Victoria’s State of Emergency has been extended and regional residents are being encouraged to wear face masks in public places to help limit the spread of coronavirus as cases continue to soar around the state.

Case numbers have spiked over the past weeks, particularly in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire (which borders Greater Bendigo) and both returned to stage three restrictions from July 9.

On Sunday Premier Daniel Andrews announced that as of Thursday, July 23, it is mandatory for residents in those areas to wear face coverings when leaving their homes with a $200 fine for those who don’t comply.

While regional Victorians are not currently legally required to wear a mask, those over the age of 18 are recommended to do so if they are in a situation where maintaining 1.5 metres distance is not possible.

This includes places like supermarkets and public transport. Regional residents visiting metropolitan Melbourne or Mitchell Shire are legally required to wear a mask.

Mr Andrews said while wearing masks might be “confronting”, safety is a priority.

“I understand this is a big shift and that not being able to see each other’s faces might be confronting. But this virus is incredibly infectious, and this is about keeping people safe,” he said.

“This requirement won’t be enforced until 11:59 pm on Wednesday, July 22 to give people a chance to buy or make a covering — but if you already have one, please start wearing it now. And if you don’t have a mask, a scarf is better than nothing.”

Continued on Page 3
Algae warning for Tullaroop Reservoir

**ENVIRONMENT**

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) is warning customers and the public to avoid direct contact with water in Tullaroop Reservoir after monitoring detected high levels of blue-green algae.

Warning signs will be positioned at major recreational areas around Tullaroop Reservoir and will remain in place while high levels of blue-green algae are present. Tullaroop Reservoir will not be closed to the public.

Visitors to the reservoir can still swim, fish, sail, and boat, but are urged to avoid direct contact with the water in Tullaroop Reservoir and in Lake Eppalock.

GMW has issued a blue-green algae warning for Tullaroop Reservoir after high levels of the algae were detected.

**Events**

**Angela Tucker**

The Talbot Farmers’ Market, which was set to go ahead on Sunday, was cancelled last minute due to an expansion of COVID-19 precautions.

The decision from the Talbot Farmers’ Market Committee to hold the market over the weekend was met with backlash from the community, and committee acting president Fred Davies said the decision to cancel the event last minute was due to the expansion of precautions from the Chief Health Officer, which included people in regional Victoria being asked to wear a face mask when social distancing could not take place.

“The committee had an emergency meeting on Friday night following the update from the Chief Health Officer and we decided to cancel the market,” he said.

“While we had all the precautions in place, after receiving the Chief Health Officer’s advice, we made the difficult decision to cancel.”

Mr Davies said this was the second time the committee had attempted to hold the market and that it will now go into “hibernation”.

“We will go into hibernation. We will have to decide on the future of the market, it may run in a different format than what we’re used to,” he said.

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For more information about blue-green algae and your health, visit health.vic.gov.au or phone NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24.

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**Talbot Farmers’ Market**

called off last minute

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**GMW**

GMW has a blue-green algae warning for Tullaroop Reservoir after high levels of the algae were detected.

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**Talbot Farmers’ Market**

was set to go ahead on Sunday, was cancelled last minute due to an expansion of COVID-19 precautions.
Concerns over state of local landmark

By RILEY UPTON

Security cameras may soon be installed at Bristol Hill as both community members and local police are left disappointed by the mistreatment of the local attraction, with graffiti and rubbish riddled throughout the area.

Locals and visitors alike have climbed the well-trodden steps of the tower for decades to look out at the view over Maryborough, but in recent weeks the only sights have been those of graffiti, rubbish and general misuse.

The car park at the base of the tower shows the black tyre marks of hooligans while the tower itself, on top of rubbish and graffiti, reportedly smells of human waste. Visiting Bristol Hill earlier this month for a morning walk, local Megan Paul said she turned away when she saw the state of the tower and that it made her feel "uneasy."

"I thought it would be a beautiful sunrise and I've been up the tower plenty of times before to take some photos," she said.

"When I got there the graffiti, smell and the general state it was in made me feel really uneasy."

"It was disappointed — people need to take their rubbish with them for a start and have a bit of respect for the place."

Community concern follows the Central Goldfields Shire Council ramping up its efforts to deter illegal dumping at several locations in the shire, including Bristol Hill, with council's works team just last week painting over the graffiti at the lookout.

Central Goldfields Shire Council waste officer Lori Paez said signage is being installed at the tower to deter "anti-social" behaviour and security cameras are being considered.

"To help address anti-social behaviour, including illegal dumping, graffiti and property damage, council is currently installing signage at a number of locations, including Bristol Hill, as a key outcome of our recently adopted Waste Management Strategy," she said.

"Each year, council spends $15,000 on disposing of illegally dumped rubbish and graffiti removal. Council is also considering installing CCTV cameras, if the need arises.

"We as a community to take pride in where they live and to show respect for our landmarks. These images are iconic to the community and we do our utmost to ensure our municipality looks its best for locals and visitors alike."

Maryborough Police Senior Constables Elizabeth Wilke and Stephen Thomas are disappointed with the mistreatment of Bristol Hill as the prospect of security cameras at the iconic local attraction is considered.

Local police have echoed the community's concern over the treatment of Bristol Hill, which they say was caused by an unattended heater and encouraged community members to keep an eye on heaters during winter.

