 0412 437 417.
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Mobile black spot audit

MEANDER VALLEY residents have some hope that well known mobile black spots may be erased through an independent audit of mobile coverage conducted by Australia Post.

Blackspots may have no coverage, intermittent or unreliable connections affected at different times, or by weather.

There are well known blackspots across the municipality.

These include slow and unreliable coverage at Westbury, Bracknell and Carrick (except during AgFest!),

and the lack of coverage near Ashley Detention Centre at Exton.

Over \$750 million was allocated to the Better Connectivity Plan in the 2022 federal budget to address regional connectivity and resilience.

Nearly \$400 million is dedicated to improving telecommunications infrastructure to enhance mobile coverage along road and highways so that motorists have emergency access to essential services via internet.

Approximately \$30 million has been allocated to on-farm

connectivity.

Another \$20 million is dedicated to an audit of blackspots through use of mobile signal-tracking devices on Australia Post vehicles that measure signal strength as these vehicles do their normal deliveries around the country.

Mayor Wayne Johnston, Councillor Stephanie Cameron and General Manager John Jordan recently met Senator Sarah Henderson to discuss mobile and internet coverage and advocate for improvements in local services.

At the movies with the Western Tiers Film Society

Clare Andersen

Our year end film is a revival of the 1961 cinema classic 'West Side Story'.

With Leonard Bernstein's music, lyrics by American musical titan, Stephen Sondheim and book by Arthur Laurents, it is carried forward by our current generation celebrated playwright - Tony Kushner.

Bernstein was the first American conductor to receive international acclaim. He composed in various musical genres and was the recipient of many honours. On Christmas Day, 1989, he conducted a televised worldwide historic performance of Beethoven's Symphony No 9 in Berlin to celebrate the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Dying in 1990 he is remembered chiefly as a music educator and lifelong humanitarian, the latter from being engaged in multiple international initiatives for human rights and world peace.

Sondheim, whose early mentor and father figure was Oscar Hammerstein II, is credited with 'reinventing the American musical'.

He wrote the lyrics of the

1957 West Side Story stage musical which ran for 732 performances.

Bernstein was also credited as the lyric co-writer.

He later offered Sondheim solo credit, as Sondheim had essentially done all the lyrics. Sondheim refused Bernstein's offer to even the division of royalties from 3%:1% to 2% stating satisfaction in just getting the credit.

However, he later admitted to wishing "someone had stuffed a handkerchief in my mouth" because it would have been nice to get that extra percentage

Having won numerous accolades for musicals and film Stephen Sondheim died in 2021.

He has a theatre named after him both on Broadway and in the West End of London.

Some film adaptations of his works include West Side Story (1961), A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (1966), and West Side Story (2021)



WEST SIDE STORY

DECEMBER 10

2021 PG-13 Musical/Romance, US, 156m Director Steven Spielberg

New York City 1957. Love at first sight strikes when young Tony spots Maria at a high school dance.

The setting for their burgeoning relationship is the deteriorating tenements where disaffected youth such as the migrant Puerto Rican Sharks fight a 'turf war' with the incumbent American Jets.

The poignant romance helps fuel the fire between the two rival gangs in vying for control of the streets.

The story of the clash between cultures highlights the need and wish for social cohesion.

"Resplendent entertainment and a reminder that at least some of cinema's great classics can in fact find new life in the hands of a master director who is more concerned about crafting a movie than making a blockbuster." - Reel Views 12/2021 Top Critic.

