

# Locky News

Lockington's Priceless Paper

\$ FREE

#### ONE TRAIN WHISTLE CLOSER RAIL TRAIL BETWEEN LOCKINGTON AND KOTTA

During the last week the Lockington District Business Centre received a phone call from VicTrack to inform them that they were prepared to lease the railway line ground between Lockington and Kotta to them. The paper work has commenced for this lease to progress.

This was closely followed by a call from Sam Campi, Shire of Campaspe, to ask if the Lockington Kotta Rail Trail committee would like to take possession of the original Kotta railway station. The Kotta station has been located at the Echuca Wharf since the 1970's and is no longer used as the ticket office for wharf facilities and is therefore available for removal. This announcement was



meet with great excitement and committee members are going to Echuca this week to look at what is involved in the relocation of the station back to the siding at Kotta.

It is envisaged that once the track between Lockington and Kotta is completed the station at the Kotta end will house photos etc of past buildings and activities in the district. At both ends of the track picnic areas will be developed for the use of community members and visitors to our district.

The Rail Trail between Lockington and Kotta was to be the focus of the Rural Aid Volunteers that were due to be in our district next week. Due to the Covid restrictions across Australia the volunteer week has been tentatively rescheduled for early April 2022.

Wendy Sims 0427868307

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#### Next Typing Date MONDAY, September 27 (Entries by 10am) See page 2 for details

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

#### OUR TOWN IS PROTECTED

Lockington District Business Centre Inc has installed a camera at the corner of Pannoo/Singer Road and Lockington Road intersection and a further camera at the intersection of Archibald Street and Lockington Road.

These cameras are designed to record traffic that travels through these intersections with the aim that if burglaries occur in the area, vehicles in the vicinity at the time of the offence will be able to be identified.



Data is stored 'in the cloud' for a limited period of time and will be accessed by Victorian Police when needed.

See Page 2 for contact and publishing details. Registered No A0024058N ABN 68 147 443 610 Email: lockynews@bigpond.com Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Publisher, Lockington Community News Inc. This paper is prepared for you by volunteers to help our community stay alive. Subscriptions Available.



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,

We've been reading early newspaper reports to learn what life was like for the farming families who lived in our district in the 1880s. A 'water famine' in 1882 dealt a severe blow to the entire region, but lessons were learned from the experience. On 26 October 1882, the Pannoomilloo correspondent to the Bendigo Advertiser reported that "the Echuca Shire Council have constructed another spacious tank on the main road to the Terricks," which could be a great boon to those living nearby should there be any rains in the near future. The writer added that "These tanks are being excavated at distances of about seven miles from each other, thus rendering them easy of access to all."

Though these tanks would meet a pressing need, the people of the northern plains had grander aspirations. In February 1882, the Echuca Shire Council had prepared plans for the immediate construction of a canal to convey water from the Goulburn River to irrigate the dry northern plains. This canal would be excavated along a route which had already been surveyed on behalf of the State Government, to ascertain the feasibility of the Grand North-West Canal; a proposal advanced by Mr Hugh McColl, M.P. With the idea that their canal would later form part of Mr McColl's more imposing initiative, the Council intended to apply for a Government loan to cover their initial costs, estimated at £150,000. However, when their proposal, which they hoped would provide sufficient water to irrigate "no less than a million acres," was put to the Chief Engineer, Mr Gordon, he saw it as being too ambitious. He did not favour irrigation, and successfully urged for a lesser alternative which would involve pumping water from the Murray River for stock and domestic purposes only. This was not what the farming community wanted, and months went by with little being achieved.

Some rain fell in early 1883, but, though it was reported that "Feed and water are plentiful all over the district, and stock of all descriptions is in good condition," farmers faced problems with an influx of weeds of all sorts, and a new hatching of locusts. The weather continued hot until the end of Summer, and there were farmers who had not begun sowing seed for the coming season by April. By that time, rain was needed "badly," and due to the anxiety they had faced in the past, many farmers whose properties were large enough, were relinguishing arain production in favour of sheep and did not intend to sow at all. A fall of rain early in May was described as "copious and opportune," and the Pannoobamawm correspondent to the Melbourne Argus wrote on 18 May that the country then presented "a more reassuring appearance." Good rains continued on into June and July, but another problem presented when the Bendigo Advertiser's Pannoomilloo Marg O'Brien.

correspondent reported that the district was being "plagued with the native companions [Brolgas], who literally swarm us out ... and by all accounts they strip the ground bare, not only of the seed, but root up the growing corn also."

