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BORDER PROBLEMS PERSIST

Despite the easing of restrictions, farmers & farmers the N/SW border closure is still causing confusion in the community.
Story on page 5.

Locals urged to go for it

Towong Shire Council has been successful in its application to take part in the Working for Victoria scheme which aims to keep more Victorians employed during COVID-19. The Victorian government initiative will employ 18 new, six-month fixed term roles at the council to provide critical services across Towong in response to the coronavirus.

Locals are encouraged to apply.

Towong mayor, Cr David Wortmann, said the $500 million initiative is matching people that have lost their jobs with employers who need additional staff.

"Council is very pleased to take part in the Working for Victoria program and is looking forward to welcoming our 18 new employees," he said.

"We are encouraging local people to apply for the positions. If you’re looking for a job, we would encourage you to jump on the Working for Victoria website and register your interest."

Activities under the program will include outdoor work on local or regional infrastructure, environmental management and art programs to bring communities together.

Cont. on page 4.
MEETINGS

MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER BUSH FESTIVAL 2020 AGM

The Board advises the community of the following:
• The AGM scheduled for 25th August, 2020 is postponed due to current COVID-19 and government restrictions to a date to be set in August 2021.
• Current elected board members will continue to the next AGM in 2021.
• Current board members may resign their position, however no new board members may be appointed until the next AGM in 2021.
• The board will conduct its standard duty of electing its executive positions at its first meeting of this new term.
• Copies of financials and festival report are available to all financial members upon application to the secretary@bushfestival.com.au. Ph: 02 6076 1992.

DEATHS

HILL, Samuel James - Remembering you
Sam will be easy. Your big smile, bright eyes and kind hearted nature will not be forgotten. Sam, you were the best Deb partner a girl could have, I felt so special, a memory to be cherished.
To Elise, James and Jake, love, strength and support surround you. - So much love always Kirsten, Chloe and Jayden.

HILL, Sam - Our deepest sympathy to James, Elise and Jake.
A lovely young man gone fishing.
R.I.P.
~ Paul, Julie, Dale, Mistry and Malkara.

HILL - Due to current restrictions on social gatherings a private funeral will be held. A livestream of the service will be available from lesserandson.com.au/hill-6 today Thursday August 20th, 2020 from 1pm.

FUNERAL NOTICE


FUNDRAISING

For more information please go to www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria.

LOCAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Work to support your community’s recovery
Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) is a new, permanent and dedicated Victorian Government agency working directly with local communities to listen, help and deliver what they need to recover from the 2019-20 bushfires.
We are looking for local candidates to take on the following roles in North East Victoria:
• Recovery Coordinator,
  Buildings and Environment - VPS 6
• Wellbeing Support Officer - VPS 5
  (Two positions available)
These positions are regionally based until 30 June 2022
For more information about BRV go to brv.vic.gov.au
For the full position description and to apply please go to https://careers.vic.gov.au/
BUSHFIRE VOLUNTEERS GET ROYAL RECOGNITION

Australian disaster-aid charity BlazeAid, which is leading recovery efforts on farms across the east coast after the summer’s bushfires, has been awarded a prestigious international volunteering award by Queen Elizabeth II.

The Commonwealth Points of Light award celebrates inspirational acts of volunteering and aims to “inspire others to make their own contribution to tackling some of the greatest social challenges of our time.”

The announcement of the award, to BlazeAid founder, Kevin Butler, was made by British High Commissioner to Australia, Vicki Treadell, in London on Friday.

The couple founded BlazeAid after Victoria’s devastating Black Saturday bushfires in 2009.

“We pledged to help a few dozen of our immediate neighbours to rebuild their burnt fencing over 14 days,” they said.

“The idea caught on and in the ensuing 10 years, volunteers have poured in from all over Australia and the world to physically help others impacted by our country’s nearly unrecoverable fires, floods and cyclones.

“After almost 250 natural disasters, hundreds of thousands of volunteers, farmers, donors and local communities have teamed together to rebuild 14,000 kilometres of new fencing, donating 400,000 days working on 9000 devastated farms.”

Ten years on, BlazeAid has helped more than 10,000 farmers with about half of that in the last year alone.

BlazeAid is almost totally volunteer-run with just one paid bookkeeper.

“I am delighted to ‘virtually’ present Kevin and Rhonda Butler with this award for their dedication and commitment to both their own community and other communities in Australia who have been impacted by natural disasters – including the recent devastating bushfires,” High Commissioner Treadell said.

“They both demonstrate incredible commitment to BlazeAid, the volunteers they have recruited and the communities they support. They are making a significant impact on the lives of those that benefit from BlazeAid’s work.”

Today, BlazeAid has 26 base camps running over three states from Kangaroo Island in South Australia, throughout Victoria and NSW and right up to the Queensland border following the 2019-20 Australian mega fires last summer.