"At this time of the year we need to make sure that all heaters are operating correctly and that, if you're not around to keep an eye on it, that it's turned off," he said.

"We would also like to put it to the public that when firetrucks are in the street and doing their job, we don't need rubbernecks drawing past and causing havoc for fire crews."

Residents make the most of public spaces during the coronavirus pandemic.

"It's absolutely disappointing, obviously at the moment people are pretty appreciative of the places they can go just to spend some time out of the house so we've got to remember that these spaces are for everybody," she said.

A member of the Proactive Policing Unit which covers crime prevention, Sen Con Wilkie said Bristol Hill is patrolled regularly by officers and encouraged members of the public to report any incidents in that area to police.

"Open spaces are an area that we always patrol but where you need to focus is wholly directed by reports from the public so it's important those reports keep coming through," she said.

"Even if there's nothing we can do about a particular incident, it lets us know where to keep an eye out so we can hopefully reduce future incidents.

"If we don't know about an incident then we can't do anything about the next one."

To report a waste problem in the shire, visit www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/ or phone Maryborough Police Station on 5461-3601. The Maryborough Police Station can also be contacted on 5469-3300.

Maryborough Police Senior Constable Elizabeth Wilke said the discovery of a shed detached from the tower for decades to look out at the top of rubbish and graffiti, made her feel "uneasy."

"I was disappointed — people need to take their rubbish with them for a start and have a bit of respect for the place."
MAV calls for 2020 election to be postponed

ANGELA TUCKER

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is calling on the State Government to defer the October 2020 council elections due to the ongoing threat of coronavirus.

In May the State Government announced the election will go ahead via mail, marking the first time postal voting has been used across all Victorian councils and follows advice from the Chief Health Officer.

According to the Andrews Government, to ensure the election is safe, and in an acknowledgement of physical distancing requirements, longer candidate statements will be allowed in the Victorian Electoral Commission Voter Information packs and guidance will be available on suitable and safe campaigning methods.

The MAV said it acknowledged the Minister for Local Government’s confirmation last week that the election would proceed as planned and that it is working towards the October date, including the possible impact of COVID-19 on election arrangements.

MAV president Coral Ross and CEO Kerry Thompson met with newly appointed Local Government Minister Shaun Leane earlier this month to raise concerns surrounding the go-ahead for the election.

Mr Ross said many councillors across the state have provided examples of the difficulties currently facing the local government sector and support the MAV’s push for a deferral of this year’s elections.

“Following a survey of all councils and CEOs earlier this year, the MAV called for a 12-month deferral of council elections, currently scheduled for October 2020,” she said.

“With the current increase in COVID-19 numbers and the subsequent wide-scale lockdown, we are calling on the minister to reconsider holding council elections in October this year.

“Recent feedback has again highlighted the difficulties of ensuring a level playing field for candidates campaigning for election to their council.”

MAV deputy president-rural Ruth Ostgren said many rural and regional councils are highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on the community and potential candidates.

“We have seen the NSW Government delay their elections for 12 months to provide certainty to councils, communities and potential candidates,” she said.

“We are calling on the Victorian Government to do the same.”

A delay would mean a democratically elected council would not return to the Central Goldfields Shire Council until next year.

According to the VEC’s service plan for the election, nominations will open on September 17, close at 12 noon on September 22 and ballot papers which will determine the ballot order, will be drawn on the same day. On October 23 postal voting will close, October 24 is election day and November 13 results will be declared.

The Central Goldfields Shire Council has established a dedicated 2020 council election page on its website to help keep residents informed, it has also stated that any inquiries should be directed to the VEC.

There are currently seven positions on the Central Goldfields Shire Council, with four councillors for the Maryborough Ward and one each for the Paddys Ranges, Flynn and Tullaroop wards.

Committee for Maryborough working on strategy to attract professionals to region

RILEY UPTON

The Committee for Maryborough have started work on their latest strategy geared to attract and retain more workers in the Central Goldfields Shire.

The committee is partnering with local police, the Maryborough District Health Service, members of the arts community, Central Goldfields Shire Council and True Foods among others to develop the strategy, which deputy chair Garry Higgins said is all about matchmaking.

“What we’re trying to do is develop a strategy around how we attract the right type of employees to the right local industry,” he said.

Mr Higgins said a key focus of the strategy will be attracting more professionals to live and work locally.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), professionals are those with a bachelor degree or higher qualification and as of the 2016 census, accounted for 11.3 percent of the shire’s workforce, much lower than state and national averages of 23.3 and 22.2 percent respectively.

Mr Higgins said increasing this number and having more balance in the local workforce is a “critical” element of the strategy.

“If you look at the vocational makeup of Maryborough, we do pretty well in terms of state and national averages with tradespeople and healthcare workers, but the thing we struggle with are those who work in the professional category,” he said.

“Economically that has a big impact but more importantly, the social impact that has is huge, so we’re trying to get a bit more of a balance in the makeup of our workforce which is really critical,” Mr Higgins said to attract more people to live and work locally, particularly those under the professional category, the committee and its partners will work to tell the shire’s story.

“We’ve got to look at how we get the professionals who may be working in Ballarat or Bendigo to actually create their home here,” he said.

“A lot of our services are really good, our health service is second to none in rural Australia and the work the Maryborough Education Centre has been doing and the advances they’ve made in the last couple of years have just been amazing.

