

**The Lockington  
District Business Centre  
Fuel Station**



will still be  
operating  
on the usual days  
and times.

This will be  
reviewed  
fortnightly.

# Locky News

Lockington's Priceless Paper

\$ FREE

## Locky News Update

The Locky News team understands the importance of our Community paper, especially while there is limited social contact. We also understand the financial impact that COVID19 is having on our local businesses.

We have therefore made the following decisions

- The Locky News will continue to be published every fortnight, in an attempt to keep our Community connected and up beat.
- Annual Advertising invoices WILL NOT be sent out in April for payment by the end of June, they will be deferred until AFTER the COVID19 pandemic is over. I am happy to announce that the charges WILL NOT continue to be accrued in the meantime.
- Advertising price increases WILL NOT be implemented until AFTER the COVID19 pandemic is over.

*Alison Stewart (Editor)*

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#### Next Typing Date

**MONDAY, May 4 (Entries by 10am)**

See page 2 for details

This week's Locky News  
was prepared by...  
Alison & Bridie



### WE WILL STILL REMEMBER...

Even though there won't be an ANZAC service this year, we should still make a point to remember all those who have fought and served for our great country. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us, to continue the remembrance of the service and sacrifice of so many of our community members, during times of war, conflict and peace. We should remember all manner of service, be it a soldier, a cook, a transport driver, a nurse or doctor, or the many other roles involved in serving our country.

#### **Ways we can remember, in the year 2020**

##### A moment of reflection at dawn or at 11am

Lockington's usual 9am ANZAC service unfortunately cannot be held this year. Let us instead stand at the front of our homes either at dawn or at 11am, for a minute of silence (see back page), and at 11am listen carefully, you may get a surprise that sends a shiver of respect and honor down your spine. Then recite "The Ode".

They shall grow not old,  
As we that are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them,  
Nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun,  
And in the morning  
We will remember them.  
Lest we forget.

##### Bake some ANZAC Biscuits

The traditional ANZAC biscuit was developed a hundred years ago by the mothers, wives and girlfriends of our soldiers in World War I. These sweet biscuits made of rolled oats and bound with golden syrup or treacle (eggs were scarce during the war) kept well enough to be transported to the frontlines in comfort parcels by the ships of the Merchant Navy

Some wording taken from "ANZAC DAY Commemorative Newsletter April 25 (Damian Drum MP)

**Please send us snippets of what you get up to  
during the next few weeks/months,  
so we can all share our coping strategies  
and what we do to fill in all our newly found spare time.**



## LOCKINGTON & DISTRICT LIVING HERITAGE COMPLEX

Complex: 5486 2515 - Open Sunday's 1pm to 4pm or by appointment

President: Kevin "Jack" Oliver - Secretary: Beryl Marshall 5486 2353

Website: <http://www.lockingtonvic.com.au>

Hello again, Everyone

I'm straying a bit from our usual story but, a couple of years back, while I was researching the local papers for news of the First World War, I came on this article about a Rochester Tornado. It occurred on Wednesday, 24 April, 1918, and was reported in the *Rochester Express* on 26 April, 1918. I put the article aside at the time, but I thought you might be interested to read about it – a hundred and two years later!

"A Rochester Air Raid

### A STARTLING SPECTACLE.

Between 4 and 5 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, Rochester was visited by a meteorological phenomenon such as is rarely seen. It took a cyclonic form and was of electric origin as was evidenced by the accompaniment of a sharp thunderstorm, and the derangement of electric apparatus. Heavy clouds charged with electricity appeared west of the town and from one of them depended a water-spout. It was a cone shape pillar of condensed vapour with swift gyrations caused by its cyclonic nature. As in the case of a whirlwind it lifted sheets of iron, tin cans, palings etc., to a great height in the air and caused much consternation amongst the female population till it finally dispersed.

In Belgravia, the residential suburb in Rochester West, a huge column resembling dust or smoke was observed in violent agitation coming from the clouds, its apex being downwards like an immense whirlwind. As the terrific aerial disturbance reached the earth the whirling movement of the visitation was accompanied by the crashing of falling timber, which could be heard plainly over a mile away. Onlookers in the town saw portions of buildings lifted high in the air, while people on the railway station waiting for the Bendigo train just due from Echuca saw things lifted about 200 feet high in the vortex of the disturbance, like thistle down along the course of the tornado. Word went around that Belgravia had been razed to the ground.

A visit to the scene a few minutes after the devastating visitor had passed showed that the tornado had started in the clouds over a clump of timber adjacent to the racecourse, gaining momentum as it went, travelling speedily earthwards. The aerial agitation grew into a menace with terrific force. The first obstacle in the way proved to be Mr Frank Tehan's fine residence, "Glenidol," at the corner of Dudley and Queen Streets. Here the cyclone caught the house in its vortex, stripping the bow verandahs from both sides like matchwood, blowing down the chimney and destroying the fencing. A sheet of corrugated iron from the verandah was lodged in a big gum tree 300 yards away; while portions of the woodwork were strewn for yards around. The residence of Mr T. Chamberlain, auctioneer, adjacent, caught the impact, a chimney being completely destroyed, while the outhouses were demolished.