“Volunteers have been working shoulder-to-shoulder with hundreds of farming families daily, seven days a week non-stop, to rebuild what fires destroyed in just minutes,” Kevin said.

“We wake up every morning being so grateful to the thousands of BlazeAid volunteers who selflessly make a massive difference to the physical, and mental health of hundreds of vulnerable family countries in these devastated communities.”

BlazeAid still maintains a presence in Corryong with 12 volunteers who are authorised to go out to farms to do fencing but are restricted otherwise.

“We cannot take any new volunteers from anywhere else at present,” said Corryong co-ordinator, Wendy Wilkie.

“We are committed to staying here for the next few months or until the work runs out! When restrictions ease we hope to get more volunteers.”

Closures cause an additional health crisis

Rural doctors are reporting that due to state border COVID restrictions, some patients cannot get urgent care and access to cross-border critical care facilities have been impacted.

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) says that hundreds of doctors, nurses and other health workers have had their ability to attend their usual workplaces disrupted, resulting in loss of vital health services to the community.

Dr John Hall, RDAA president, said that health care exemptions were urgently required in all states.

“We have patients who can’t access the closest intensive care,” he said.

“Patients who are booked in for urgent surgery across the border are now unable to be treated. Important follow up appointments are unable to be carried out.

“Doctors, nurses and other health staff in many cases have to choose between working or staying with their family across the border.

“Many health services have had to be reduced due to the restrictions placed on staff.”

“This cannot go on and needs an urgent solution,” Dr Hall emphasised.

“We call on the states at this critical time to stop being obstructionist and just do the right thing here.

“Both respond to COVID-19 that limits it’s spread but when it comes to health care an entirely new crisis is being created by the enormous disruptions to the provision of care.

“These draconian restrictions are having a real impact on people’s immediate and long-term health and this has to stop. Exemptions for accessing health services are urgently needed.
Researchers from the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) and Melbourne University are preparing to establish an insurance population of the Spotted Tree Frog (Litoria spenceri) to safeguard the ongoing survival of the critically endangered species.

Field surveys across seven locations in North East Victoria including the Upper Murray, confirmed multiple bushfires, subsequent flooding and a high incidence of a deadly fungal disease have had significant impacts on the Spotted Tree Frog population.

Follow-up surveys planned for spring are expected to confirm the need to remove a small number of frogs from their habitat to commence a captive breeding program led by Zoos Victoria. The Spotted Tree Frog Project forms part of the Victorian government’s Bushfire Biodiversity Response and Recovery Program which supports on-ground action to help at risk species impacted by last summer’s devastating bushfires.

In the aftermath of the fires, specialist researchers from DELWP and Melbourne University conducted day and night surveys of the frogs isolated habitat, recording each frog’s age, size, and sex. Frogs were also swabbed for the fungus.

“There is a real possibility that we will need to develop captive insurance populations, with increased resistance to the fungus, for potential longer-term reintroduction programs,” DELWP Senior Natural Environment Programs Officer, Glen Johnson, said.

“The Spotted Tree Frog is critically endangered across Victoria and New South Wales and in the past three decades has continued to decline due to a range of threats.

“Removing healthy frogs and breeding them in a controlled environment is the likely next step in the recovery strategy for the species. This research is incredibly important for the future of the species in Victoria.”

Melbourne University Research Fellow, Dr Matt West, said in addition to multiple fire impacts and the chytrid fungus, other threats to the species include introduced fish species.

“Bushfires can kill the frogs but post fire heavy rainfall which causes flash flooding, sediment and debris flows can also severely impact on egg and tadpole recruitment and the frogs’ habitat.”

“The surveys help us to better understand the combined impacts of fire, chytridiomycosis and other threats on the species.”

“Chytridiomycosis, which is caused by Amphibian Chytrid Fungus, infects the skin of frogs, causing damage to the keratin layer and can ultimately result in death. The fungus is thought to be responsible for the decline of many amphibian species in Australia and around the world.”

The program is supported by the NESP Threatened Species Recovery Hub and funding from the Australian government’s Bushfire Recovery package for wildlife and their habitat.

The post bushfire surveys were conducted in March and all activity complied with DHHS requirements prioritising the safety of the Victorian community, staff and contractors.
WHAT, WHEN & WHO

MUSEUM ROSTER
CLOSED
The public is advised that the Man From Snowy River Museum will be closed until further notice due to the Covid-19 health restrictions.

MEALS ON WHEELS
Corryong Health
OP SHOP
CLOSED
The public is advised that the Corryong Op Shop will be closed until further notice due to the Covid-19 health restrictions.

LOCAL POLICE
Corryong - 02 6076 1666
For all emergencies 000. If local police are absent you will speak directly to the Wodonga Police who will relay a message.

