COMING EVENTS

EVENTS

Tuesday, 5 March for 10.30 am at Meander School at Meander (part of Deloraine House facilities) for tour of school and grounds and morning tea. Small donation appreciated.
RSVP Anne by Fri 1 March 0434 064 410

April outing to be confirmed but possible visit to Maritime Centre at Devonport. Entry $5.

Next Probus Meeting : Tuesday **19th - meet 10 am** at Rotary Function Centre

Birthdays: Cate Bowman - 27th Steen Andersen - 18th Marilyn Christie - 2nd
Cindy Knight - 16th Annette Lord - 4th

Speaker: Sandra Atkins, Member of Ladies Probus
About past career in equestrian events and rowing.

The Bulletin is private and confidential and is for Probus use only and is not to be used for any other purpose

March 2024

NEWS BULLETIN

Deloraine Probus Club

Established March 1988
(Rotary District 9830)

Meeting every third Tuesday of the month

Management Committee:

PRESIDENT:	Paul Bowman	0418 530 844
VICE PRESIDENT:	Roy Axelsen	0418 326 792
PAST PRESIDENT:	Maree Matanle	0402 692 066
SECRETARY:	Michael Horne	0418 360 232
ASSISTANT SECRETARY:	John Christie	0458 705 790
TREASURER:	Brian Holloway	0409 139 892
Club Development:	Geoff McLennan	0419 390 775
Club Service:	Ann & Phil Bryan	0434 064 410
Guest Speakers:	Lois Beckwith	0477 015 501
Birthdays/welfare:	Cate Bowman	0408 695 139
Bulletin:	Steen & Clare Andersen	0407 378 951
Club Photographer:	Steen Andersen	0429 935 088
Social Activities:	Anne Bryan	0434 064 410

Postal Address:- P.O. Box 135, Deloraine 7304

It was good to see Kevin, Alison and Bernie at the meeting. Ex-Rotarian, Pamela, visited and it is hoped will come again. Anne's morning tea of buns and home-made scones quickly disappeared and great to see members doing the circulation! Secretary Michael reminded all that March is the AGM - nominations open for positions.

It is a pity that the Meander Valley Gazette has closed. It is understood that staff resigned due to funding issues: it relies on contributors and advertisers to pay modest salaries and expenses. With the increase in everything - people, paper, printing and transport and only a small volume of regular advertisers, it was no longer viable. Our community, not for profit chatter is silenced. We are back to digital, signage, noticeboards or word by mouth: perhaps Deloraine/Westbury should have a large public noticeboard along the wall of Woolies or IGA encased in glass with the supermarkets responsible for installation and removal of community notices?

GIANT STEPS VISIT Established in 1995, Giant Steps Tasmania is an independent school and therapeutic centre for children on the Autism Spectrum. It is the only specialised school for individuals with Autism in Tasmania.

Our group outing in early February was to Giant Steps prior to the start of their school year. We toured most sections and were impressed by the light, spacious surroundings. It caters for approximately 43-45 students of school age up to 16 years, school years 9-12. The aim is to leave with social, emotional development and control, allowing for further or transition to other education schools or pursuits. They follow the general curriculum with reach child having an individual education plan, with much parental consultation and assessment. There is a heated pool with sun roof for year round use which is utilised by specialised visiting allied health staff.



NO BIRTHDAY PHOTOS FOR FEBRUARY
but
look at this recent departure
from the Port of Devonport.



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Full-time staff numbers three but without volunteers much wouldn't happen. Debbie has been instrumental in looking at improvements during her tenure.
Deloraine House is at capacity in providing its core services, which include community groups (young and old) and gardens, produce program, help with medicines, computer access, visiting services and referral services, etc. From butcher and food vouchers (approx $1600 a month?) provided by Service Clubs, DH volunteers produce frozen, cheap meals for those in need. The use of their increased shower facilities has been utilised by the homeless.
Local Council has approved use of the retired Meander School and grounds and projects abound in that area under a five year plan. Garden and vegetable produce (potatoes currently are the go), child areas, music, computer, training rooms.
Deloraine has no social housing and planning regulations are red-taped and slow. DH are looking at low-income/low-cost rental.
Meander Valley has a population of 21,000+, with Deloraine 2,400 residents. Debbie advised Meander School are having an Open Day on Friday, 1 March with BBQ. Community are welcome to visit.