In its course the cyclone razed trees for a space of about 500 yards, when it struck the rear of the residence of Mr W. Brown,

photographer, in King Street. Here Mr Brown's extensive out buildings were wrecked, a mangle and bedsteads being smashed to pieces. The back portion of Mr Brown's newly erected residence was badly damaged, the neighbours being occupied for about an hour in collecting the debris and timber strewn around the locality from the disturbance. Thence on the cyclone travelled in a south-westerly direction through the unpopulated country, up-rooting immense trees in Mr J. P. Doherty's paddocks. After the space of about an hour the cyclone spent itself, dispersing in a cloud resembling black smoke.

To say the residents of Belgravia were dreadfully alarmed during the progress of the visitation is to state the position mildly. At first children rushed to the verandahs to watch (as they said) a traction-engine pass. Others assert they thought an express train was at their doors. One resident said the approach of the devastating aerial agitation resembled an aeroplane overhead. Mrs Tehan was engaged at her household duties when the impact struck her home. She was dreadfully alarmed, at the crash of falling timber and the din of falling corrugated iron. "I thought the Germans had dropped a bomb," she said. But Mrs Tehan had the good sense to remain indoors, otherwise she might have been injured by the falling timber and iron.

Mr and Mrs Brown and family had an unenviable experience. Hearing the terrific noise, the members of the Brown household rushed to see what the trouble was. They were soon disillusioned. With relentless fury the cyclone travelled straight for the Brown's domicile. The rest was chaos. Mrs Brown and her daughters were naturally greatly upset, and Mrs Brown was taken to a neighbour's in a state of collapse. "We had just to wait and trust to Providence," she said. Constable Taylor was quickly on the spot and rendered kindly aid. The surroundings of Mr W. B. Brown's fine home and garden are in ruins. How the occupants of Mr Brown's demolished poultry pens escaped destruction is a miracle. Two bicycles standing in Mr Brown's house were blown into an adjoining paddock, while the interior of the beautiful home was damaged.

Dr C. A. Lease and Constable A. Moylan were quickly in attendance, owing to the rumours of the damage being much greater. Luckily no persons were injured, but it will take over a hundred pounds to repair the damage which has resulted. The cyclone appeared to be travelling straight for the township, and onlookers prepared for the worst. It was not until its force was spent that it was noticed to be travelling away from the town."

That's it. Next time, we'll return to see the completion of the Melbourne to Murray rail link in September 1864.

'Bye for now,  
Marg O'Brien.

### **LOCKINGTON COMMUNITY NEWS INC. CONTACT AND PUBLISHING DETAILS**

Website: [www.lockingtonvic.com.au](http://www.lockingtonvic.com.au)

Email: [lockynews@bigpond.com](mailto:lockynews@bigpond.com)

Typed Monday fortnightly, distributed the following Friday.

**Deadline:** 10am on typing days, earlier if possible please. Leave items at our office at the Heritage Centre (through the slot). We welcome news, reports and personal items, photos etc. sent in via email. Please try to limit file sizes to about 1000kb (1Mb).

**Tel/Fax:** 5486 2515 Leave a message on answering machine if office is unattended.

**Postal:** 2-10 Market Street, Lockington, 3563

**Editor:** Alison Stewart Ph: 0417 177 807

**Casual Advertisements** - must be accompanied by name, address and telephone number (without this information the advert cannot be printed)

**Charges:** Minimum 5.5cm x 5.5cm \$8.50 incl GST (Locals), \$12.50 (Non Locals). Contact our office re larger advertisements and prices. No charge for non profit organizations.

**Reports** - a word count limit of approx. 500 words is sufficient for most reports, preference will be given to shorter reports. Due to space limitations your report may need to be edited.

Letters to the Editor, articles and reports should be typed or printed, and must show the author's name and contact details. We do not include controversial political issues or party policies unless we can give equal space to all parties or sides of the argument. (Contact details are for office use only and will only be published by request.)

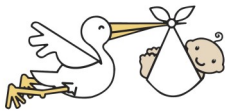
**Articles printed in this paper are printed in good faith and in no way reflect the views held by the 'Locky News' voluntary workers. We reserve the right to reject items deemed to be unsuitable. Any malicious information will be forwarded to the Police.**

**All news items will be put on website unless we're advised not to.**

**BIRTHS**

Kelsea and Damien Chisholm of Lockington have welcomed their son, Elijah Jason, to the world. Elijah was born at Echuca hospital on April 12, weighing 3402g (7lb 3oz). He is a grandson for Rhonda and Ian Bell of Lockington, Viki Chisholm of the Sunshine Coast and Jason Chisholm and Sharon Albert of Shepparton.

Isla Jane Bramley were the names chosen by Ashleigh Gamble and Thomas Bramley of Lockington for their daughter. Isla was born at Echuca hospital on April 6, weighing 3780g (8lb 3oz). She is a sister for Jedd, 18 months, and a granddaughter for Colin and Karen Gamble of Bamawm, and Craig and Ann Bramley of Mooroopna.



**DONATIONS TINS**



Do you enjoy reading our FREE Locky News? Please keep in mind that it costs us \$1 per paper to produce, Please drop a donation in one of our tins around town.