Even so, prospects were looking brighter than they had done for some time despite the fact that there was "diphtheria prevalent to the westward, and one or two" deaths had occurred. As yet, there was no sickness locally at Pannoobamawm, according to the Bendigo Advertiser on 5 June 1883. Once more, correspondents were cheerfully reporting tea meetings, school picnics, ploughing competitions and cricket matches. Some "beautiful soaking rain" at the end of August, revived crops that had been suffering the effects of frosts earlier in the month. The Pannoomilloo correspondent bemoaned to the Advertiser on 15 August, that the frosts had not done much harm to the wireworm and caterpillar pests that had appeared in the district. Nevertheless, good rains which continued throughout September and October, boosted hopes of a fine harvest.

"Taking advantage of the slack time and the moistened state of the ground, farmers in the district are paying a good deal of attention to tree grubbing," said the report in the Bendigo Advertiser on 18 October 1883. A labour-saving machine, newly introduced to the district, had captured attention of correspondents who submitted favourable reports of it. The machine was called a "forest devil," and it was said that "farmers testify on all sides to its efficiency in tearing up trees of large or small diameter with very little trouble." In the Advertiser on 5 September 1883, the Pannoomilloo correspondent had written: - "The amount of timber being hauled down by the new grubber is something wonderful. On the average 22 trees can be pulled daily, large and small together, and it thus leaves only the running of the roots and filling up to be done. As to the burning off there is no more trouble than when it was done by manual labour, and the taps are drawn sometimes 5 feet out of the ground. It was formerly a good week's work for a man to grub an acre, but with the introduction of this machine from three to six acres can be done, according to the thickness of the timber, and with a guarter of the labour."

Other news in the Advertiser was not so good, with a 2 October report from Pannoomilloo stating that "Although the weather is apparently so very suitable for cereals, yet it seems wholly unsuitable to our humanity. There is a great deal more sickness in this neighbourhood than for some years past; hardly a household has escaped without something serious or other." Hopefully, all will be well by next time.

'Bye until then,

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

#### Website: www.lockingtonvic.com.au Email: 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.

#### ISSUE #924– September 17, 2021



Please send us your articles and photos for inclusion in the paper, and receive a \$10 Locky Dollars Voucher.

Email your word document and photo to ... lockynews@bigpond.com

Local businesses... please contact Alison 0417 177 807 for redemption of vouchers



Journey Faith

**Ephesians c 6 v 16** above all ,taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. v17. And take the helmet of salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is

#### MEALS ON WHEELS

Currently being delivered by Intereach Aged Care Services



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# Shop Local, Buy Local - Advertising Spotlight

### Support Local Business, Your Neighbours, Your Friends, Your Community

### LOCKINGTON & DISTRICT BUSH NURSING CENTRE INC.

"Supporting the health needs of the Lockington and District Community"

### Mon - Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm Lunchbreak 12.30-1.30pm Closed on Public Holidays Phone 54862544

LOCKINGTON & DISTRICT BUSH NURSING CENTRE INC. Registered Number: A11551

<u>Caring for the Lockington Community</u> MON - FRI 8.30am to 4.00pm (Lunchbreak 12.30-1.30) Phone 54862544 to book an appointment

Nursing Care & Pathology Doctor Tuesdays from 9.30am Allied Health services

Annual Memberships entitle you to free nursing care and pathology. There is a small cost for dressings and ear irrigation supplies.

#### Family \$70 (concession \$55) Single \$40 (concession \$30)

Anyone in the community can receive care from our nurses, with a small cost for non-members.

Nursing staff are able to provide:

- Wound care, including wound closure and suture removal
- Daily pathology collection
- ECG's
- Blood pressure and Blood sugar monitoring
- Emergency care,
- Post hospital care in centre or at home
- Palliative care and Advanced care planning
- Ear syringing
- Immunisations including annual flu vaccines
- Nursing advice
- Asthma & Diabetes education
- Health promotion
- RIPERN assessments & care

Where possible please ring ahead to book an appointment as this reduces your wait time.