“We need to tell those stories and talk about our successes because if we don’t, invariably someone else will and the story that’s often told is negative.”

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SCOUNCIL

RILEY UPTON

The Central Goldfields Shire Council is considering installing CCTV cameras as its efforts to deter illegal rubbish dumping ramp up.

Council spends around $15,000 every year on collecting litter and disposing of illegally dumped material and flagged identifying and addressing waste dumping hotspots as an action to be undertaken in its Waste Management Strategy 2020-2030.

Over the coming weeks, council workers are erecting signage at several identified hotspots in the shire, including at Bristol Hill, to deter further dumping, littering and general “anti-social behaviour”.

Central Goldfields Shire general manager infrastructure assets and planning Rebecca Stockfeld said installing security cameras at the hotspots is also being considered.

“Councils Waste Management Strategy provides for the identification of littering and illegal dumping hotspots throughout the municipality to address the issue which includes the erection of signage and/or CCTV cameras to deter anti-social behaviour,” she said.

“We encourage the community to report littering and illegal dumping by contacting us via our Report a Problem page on our website or by calling our Customer Service Centre on 5461-0610 as penalties apply under the Environment Protection Act 1970.”

The Environment Protection Authority’s (EPA) north west regional manager Dr Scott Pigdon denounced illegal dumping, which he said is taken “very seriously”.

“EPA takes illegal dumping very seriously and the offenders face fines in the thousands of dollars as well as the cost of the clean-up,” he said.

“We do not tolerate any illegal deposit of waste on public land, whether it is industrial waste, household garbage or construction and demolition waste. We will investigate and any persons caught will be prosecuted.”

According to the EPA, in cases of illegal dumping the fine for an individual can be close to $200, while for a company those fines increase to more than $8000.

The EPA works extensively with councils to tackle waste issues such as illegal dumping and littering, and Dr Pigdon said a key to success is community assistance.

“One of the keys to success in illegal dumping cases is accurate information received from a member of the public,” he said.

“We ask anyone reporting illegal dumping or other pollution to note as many details as they can; a number plate, a description and an accurate location can make all the difference.

“Pollution affects everyone and is an unwanted cost for the whole community, so your prompt report with useful details can help to protect the environment and public health.”

Incidents of illegal dumping can be reported to councils waste team on 5461-0611 or online at www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/reportproblem.

Residents can also report suspected illegal dumping incidents to the EPA’s 24-hour pollution hotline on 1300 372 842, giving as much detail as possible.
Swap with the Lot cancelled

CHRISTIE HARRISON

Another local event has fallen in the face of COVID-19 with the annual Talbot Swap with the Lot officially called off this month.

The cancellation comes at the same time news broke that Maryborough’s major event, the Energy Breakthrough, will not go ahead this year.

The Talbot Swap with the Lot — jointly run by the Maryborough District Historical Vehicle Club (MDHVC) and Talbot Today and Tomorrow — would’ve celebrated its 19th anniversary this October.

Swap with the Lot committee treasurer Greg McNeilly said the difficult decision has been made to call off the event this year due to COVID-19 safety concerns.

“Talbot Swap with the Lot committee treasurer Greg McNeilly said the difficult decision has been made to call off the event this year due to COVID-19 safety concerns.” 18/10/19 06

Mr McNeilly said having a year off will give the committee the time to come back “bigger and better”.

“Half of this year’s event has already been booked and prepaid for so that’ll roll over into next year. We’re looking forward to rocking on next year bigger and better.”

Mr McNeilly said the decision to cancel, while disappointing, has been well supported.

“We made the decision at our meeting recently that we weren’t going to hold it this year. It’s very disappointing but it is what it is,” he said.

“It was going to be too big an ordeal to set it up with social distancing and controlling entrances and exits so we thought cancelling was the best decision to make.

“We’ve been very well supported in our decision, everyone that’s contacted us has been 110 percent supportive of the idea.

“The stallholders don’t want to risk their health and they don’t want the public to risk their health either.”

The event sees a huge range of items for sale from car parts to jewellery and collectables.

Last year it attracted over 300 stallholders to the Talbot Recreation Reserve with visitors travelling from as far as South Australia and New South Wales.

Mr McNeilly said having a year off will give the committee the time to come back “bigger and better” in 2021.

“Getting a year off isn’t a bad thing after running it every year since its inception,” he said.

“Half of this year’s event has already been booked and prepaid for so that’ll roll over into next year. We’re looking forward to rocking on next year bigger and better.”

Fox baiting a success

CHRISTIE HARRISON

Forest Fire Management Victoria’s (FFMVic) recent fox baiting program has been hailed a success after baits were laid in a number of local forests over eight weeks.

The program aims to reduce the local fox population to lower attacks on wildlife and livestock by the introduced pests.

Around 50 1080 poison shelf-stable baits were laid in a number of central Victoria’s state forests including around Maryborough in Lillicur, Bung Bong, Wareek and Mount Hoogly forests.

Initially scheduled to run from May 20 to June 17, the Maryborough program was extended an extra four weeks due to a high number of foxes reported in the area.

FFMVC forest and shooting officer Joseph Rogasch said the program’s success was measured in a number of ways including the number of baits taken, deceased foxes found and reduction of fox sightings from property owners in the areas.

“All areas of the baiting program reported a high number of takes which is a great result,” he said.

“Foxes are a threat to biodiversity and linked to the decline of many ground-dwelling native animals. They also hinder threatened native species recovery and re-introduction programs.