**All donations gratefully received.**

**DEATH**

MEARS, Blake  
08/07/1991 -  
03/04/2020  
(Formerly of Lockington)  
A beautiful life, tragically cut short. Much loved son of Dianne and Ray, brother of Thomas, brother-in-law of Grace, and mate of Sammy.



**COVID19 AND CHURCHES**

All normal public services (including Easter) are suspended until further notice. Some ministry may continue in less formal ways and settings, adhering to the governments ever changing guidelines on people meeting together.

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Contacts:  
Ray Wakefield 5486 2592  
Graeme Haines 5486 2284



John 3:17

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

**MEALS ON WHEELS**



**To be collected 11.30 am**

- April 27 - St Mary's
- May 4 - St James Lockington
- May 11 - Lions Club
- May 18 - Catholic Ladies
- May 25 - Bush Nursing Centre
- June 1 - Bamawm Uniting Church

Tuesday 7 April 2020

New Local Government Act concludes local council representation reviews

Victorian Electoral Commission



The Victorian Electoral Commission's (VEC's) program of local council representation reviews has ceased as required by the new Local Government Act 2020.

The reviews undertaken by the VEC, known as an electoral representation reviews, examined the electoral structure of councils, including the number of councillors and whether the councils should be unsubdivided or subdivided.

The final reports for the following representation reviews will not be published:

- Mitchell Shire Council
- Whittlesea City Council.

Electoral Commissioner, Warwick Gately AM, advised that the new Local Government Act 2020 will govern how council electoral structures are decided in the future.

'We would like to thank the people, organisations and councils that contributed to these reviews by promoting the review in their community, making submissions or attending public hearings,' Mr Gately added.

The Minister for Local Government will also decide whether to accept the recommendations presented in the VEC's final reports provided to the Minister prior to the cessation of the reviews, ahead of the next general election in 2020.

The seven subdivision reviews simply correcting elector to councillor ratios are unaffected by the cessation of the representation review program.

Monday 20 April 2020

Change of registered political party Sustainable Australia (VIC) to Sustainable Australia – Stop overdevelopment. Stop corruption.

The name of the registered political party Sustainable Australia (VIC) was officially changed to Sustainable Australia – Stop overdevelopment. Stop corruption., today. The logo of the party was also officially changed today.

The party applied to change its name to Sustainable Australia – Stop overdevelopment. Stop corruption., with the abbreviation "Sustainable Australia", and to change the party logo on 28 February 2020. As required by section 49 of the Electoral Act 2002 (the Act), the Victorian Electoral Commission advertised the application and invited objections. No objections were received.

Certain names and logos are not acceptable under the Act, including names and logos that are confusingly similar to the name or logo of another registered political party. The name "Sustainable Australia – Stop overdevelopment. Stop corruption." and the party logo, is acceptable under the Act, and will be printed next to the party's endorsed candidates' names on ballot papers at the next State election.





### Lockington Neighbourhood House

Ph: 0499 170 329 E: nhldbc@gmail.com  
Terri Hateley, Coordinator

Hours

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TO  
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**Lockington Scarecrow Competition**  
**Entry Forms available from Locky Fuel counter or**  
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**CATEGORIES ARE:**

- \* Favourite Celebrity/ Movie Star
- \* Funniest

Prizes of \$120 will be awarded to the winner in each category in 2 age groups which are:

- \* Youth (5-15)
- \* Open (16-Adult)


Scarecrows to be made and presented in your yard, take photos and email with your completed entry form. Entries displayed and voted for on Lockington Neighbourhood House Facebook page



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Free books are in the rack at the Business Centre or Laundry for you to take home and read. Return when you are finished and leave unwanted books for others to read.

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**Lockington Library**



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**Lockington Men’s Shed**  
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**DO YOU KNOW WHAT LIVES OUT ON THE PATHO PLAINS?**  
**PLAINS-WANDERERS**

**So what is a Plains-wanderer?**

A Plains-wanderer is a small grassland bird. It is very unusual in having no close relatives anywhere in the world. They were once relatively widespread throughout the grasslands of eastern Australia. However numbers have declined dramatically, and are now restricted to strongholds throughout the Northern Plains of Victoria, and the Riverina region of New South Wales. Even here, populations are critically low. Small pockets are also found in South Australia & Queensland. In 2015 the Plains-wanderer was listed as critically endangered under the National Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

In 2018, researchers ranked the world's 9993 species of birds in terms of their evolutionary distinctness and extinction risk, the Plains-wanderer was ranked No 1 in the world. Its population is estimated to be as low as somewhere between 250 and 1000 birds.

They are about 15-17 cm (6 to 7 inches) in height. The female is slightly larger than the male and brighter in colour. The female has a broad black and white checked collar and an orange patch on her upper chest. Males can be confused with Button-quail but are larger with a finer bill and much longer legs with a hind toe. Their legs are yellow.

Their plumage gives them extremely good camouflage in grasslands, making them difficult to find.

They only fly very short distances, which appears very laboured and heavy with legs hanging lower than their tail, seldom rising more than 3 to 4 meters and look like a bird that is reluctant to fly. They are an extremely shy bird.