Rotten Tomatoes Critics 91% / Audience 93%

For information about the WTSF, 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

6212 2225
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Authorised by REBECCA WHITE, 33 COLE ST, SORELL

Tasmanian Labor


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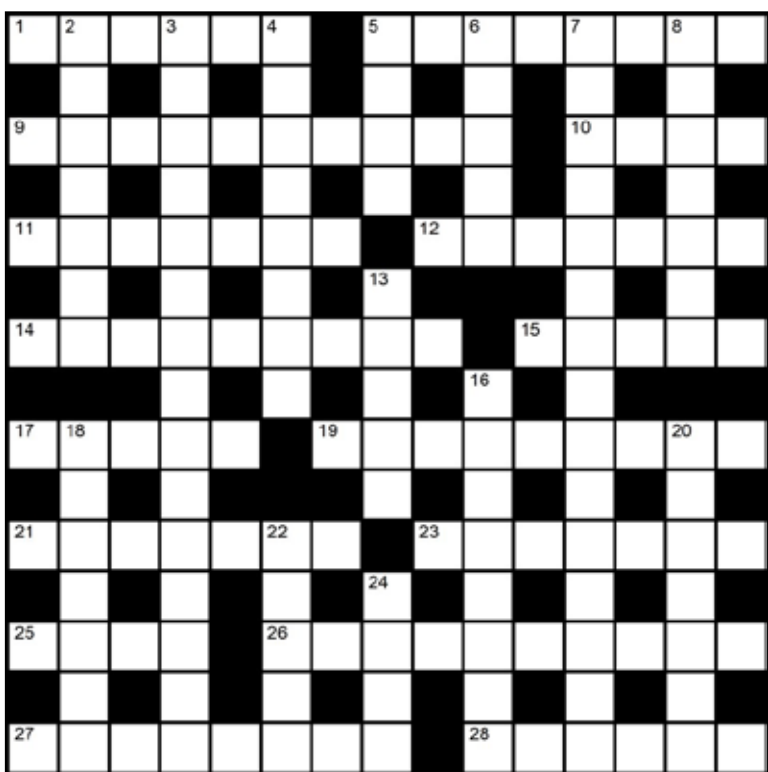
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CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Some music or data holders (1,1,1-1,2)
 - 5 The rocks in your Scotch (3,5)
 - 9 Orchestra drum section (10)
 - 10 Brown ---, a large seabird (4)
 - 11 Hopes (7)
 - 12 Lend a hand (4,3)
 - 14 Inordinately greedy (9)
 - 15 Correct (5)
 - 17 Fatty acid (5)
 - 19 Plug (9)
 - 21 Side by side (7)
 - 23 Priests' subordinates (7)
 - 25 E ---, which can be very bad for you (4)
 - 26 Type of music (10)
 - 27 Deeply buried (8)
- Down**
- 2 Type of fishing, well away from land (4-3)
 - 3 Rare (4,2,1,8)
 - 4 Like some weedkillers (8)
 - 5 Bin chicken (4)
 - 6 Actor --- Dingo (5)
 - 7 Simple (15)
 - 8 Silver-leaved shrub with purple flowers (3,4)
 - 13 Delicious type of crab (5)
 - 16 "Not this story again ..." (4,2,2)
 - 18 Flowering (2,5)
 - 20 Lie on the beach (7)
 - 22 Excalibur was one (5)
 - 24 Wind-driven clouds (4)


SUDOKU

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

© 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 December 2022 solution



Sudoku December 2022 solution

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

EVENTS DIARY
Thanks to the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre for event information