For more information on our services please call 03 54862 544. In an emergence, please call triple zero (000).



#### Other services we provide are-

- Visiting GP Tuesdays
- Script Collection daily
- Strength and Balance classes -Mon & Wed
- Podiatrist Mondays
- Physiotherapist Fortnightly on Tuesdays
- Social Activity Group Thursdays
  - Maternal Health Nurse fortnightly by appt

- Immunisation Clinic bimonthly by appt
- Women's Health Nurse quarterly
- Diabetic Educator quarterly
- Tai Chi on Wednesday evenings
- Sewing group Tuesdays
- Room Hire
- Medical Equipment hire
- Community Car
  - Assessments & referrals Allied Health



# Shop Local, Buy Local - Advertising Spotlight

# Support Local Business, Your Neighbours, Your Friends, Your Community

### **CAMPASPE PUMP SERVICE**

"On-site mobile business with 20 years experience"

<u>Pump Service & Repairs</u> We service and repair all types of pumps

<u>New Pump Installation</u> Design and install you next pump system

<u>Water Filtration Systems</u> Call us today about water filtration systems

Willing to Travel We are an on site business Sprinkler Systems Design Let us design your next sprinkler system <u>Solar Pump Systems</u> Let us design your next solar pump system

Sprinkler Systems Repairs Sprinklers not working right? - give us a call!

Submersible Bore Pumps Need to get your water from the ground! Irrigation Pumps

Effective watering saves you money!



 On site pump repairs all brands • Sprinkler design, installiation & repair Pressure pumps • Solar pumps • Submersible pumps • Household pumps Irrigation pumps • Bore pumps • New pump installations • Water filtration 24 hour 7 days • 667 McColl Rd, Ballendella 3561 0458 628 863 • www.campasuepumpservice.com.au



Campaspe Pump Service is an on-site mobile business with 20 years experience. Servicing Echuca, Rochester, Elmore and surrounding areas. Service and repair of all types of pumps

DORMAN'S ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS P/L

"All Types of Electrical Work"

Dorman's Electrical Contractors first started in the Bamawm area in 1977 where Harry did his apprenticeship under his father Rex Dorman, who was a dairy farmer at the time.

In 1985 Harry moved to Echuca where the electrical wholesalers are situated but is still servicing the Lockington and Bamawm district farming areas. During this time Harry employed a lot of the local farmers sons to do their apprenticeship, which enables them to stay in the area. Many of these boys/men are still working as electricians today.

Dorman's Electrical Contractors have always sponsored local sporting bodies and events throughout the district and we thank the community for their support.

Many of our customers we are still servicing today and after many years as their electrician have become good friends.



ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS P/L

382 HIGH STREET, ECHUCA

\* ALL TYPES OF ELECTRICAL WORK

phone: 5482 4353 mobile: 0428 505 301

Reg. Vic 1607, NSW 35190

# Shop Local, Buy Local - Advertising Spotlig

#### Support Local Business, Your Neighbours, Your Friends, Your Community

# **BENDIGO BANK**

### **COMMUNITY BANK—LOCKINGTON**

"We build a culture of trust. We are open, honest and fair."

Community Bank Lockington not only gives you access to award-winning financial products and services, we're also committed to returning profits to our local communities.

# 🖁 Bendigo Bank

### Talk to us today



Alex Rosaia Senior Branch Manager 0427 801 712 Alex Rosaia@ bendigoadelaide.com.au



Alison Cooper Assistant Branch Manager 0413 852 757 Alison.Cooper@ bendigoadelaide.com.au



Kahlia Elliott Customer Relationship Manager 0413 871 058 Kahlia.Elliott@ bendigoadelaide.com.au

#### Annual General Meeting

Our 2021 AGM will be held virtually on Thursday 28th of October at 7:00pm Please contact our Company Secretary at admin@lockmore. YOU'RE com.au to register your INVITED attendance.