Grassland structure is critical, they prefer, native grasslands, on a red or red/brown clay soil with sparse cover and no dense vegetation where most vegetation is less than 5 - 10 cm with no trees within 200 metres as tall trees provide perches for raptors, mostly hawks, which are a predator to the Plains-wanderer.

The females compete for the male's attention and, after laying a clutch of eggs, which is usually between 2 to 5, she leaves the males to complete the incubation and raise the chicks. The females remain in the breeding territory, where they may mate with a second male.

Plains-wanderers build their nests at the base of tussocks in a hollow or scrape, with the opening facing East, perhaps to catch the morning sun and block the wind and strong afternoon sun from the West. Their diet is mainly seeds and insects. Plains-wanderers can be found here on the Patho Plains, between Pinegrove/Kotta/Mitiamo and Gunbower /Torrumbarry, the Lower Avoca Plains which is North-West of Kerang and the Bunguluke Plains which is North-East of Wycheproof.



(Above: Male Plains-wanderer on left and female on right)

The main factors contributing to the decline of the Plains-wanderer are the loss of suitable grassland habitat due to droughts and floods, changes in fire regimes, weed invasion, clearing for urban development and cultivation for agriculture having all played a part in the loss of habitat.

The Plains-wanderer has specific habitat requirements, which means that grasslands can quickly become unsuitable if not managed appropriately. Overgrazing by stock and rabbits, particularly during drought can result in grasslands becoming too sparse. At the other extreme, too little grazing can result in vegetation becoming too tall and dense for Plains-wanderers. The Plains-wanderer likes it just right.

There is presently a captive breeding program underway at Taronga Zoo in Sydney with a new facility opened at the Dubbo Open Ranger Zoo. South Australia is about to open a captive breeding facility at Monarto Zoo with the help of Taronga.

In Victoria, Zoos Victoria listed the Plains-wanderer as their 21<sup>st</sup> animal fighting extinction. They weren't going to go above 20 animals but could not exclude the Plains-wanderer when they heard of its plight. Werribee zoo opened a 22 aviary facility in November 2017. This facility is not open to the general public as the birds are wary of humans and because it is a captive breeding program the aim is for the birds to breed with as little human interference as possible. A team from the Werribee Zoo and professionals have been out on the Northern Plains in autumn and spring of 2018 and 2019 to collect birds for their captive breeding program. The birds are caught and then transported immediately to a room in a motel in Echuca that has been set up to acclimatize the birds in a safe climate controlled large wooden box that mimics their environment with feed and water so as to not put them under any undue stress. Birds are not allowed to be collected within a 2 km area of each other, so as not to take too many from one area. In the aviaries they have camera surveillance system which monitor the birds and check their behaviour 24/7. Many interesting videos of the bird's unique behaviour and mating dances have been captured and provide amazing footage that could never be seen in the wild.

They presently have 9 new chicks running around, 5 female and 4 males, one of which has been named "Bail" after Andrew and Faye Bail. Andrew and Faye are honoured to have a bird named after them and hope that "Bail" can contribute to the program at Werribee Zoo.



(Above—Bail)



**COMMUNITY**

**ACTION CLUB OF LOCKINGTON**

*MONTHLY MEETINGS:*  
**1st Wednesday** - Dinner at Clubrooms  
**3rd Wednesday** - Activity



President:  
 John Wright: 0409 259 723  
 Secretary:  
 Tommy Eade: 0417 899 806

**COMMUNITY**

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For more information  
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President  
 John Wright 0409 259 723  
 Secretary  
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Gwen Fiedler 5486 2465 & Wendy Sims 0427 868 307 (Victoria)

Paul Harrison 0436 306 388 (N.S.W)

**ROCHESTER MOTORING CLUB**



Unfortunately we have made a decision to follow many other car

clubs and cancel the meetings for April and May - we will review it after that date. Brian has already notified everyone of the cancellation of Club runs.

Either Ray or Ken will be available OUTSIDE THE CLUBROOMS BETWEEN 7:30 - 8:00pm ON THE SCHEDULED MEETING NIGHTS to renew registrations.



**LOCKY LIONS**

The Lockington Lions club will cease all activities immediately due to the virus threat to our community. We are postponing all meetings until further notice! Lockington Lions club executive and its members wish all the community members all the best over this troubling time and stay healthy and look after each other! The next round of youth of the year public speaking was to held in Echuca, Sunday 22nd March, due to the current virus, this event was cancelled. Emily Mitchell was amongst one of these contestants and I would like to thank her for getting to the next round.

Regards *Marg* Dowie, Lockington Lions



**'No Rally in April.'**

Unfortunately due to current COVID19 health regulations the Lockington Vintage Rally will not be held.

The Lockington and District Living Heritage Complex committee know our community fully understands, and to all who had intentions of helping with the running of the event we thank you.

**PETER WALSH MP MEMBER FOR MURRAY PLAINS**

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E: [peter.walsh@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.walsh@parliament.vic.gov.au)



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Pre ordered newspapers will be in the paper stand as usual. Sunday Herald Sun can be purchased from Helen's Takeaway from 10am on Sundays.

