

Council Notices

Does Meander Valley need a Chamber of Commerce?

Since the demise of the Meander Valley Business Association in 2017 a number of local business owners have voiced their desire for the formation of a new Chamber of Commerce or equivalent peak body.

A body to advance and promote development and the commercial and economic interests of Meander Valley is something that could benefit the whole community. Everyone understands what a Chamber of Commerce is. Not only does it provide the opportunity for business-to-business networking, advocacy, lobbying and finding synergies between like-minded businesses in the Valley, it also has the ability to champion strategic projects across all industries.

This could be a great opportunity to pull together the many groups of industry, tourism and associations and provide a peak body for local business owners to advance the economic wellbeing of Meander Valley. There are many models to consider, for example a chamber could extend an automatic free membership to all businesses in the municipality with optional paid levels for access to the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce (TCCI) services like industrial relations phone support and discounted training opportunities.

Meander Valley is one of the few areas in Tasmania without a business peak body to represent it's business community and maybe it's time to put that right with the help of business owners and operators of all sizes. Whether you turn over \$10k or \$100m your input will be valued and essential. If you think a peak business body is something Meander Valley needs, or are interested in contributing or have a project idea that has potential to add to the economic development of our area, please drop me an email or give me a call. Wishing you all the best for 2019

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Australia Day awards – congratulations to all concerned

Bryan Watson was named Citizen of the Year. Heavily involved in the community through both sporting and service clubs, Bryan was Meander Valley's SES Unit Manager for twenty years, a member of the Deloraine Lions Club for thirty-five years and has volunteered at Ambulance Tasmania for a further ten years.

Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Kate Sheahan. Kate has represented Meander Valley at the Tasmanian Youth Local Government Forum and in 2018 she was the Tasmanian winner of the Simpson Prize, a national competition which encourages participants to explore the significance of the Anzac experience. Kate also contributes to the community through her role as a volunteer at Stepping Stones Leadership Camps.

The Rotary Club of Deloraine's Learn to Swim Program received the Community Event of the Year Award. The Rotary Club of Deloraine has been offering free swimming and water safety classes for more than thirty-five years. This valuable service aims to reduce deaths of children by drowning. Over the last fifteen years, 1370 children have been taught to swim.

Daniel Gurr was awarded the Meander Valley Sports Award. Daniel has been competitively wood chopping since he was five years old and is dedicated to the sport. Daniel has been a member of the Australian U21 Wood Chopping Team three times and among his many achievements are two World Titles, six Australian Titles and fifteen Tasmanian Titles. His win at the World Rookie Stihl Timber Sports in France put Australia and his home town of Deloraine firmly on the map.

Meander Valley welcomed eight new citizens at the event and over forty volunteers from the municipal area were recognised, receiving awards for 1000 hours, 3000 hours and Exceptional Service.

February 2 World Wetlands Day

Our wetlands are important ecosystems. With a rich biodiversity they support in-stream life as well as animals dependent on water systems. Migratory species also require wetlands for their survival. Wetlands can provide cleaner water, hold water on floodplains for agriculture and support tourism and cultural activities. They periodically wash their landscape and maintain important connections throughout our catchments, including the cave systems around Mole Creek.

Meander Valley is lucky to have two wetland areas in close proximity to townships. The Wildwood informal reserve at Deloraine, adjacent to the caravan park is a wetland that is easy to access.

In Westbury, the extensive Town Common contains a mix of well-maintained walking paths and wetland habitats making it ideal for visitors to appreciate the functions of a wetland up close. This wetland is also home to numerous threatened species of animals and plants.

Council is celebrating World Wetlands Day by installing educational and interpretive signs in selected locations around the Westbury Town Common. These signs are intended to assist in understanding the different environments that exist in the Town Common and how they support a range of plants and animals. Next time you enjoy a walk around the Town Common, pause for a moment to read more about the fauna and flora that share the space and thrive there.

Events

Eat & Greet • First Friday of every month • Westbus Shed

Join us in a social and informal 'old fashioned' evening of community friendship from 6.30pm at 63 Meander Valley Road, Westbury. Please bring food to share and enjoy a pleasant evening. For more information phone 0408 134 057

Movie Magic at Mole Creek • Saturday Night 2 February • starts at 7pm

Big Screen and Big Sound Movies are back at the Mole Creek Memorial Hall, Cnr Pioneer Dr and Caveside Rd, Mole Creek. This month's movie is Hotel Transylvania 3-rated PG. Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation *"delivers exactly what fans will expect - which means another 97 agreeably lightweight minutes of fast-paced gags and colourful animation.."* Entry cost is \$5 single or max \$20 for a family. Bring your own comfy chair or bean bag. BYO drinks and munchies. Popcorn, ice-creams & sweets will be available for purchase on the night, Mole Creek. Movie licenced through Amalgamated Movies. For more info, please go to www.molecreek.net or ph Ken on 0419 242 285. Upcoming from March to May is Bohemian Rhapsody, Mary Poppins Returns, and A Star is Born