“In addition to preying on lambs, poultry and goats, foxes carry disease and increase the spread of weeds in state forests by carrying seeds in their scat and fur.

“Foxes are a declared pest animal in Victoria and there is a legal responsibility to control pest animals on both public and private land.”

While there was some community concern around the the use of 1080 poison, which is banned in most countries and is not species-specific, FFMVC previously told The Advertiser that the baits present a “low risk” to native wildlife and are buried in bait stations according to Victorian Directions for Use of 1080 products and manufacturer’s guidelines.

The baits have now been removed from the area with the completion of the program.

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Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra
Teenager saves his mum after she suffers a brain aneurysm

S E E M O R E

It started as any other Tuesday for 14-year-old Blaze Morey who, as he signed into his remote learning classes for the school day, had no idea he’d soon be saving his mother’s life.

The Highview College student had been learning remotely from home due to the coronavirus pandemic for several weeks before his mum, Tracey, suffered a sudden brain aneurysm at their Clunes home in June.

“I was doing online schooling and mum came into my room and said something was wrong,” he said.

“That was at about 10 past 12 and it must have been at quarter past when she was in pain and screaming in the bathroom and vomiting and everything.

“Mum’s condition was escalating pretty fast and she started coughing up blood, it was all pretty scary.”

The only one home with his mum at the time of the incident, Blaze called family and friends to let them know what was happening and organised for paramedics to attend.

“I got the phone to mum and she called one of her friends, he was the one who contacted paramedics and I kept calling him to keep him informed on what was going on because the ambulance was on its way out,” he said.

“My grandma told me to get mum lying on the couch and put a blanket up blood, it was all pretty scary.”

In the bathroom and vomiting and everything.

When she was in pain and screaming something was wrong,” he said.

“Probably the best thing about the situation with COVID-19 is that Blaze was home when it happened, had he not been home there’s no doubt I would have been on the floor waiting for someone to find me,” she said.

“There’s no way I would have survived without him being the way he was. I wouldn’t have been able to get to the phone or anything.

“Grateful just doesn’t begin to describe how I feel, I don’t know if there are any words to describe it but there’s no question Blaze has saved my life, I’m very blessed that I’ve got such a heroic son.”

When asked what was going through his head at the time, Blaze said he was focusing on doing what he “had to do.”

“I was trying to keep cool and just do what I had to do,” he said.

“I was kind of thinking worst case scenario but I was also thinking it was all going to brush over and mum would be okay, I was trying to keep a positive mindset.

“Throughout school there’s a program called Delta that helps you with positive mindsets and I knew that was one of the major things I had to do, keep calm and try to stay positive.

“Expected to make a full recovery, Tracey said adjusting to the new normal of life back at home will take some getting used to.

“I’m tired a lot of the time and I’ve just got to be slow and careful when I do things and try to get as much rest as possible — that’s the key to it all,” she said.

“Not being able to get out and do things with the kids is going to be the killer, they’ve always been so mature for their age but I can’t believe how well they’ve handled it all, I’m very proud.

“It could happen again but the doctors have said that if it’s going to it will be in the next three to six months, if I get past the six months I’m pretty much out of the woods.

“They also said it could be a genetic thing so I’ll certainly take my kids to get tested.”

Tracey said there were no warning signs she was about to have a brain aneurysm and said it’s driven home the importance of making the most of each day.

“I woke up that morning and felt fine, I got up and had a shower — there was nothing at all wrong and then suddenly I had the worst headache I’ve ever had, it was like someone had an axe and was chopping it to pieces,” she said.

“I think what scares me the most is that there were no warning signs, it could have happened while I was driving or anything like that.

“It’s really taught me to make the most of each day and that would be my advice to everyone.”
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**FARMING**

**New advisory group to focus on climate change**

**Environment**

Victoria’s ongoing ability to produce high-quality food and fibre in a changing climate will be the key focus of a new advisory council established by the Victorian Government.

Minister for Agriculture Jaclyn Symes earlier this month called for expressions of interest for positions on the newly established Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Council (VACC).

Expressions are being sought from people willing to share their ideas and contribute strategic advice on how the agriculture sector can prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.

Comprising a chairperson and up to eight members, the VACC will identify the climate challenges and opportunities faced by the Victorian agriculture sector and will support the minister to respond to climate change and reducing emissions whilst building the resilience of the sector.

The council will also inform actions planned as part of a national agriculture and climate change work program being led by the Victorian Government on behalf of all jurisdictions.

The chairperson and members will represent a range of industry and community groups, including researchers and climate experts.

They will be appointed to the VACC for a period of up to five years.

The council is part of the Victorian Government’s commitment to delivering strong and meaningful action on climate change with those in the agriculture sector, which is already experiencing impacts first-hand.

This includes working with industry to support action that is already being taken, and to maximise the opportunities for agriculture as the sector strengthens its climate resilience and contributes to a net zero emissions economy.

Recruitment for the VACC chair and member positions is now underway.

For more information or to apply, go to getonboard.vic.gov.au.

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**Fees**

Designated fox and wild dog bounty collection centres are now operating across the state.

**Farmers**

The NSW Government of agriculture, freight and logistics as critical services, supporting businesses across the border.

The border closed at midnight on July 8 to stop the spread of coronavirus, with Victorians able to apply online via the Service NSW website for exemptions to move between the two states.