Day/Time	Event	Location
Every Mon, 11-11.30am	Story Time At Deloraine Library	Deloraine Library, 2-4 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine. 6701 2180.
Every Mon, 1-1.30pm	Story Time At Westbury Library	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 Tues and Thurs, 9-12	Westbury Men's Shed	Corner of King St. and Franklin St. Westbury.
First Wed/month, 4pm - 6pm	Asperger's Peer Group Deloraine	Deloraine House 112 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine 6362 2678
Every Wed, 7-9pm	Trivia Night	Bolters, Prospect
Every Wed, 1-4pm	Indoor Carpet Bowls	Western Tiers Community Club
Every Thurs, 10-11.30am	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, 1-3pm	Cards (Crib, Canasta etc)	Western Tiers Community Club
Every Fri, 3-4pm	Tai Chi	Western Tiers Community Club
Every Fri, from 8	Live Music	British Hotel, Deloraine
Every Fri, 7 to 9	Live Music	Wandering Trout, Mole Creek
Every Sat, 9 to 11	Parkrun	Town Common, Westbury
Every Sat and Sun	Deloraine Walking Club	Walks and bike rides- go to delorainewalkingclub.weebly.com for program of events, contact and membership info
Every Sat, 9 - 11	Parkrun	Town Common, Westbury
Sundays, 1 to 3	Live in the Vines	3 Willows Vineyard, Montana
Friday 2, 6 to 10	The Heartbeats feat. Kitty Martini	Aust. Italian Club, Prospect
Friday 2, 7 to 9	Celtic Players	Empire Hotel, Deloraine
Saturday 3, 9 to 1	Deloraine Market	Showgrounds, Deloraine
Sat 3 - Sun 4, 1 to 6	Dragon Boat Regatta	Deloraine Riverbank
Sunday 4, 1 to 5	Adam Page Rock & Roll Show	Aust. Italian Club, Prospect
Sunday 4, 2 to 5	Raw Jam	Empire Hotel, Deloraine
Sunday 4, 3 to 5	Christmas Carols Service	Hadspen Memorial Centre
Monday 5, 5 to 6	Fire Spin Jam	Deloraine Riverbank
Saturday 10, 9 to 1	Liffey Valley Market	Old Liffey School
Sat 10 - Sun 11, 11 to 5	Tractor Pull Challenge	Red Hills Memorial Park
Sat Dec 10, 7.30pm	WTFS - West Side Story	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd, Deloraine (2022 PG13, Musical, US, 156m)
Sunday 11, 12.30 to 7	Mike Elrington	Marakoopa Cafe, Mole Creek
Wednesday 14, 6 to 8	Franklin (The Movie)	Little Theatre, Deloraine
Saturday 17, 9 to 1	Westbury Market	St Andrews Church, Westbury
Saturday 17, 9 to 1	Deloraine Market	Showgrounds, Deloraine
Saturday 17, 6.30 to 8.30	Carols by the River	Deloraine Riverbank
Sunday 18, 5.30 to 8.30	Carols by Candlelight 2022	Country Club, Prospect
Friday 23, 4 to 7	Christmas knock-offs	Bush Inn Brewhouse, Deloraine
Sun 26, 6pm	Carrick Speedway	Sprintcars, Formula 500, Modifieds, Street Stocks
Saturday 31, 8 to late	NYE at Bracknell Hotel	Bracknell



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Patsy Crawford
scribbling away

SO HERE we are, Christmas just around the corner, and it's off to the shed to dig out the stripey bag and its contents of frayed, tatty and fly-specked decorations.

We've come a long way together. Some of those bits of tinsel go back to when the kids were in prep.

And here's something grandparents must look out for: where to put the ice-cream stick angels, reindeer and snowmen the grandkids have made and which you feel

duty bound to shove on the mantel piece.

You thought those days had gone once the kids had grown and flown but no, here's the grandkids coming at you armed with festive tat.

My mum had no such feelings of accountability. Once she'd made the required expressions of gratitude (which in hindsight I see were hellishly strained) she'd wait a few days and turf the stuff out.

It probably came from having four kids and a pile of dogs belting about under her feet and the fact we kept using the kitchen for table tennis, crammed comics and books in every nook and cranny and stuck a dartboard

on one of the bedroom doors rendering entry fraught with peril. Things piled up.

Hanging onto plasticine elves, cardboard angels and those things little girls used to make out of a piece of mirror, patted-down moss, beads and half dead flowers wasn't on.

Mum put up with a lot, especially at Christmas time. We considered we had carte blanche to do whatever it took to decorate the house.

What's more we usually did it at peak cooking and preparation time.

The minute mum approached the old mint green stove that now screams retro we'd get out sheaves of crepe paper and make streamers.