TOWONG SHIRE & PUBLIC LIBRARY
76 Hanson St., Corryong Council customer service and library staff are available Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm. Council office and library are closed on weekends and public holidays.

COMMUNITY CAR
A service for those without transport to access appointments in Albury-Wodonga. Ph: 6076 2300.

Corryong Health

UPPER HUME HEALTH SERVICE
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs support - drug withdrawal nurses and counsellors from Wodonga will visit on an outreach basis as required. Ph: 1800 657 573.

WASTE MANAGEMENT
Corryong Tip

LOCAL JUSTICES OF PEACE
Carol Allen - NSW & Vic. (0676 2051); Merv Ward (0676 1369); Phil Hadley, Cudgewa, Nariel, Thursday. Though, Biggara, Burrowy Friday: Corryong Township, Khanbochan. For more information visit www.towong.vic.gov.au or phone 02 6071 5100 or 1300 365 222 (local call cost).

LOCAL JUSTICES OF PEACE
Carol Allen - NSW & Vic. (0676 2051); Merv Ward (0676 1369); Phil Hadley, Cudgewa, Nariel, Thursday. Though, Biggara, Burrowy Friday: Corryong Township, Khanbochan. For more information visit www.towong.vic.gov.au or phone 02 6071 5100 or 1300 365 222 (local call cost).

Corryong Foodshare
Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Corryong Foodshare has changed from a drop-in service to a ‘no contact care package’ delivery service an Wednesday & Thursday Thursday. Contact Carol on 0427 762 051 or Douglas 0427 014 935 prior to 9.30am for same day delivery. Household items from Corryong Relief Centre are still by appointment.

UNITING CHURCH
UNITING CHURCH SERVICES ARE SUSPENDED AND WILL RESUME WHEN HEALTH RESTRICTIONS ALLOW
Car Donaldson & Wheeler St., Corryong Church Council: Linda Nankervis 6077 9212 Pastoral Enquiries: Sandy Hill 6077 8273, Catherine Ross 6077 1363, Linda Nankervis 6077 9212 Hall Hire: Pamela Menere 0408 767 327

SEVEN HOLIDAY ADVENTIST
Services will resume when health restrictions allow.

ANGLICAN PARISH
Parishioners please note:-
There will be no Church Services during the current Level 3 Covid-19 restrictions.
Enquiries: Rev Mitch Porter 02 6076 1057

BAPTIST CHURCH
87-89 Hanson Street Enquiries: Pastor Graeme Van Brummelen - (02) 6076 468

CATHOLIC PARISH
Services will resume when health restrictions allow.

PENTECOSTAL
Ambassadors of Jesus 59 Donaldson Street Pastors Douglass & Carol Allen 6076 2890 /51. Fax 6076 2052 E-mail: a@j@corryong.net.

PENTECOSTAL
Services will resume when health restrictions allow. Ambassadors of Jesus 59 Donaldson Street Enquiries: Pastors Douglass & Carol Allen 6076 2890 /51. Fax 6076 2052 E-mail: a@j@corryong.net.

COURIER ADVERTISING
Placement of advertisements - Registration or engine numbers and a price are required for motor vehicle sales. IDs are required when placing a birth notice, wedding notice and engagement notice.

Joke Of The Week:
Question: What starts with P and ends with E and has lots of letters?
Answer: Post office!

Find-a-Word
Haute Couture

S Y O M N C O L O U R F U L T
H T I A F A S H I O N A B L E
E I N K E P A U L E T S T H V
R L A E G S S E L C I T R A I
R A M U M L C K B A G S I R S
I N R P M E O H I E A L K P N
N O A C C E S S O R I E S E E
G S P E Q V M I S S T D L R P
B R P L U E E C T Y E O D S X
O E L E E S T N A R R M N B E
N P I B E R I A L C E I R A M
E T Q R N R C E U G O V I Z L
W W U P Y S A T N A F D A L
S A E T J E W E L L E R Y A E
B O X Y L K D E S I G N E R S

12 letters left over. Solution: It’s hair raising

Accessories
advertisements
applique
Armani
articles
bags
boxy
cap sleeves
celebrity
colourful
cosmetics
designers
dirndl skirt
Elle
epaulets
expensive
fantasy
fashionable
gaiter
glossy
Harpers Bazaar
herringbone
jewellery
make up
Marie Claire
McQueen
models
news
personality
prints
sell
skirt
Vogue

12 letters left over. Solution: It's hair raising

Joke Of The Week:-
Question: What starts with P and ends with E and has lots of letters?
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Birthday Club
Beau Scott, August 22, 2008 (12)
To register your child in the Birthday Club phone 6076 1045 or email adverts@corryongcourier.com.au
Each Birthday Club member receives a Birthday Card and Free Patties Party Pack