Permits are also available for emergency services, medical or hospital care, freight and commercial workers and mining, construction, energy and manufacturing workers.

Both governments are also working to ensuring regulatory requirements continue to be met, including necessary animal welfare practices and biosecurity requirements.

The extent of any impacts to the agricultural industries will become clearer as details of how the border closure will operate are worked through.

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**Fox and wild dog collection centres open**

**Pests**

Designated fox and wild dog bounty collection centres are now operating in line with physical distancing requirements including established drop off and exclusion zones.

During the suspension period, bounty participants were encouraged to continue to collect fox scalps and wild dog body parts on private properties as part of pest control activities, and to freeze or air dry them.

Hunters are encouraged to refresh their knowledge of the terms and conditions of the bounty to ensure what they submit is acceptable.

Participants can submit entire fox scalps for a $10 reward and entire wild dog body parts for a $120 reward during scheduled collection times.

The Bendigo collection point (fox only) is located on the corner of the Midland Highway and Taylor Street, Epsom and will be open from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm on August 3, August 31, September 28 and October 26.

For Ouyen, St Arnaud and Swan Hill collection points, visit the Agriculture Victoria website.
A healthy and safe community

In these unusual times, we all need to reflect on how we can contribute to community health and safety.

Recently many community events have been cancelled.

In some cases, organisers have made reasonable steps in planning, however the risk of mass gatherings and relying on everyone behaving safely is too high.

We are all responsible to keep ourselves and each other healthy. Safety is enhanced when police receive information from the community.

This enables police to build intelligence holdings and solve crime.

Even the most minor piece of information or worry that you might have, it’s important to report them to police.

For example: the smell of marijuana in the neighbourhood; cars doing burnouts and you notice the make, model and rego; or loud nasty arguments and the sound of property being damaged next door.

Western Victoria has the highest number of registered firearms and firearms licence holders.

Firearm crime is of concern to everyone as the impacts can be lethal.

In our local area, between April to June 2020, there were 22 thefts of firearms totalling 49 firearms.

Twelve of the thefts involved multiple firearms.

This is a decrease from the previous quarter January-March 2020, where there were 46 thefts involving 126 firearms.

Despite this, people who own firearms need to be vigilant and ensure they store firearms and ammunition securely. Often they do.

However, we must understand that criminals are out driving around looking for vulnerable properties, for example — weekend holiday farms, shipping containers with no house on the property, sheds a distance away from the main house; and unlocked utes and farming vehicles.

The firearms are very often stolen and sold the same day. Then they are used in crimes.

Firearms owners must take precautions — secure storage, registered firearms, firearms licence, CCTV, and alarms.

Other strategies, that reflect the Community Web of Protection, are to ensure firearms owners (and everyone actually) know their neighbours and share their contact details; neighbours know each other’s vehicles and regular pattern of movements in and out of their properties.

This will assist in identifying suspicious people and vehicles.

Remember if you see something, call police, write down what you saw and take photos where possible.

We have some exciting changes at Maryborough Police Station.

Senior Sergeant Paul Huggett has been successful in getting promoted and is now an Inspector at the La Trobe Police Service.

A new Senior Sergeant will start with us in a few weeks. We have a new Sergeant and several new constables.

We have a wonderful mix of diversity including those with local knowledge and experience and new people who bring innovation and a different lens.

When you see our local police in the streets, say hello, when you see them driving around, give them a wave.

It’s a tough job and you can make it easier by continuing the support shown to us in April 2020.

Tip for the month: Become alert and notice what’s going on in your neighbourhood, then tell us.

IN YOUR WORDS

DONNA MITCHELL

GOLDFIELDS PSA INSPECTOR

During this time, we unfortunately cannot hold our regular in-person Listening Posts but luckily we can hold Virtual Listening Posts to connect with our residents.

Administrators Karen Douglas, Hugh Delahunty and I are hosting our second Virtual Listening Post tomorrow, Wednesday, July 22, at 12.30 pm via Facebook Live on council’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/centralgoldfields.

Community members are invited to submit questions to media@centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au before 10 am tomorrow or to post any questions or queries during the live stream in the comments section.

We held our first Virtual Listening Post in May which was a great success.

We had about 60 people join in to discuss a range of issues.

It was really pleasing to see so many people take the opportunity to ask questions and discuss a wide range of issues.

If you or someone you know isn’t on Facebook but would still like to make contact with Karen, Hugh or I, our contact details can be found at www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/administrators.

We have had plenty happening at council and around the shire including funding announcements, draft strategies and council’s Proposed Budget for 2020/21 and we look forward to discussing these topics, plus many others, with our community members.

See you online tomorrow at 12.30 pm.

NOEL HARVEY

CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR

ADMINISTRATOR COMMENT

Virtual Listening Posts
connecting community

SPORT SNAPSHOTS

Footy made its triumphant return to Princes Park at the weekend with Maryborough’s under 14s and under 16s teams kicking off round one of the Bendigo Junior FL.

Thomas Ross gains some clear space and looks down field for his next move.

There has never been a cleaner game of footy played with equipment and hands sanitised at every break.

Judd Stevens flies away from Marong’s defence in the second half of the under 14s clash.
ASTROLOGY — July 19 - 25

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 - December 21)

The new moon for you is in your sector of joint resources. This is to do with anything you are involved in a deep way, or could be secret money or a business partnership, or a bank or financial institution.