Community Bank · Elmore

62 Railway Place, Elmore VIC 3558 P 5432 6706 E elmoremailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au bendigobank.com.au/elmore We're open: Monday to Thursday 9.30am-12.00pm, 1.00pm-4.00pm Friday 9.30am-12.00pm, 1.00pm-5.00pm

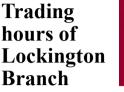
Community Bank · Lockington 9-11 Lockington Road, Lockington VIC 3563 P 5486 2304 E lockingtonmailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au bendigobank.com.au/lockington We're open; Monday to Wednesday 10.00am-2.00pm Thursday & Friday 9.30am-12.00pm, 12.45pm-4.00pm

Community Bank · Rochester 24 Gillies Street, Rochester VIC 3561 P 5484 3290 E rochestermailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au bendigobank.com.au/rochester We're open; Monday to Thursday 9.30am - 4.00pm Friday 9.30am - 5.00pm

(f) /elmorelockingtonrochestercommunitybanks

O cb\_elmorelockingtonrochester

Proudly supported by our customers Community Bank Elmore, Lockington and Rochester



🔊 Bendigo Bank

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 10.00am - 2.00pm

Thursday & Friday 9.30am - 12 Noon, 12.45pm - 4.00pm

> For more information please contact Lockington branch on 5486 2304

> > munity Bank® branches 🛛 🕒 Bendigo Bank

# Shop Local, Buy Local - Advertising Spotlight

# Support Local Business, Your Neighbours, Your Friends, Your Community

# **COBURN & REID PHARMACY**

#### "Health Care Solutions"

At Coburn & Reid Pharmacy it is our aim to provide you with cost effective Health Care solutions. To ensure we provide this in a prompt and professional manner we are able to call on the experience and resources of our 4 four Pharmacists and 10 pharmacy assistants who all have a large range of experiences and interests.

#### Home Delivery Service

We offer a free deliver service with in the Echuca/Moama town boundarys we also deliver to Lockington and Mathoura

(These requests for delivery need to be made by 3 pm each day)





177 Annesley Street, Echuca

Free delivery service to Lockington Week days only Requests need to be made by 3 pm each day

> Phone 5480 6011 or Fax 5480 2486

#### Our Services

- ResMed Sleep Studies
- Home Medication Reviews
   Vaccinations
- MedAdvisor Script Ordering
- Blood Pressure Monitoring
- T.A.C and Work Cover Insurance accounts
  - Diabetic Supplies
- Webster Packing & Medication Management

# MATT LEWIS CONTRACTING

#### "Contract Broadacre Spraying, Sowing, Offset Discing and Wet Tractor Hire"

Matt Lewis Contracting is a small family business based in Lockington.

Starting out in contract spraying we have been slowly growing our business upgrading from our faithful John Deere to a Case Puma.

We have recently purchased a new Agrodrill seeder and will be taking bookings for the 2022 season. Both of our tractors are fitted with GPS guidance.



- Broadacre Spraying
- Offset Discing
- Wet Tractor Hire

Call Matt on: 0488129498 Or email mattlewiscontracting@gmail.com

We pride ourselves on attention to detail and delivering the best possible results for our clients.







# PETER WALSH MP MEMBER FOR MURRAY PLAINS

Electorate office: 496 High St Echuca 3564

Ph: 5482 2039

Local Call:1300 467 606

W: www.peterwalsh.org.au

E: peter.walsh@parliament.vic.gov.au

#### f peterwalshmp

#### 🂐 peterwalshmp

Funded from Parliamentary Budget





Want to volunteer but only for a short time?

Lockington District Business Centre has been busy with the park, landscaping and renovating areas. We will shortly be installing a new mulch pit and have all of the materials to get started. If you are interested in volunteering for short timeframes or projects and willing to use some muscle, please leave your name and phone number at the front fuel counter. Even if it is only an hour or two you have spare, we would love to hear from you!

There are also other upcoming projects that we will be putting together to benefit the community.

Volunteering is a great way to feel connected to the community, combatting social isolation and making new friends! Of course if you would like to volunteer for more hours, you are more than welcome.

You can also call the Business Centre on (03) 5486 2683 to register your interest if you can't make it in.

#### Lockington & District Business Centre

Annual General Meeting Will be held Monday 11th October at 7.30 pm At the Lockington Business Centre.

For Information call Jennie Keele 0427 862690

# Lockmore FSL 2021 AGM

Virtual meeting Thursday 28 October, 7pm

Register attendance: 0413 417 055 admin@lockmore.com.au



Lockington Community Centre 8pm Friday 12th November

#### ANNUAL ADVERTISERS

Any new advertising is welcomed,

Please note: When making payments by Direct Debit please state Invoice number so we are able to recognise your Business and account.