Then, irrespective of the fact she'd be trying to knock out little fruity pies or make bread stuffing for the poultry, we'd set up the ladder and clamber all over the kitchen to hang them.

They were invariably luridly coloured and never quite matched, so crisscrossed from one corner of the room to the other would be thin weedy streamers in some parts and in other parts streamers wide enough to tether a horse.

Of course, they fell down almost immediately or half fell so whoever was trying to get to the back door risked being garrotted.

I can see why mum abandoned the kitchen and took to the washhouse where

she'd cook the Christmas ham in a vast copper boiler.

It wasn't just getting away from those bloody streamers that spurred her on.

That wash house soon echoed to the sound of ha-has and chortle-chortles, the tops being wrenched off bottles and the lighting up of Turf cork-tips as friends and neighbours dropped by to check progress of the ham.

By Christmas morning of course she'd be worn out, but she'd put a brave face on the boxes of hankies, bottles of Midnight in Paris scent and Winning Post choccies we'd trot out year after year. It's what mums do.

Merry Christmas one and all! Go easy on the streamers.

Finding a plant in the wrong place

The Exton Gardener

ONE THING can be said about La Niña- she's promoted some lush plant growth! Not all of this is welcome though. The weeds...

My garden was once part of the farm and being rich arable basalt soil, the seed bank of weeds has built up in the soil.

A friend from Britain once exclaimed, "Look at all the wildflowers!" They may have been wildflowers in Britain but they are not our native plants and are weeds and not welcome here.

Years ago I purchased a copy of the Ag Department's

Tasmanian Weed Handbook and I felt I had every weed in the book except for Saffron Thistle and Nodding Thistle, an exaggeration perhaps, but I certainly recognise most of the illustrations.

I've been able to deal with most over the years with mulch and an occasional dab of weedicide when it became too overwhelming but there are three particular weeds I struggle with and I target them mercilessly.

The first I identified from the weed handbook as the creeping oxalis, *Oxalis corniculata*. Unlike other oxalis, it does not have underground bulbils but grows



▶ Cardamine.

from a single tap root and then ground hugging rooting stems.

The leaves are a purplish green and there is a small yellow flower.

Like most legumes it has explosive seeds and it has a tendency to seed itself into the middle of choice plants and smothering them with its insidious growth.

Hand weeding seems to be the only way. If you can find the tap root you can remove most of the plant successfully.

My second weed was not in the weed handbook. We sent a sample we first found in the paddock to the Mount Pleasant laboratories for identification.

A very British voice on the phone informed me that it



▶ Euphorbia.

was "Car-dam-in-ee pratensis", otherwise known as Flick weed.

I have since found out that is *Cardamine hirsuta* though I don't know what is hairy about it! It has of course spread widely since then.

Plant centres are rife with it and any waste corner has admirable specimens.

The trouble with it is it's hard to spot unless it's in flower and one missed plant will produce a forest of them in a month or two.

Vigilance and hand weeding seems to be the only solution. For me it is a work in progress!

Some years ago a new plant appeared in my garden. I had no idea what it was and it wasn't in the book. I wondered



▶ Oxalis.

if it was a native plant and let it grow a little before becoming wary and removing it.

Too late! It has since appeared every year in paths and garden beds. It appeared between the paving and when I started to pull it out it left a heap of seeds like dust.

The only way to destroy them was with a blow torch! I noticed the same weed in footpaths and car parks in Thailand and Japan but it is often very hard to see.

Google has now informed me that this little intruder is *Euphorbia prostratus*! It is native to the Caribbean but has spread worldwide.

Its common name is sandmat and an extract is apparently used to treat haemorrhoids! I suspect my initial plant came in a load of white gravel.

A friend said that he controls young plants with a spot spray of glyphosate, otherwise it's a lot of hand weeding, or the blow torch.

But in spite of the weeds, the flowers are blooming.

The irises, the lupins, the ixias... and the roses! Enjoy spring and early summer - we deserve it after our wet and windy year.

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