We appreciate your understanding, and apologise for any temporary inconvenience this may cause

Take care and stay safe.  
Yours Sincerely

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# Lockington & District Bush Nursing Centre Inc.

ISSUE 144 APRIL 2020

## COVID19 - UPDATE

Precautionary measures are in place ensuring the safety of the community & the staff at the Centre.

**DO NOT** enter the Centre if you are experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms.

Symptoms include:                      Fever, Cough, Sore throat, Fatigue or tiredness  
Breathing difficulties such as breathlessness

If you need to see the nurse, phone the Centre on 5486 2544 and they can make arrangements with you. If you need advice on the COVID-19 you can call the hotline on 1800 675 398.

Seek information from reputable sources such as Australian Government websites.

Department of Health are regularly putting updates on TV and radio to keep the public informed.

When you visit the Centre - health care workers will ask you some screening questions developed by DHHS - this is for the safety of staff and visitors .

Recently we have had some changes to availability of our GP service and flu vaccinations - please be aware that these changes can occur at short notice and are usually beyond our control.

Please be patient and respectful to staff knowing that they are doing their very best to attend to your health care needs during difficult circumstances.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Flu vaccinations

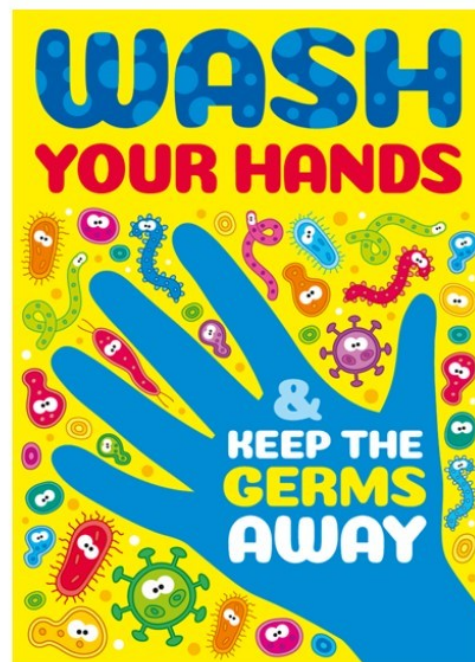
The Centre is still taking names for flu vaccinations, but supply is currently delaying the appointment scheduling process.

Alternate sources for flu vaccinations are:  
Your current GP or Dr Eji's clinic at REDHS .  
Rochester Chemmart by appt for under 65.  
Shire of Campaspe 25/5/20 at Lockington Community Hall by appt 2.30-3pm  
Ring 1300 666 535.

Or enquire at Echuca pharmacies - Amcal, Chemist Warehouse for vaccine availability.

\*\*\*\*\*

Be kind to one another and stay safe  
We are all in this together  
and we will get through it.



## LOCKINGTON LANDCARE DUNG BEETLES WORKING HARD

Although we cannot meet at the moment, work is still happening. We held our Annual Meeting via emails. John Wright, President and Wendy Sims, Secretary/Treasurer. Subs for the coming year are \$33 family and \$22 single. Accounts will be sent out shortly to all current members. If you would like to join please email [wendys1904@gmail.com](mailto:wendys1904@gmail.com) or text 0427 868307.

We currently have submissions in to get all our weather station/moisture probes upgraded and working properly again.

We have also got a couple of submissions in to purchase winter variety dung beetles. I have been receiving excellent reports on how well the summer dung beetles are working as shown in the picture. Large holes being made to take the

dung down to the subsoil. Well done beetles!!

Depending on when restrictions are lifted, in conjunction with the Lockington Consolidated School, we will be again assist with the planting trees on a farm at Kotta in Spring.

Keep safe and let me know if you have any landcare enquiries.

*Wendy Sims*



## AGRICULTURE VICTORIA



### TAKE CARE WITH CHEMICALS – TIPS FOR BACKYARD GARDENERS

Backyard gardeners are being urged to make sure they read and follow the instructions on the labels of any chemical products they may be using in their home gardens.

A growing interest in gardening has increased vegetable seedling sales from nurseries, which will increase the number of people treating pests and diseases in their gardens.

Agriculture Victoria Statewide Chemicals Specialist Steven Field said there are some simple principles home gardeners should to keep in mind if they choose to use pesticides.

“Home gardeners should take care to read and follow the instructions on the labels of pesticides they are using to ensure safe use. The instructions are there to manage the risks of using a pesticide.

“If you don’t follow the label instructions you may increase the risk to yourself and others unnecessarily,” Mr Field said. Following the label instructions include:

- Only using the pesticide on crops that are specified on the label under the Directions for Use
- Using the right application rate for the specific pest/crop combination
- Using the right Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as specified on the label
- Following any withholding periods (WHPs) specified on the label

Adhering to all ‘DO NOT’ statements listed on the label.

Mr Field said withholding periods (WHP) are the amount of time that must elapse between when the crop is sprayed and when it can be harvested.

“Following the withholding period is critical as it allows the pesticide to breakdown to an appropriate level.”