Wednesday 24-30 Hanson St., Corryong. Ph: 6076 1256

Radio Upper Murray
88.7 / 98.9 / 107.7
Jennifer Fennell
Wed: 10am - 1pm
Sun: 1pm - 5pm

IGA
plus
LIQUOR

24-30 Hanson St, Corryong. Ph: 6076 1256
To register your child in the Birthday Club phone 6076 1045 or email adverts@corryongcourier.com.au
Each Birthday Club member receives a Birthday Card and Free Patties Party Pack

Friday: 1pm - 5pm
Saturday: 1pm - 5pm
Sunday: 1pm - 5pm
Monday to Friday: 9am - 4.30pm
Due to Covid-19 we are currently closed.
61 Hanson Street, Coryong
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0427 737 556

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02 6076 2202

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The Corryong Courier
THURSDAY AUGUST 20, 2020
PAGE FIFTEEN

MOVING ......
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Upper Murray Sport

League’s future not decided

The president of the Upper Murray Football Netball League (UMFNL) has emphasised to the community that no decision has been made to disband the league in 2021, despite a working party developing options for a merged entity to compete in the Tallangatta league.

In a letter to the editor in this issue, Gordon Nicholas claims that the league gave permission for a panel to conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the requirements if a combined Upper Murray team were to seek entry into the Tallangatta league “if the UMFNL had less than four teams to compete in 2021.”

He says that four clubs are available to continue in the league in 2021 and that no decisions should be made on its future given the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Mr Nicholas adds that season 2021 should be treated the same way as the 2020 season was shaping up.

However, AFL North East Border (AFL NEB) says that the working party was established to develop an alternate model for consideration, as the feasibility study it conducted had been completed in June this year.

The preliminary study report delivered to the clubs raised concerns about the league’s immediate future while clubs are integral to the strength and wellbeing of regional communities.

Mr Nicholas says that the working party has been local discussion and a presentation will be made to the clubs next Monday night. That information will also made public the following day.

Once there has been local discussion and debate, the UMFNL will convene a meeting and make some critical decisions, which we expect to be in September,” Mr O’Donohue said.

 Clubs helped through the pandemic

Member for Northern Victoria, Tania Maxwell, has welcomed funding for eight sporting clubs across the Towong Shire which are set to receive a share of funding from the Community Sport Sector Covid-19 Survival Package, including the Corryong, Cudgewa and Federal Football Netball Clubs.

Ms Maxwell said the funding will support state sport associations, state sport and recreation bodies and regional academies to get through the pandemic.

“Sporting clubs are often the heartbeat of small towns and regional communities,” she explained.

“Sporting clubs are integral to the community and pathways of football and netball participation and pathways in the Upper Murray,” she explained.

“The positive impacts of participation in sport are well known and sporting clubs are integral to the strength and wellbeing of regional communities. Coronavirus restrictions have had a significant impact on community sport and the capacity of clubs to raise funds to support their operations. This funding will help organisations to continue to operate safely and help in developing their ‘Return to Play’ plans, post pandemic.”

Other clubs funded within Towong Shire include the Mitta Mitta Golf Club, Mitta United Football Club, Tallangatta Bowls Club, Tallangatta Cricket Club and the Tallangatta Golf Club.
This bulletin provides regular updates and stories about bushfire recovery across Victoria’s fire-affected areas. Bushfire Recovery Victoria proudly works in partnership with Towong Shire Council and the local community to support bushfire recovery.

MAJOR EXPANSION OF $75K PRODUCER GRANTS

Primary producers impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires will benefit from expanded eligibility for the $75,000 disaster recovery grant and timeframe changes announced by the Federal and Victorian Government. The primary producers grant provides support to farmers and other primary production businesses in fire-affected areas with the costs of such services as safety inspections, veterinary fees, waste disposal, equipment purchases or repairs to property or equipment damaged in the fires. Key eligibility changes include:

- Removal of the off-farm income threshold where an applicant’s income from primary production is less than 50 per cent of their total income.
- Allowing extra time for applicants to reach the 50 per cent income threshold in recognition of long lead times required by some sectors to reach full production.
- Applicants are no longer required to be registered for GST (but must still hold an ABN).
- Businesses earning more than 50 per cent of their income from a combination of primary production and goods made directly from that produce will now be eligible for assistance.
- The grants will also be extended to December 31.

Bushfire Recovery Grant for Community Facilities

The Bushfire Recovery Grant will support community groups to build, upgrade or repair important local facilities that everyone can use.

Examples of projects that could be funded through the community facilities grants include repair of playgrounds, skate parks, pavilions or other outdoor facilities, repair of community halls or buildings, including kitchen or bathroom upgrades, and energy efficiency and general repairs for facilities that have been damaged or destroyed.