### Lockington & District Bush Nursing Centre Inc.

ISSUE 176 SEPTEMBER 2021







#### LOCKINGTON BUSH NURSING CENTRE COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT Kim McDonald What is your Role at the Centre? Centre manager/registered nurse/RAN RIPERN

Nickname? Kimmy, Kimbo

What was your first job? Milk bar/takeaway shop assistant

What is your favourite footy team? Richmond

Do you have any favourite quotes? Beyond fear lies freedom

Pets or partners? Describe??? Ninja, Nala & Boof.

What music were you listening to, 10years ago? Black eyed peas, David Guetta, and whatever else I could dance around the house to!

**Favourite places that you have travelled?** Byron and Bali, with the hope of putting more on the list when we can travel!

At what shop would you like to max out your credit card? Bunnings (easily done)!

How do you like your eggs? Poached, but otherwise however it comes.

What is your favourite way to unwind? Travel and music.

What animal would you consider as your spirit animal? Dolphin

If you could pick up a new skill in an instant, what would it be? To be able to fly!

LOCKINGTON BUSH NURSING CENTRE COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT Marshall Ratcliff What is your Role at the Centre? Community Car Volunteer Driver Nickname? PAPA SMURF

What was your first job? Bicycle shop, after school

If you could pick up a new skill in an instant, what would it be? Very bad comedian

What is your favourite footy team? Mt Evelyn junior Footy

Do you have any favourite quotes? I'll be back!

Pets or partners? Describe??? Pets-lots & Wife

What music were you listening to, 10years ago? 60's, 70's & 80's

Favourite places that you have travelled? Anywhere in Australia

At what shop would you like to max out your credit card? I wouldn't

How do you like your eggs? Anyway

What is your favourite way to unwind? With family

What animal would you consider as your spirit animal? Rainbow Serpent Is there anything else you'd like to add? Just enjoy life & be happy

#### Reminders...

- \* We encourage everyone to phone ahead or book in to see the nurse to keep wait times to a minimum.
- \* 12:30-1:30pm daily is lunch time. Please avoid interruptions unless it is an emergency.
- \* COVID- please do not enter the building if you have any COVID symptoms. **Masks** are still required in the building to protect staff and other community members.



Lockington & District Bush Nursing Centre Inc. 31 Pannoo Road Lockington Vic 3563 Ph: 03 5486 2544 Fax: 03 5486 2662 email: admin@ldbnc.org.au



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#### ISSUE #924– September 17, 2021



# THE EDITOR'S SNAPSHOT

# **MORE FROM LESS**

population continues to grow, with an insatiable appetite producers world wide. for food.

Farmers find themselves in a catch 22 situation though... expected to produce more and more produce using less persistence and continual improvements to do what and less inputs, including water, chemicals, fossil fuel produced petroleum and electricity and by using even less land due to metropolitan spread and land being returned to nature. Farmers are continually forced to improve their processes, their livestock and their crops, with little to no help from anyone, including government agencies.

Farmers ARE using less water, by installing more efficient water infrastructure and by more considered selection of crops and pastures.

Farmers ARE using less chemicals by being more selective of fertilisers and using selective weedicides and herbicides.

Farmers ARE using less fossil fuel electricity, by setting provide more assistance up their own on farm solar systems.

And farmers ARE using less land, and still producing continually reinvent. more and more produce.

It's farmers roles to feed our country, a country who's Our Aussie Farmers are some of the most proactive

Our farmers are industry leaders.

Our Farmers deserve more recognition for their many other industries might consider impossible.

With our population continuing to expect more from our farmers, it's time ...

Time - for the general population to accept higher prices and for more regulation so supermarkets and grocery stores return more to our farmers, to cover the true cost of producing the goods.

Time for our government agencies to put more importance on farming issues and to industry the to



Photo... Bridie Boyle

# **LEAD** Loddon Murray LMCLP

Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program 2022

Lockington District **Business Centre** Scholarship applications open 1st Sept

to apply or to find out more go to www.leadlm.org.au/lmclp/

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#### MEDIA RELEASE

A better deal r Murray Plains

Peter WALSH ■ NS | LEADER OF THE NATIONALS

#### 9 September 2021 Our young people need urgent mental health support says Walsh

The Nationals leader and Member for Murray Plains. Peter Walsh, says the most urgent need is the massive third wave of the pandemic - swamping Australia with mental health and wellbeing crises.