Home gardeners should also be mindful of the time of day they are spraying and be aware of possible impacts of pesticide use on foraging bees.

Bees are highly susceptible to some pesticide products, so attention must be paid to any label statements relevant to bees.

Mr Field said there are also a number of highly effective non-chemical control options worth considering when dealing with pests and diseases, which will help to reduce the reliance on pesticides.

“By taking the time and care to do things correctly, pesticide users can make sure they reduce the risks to themselves and the environment, and grow fresh, delicious produce in the process,” Mr Field said.

More information about safe chemical use is available on the Agriculture Victoria website at <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/chemicals>

### Liver damage in livestock caused by eating toxic weed

Dr Jeff Cave, Agriculture Victoria

Since the recent rain the toxic plant heliotrope has become abundant.

Heliotrope contains toxins known as pyrrolizidine alkaloids that damage the liver.

Heliotrope is found particularly where there is bare ground such as on the roadsides, fallowed ground and in stubbles.

Livestock tend to avoid eating heliotrope if other feed is available, as heliotrope is relatively unpalatable.

While all animals are susceptible to heliotrope poisoning, sheep are primarily affected since they are most often grazed in the locations where heliotrope is commonly found.

British breed and cross bred sheep are more commonly affected, more so than merinos due to their different grazing habits.

The toxin found in heliotrope alters the liver's metabolism for copper causing the liver to hold abnormally high levels of copper.

The liver damage caused by heliotrope is cumulative.

In other words, the liver damage increases each time an animal eats heliotrope.

When the liver becomes saturated with copper there is a rapid release of copper leading to kidney failure and death due to a condition commonly known as ‘yellows’.

Yellows usually does not occur until sheep have been exposed to heliotrope for more than one summer.

Yellows often occurs after the exposure to heliotrope has gone when sheep are later put on lush pastures which are rich in copper, such as clover.

Although other livestock are susceptible to the effects of heliotrope, cattle and horses are more susceptible to the effects of the toxin found in heliotrope than are sheep.

Unlike sheep, the signs of liver damage associated with heliotrope poisoning often occur soon after cattle and horses are exposed to heliotrope and large losses of stock occasionally occur.

For more information on heliotrope toxicity in sheep and cattle go to Agriculture Victoria website or contact your local veterinarian.





# AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) update

Farmers and producers are vital to all Victorian communities and play an important role during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Premier has implemented Stage 3 restrictions of non-essential activity aimed at slowing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). Everyone who can stay at home must stay at home.

There are only four reasons to be out in public:

- shopping for what you need – food and essential supplies
- medical, care or compassionate needs
- exercise in compliance with the public gathering requirements
- work and study if you can't work or learn remotely.

The measures include a limit on gathering to no more than two people, except for members of immediate households and for work or education and social physical distancing rules of 1.5 metres between people should also be observed outside the home.

Stage 3 measures were effective from 11.59 pm on Monday 30 March and have been extended until midnight 11 May 2020.

The agricultural supply chain is essential to maintaining the flow of food to our supermarkets and kitchen tables.

We are working closely with industry to ensure that the essential services provided by the agriculture sector continue to operate as we move to Stage 3 measures to combat the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

The situation continues to change rapidly and we urge you to regularly check the Department of Health and Human Services website for the latest update: [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://coronavirus.vic.gov.au).

More information, including commonly asked questions and answers, is available on the website at <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/coronavirus>

## Contacting us

We're continuing to serve the community but you may need to contact us in different ways.

If you can do something online then this is the best way. You can also call us 136 186 for a range of information including how best to contact us.

Agriculture Victoria office receptions across the state are now closed in order to reduce face-to-face contact between staff and members of the community. The decision is in response to the latest advice to help prevent the further spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Please consider whether the activity you are contacting us about is necessary at this time. Visit the Department of Health and Human Services website for the latest coronavirus (COVID-19) advice.

## Tactics to set up a successful season

PICTURE: Jim Moran, Agriculture Victoria

Sound, practical and ongoing farm biosecurity practices are crucial to a profitable and successful agricultural enterprise, according to Agriculture Victoria's Victorian Grains Biosecurity Officer, Jim Moran.

Mr Moran said best practice on-farm biosecurity assists with maintaining market access, reducing the burden of managing pests and diseases, assuring food safety and product quality and integrity.

"As well as receiving expert and timely chemical advice, there are relatively simple, low cost, biosecurity measures you can adopt to set you up for a successful and profitable year," he said.

Such measures include:

- Removing the "green bridge" between crops by spraying weeds and volunteer plants before sowing. This helps to break the pest and disease cycle.

- Aiming for farm hygiene excellence. All movements onto and off the productive areas of your property should be controlled. Movements onto the property should be recorded and inspections conducted to verify cleaning and hygiene practices have been conducted. This includes all livestock, fodder and machinery.

- Installing biosecurity gate signs to caution visitors from entering without approval.

- Vigilantly monitoring for new and unusual plants germinating. Identify and treat any weeds immediately.

- Keeping records of dates, names, quantities and activities associated with recent deliveries to your property.

- Limiting access to the farm via designated entry points where hard bare surfaces are present to allow for inspections and cleaning to be conducted.