Grants of up to $50,000 are on offer. To apply or see more, visit brv.vic.gov.au and go to the ‘financial support’ page.

BRV’S COMMUNITY GRANTS:

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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Grants of up to $50,000 are on offer. To apply or see more, visit brv.vic.gov.au and go to the ‘financial support’ page.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY GRANTS FOR ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

The Bushfire Recovery Grants for Aboriginal Communities will support Aboriginal community or Traditional Owner led projects that value and respect Aboriginal culture, address trauma, support healing and promote cultural safety, ownership, resilience and participation.

Projects funded under the grants must also demonstrate how Aboriginal employment and future wellbeing and economic development will be supported.

Grants of up to $500,000 will be available to support cultural heritage management projects across bushfire-affected Country, such as country mapping, protection works for ancestral remains and training for Traditional Owner organisations.

Grants are also available for projects that address the needs of Aboriginal communities throughout the long-term recovery journey, such as events to reconnect communities and training workshops. Grants close August 23. To apply or see more, visit brv.vic.gov.au and go to the ‘financial support’ page.

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY GRANTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

The Bushfire Recovery Grants for Local Government Authorities and Community Service Organisations will help councils, charities and community organisations support recovery, redevelopment and resilience after the 2019/20 Victorian Bushfires, and to build capacity and preparedness for the future.

Examples of projects supported under the initiative could include economic development initiatives, local business skill and capacity building, the employment of a community recovery officer to boost service delivery on the ground, and the delivery of recovery services for groups with different needs such as the elderly or multicultural communities. Activities that build resilience for future disasters will also be supported.

Charities, not-for-profits and other local community service providers across Victoria – as well as 18 Local Government Authorities and four Alpine Resorts – will be eligible to apply. Grants of up to $500,000 are available. To apply or see more, visit brv.vic.gov.au and go to the ‘financial support’ page.
Upper Murray Community Recovery

Weekly Recovery Update - 20 August 2020

Taking Care of Business
Mel Bye, owner of Treat It Naturally in Corryong, knew that if she wanted to stay in business, she needed to move forward. “I had lots of ideas in my head, but I never put them out there” she said.

Mel began meeting with Chris Westwood who works for the Australian Industry Group to deliver the Federal Government’s Entrepreneurs’ Program, Strengthening Business.

The program was set up to respond to communities affected by the bushfires with Chris based at the Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub in Corryong.

“I spend time with businesses, discuss where they are at and where they’ve come from. I determine their aspirations and focus and set up a roadmap, or business plan - anything from improving your marketing and social media presence to increasing the size of your production” said Chris.

Mel was able to talk to Chris about social media and technology skills she felt were letting her down. “I feel I can do this now, with his support.”

If you would like to talk to Chris about your business, call 0401 266 960 or email chris.westwood@ep.industry.gov.au.

Recovery and the road ahead

A virtual community forum next week will talk about ongoing bushfire recovery with Psychologist, Dr Rob Gordon, hosted by the Australian Red Cross and Mentors Australia. Issues Dr Rob will talk about include:

- Impact of bushfires on individuals and the community over the next 6 -12 months
- The effects of trauma, loss, stress and disruption to decision making
- Compounding impacts of COVID-19
- Impacts on townships and farming communities and the different effects it can have on men, women and young people
- What can be done to achieve ‘a good recovery’

The forum is on Wednesday, August 26 at 3pm. Email jdavison@redcross.org.au to register.

Community Facility Grants
The Bushfire Recovery Grants for Community Facilities are now available to support community groups to build, upgrade or repair important local facilities.

Examples of projects that could be funded through the community facilities grants include upgrades to kitchens or bathrooms at local halls, repairs to fix damage, or new facilities such as playgrounds, community gardens and small pavilions. For more information go to www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-grants-community-facilities or call the Recovery team.

Rebuilding help at hand
Council and BRV are providing a free, rebuild support service to the owners of fire-damaged property, including help with planning and building approvals. Contact the Recovery team on 1800 518 222 or email recovery@towong.vic.gov.au.

Upper Murray Community Recovery Hub:
Call 1800 518 222 or email recovery@towong.vic.gov.au. While the Recovery Hub is currently closed to drop-in visits, recovery work continues remotely.

Bushfire Recovery Victoria:
Call 1800 560 760
Email connect@brv.vic.gov.au
Power outages will be staggered

Ausnet Services is undertaking network improvement and critical maintenance works on the Corryong and district power supply next week. The extensive planned outage works will be carried out between Tallangatta and Corryong from Tuesday 25th to Saturday 29th of August.

“The critical works will be undertaken as part of our bushfire mitigation program as well as installing new Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiter (REFCL) technology in the area to further reduce the risk of bushfires,” said Ausnet spokesperson, Helina Lilley.