Mr Walsh said the most vulnerable sector has been our young people; but there is collateral damage across all age groups as a consequence of the Andrew's Labor government's remorseless and soul-destroying strategy of lockdowns or nothing.

He said as a result he and his party are calling for a dedicated mental health specialist to be deployed in every school across regional Victoria to help deal with the full consequences of this failed strategy.

"The call comes as the Andrews Labor government finally agreed to The Nationals' plan for a more proportionate response to COVID in regional Victoria, by lifting the lockdown in areas where there are no COVID cases," Mr Walsh said.

"Finally Labor has agreed to 'a focused and targeted series of measures' in hotspots, as we have been arguing for months," he added. "That means, thank God, that the most severe of restrictions will lift tomorrow: but the consequences of these lockdowns on kids will last a lifetime.

"Local GPs are very concerned about number of young people who require support and the inability to give them timely access to psychologists.

"Young people across regional Victoria were already experiencing difficulties accessing timely support. That shortage has now been made even worse."

Mr Walsh has strongly argued for a more proportionate response to COVID that gives consideration to the impact lockdowns have on people's mental health.

He said in August; Last month, Lifeline recorded its four busiest days in its 57-year history - a whopping 40 per providing rolling coverage on local COVID outbreaks. cent increase in calls from the same time two years ago.

services available to our kids now when they need it the most," Mr Walsh said.

"The mental health and wellbeing of our children must play a central role in the government's decision-making."

Shadow Mental Health Minister Emma Kealy said children had borne the brunt of the state's lockdowns, resulting in a loss of classroom time and social interaction with friends and families.

"The Andrews Labor Government has a duty to ensure every Victorian student has immediate access to mental health professions in their school to ensure no child will suffer long-lasting trauma as a result of its devastating lockdowns," Ms Kealy said.

#### 13 September 2021 Walsh says regional journos are yesterday's news under Labor

The Nationals leader and Member for Murray Plains, Peter Walsh, says the Victorian government is condemning regional media to obscurity through its decision to exclude country newspaper publishers for COVID-19 support.

Mr Walsh said it could almost be seen as a campaign to deprive regional communities of an independent and locally relevant source of information.

He said he wants the government to urgently reverse that decision to help keep people informed.

"The Nationals raised this in the Parliament last week, pointing out country newspapers were not eligible to apply for business support because the Andrews Labor Government had excluded them from its already very narrow eligibility criteria," Mr Walsh said.

"Local news organisations have been smashed by COVID. While country journalists continue their tireless work to report on the news that matters to our communities, advertising revenues have declined dramatically," he said.

"This is putting newsrooms under even greater pressure, eroding the already slim margins of the print media.

"Last year, the state government committed to at least one page of advertising in all local newspapers each week.

"When that commitment expired, many local papers found themselves with less government advertising revenue coming in and they were not eligible for any business support grants.

"Some regional news outlets have had to stand down staff and others forced to fold.

"Meanwhile, the government continues to pour millions upon millions of dollars into self-promotion in the city."

Mr Walsh said support for regional newsrooms was more important now than ever, in a time where COVID-19 and vaccination misinformation is rampant online.

"Our local journalists are trusted, credible sources of information, relied on by our communities in times of uncertainty," he said.

"Our local newspapers have done an outstanding job,

"Given the enormous pressure facing country journalists, I "Daniel Andrews must make mental health support am calling on the government to immediately reverse its decision and expand COVID-19 business support to include country newspapers."



#### ISSUE #924– September 17, 2021



#### Shire Council News

#### **COMING UP**

Wednesday, 20 October

Council meeting, 6pm

The meeting can be viewed via live streaming at campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming

<u>Community Newsletter - Out now</u> This month's Campaspe Times community newsletter has been delivered to residents and businesses across the shire. It can also be viewed online at www.camaspe.vic.gov.au/newsletter

#### Expressions of Interest - Audit & Risk Committee

Two positions are open for this committee: An external full member An external affiliate member

Criteria for appointment is experience and/or gualifications in at least one of the following areas accounting, auditing, risk management, governance, or public sector executive Vaccines for children & adults

management.