Great Western Tiers Art Award 2018 • entries extended to 8 February

The GWATAA is an art exhibition for local artists with works focused on Meander Valley. Its aim is to inspire skills, confidence and friendship through art. Information and entry forms are now available from www.artlas.org.au

Westbury Garden Club 2019 Summer Flower Show • Sat 9 February • 1.30pm-4.00pm

Westbury Town Hall – admission \$2.00 / afternoon tea \$5.00

Western Tiers Film Society • Saturday 9 February

Foxtrot - Dir. Samuel Maoz - Israel 2018

Drama/comedy – MA15+ 104m

The WTFS is a members-only film society, showing films at the Little Theatre Cinema, Deloraine, on the second Saturday of each month, starting at 7:30pm sharp.

Fees: \$60 p.a. (\$30 for six months). Pro-rata memberships are available throughout the year.

For information phone: 0418 389 868

Tasmanian Truck –n- Ute Show • Sun 10 February • Querus Park • 9am-3.00pm

Displays, entertainment, refreshments, and vintage vehicles

Enquiries 0417 622 513 or tasmaniantruckshow.com

Meander Valley Skating Club • Inaugural Meeting • Friday 8 February

Meander Valley Performing Arts Centre Stadium, Deloraine - 6pm to 7.30pm

If you would like to register your interest in being part of a new club for general skating and/or inline hockey and receive more information please contact Peter on 0409 234 061 or patasaust@gmail.com

The Launceston Country Music • Sunday 10 February • Doors open at 11:30am

414 Westbury Road, Prospect Vale - Tickets \$20 (Children under 16 - \$5)

Food available. No BYO alcohol. For bookings contact 6344 7332

Yin Yoga • 8 x Tuesdays from 12 February • 9am • Westbury Community Health Centre

A great introduction to Yoga for older adults - slow-paced, helping to improve flexibility & mindfulness
Can also be chair-based - perfect for men, as well as women!

Cost: \$5 donation - Bookings essential as numbers are limited. For information call Dinah 0417 292 622.

Blues & Rock • Saturday 16 February • From 7:30pm

Little Theatre, Deloraine

Shine up those dancing boots and come along to a night of entertainment from The Bad Dad Orchestra. For information on tickets go to www.trybooking.com/BADPD

Westbury St Patrick's Festival • Saturday 16 March • 10am-4pm

The Village Green, Westbury - Entry by donation

Come and celebrate Westbury's Irish heritage with traditional folk music, food, crafts, plenty of activities for the children and more. For more information please contact Amanda on 0467 097 791 or

westburyspf@gmail.com

Community Forum for Elizabeth Town and Parkham • Tuesday 19 March

Throughout the year, Council will hold quarterly forums in different townships to discuss local achievements and community matters with residents. These gatherings are intended to be an informal sharing of information to raise awareness and to generate practical outcomes. Councillors and Council officers attend and all interested community members are welcome. The first Forum for 2019 will be held at Parkham Community Hall, commencing 7.00pm. It will focus on the communities of Elizabeth Town, Parkham and surrounds. Refreshments are provided, please come along and share your thoughts.

Development Opportunities

Free CORES Meander Valley Suicide Prevention Training • Friday 22 February

Deloraine Community House - 9am to 4:30pm

Training designed to provide the essential skills and resources required to identify and respond to a person at risk of suicide. For more information contact 6362 2678 or info@delorainehouse.com.au

Sign up now for the World's Greatest Shave • March 13-17

Join in and help the 35 Australians diagnosed every day with leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma. You'll be supporting families living with a blood cancer and funding research to help more people survive. Sign up today at www.worldsgreatestshave.com

Free Mindfulness Workshop • 3 x Sundays (3 & 24 March - 14 April)

Deloraine Community House - 10am to 4pm

Come and learn practical strategies for managing difficult feelings, thoughts and situations in a relaxed environment. For more information contact 0488 064 228 or go to www.mindfulnessaus.com.au

Work is Mental • Tuesday 19 February • 3.30pm-4.30pm

CVGT 2/87 George Street, Launceston

Are you or someone you know dealing with mental health issues and struggling to get or keep a job? Be part of a free series of interactive sessions that aims to connect people with the support they need.

Bookings essential, please contact Hayden on hayden.fox@healthytasmania.com.au

Wildcare

Wildcare Tasmania is a powerhouse team of volunteers and donors supporting the care and conservation of Tasmania's wild places, wildlife and cultural heritage. Wildcare has over 7,000 members and 90 Branches located all around the State. To join visit <https://wildcaretas.org.au/>

Future planning for community groups

Council offers a free and practical 2-hour session in organisational planning. Does your group have a plan to guide its activities over the next few years? Has it identified what its main direction and priorities are? For information please contact patrick.gambles@mvc.tas.gov.au or 6393 5300 / 0418 507 113.