“We’re doing everything we can to minimise the impact to customers while we carry out this critical work. The work will be carried out in sections across the line which means customers will only experience a single full day outage out of the five-day period and receive through alternate means for the other four.

“Customers in the Corryong and Cudgewa areas will experience a short interruption of around 10 minutes between 5:30pm and 6:30pm while we reconfigure the network at the end of each day. “Customers in the main works area between Tallangatta East and Colac Colac will experience one eight-hour outage during this four-day period and up to three short evening interruptions.

“If we are not able to go ahead with any of these works we will reschedule the interruption for Saturday 29th August,” Ms Lilley said.

Customers impacted by the works will receive a notification in the post outlining the date of the planned outages affecting them and the dates they will be affected by the short interruptions at the end of each day.

“Customers are also encouraged to register their mobile phone with their retailer to receive SMS updates. “We know there is never a good time to be without power, especially while Victorians are at home doing their part to flatten the curve and we appreciate our customers patience and understanding,” Ms Lilley said.

“We encourage those with chronic illnesses to reach out to us ahead of time on 1300 360 795.”


Cont. from page 1.

“Council will provide jobs for unemployed people, whether they have lost their jobs due to the impacts of coronavirus or have been without work for a longer period of time,” Cr Wortmann said.

The new positions have been advertised this week - see page 10 for details.

Under Stage 3 restrictions, the recruitment process will occur online and over-the-phone wherever possible.

More than 8,500 Victorians have found positions through Working for Victoria since the program was launched in April.

To register your interest in applying for one of the jobs at Towong Council visit www.vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria.
Two politicians from either side of the Murray River have called on the NSW and Victorian premiers to look at an innovative fix to cross-border woes created by Stage 3 restrictions and problematic crossing permits.

The Member for Albury, Justin Clancy, and Member for Benambra, Bill Tilley, have sent the premiers a letter calling for a boundary around the two electorates to allow for the lifting of Stage 3 restrictions south of the Murray River and removing the need for a border permit for those inside its bubble.

The letter has been supported and co-signed by civic, health, industry and business leaders. The state parliamentarians say business, health care, education and families are at breaking point. They believe their plan could provide the blueprint for how the nation lives with COVID-19 or future pandemics.

Mr Clancy said “Our message is that the border closure has not just an economic impact but also a social and human toll as well.

“Bill has been tireless in his advocacy during this time and I appreciate the need to work co-operatively, supporting each other’s communities irrespective of the borders. We ask both premiers to likewise collaborate and drive forward solutions that not just keep our communities safe but also give them much needed respite.”

Mr Tilley added that “We’re offering the premiers a solution to the lazy policy and crippling restrictions and permits that are killing businesses and destroying families. “We say put your trust in our people, be our champions, let us show you how communities can live with this threat. “This could be the test case of how the nation moves forward,” Mr Tilley said.

Farmers get some cross border relief

Lobbying by local politicians and business and community leaders to ease the NSW-Victorian border restrictions has resulted in a minor victory with the announcement of a farmer permit. Victorian farmers who own land in NSW - along with shearsers, harvest contractors and beekeepers - will be able to move into NSW without having to quarantine or go via Sydney under the new permit system. The ‘Highly Specialised Agriculture Permit’ will allow exempted Victorian agriculture workers who live within 100km of the NSW-Victoria border to move up to 100km into NSW; as long as they comply with conditions including self-isolating when not at work and have not travelled more than 100km into Victoria in the past 14 days. The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has welcomed the announcement to ensure the movement of people and products into parts of NSW.

“The VFF and Australia’s farming groups have been holding emergency talks daily given the serious concerns about the impacts of border restrictions on the agricultural supply chain,” said VFF president, David Jochinke.

“We needed a common-sense approach so that we can continue to do our job which is to feed the nation.”

“I commend the tireless efforts of Victorian Agriculture Minister, Jaclyn Symes, and the work being done behind the scenes to get this decision across the line.

“We are aware that permit applications to travel further than 100km into NSW will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and we will monitor the impact of this condition on the farming community.” Beyond agriculture, there also remains the challenge of several thousand day-school students and staff from outside the border zone who will not be permitted to cross into NSW from 24 August.

John Teunon, Phil Packer and the team at MacJac Sheds offer a range of hay sheds, farm sheds and machinery sheds to suit a range of commercial, agricultural and lifestyle needs. With over 25 years experience building sheds in North East Victoria and Southern NSW, MacJac Sheds can help with advice, design, legal requirements and project management, meaning your next shed project will be completed on time and more importantly on budget.
Be a leader. Become a teacher.

Become a teacher to lead us into the future, and inspire who comes next.

vic.gov.au/TeachTheFuture
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING PLANNED OUTAGES

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

AusNet Services are undertaking extensive planned outage works between Tallangatta and Corryong from Tuesday 25th to Saturday 29th of August, as part of our bushfire mitigation program and to install new technology in the area to further reduce the risk of bushfires.