Thanks to Debbie for your talk and the plans in progress for Deloraine and Meander projects - positive and exciting. Volunteers - in any capacity - always open.



They have an exercise and equipment room as well as a large, green outside area for playground and sports. The raised vegetable gardens were well built and easy to manage.
Getting experienced qualified staff is ongoing. Teachers train for up to 3 years, whilst a TAFE Teacher Assistant course takes 12 months. The ratio of students to staff is 1 teacher plus 5 teacher assistants for every 10 pupils, emphasising that all staff with the right attitude and patience are a valuable asset. Regular visits by Occupational Therapists are made to conduct social, emotion, intuition skills programmes. These are important to instil life skills. Physios conduct motor skills using the pool and exercise room equipment.
The use of colour codes for self-regulation is used, especially in the junior years: I am sick; I am calm, etc. A relaxation or "saloozle" room is equipped for children needing a quiet, dimmed escape space when feeling behaviour traumas or some anxiety.



We were surprised seeing three parked buses: one for collecting students to/from Launceston; one Devonport and the other surrounding Meander Valley region plus outings. This number was made possible by the generous donation and help of Rotary and Lions, with other community business and people. The parents are fortunate that these are available.

With staffing, there is continuous need for qualified therapy assistants, relying on many part-time positions, including maintenance of buildings and equipment. School fees are low and help is offered to those families in some hardship. Local business again comes to the fore - such as the Golden Opportunity Shop giving portion of earnings to assist.



With the additional areas they are looking to increase pupil numbers from 43 to 123 in the near future. We thank Manager, Kimberley for the tour and President Paul for organisation. This was a worthwhile visit giving some understanding of this educational facility, which has become a central part of the community.

OUT & ABOUT

We recently visited Alum Cliffs just outside of Mole Creek and happily did the climb without too much panting with the help of short stops. It was a cool morning so all the better. The view was worth the effort and we noted native bush plums in abundance.
Driving down from there noted a small new subdivision of large blocks - 10, 20, 8 acres for sale. Development is happening with the carving up of grazing or farming properties just outside Deloraine. The budget tin-type housing is everywhere with some quality constructions here and there: one reason for increase in traffic. Also, on way to golf club and tip, large blocks are being sold. Go for a drive along the back roads……

SUGGESTED READING

Old God's Time by Sebastian Barry (2023)
From the two-time Booker Prize finalist author, a dazzlingly written novel exploring love, memory, grief, and long-buried secrets. Recently retired policeman Tom Kettle is settling into the quiet of his new home, a lean-to annexed to a Victorian castle overlooking the Irish Sea. For months he has barely seen a soul, catching only glimpses of his eccentric landlord and a nervous young mother who has moved in next door. Occasionally, fond memories return, of his family, his beloved wife June and their two children, Winnie and Joe.

GUEST SPEAKER - Debbie Smith, Manager/Co-Ordinator of Deloraine House



With the increasing cost of living coupled with decades of no forward planning by State Governments and Councils, selling of Government housing stock and often dysfunctional home-life - to say nothing of massive immigration numbers - it is not surprising that we are in a homelessness crisis.
In the Meander Valley catchment, Deloraine House, which was donated by a resident, is the only Neighbourhood House. North Tassie has other such Houses thinly spread.
Due to population pressures, we are getting need coming in from outside the area, which puts stresses on the local community and resources.
Together with Government monies (currently $268,000 pa) and grants, generous community organisations, such as Deloraine Rotary, and others, have provided funds and now infrastructure to assist.
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