Meander Valley Business Directory

Do you run or know someone who runs a business, big or small in the Meander Valley? We are putting together a comprehensive business directory covering all industry sectors to promote to residents and visitors to the Meander Valley. If you would like to be included in this free service, please visit the link below and fill in your details. <https://goo.gl/forms/ars6zcrSCSwllS73>

Defib for Life

The Defib For Life Fundraising Kit is designed to help you organise your fundraising event or initiative; including activity suggestions, marketing tools and information about your responsibilities as a fundraiser. Simply go to the Fundraising page.

Deloraine House activities, groups & services

Such a lot on offer - please download our latest activity brochure <https://bit.ly/2SCfSZy>

Meander Valley U3A Class Program & Newsletter

Available at www.mvu3a.org

Volunteering Tasmania • Bushfires

Are you a concerned member of the public wanting to volunteer? Register your interest online, or contact 1800 677 895 or emergencyvol@volunteeringtas.org.au

Grants & Awards

'Highways and Byways' 2019 Small Grants • close 14 February

Available to community groups and not-for-profit organisations for initiatives which benefit women and girls across the generations- Details available at <https://bit.ly/2QPW8UD>

Participation Grant Program • closes 18 February

The Move It AUS - Participation Grant Program provides support to help sporting and non-government organisations to get Australians moving and to support the aspiration to make Australia the world's most active and healthy nation. Details at https://www.sportaus.gov.au/grants_and_funding/participation

Tas Community Fund Grant round 38 • various programs • open until early March

This round will include large program (\$100 000 to \$500 000) focused on increasing workforce engagement and general small (\$1 000 to \$20 000) and medium (\$20 001 to \$70 000) components.

http://www.tascomfund.org/about_our_grants/apply_for_a_grant

2019 Tasmanian Volunteering Awards • nominations open until 10 March

The Tasmanian Volunteering Awards program officially recognises the amazing variety and number of volunteers we have. Do take the opportunity to nominate someone who has made a real difference through their volunteering activities. There are eleven Award categories. All details <https://bit.ly/2UelxVY>

Meander Valley Council Community Grants • Round closes 15 March 2019

Grants up to \$3,000 are available to community organisations for projects that address community needs through special events, sport and recreation and/or community development. Information and application forms are available from the Westbury Council Offices and www.meander.tas.gov.au Applications for consideration in the next adjudication round should be lodged by 15 March 2019. For information contact Patrick Gambles on 6393 5334 or patrick.gambles@mvc.tas.gov.au

Community Grant Alerts

The Department of Communities Tasmania administers a range of grant programs to support the provision of quality facilities and environments that meet the community, sports and recreation needs of Tasmanians and support community development and engagement. Find out about grant programs and subscribe to free grant alerts. <https://www.communities.tas.gov.au/services/funding-and-grants>

Community Resources

National Disability Insurance Scheme • Local Area Coordination by Baptcare

A free service for NDIS participants, people with a disability who are not NDIS participants and any community group who would like to be more inclusive - 1800 290 555

Free legal advice for older Tasmanians

Are you an older Tasmanian who needs legal advice? Or are you worried about an older person you know? Legal Aid offers free, private and confidential legal advice, representation or referrals. Appointments are offered statewide. If you are unable to pop into our Hobart office we can arrange a phone appointment for you. Contact COTA TAS 6231 3265 or email admin@cotatas.org.au to make an appointment (appointments are essential).

Deloraine House • 112 Emu Bay Road

A warm and inviting neighbourhood house that helps to create connections within our community and support the people of Meander Valley. The House hosts community groups, activities and a number of free services including Housing Connect, financial counselling, legal advice and emergency relief. Volunteer helpers welcomed. Phone 6362 2678 or visit www.delorainehouse.com.au

Rural Alive & Well (RAW)

A free and confidential 24/7 support service with a focus on suicide prevention and mental health and wellbeing - information, strategies and support in difficult times
<http://www.rawtas.com.au/> or I need help now - call 1300 4357 6283

Free legal advice

Launceston Community Legal Centre
6334 1577 or free call: 1800 066 019 Web: www.lclc.net.au

Suicide Call Back Service

Free 24/7 nationwide professional telephone counselling and online support for anyone affected by suicide. Available to people who are feeling suicidal, worried about someone, those who have lost someone to suicide, and professionals supporting clients at risk of suicide. 1300 659 467
www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au

Meander Valley Gazette

Your local community newspaper available online at www.meandervalleygazette.org/
Community stories and business adverts are most welcome Tel: 6286 8212

Meander Valley FM 96.9

Your local community radio station will advertise your business and your community event -
www.mvfm.com.au or ring 6362 4969.

Better Councils Better Communities

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