Try to keep things flowing, and working in the here and now, while focusing on the future you may have some helpers coming through.

From Wednesday you get a second wind. Being open minded and enterprises is key.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 19)

Relationships now come very much into focus. This is your opportunity to bring a greater sense of equilibrium, harmony and positivity to how you interact with others.

You may take a jaundiced eye to ties and relationships that aren’t working.

If there is something that absolutely has to go through a transition that is difficult, you will be more openly involved about this aspect.

ARIES (March 21 - April 19)

Something around the home front will prove to be a difficult bind this week. From Wednesday you’ll get a burst of passion and optimism, which will renegotiate what can be a sticky few days.

Your words and personal experiences has a jumping kind of magic. Although you may feel a little short when expressing your opinions, this is to do with something that is a real work in progress.

Being open minded and enterprising is key.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

On the personal front you have taken a more serious minded approach.

Someone who errs on the side of diplomacy. You are feeling a sense that others are not taking you seriously.

This week is something you have set your heart on, don’t give in to the pressure.

Humor gives you a real sense of lightness.

You are being asked to really engage with the people, situations and activities that really give you a sense of spiritual reward.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 19)

A tender situation will now move sharply into focus, in the next few weeks. Perhaps you don’t feel supported.

You are the one who is moving determined and focused on being in your own reality. You are feeling sensitive this week. Stay away from those who don’t have your back.

If there is someone who is pointing out all their issues, but in some way or another make them known.

LIBRA (September 23 - October 22)

This week has magnificient potential for an opportunity to step forwards, especially when it comes to your career. Something close to home is likely to reflect your attention. Someone is less than enthusiastic about a change in the way you are in the process of making if there is something you have on your heart, don’t be deflected early just because someone else doesn’t have the same mine.

SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21)

The new moon at the start of this week is in your sector relating to expanding your horizons. This stimulates you to wanting to go to somewhere more exotic or stimulating, or perhaps even historical. At the same time you experience a rapture of inspiration about being more expansive.

From Wednesday you feel much more ambitious, you absolutely have to live this through.

AQUARIUS (January 20 - February 18)

You are thinking about where you want to direct your passions this week. Passion gives you a real sense of lightness.

You are being asked to really engage with the people, situations and activities that really give you a sense of spiritual reward.

PIECES (February 19 - March 20)

You are very much in the forefront this week. If you are feeling a sense that others are not taking you seriously, you will assert them with much more strength and conviction.

This may be a little unusual for you if you’re normally a Taurus who err on the side of diplomacy. You are very much in the forefront this week. If you are feeling a sense that others are not taking you seriously, you will assert them with much more strength and conviction.

This is a time when it comes to your single mindedness, when it comes to a key matter.

LEO (July 23 - August 22)

Try to balance a complex issue, that requires spinning lots of plates, breathe.

Listen to your gut when it comes to your choices.

As you are feeling a sense that others are not taking you seriously, you will assert them with much more strength and conviction.

ASTROLOGY — July 19 - 25

MICHELLE CONWAY

Psychic

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020

1. In the Dickens’ novel ‘A Christmas Carol’ what was Scrooge’s first name?
2. In which city would you find the Kremlin?
3. How many is a baker’s dozen?
4. What is the collective noun for several machine guns?
5. Russian Blue and Ragdoll are breeds of what?
6. Which planet is referred to as the red planet?
7. What does a flag at half mast indicate?
8. Exaggerated praise
9. Which religious community has its headquarters in Salt Lake City, USA
10. What sort of creature is a Bombay duck?

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HARD

4 1 6 5 3 2 7 8 9
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Crossword 1023

ACROSS

1. Olf sound waves (9)
4. Jaws (4,3)
8. Fraud (5)
11. Plunge into water (9)
12. Disabled (7)
14. Bash (5)
16. Help (6)
17. Sheltered side (9)
18. Quality (11)
19. Adored woman (5)
21. New Year’s Eve (5,5)
23. Merchant (5)
27. Skip (6)
28. Lawn cutters (7)
29. Farm building (9)
30. Hike (5)
31. Undermine (5)
32. Own up (7)
35. Roman emperor (11)
36. Threshold (6)

DOWN

1. Popper’s fancy (9)
2. Dolls (5)
3. Gamble (4,5)
4. Social insects (8)
5. Repressed (5)
6. Owned by me (6)
7. Social group. Girl (9)
8. Exaggerated praise (7)

Across

1. Popper’s fancy
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4. Social insects
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7. Social group. Girl
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CROSSWORD 1023

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The Chinese auto industry has continued its strong performance in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic from which the world’s biggest automotive market was the first to recover, setting a new record of 2.3 million new-vehicle sales in June.

According to figures released by the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM) this week, the June result represents an 11.8 percent increase over the corresponding month last year and the third consecutive month of year-on-year increases, following a 14.5 percent rise in May (to 2.2 million units) and a 4.4 percent return in April (2.1 million).

The positive results are particularly relevant given the pre-pandemic slowdown in the Chinese car market, which due to a broad range of economic and political factors – including the winning back of subsidies for electric vehicles – had not seen a monthly sales increase since mid-2018.