We know there is never a good time to be without power, especially while Victorians are at home doing their part to flatten the curve. We appreciate our customers patience and understanding while we undertake this very important work to maintain a safe and reliable network.

HOW WILL CUSTOMERS BE IMPACTED?

We’re doing everything we can to minimise the impact to customers while we carry out this critical work. This means:

• Customers in the Corryong and Cudgewa areas will experience short evening interruptions on four separate days.
• On these days customers will experience a short interruption of around ten minutes between 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm each evening while we reconfigure the network.
• Customers in the main works area between Tallangatta East and Colac Colac will experience one eight-hour outage during this four-day period and up to three short evening interruptions depending on location.
• If we are not able to go ahead with any of these works we will reschedule the interruption for Saturday 29th August.

Customers impacted by these works will receive a notification in the post outlining the date of planned outages affecting them and the dates they will be affected by the short interruptions at the end of each day.

HOW CAN CUSTOMERS GET MORE INFORMATION?

We encourage those with special needs, particularly those with chronic illnesses to reach out to us ahead of time on 1300 360 795 to discuss their concerns. In addition to the notification received in the post, customers are encouraged to register their mobile phone with their retailer to receive SMS updates.

For tips to prepare for power outages, visit: www.ausnetservices.com.au/Community/Coronavirus-COVID-19
It’s time for children of the Snowy Mountains to get creative and showcase their understanding of renewable energy by entering the annual Science of the Snowy Scheme competition.

To help celebrate science and technology in Australia and as part of National Science Week, Snowy Hydro is holding the competition and offering some fantastic prizes, including overnight experiences at Taronga Zoo and behind-the-scenes tours of Tumut 3 Power Station.

To participate in the Science of the Snowy Scheme competition, local primary school students need to design a power station of the future that generates 100 per cent Australian-made, renewable energy and explain how it works.

Paul Broad, Snowy Hydro CEO, said the competition provided students with a great opportunity to learn more about the science and engineering behind the mighty Snowy Scheme and to think more broadly about how we generate energy.

“We are proud to be running our fantastic Science of the Snowy Scheme competition again and look forward to the innovative and creative ideas of local school students as they design a renewable power station of the future,” he said.

The Science of the Snowy Scheme competition is open to students in years 3-6 who live in the Snowy Valleys Council and Snowy Monaro Regional Council areas. Children can submit drawings, digital designs, posters or models.

The competition opened on Monday and closes at 5pm on Friday 11 November, 2020.

The winning entries will be displayed at the Snowy Hydro Discovery Centre in Cooma and on the Snowy Hydro website.

For more information about the competition, including full terms and conditions, visit snowyhydro.com.au/scienceweek2020 or email science@snowyhydro.com.au.

School competition calls for renewable energy ideas for our future.

Fire funding backs local learning
The Corryong Neighbourhood Centre (CNC) is one of seven recipients in the North East to receive grants from the Victorian government to help provide urgent training.

Minister for Training and Skills and Higher Education, Gayle Tierney, has announced a Learn Local Bushfire Recovery Grants package worth a total of $200,000 to help providers adapt programs to address the training needs of communities most impacted by bushfires and support the engagement of local learners.

The CNC will receive a grant of $25,000 along with Buchan District Outreach, Mallacoota District Health and Support Service, Orbost Education Centre, King Valley Learning Exchange and Myrtleford Neighbourhood Centre.

The remaining $25,000 will be used to support Learn Locals in their administration of the grants.

“Learn Local providers make a huge difference in their communities, helping people who need extra support turn their lives around with programs for people of all ages and from all walks of life,” Ms Tierney said.

“The Learn Local sector makes an invaluable contribution to the Victorian community and this funding will help providers give their communities the skills they need to rebuild from the double blow of bushfires and coronavirus.”

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes, said “Adult education is so important, and this funding will ensure communities like Corryong, get the training they want and need.”

The Corryong Neighbourhood Centre (CNC) is one of seven recipients in the North East to receive grants from the Victorian government to help provide urgent training.
War anniversary recognised

Last Saturday the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War was commemorated and the service and sacrifice of the almost one million Australians who served our nation and the support and fortitude of millions of Australians on the home front were acknowledged. Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Darren Chester, said Victory in the Pacific signified the end of the Second World War for Australia and was met with scenes of celebration and relief 75 years ago, prior to a special commemorative service held at the Australian War Memorial to remember all those who served.

“The end of the Second World War is a moment our nation will forever remember,” he said.

On Saturday a grateful nation tuned in to watch the national commemorative service broadcast live on the ABC from the Australian War Memorial.

“It was a time to remember and reflect on the service and sacrifice of the almost one million Australians who served, the 39,000 who died and the some 30,000 who were prisoners of war. “Remarkably, around 12,000 are still with us today.”