Full details are available on Council's webpage, "Latest News", Public Notice 14 September.

Copies of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter and answers to enquiries may be obtained by contacting Fleur Cousins, General Manager Corporate on 5481 2200 during office hours.

#### Now Open

For all projects and applications open. visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/nowopen

#### **Draft Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan**

This four year plan sets a broad mission, goals and priorities for action. It brings together partner organisations to identify and respond to the main health and wellbeing challenges of our shire. The draft plan is out for comment, closing Friday, 24 September.

Other documents open for comment:

Draft Council Plan - closing Wednesday, 22 September. Draft Financial Plan - closing Wednesday, 22 September. #MyCampaspe photo competition - entries closing Thursday, 30 September.

#### Immunisations

**Campaspe Shire Council Immunisation Session** By appointment only Ph: 1300 666 535 Monday, 27 September 11.30am – 12noon Lockington Bush Nursing Centre

# HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THE **COVID-19 VACCINE? ALK TO A DOCTOR**

There's a lot of talk out there about the COVID-19 vaccine.

But when it comes to your health, the one talk you should have is with a doctor or pharmacist.

They can answer any questions you have and give you the information you need.



Get informed and get vaccinated.

GO TO CORONAVIRUS.VIC.GOV.AU OR CALL 1800 675 398



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

#### Page 18





# Season 2021 Club News

#### Page 19

Staying united on and off the field

#### **Final series - CANCELLED**

Unfortunately the league has come to the decision to cancel the final's series due to the current restrictions in place for Covid-19.



#### **HDFNL MEDIA RELEASE**

Heathcote District Football Netball League Board in consultation with all clubs from the HDFNL, have formally decided to cancel the finals series for Season 2021.

With the announcement of some restrictions easing from midnight on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September, and at this stage with no date or timeline to return to community sport and the possibility of COVID impacting the health of the players and communities, the HDFNL Board have made this difficult decision.

Minor Premiers will be acknowledged and awarded a minor premiership trophy for historical purposes. **FOOTBALL:** 

Seniors: Lockington Bamawm United FNC

Reserves: White Hills FNC

Under 18's: Huntly FNC

NETBALL:

A Grade: Elmore FNC

A Reserve: Mount Pleasant FNC

B Grade: North Bendigo FNC

B Reserve: Elmore FNC

17 & Under: Elmore FNC

15 & Under: Elmore FNC

HDFNL Board will be going ahead with the Best & Fairest Awards and other perpetual awards. The date has yet to be set for the live vote count and will be announced, individual awards will be delivered and presented to the winners when restrictions ease further.

HDNFL Board wishes to thank their major sponsors; Bendigo Bank, Fosterville Gold, Bendigo Taxis, Sportspower Bendigo, Elmore Machinery Field Days, Champions IGA, High St Xray, Bendigo Club and Centa Vic Clothing for their continued support.

All HDFNL board members, want to particularly thank all their clubs, volunteers, players, Bendigo Umpires Association and extended communities for their support and understanding in this very difficult year.

Together we can continue to grow the HDFNL and look forward to seeing all our players and supporters back for a bigger and better season in 2022.

Peter Cole

Chair of HDFNL Board

| Website: www.aflcentralvic.com.au Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/HeathcoteDFNL/

Now it's not how we have envisioned but a huge CONGRATULATIONS to our senior boys who have been crowned 'Minor Premiers' of season 2021. Although very well deserved finishing the season undefeated, I'm sure the boys would have preferred to have fought it out to the very end but this season will

certainly go down as an interesting one in the history books.

Here's some snaps of our boys in action throughout the season doing what they did best...



With the on again off again season, I would like everyone to give themselves a pat on the back in making this challenging season continue to run so smoothly. To the players, thank you for your understanding and continuing to roll up when it was so stop start. To the committee, the endless amount of work you have all put in to make sure everyone was across the ever changing rules, thank you. And lastly to our supporters, your generosity will never go unnoticed and we thank you for your continued support as we understand these times are super challenging for you. We hope to see you back on deck for season 2022.



#### LBU Player update:

Signing on again for season 2022, Fraser & Nath will be back in the hoops!

Hopefully next season brings us a lot more games & 'freedom' to do what we all love - playing the game!