The industry’s sales across the first quarter were deeply impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In March down 43.3 percent (to 1.4 million units) after a heavy 79.7 percent plunge in February (to 900,000) and early warning signs in January when the market fell 15.7 percent (to 1.8 million units). At the end of the first quarter, sales had dropped 42.4 percent to 3.672 million units, but at the end of first half the rebalancing process and positive momentum has seen the industry halve that deficit to 16.9 percent, at 10.257 million units.

By comparison, at the halfway point of 2019, the Chinese auto market was down 12.4 percent on the previous year.

The most recent official forecasts for the full 2020 calendar year, made during June, were sticking with a broad 10-20 percent downturn from the 25.8 million vehicles sold last year.

Commercial vehicles, led by light and heavy trucks, are continuing to underpin the growth in China, pushing up the numbers with an impressive 61.3 percent, continuing its rise in June to 530,000 units. Of these, 484,000 were trucks (+72.6%), marking an all-time record for the category. In the pick-up truck class, 55,700 units were sold last month, up 45.7 percent as the sales’ momentum continues.

For the year to date, commercial vehicles overall are up 8.6 percent to 2.4 million units, thanks largely to the 10.8 percent growth in truck sales (to 2.2 million). Pick-ups stand at 212,000 units, now down only 7.5 percent on 2020’s first half of trading after bagging down in earlier months.

This compares to the higher-volume, though harder-hit, passenger car sector that posted a 1.8 percent improvement last month to 1.8 million units but remains in negative territory for the year to date, down 22.4 percent to 7.9 million.

SUVs and crossovers are outperforming traditional passenger cars and MPVs, with SUVs up 10.5 percent last month with 320,200 units placing it as the biggest-selling segment in the entire market. Crossovers climbed 20.1 percent, while passenger cars and MPVs were down 4.9 and 11.8 percent respectively.

Sales of ‘new energy vehicles’ – EVs, PHEVs and FCVs — at 104,000 last month, down 33.1 percent, and YTD stand at 393,000 (-37.4%).

Chinese-branded passenger vehicle sales fell 15.8 percent in June to 590,000 units, accounting for 33.5 percent of total passenger vehicle sales, while in year-to-date terms, the 2,854 million units mark a decrease of 28.0 percent (36.3% of total).

Changan and Hongqi are among the brands that are bucking the trend, with Changan recording a 38.1 percent sales rise last month to 184,406 units, placing it into positive territory for the year to date at 1.3 percent. Hongqi, which is a fast-growing premium brand in the FAW Group stable, posted 15,400 sales in June, up 92 percent, and for the first half has seen sales increase 110.7 percent to 70,945 units.

CAAM said in a briefing report that both automobile production and sales are continuing to gain momentum moving into the second half of the year, with the June results reflecting the fact that China’s “overall economic recovery continued to improve, the supply and demand sides of the manufacturing industry continued to pick up, the consumer market continued to improve, and major infrastructure projects began to accelerate”.

“With the continuous promotion of auto consumption policies in various regions, the market performance is generally better than expected. Automobile production and sales continued the recovery trend and maintained a good development trend,” CAAM said.

Looking ahead, the peak industry body said the Chinese market was still at the mercy of global uncertainty surrounding COVID-19.

“From the perspective of the development trend of the industry, the uncertainty of the international epidemic situation still exists, the demand in overseas markets has not yet recovered and export-dependent enterprises have not escaped from the predicament, which will affect part of the consumer demand,” CAAM said.

“At the same time, after the expiry of local consumption promotion policies, market demand may also decline due to overdrift. Therefore, enterprises in the industry should also focus on changes in the domestic market and adjust production and sales rhythm in a timely manner.”

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Changan posted 146,561 sales of its own brand in June.

Record 2.3m sales in China last month reflects recovery in world’s top market

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5:00 To Italy (M l)

4:55 Holland (CH23)

1:45 Teenage Mutant Ninja (CH23)

8:45 Miraculous: Tales Of Hero (CH23)

2:00 Australian Pickers (CH22)

3:00 Teenage Fairytale Dropouts (PG)

9:20 Chicken With Aliens (CH22)

6:15 World This Week (ABC)

7:40 Grand Revisited: Fleabag (MA15+)

9:00 Insiders (ABC)

9:30 Studio 10 Saturday (ABC)

5:00 Seven News At 5 (ABC)

6:00 Farmers Weekly (ABC)

10:00 Today Extra - Saturday (ABC)

11:00 Program To Be Advised (ABC)

5:30 WWII - Battles For Europe: Operation Market Garden (SBS)

7:30 Australian Ninja Warrior begins. Ninjas come face to face with each other and a collection of the scariest and most unbelievable creatures on earth.

12:00 World's Most Extreme: Counting (SBS)

3:00 Home Shopping (ABC)

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3:00 Home Shopping (ABC)
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DEATHS


Loved son of John and Joan Hicks (both dec). Special nephew of Aunt (dec) and Auntie (dec). Survived by Partner of Shirl (dec). Cherished father of Suzanne and Gary. Loved father-in-law of Barry and friend to Kenne. Brother of Joy, John, Judy, Jeffrey (all dec) and Jan. Brother-in-law to Terry, Dot (dec), Pauline and Graeme, Bob and Bel (both dec), Peg, Norm (dec), Sue (dec), John, Don (dec) and Sally.

Special thanks to Dr Tynan, Maryborough and District Nurses, doctors, nurses and social workers at Ballarat Base Hospital, Peter Mac and Gandarra Palliative Care Unit for your care of Dad.