- Zoning areas of your property into specific biosecurity zones.

- Establishing quarantine paddocks for newly arrived livestock and fodder. Maintain vigilant surveillance of these areas then isolate and treat issues should they arise.

- Setting up a machinery wash down area with pressure washer and air blower to keep vehicles and machinery clean on arrival and departure from the property. Get to know alternative local wash down locations that may be available through prior arrangement such as livestock saleyards, transport company depots, bulk grain receival sites, state government depots and CFA stations.

- Placing a boot-wash kit in farm vehicles that contains disinfectant, a stiff bristle brush and wash boots when proceeding on and off all properties. If possible, implement a two-boot system with dedicated paddock boots and work boots for different tasks on or off production zones.

- Reporting anything suspicious to your agronomist or the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881.

Mr Moran said he encouraged farmers to stay informed about industry biosecurity best practice by looking at farm biosecurity websites and obtaining a free copy of the Grains Farm Biosecurity Manual.

"Farmers can undertake the biosecurity self-assessment questionnaire in the Grains Farm Biosecurity Manual to measure your level of biosecurity risk," he said.

"Take control now to heighten preparedness."

Interactive diagnostic tools on your iPhone such as; Crop Diseases App, MyPestguide App.

Users can send photos to experts for diagnosis and advice.

For your free biosecurity gate/fence sign, Grains Farm Biosecurity Manual and more information on excellent grains biosecurity practice, farm hygiene tactics and exotic pest threats, contact Jim Moran at Agriculture Victoria on (03) 5430 4479 or visit;

[planthealthaustralia.com.au](http://planthealthaustralia.com.au) or [agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/grains-and-other-crops](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/grains-and-other-crops)





## AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

### **Feeding systems – from hay rings to freestalls**

As part of the Profitable Feeding Systems Field Days, Agriculture Victoria dairy and livestock specialist Scott McDonald presented his five-step approach used when working with farmers considering investing in



feed infrastructure or a feeding area on their farm.

#### **Step 1 - Why do I need to invest in a feeding area?**

The first question is - why are you building a new feed area?

Some of the common answers include;

- to help fill the feed gaps when pasture is limiting
- to reduce feed waste
- because you are chasing a flat milk price incentive
- because you need a contingency area in a fire or flood
- because you need an area to put the cows to protect pasture from pugging in winter and protecting residuals in summer.

By determining the motivation for investing in new feeding infrastructure, it helps to define what an appropriate level of investment should be. One size doesn't fit all.

For example, in some situations something simple like a well-designed dirt feeding area with hay rings and plenty of water might be the most logical and profitable solution. In another situation this may not be adequate and a greater investment in concrete and earthworks may be justified.

Trying to minimise feed waste is an important consideration, but it shouldn't be the only motivation for investing in a feeding area. Other factors apart from where feed is fed out can contribute to feed wastage such as poorer quality feed being refused by the cows, or over allocation of feed. A comprehensive assessment of the current situation needs to be considered.

#### **Step 2 - What type of system?**

You need to be clear on what you are trying to achieve. Some of the questions you will need to consider are - how are you going to use the new feeding area? Is it just going to be a top up area on the entrance or exit of the dairy? And how many hours a day is the herd going to spend on the feeding area?

Other questions include - are you going to use the feeding area all year round or just for short bursts during the year? do you need to build it so every cow in the herd can eat at the same time or will the herd pass through the area over an extended time period, so a smaller feeding area will do?, and do you need to build a bigger feeding area compared to what you currently need to allow for an increase in herd size?

Finally, think about if you are better off to have a permanent system or something that is easy to relocate and if what you are proposing to build ultimately fit in with your desired feeding system now and into the future.

#### **Step 3 - Costing the system and the ripple effect**

Some of the simple systems can be cheap but effective and will meet your identified needs well. For example, a simple sacrifice paddock with hay rings that the cows might spend three to six hours a day for two to three months of the year, might meet your requirements and be as cheap as \$50 per cow.

In contrast a concrete sloped pad would be more appropriate if the herd is spending eight -12 hours a day in the feeding area for 12 months of the year. This kind of feeding infrastructure would cost more like \$800 per cow.

The message here is you need to right size your level of investment in the feeding area depending on the type of system you have decided to build and how you are going to use the feeding area.

It's a worthwhile exercise to calculate what your payback period will be on the level of investment. It's also good to work with a trusted advisor when estimating these numbers. Also, you need to consider the ripple effect of the type of system you choose to implement. The ripple effect refers to the other aspects that might be affected once the feed infrastructure is commissioned. For example, you most likely will need to increase your effluent holding capacity if you have a new larger concreted area. The intensity of use of laneways to the feeding area will increase so they may need upgrading. The machinery used to feed out might need to be upgraded if larger volumes of feed are to be fed out in the new area.

#### **Step 4 - Planning a system**

Before you order the concrete truck spend some time carefully planning.

To get it right the first time some of the things you should consider include - what's the best location for the new feeding area? how am I going to clean the feeding area? where will I store the piles of solids that will be scraped off the pad? have I considered cow comfort and cow flow when designing the feed pad? do I need any planning permits? It's no good realising you don't have power to run the effluent pump at the bottom end of your feedpad after the concrete has set.