Mr Chester took part in a private wreath laying at the Sale cenotaph to pay his respects last week.

“One way we can preserve the stories of those who served is by taking part in the virtual Wall of Respect by sharing the pictures and stories of a family member or loved one who served on social media and using the hashtag #OneInAMillion,” he added.

Living Australian Second World War veterans or their family members who have already been able to are also encouraged to apply for a commemorative medallion and certificate that the Department of Veterans’ Affairs has developed to honour this significant anniversary.

“Id ate, around 4,000 veterans have applied for the commemorative medallion, which means there are more veterans out there who are still eligible,” Mr Chester said.

“For those who haven’t applied yet, I encourage you to do so. We cannot ever repay the debt we owe you as a nation, this is just another small way we can say to you as an individual ‘thank you for your service’.

You can apply online for the Commemorative Medallion or for those without internet access, by phone on 1800 VETERAN (1800 808 372) during business hours.

A simple, single wreath marked the WWII commemoration at the Corryong cenotaph on Saturday.

Community projects assist with recovery

The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR), in partnership with the Pratt Foundation, has granted a further $241,386 to support 13 community-led projects in the Snowy Valleys Council (SVC) region.

“The VyV Tumut Region Recovery Fund was established in February 2020 to support community-led projects designed to address a diverse range of bushfire recovery needs and community priorities.

Anthony Pratt, Executive Chairman of VyV, said the organisation has been so pleased to have been able to support the region. “It is wonderful to have seen how these grants have been put into action by community groups to make a real difference to the region’s recovery,” he said.

Natalie Egleton, CEO of FRRR, said that there have been some great projects funded through the local.

“Thanks to the early response and support of the Pratt Foundation, many recovery projects in the Snowy Valleys region have already got underway, such as the Religious ART project,” she said. “I’m just as confident that the local organisations that have been awarded grants for projects this final round will play a critical role in the ongoing recovery of these communities.

“The projects are all great examples of local community groups playing a vital role in disaster recovery because they are on the ground and best placed to know what is needed,” said Ms Egleton.

Grant recipients include:

• Ourimie Rural Fire Brigade $10,000 - to build community resilience and connectedness by improving the brigade’s shed facilities to create a community meeting space and better local RFS facility.

• Tooma Hall $32,000 to build community resilience by upgrading community infrastructure at the hall with water storage for evacuation and everyday community use.

• Tumbarumba Artists on Parade Co-Operative Limited Sounds of Summer Camerata String Orchestra Tour) $13,400 to enhance the cultural vibrancy of the region with performances by classical musicians at local venues in Tumut, Tumbarumba and Khancoban.

• Upper Murray Community Radio Inc $6000 - to build community capacity, training volunteers as operators at the station and increasing skills for local content broadcasting.

A total of $970,386 in funding has been granted to 36 projects over the last seven months and the program is now closed.

Letters to the editor:

League’s fate has not been decided

Recent commentary has indicated that the Upper Murray Football Netball League (UMFNL) will disband in 2021.

The league gave permission for a panel to do a feasibility study to evaluate the requirements if a combined Upper Murray team were to seek entry into the Tallangatta District League - if the UMFNL had less than four teams to compete in 2021.

Four teams are available to continue in the league in 2021.

Covid-19 has caused much disruption in many facets of the community. It will be an injustice to not judge the UMFNL on what has occurred in 2020.

Season 2021 should be taken as what it may have been in 2020, prior to Covid-19 restrictions.

Gordon Nicholas, President, UMFNL.

Riley’s Restaurant

While social distancing restrictions remain in place the restaurant will be closed.

Takeaway meals are still available from Thursday to Monday from 5pm-8pm.

Check our Facebook page for the latest menu

TAKEAWAY MENU

Available Thursday - Monday nights
5:00pm - 8:00pm

Main Menu

Sweet & sour pork with veg & rice.............$20
Garlic prawns & white rice..................$20
BBQ pork ribs & chips.......................$20
Red wine lamb shank & chips...............$20
Chicken parmi & chips.......................$18
Chicken schnitzel & chips...................$16
Tempura battered whiting & chips.........$16
Spaghetti & meatballs......................$17
Spaghetti in creamy bacon, mushroom, onion & white wine sauce..............$17

Dessert menu

Tiramisu............................................$6
Citrus tart........................................$6

Kids menu

Chicken nuggets & chips....................$10
Fish bites & chips.........................$10
Sausage rolls..................................$10
Calamari & chips.........................$12
Mini spring rolls & chips...................$12

Sides

Fully loaded chips............................$10
Garden salad...................................$6
Steamed vegetables..........................$6
Gravy.................................................$2
Mushroom, garlic or pepper sauce.......$3

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