Our beautiful Dad at rest. Forever in our hearts.

Due to the current restrictions a private family funeral will be held at Mooinamba.

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**2020-21 Local Book**

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**2020-21 Local Book**

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Delly spills on career challenges, highlights

Maryborough's Matthew Dela, who has played in two world netball championships, is back in the spotlight after all the things on NBA in Instagram Live, including the recall of his first team from that 2017 season thoughts on The Last Dance, the difference between footy and the pandemic and his underdog journey into professional basketball.

Della is currently playing for Disney World, Florida with the season set to start on July 30.

Eight teams will miss out on a trip to Disney World, Florida, including Della and it will be a 19-46 win-loss start to the season.

Despite this, Della said the Cavs have a "bright future" ahead of them, given the star power of Tristan Thompson, Kevin Love and the youth of its rookie base. While basketball is off the cards for the moment, he, like many around the world, has been captivated by Netball's Michael Jordan documentary, The Last Dance.

"There's a quarantine that was what everyone was looking forward to every Sunday, that's how you knew what day it was," Della said.

"It was amazing to see the behind the scenes stuff, I'd known of some of the stories but there were so many things that you don't know and if some of those events happened today in the social media age it could have a different outcome.

"It was great to see how hard MJ worked especially on his body, to change your body to go from one sport to another and still be the best in the world is unbelievable." While basketball has gone on to become one of Australia's best basketball exports, the journey to his start in the NBA was fraught with difficulties.

"I did 15 draft workouts for different teams, I thought I was going to be a chance to get drafted and I sat there on draft night watching my name not get called out and no luck which was pretty disappointing because I knew the odds of making it were pretty slim already," Della said when asked about the toughest part of becoming a player in the NBA.

I signed a summer league deal to play with the Cavs; I was playing as hard as I could, driving on home balls, taking charges doing whatever I could to try to make the team. "I got invited to training camp, there were 20 people going for 15 spots and I think 15 of the spots were already taken — so it was more like seven guys going for two spots. "I've lived in the starting point guard (at that time) so I had to guard all the guys, take away from court and knowing what I know about him now he would've been wondering 'what the hell is this guy doing?'

"I think after I made the team in our contract they could've cut me at any time but I was always on edge and having to prove yourself. "It was such a nerve wracking time but it makes me appreciate every second we play now, because every one of those games is extremely important, you're always on edge and having to prove yourself. As someone who grew up in Maryborough, Dela said he would love to be able to watch his factory so to foreign him to when he played for St Mary's.

things were a little different on Sunday, with no canteen, no netball, no physiotherapy, no meals, it was an extremely long and important, no high-fives.

This followed a huge demand and social distancing was required by all spectators, officials and players when not participating in direct play.

Maryborough’s under 14s had a massive win over their visitors, 15.11 (101) to 1.2 (8), while the under 16s were schooled by an ever-dominant Sandhurst 1.3 (9) to 10.13 (73).

I hope next year our four of over 150 BJFL teams competing this year is a surprise and I will be under restricted restrictions for a few months ago.

"To go from winning two netball premierships last year to nothing at all this year is hard. We were in favour of a season netball wise, especially for our seniors. It's a very important time for them, they just want to play some sport." Egan said the biggest concern about a year off is the impact that will have on the development of top-age junior players.

"Junior netball is a crucial time in a player's development for those who are reaching senior level. Potentially clubs might have a player who is 16 turning 17 this year and wanting into the top age for their last year junior, but they may have to step straight from bottom age in under 17's right up into senior netball right after a year off which isn't ideal."

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Reigning MCDFNL premiers reflect on 2020 season cancellation

ASHLYNE MUNNIES

The Maryborough Castlemaine District Football Netball League’s (MCDFNL) reigning senior football and netball premiers Natte Bealiba and Avoca will get to hold onto their title for another 12 months after the season was cancelled by COVID-19, but both sides are already thinking about season 2021.

When the MCDFNL cancelled the season last month there was a sigh of relief from many clubs who wondered how they would be financially or physically able to run a season under COVID-19 restrictions. The call was not made lightly, with the cancellation the first since WWII.

Natte Bealiba’s 2019 grand final win was largely heralded as one of the best seen in the local league for quite some time with the Swans defeating two-time premier Carisbrook, the side which had robbed them of grand final glory the year before.

Premiership skipper and 300-gamer Stephen Ross said the cancellation of the senior season doesn’t have him too worried, but he is sad for the league’s junior players. “We’re still the reigning premiers for another year which is one good way to look at it, but it’s just the world we’re living in at the moment,” he said.

“It doesn’t worry me too much, it is what it is and everyone’s in the same boat really. “I coach our under 11s and I’m more upset for them not being able to have a kick than about us. They do lose a year of development, whether that will be really hard for them I’m not too sure, but we’re still training to keep their skills up.”

Natte had a lot of work to do to get into round one of the Bendigo Junior Football League’s season. The back-to-back home games had a different feel than anything else. They had to work towards for season 2021 and that a stalled start to preseason certainly didn’t help.

“I think we would’ve lost more players than we gained, we will have to get on the recruitment front next year,” he said.

“We have had a few cracks at training, we had preseason training and when it got cancelled we stopped and then when we could start again we did, and then the season got called off. We decided we’re probably going to train once every second week, that’s probably more of a catch up thing than anything else.

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