As Benjamin Franklin said, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail!" Agriculture Victoria has a web-based tool that can assist in the planning process of your next farm development.

If you have trouble using the tool, help is available through;

- Panel of Animal Industries Experts - email [agvicpanel@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:agvicpanel@agriculture.vic.gov.au)
- Mick O'Keefe – 0408 284 475 or [steve.hicks@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:steve.hicks@agriculture.vic.gov.au)
- Paul Wallace - 0448 461 178 or email [paul.wallace@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:paul.wallace@agriculture.vic.gov.au)
- Ann McDowell - 0436 934 343 or email [ann.mcdowell@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:ann.mcdowell@agriculture.vic.gov.au)
- Steve Hicks - 0436 934 574 or email [steve.hicks@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:steve.hicks@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

#### **Step 5 - Management**

Once the feed pad is commissioned it's not a set and forget and requires ongoing management to operate effectively. Regular cleaning with a dry scrape or a flood wash is critical, repairing any holes in concrete work, repairing fences or gates, removing waste feed from feed troughs and maintaining water troughs.

Where animals are housed in intensive situations issues around animal health can arise such as mastitis and lameness. These need to be actively monitored and managed. Odour and effluent management need to also be considered.

For more information on drought and dry seasonal conditions assistance and grants visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons) or call 136 186.

\*Sourced from a presentation made by Agriculture Victoria Development Specialist Scott McDonald as part of a WestVic Dairy seminar

#### **Young farmer business network**

Young Farmers of Victoria – this is your network to talk about farm business management with other like-minded young farmers through social media, articles, online and face to face forums.



Mark Your Calendars  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**



**WE'RE STILL GOING ON A BEAR HUNT!**

So many bears out which is great to see!  
Feel free to change things up and add bears to new places around your house or in town.

This is the last week of the Bear Hunt around our local streets so let's take it up a notch and give the kids and home schooling parents something to look forward to on their daily walks.



**TEA AT THREE**



An idea for checking on our neighbours,  
And keeping up the Community Spirit  
Whilst observing social distancing

Every day at 3pm sit down for a cuppa  
At the front window or verandah of your house  
Or somewhere where you can see your neighbours and them see you  
So you then know that those around you are OK



**Light Up Locky**

For the duration of the COVID19 pandemic, let's brighten our lives and light up our night sky with our Christmas lights.

ANZAC DAY  
SATURDAY 25 APRIL 2020

**Driveway at Dawn Parade**

To all Australians, let's stand as one from 6am Saturday 25 April 2020 at the end of your driveways, balconies, porches and front yards for a minute's silence to honour our veterans and active service people

#drivewayatdawnparade



**Weekly Activities**

**MONDAYS**

- Strength & Balance Class 9.00 am - Bush Nursing Centre **Cancelled until further notice**
- Nicole Hocking Podiatrist 9.30 - 4.30. - Bush Nursing Centre. Phone: 5486 2544.
- Lockington & District T.O.W.N Club 6.30 pm - Bush Nursing Centre (Activities Room) **Cancelled until further notice**
- Senior Citizens Games 10:00 am Bowls and Cards **Cancelled until further notice**

**TUESDAYS**

- Men's Shed 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Phone 0499 170 329 **Closed until further notice**
- Dr. Patrick Nzegwu 9.30 am - 5.00 pm Bush Nursing Centre Phone: 5486 2544.
- Lockington Playgroup 10.00am - 9:30 to 11:30am (not during school holidays) St. James Church Hall. Enquiries: Tammy Norman 0411 056 765
- Ladies Social Bowls names by 9:45am start 10:00 am **Cancelled until further notice**

**WEDNESDAYS**

- Strength & Balance Class 9.00 am - Bush Nursing Centre **Cancelled until further notice**
- Massage with Anita. Phone 5486 2544 for appointment.
- Tai Chi 5:30- 6:30 pm Bush Nursing Centre \$8 per session, with Fay Sizeland **Cancelled until further notice**

**THURSDAYS**

- Social Activity Day 10am - Bush Nursing Centre Phone: 5480 6701 **Cancelled until further notice**
- Men's Shed By appointment Phone: 0499 170 329 **Closed until further notice**
- Ladies Social Badminton 9:30am - Bamawm Sports Centre Enquiries: 0458 548 622 **Cancelled until further notice**

**FRIDAYS**

- Locky Bowls Men's Practice 4.30pm followed by BBQ **Cancelled until further notice**

**SATURDAYS**

- Bingo 7:15 pm - St. Joseph's Hall Campaspe St, Rochester. **Cancelled until further notice**

**LOCKINGTON LIBRARY HOURS:**

Tues- 10.00 - 2.00 day am - pm  
**Closed until further notice**  
Wednes-

**ST. MARY'S OP SHOP**

Mon, 10am **Closed until further notice** Wed, to 2pm

**BANK TRADING HOURS**

Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays - 10.00 am - 2.00 pm  
Thursdays & Fridays - 9.30 am to 12 noon, 12.45 pm to 4.00 pm

