

# Locky News

Lockington's Priceless Paper

#### \$ FREE

#### CAMPASPE SHIRE COUNCILLORS LISTENED TO REASON AND DELAYED CLOSURE OF REGIONAL POOLS

With such very short notice of a looming council decision on the closure and decommissioning of the shire's regional pools, it was uplifting to witness the joining together of all of our rural towns in the fight to save our regional facilities.

Our rural towns had a strong representation in the council chambers, and great support outside the chambers, by way of protesters and a drive by of supporters. Then there were the likes of me, who couldn't get to Echuca for the meeting, who watched what they could, live streamed.

I don't think our regional communities could have got any better outcome from the council meeting.

In short, no vote on the closure of pools, the CEO to come up with a community engagement timetable by April's council meeting, the community plans and place based plans to be completed by May 2023, only then will any closures will be discussed.

Let's all make sure we get actively involved in the community planning process, so that our voices are heard about the importance of our regional facilities (not just our pools). Keep watch for your local planning meetings and get along to them and have your say.

Alison Stewart (Editor)

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This week's Locky News was prepared by Alison and Rhain		

#### LOCKINGTON QUEEN COMPETITION

A Queen Competition is being conducted by the ladies, auxiliary of the Lockington Swimming Pool, and the auxiliary is very pleased with the response.

The five queens are — Beverley Elliott (Tennyson), Carol Coghill (Pine Grove), Averal Hammond, (Kotta), Jan Gray (Bamawm), and Elaine Hewlett (Lockington). Tennyson Queen (Bev-

Tennyson Queen (Beverley Elliott), commenced with a slide evening, held at the home of Mr and Mrs Fenton Phillips, Tennyson. During the evening entertainment was provided by Mesdames Sue McLean, Jean Brophy and Elaine Ayres.

Beverley and her committee organised a haphazard tennis tournament at the Tennyson courts.

Carol Coghill, the held a the the Pine Grove Queen Tiffany Party home of her parents, Mr and Mrs K. R. Coghill, which proved to be an outstanding success. The committee was thrilled to receive a donation of a necklace of cultured pearls which will help to swell the funds. The first function to be held by the Kotta Queen Miss Averel Hammond and her committee, was a coffee afternoon and mannequin parade in the lovely garden at the home of Mr and Mrs R. Bickford, Kotta. models were Melva, The Jan. and Wendy Bickford, Amand Susan Rolfe. anda Monica Spedding, Sharon, Wright, Lynette Saligari, Averel Hammond and little

Ailsa Hammond. The parade was compered by Mrs John Forbes. A successful hayride and progressive tea was held by Miss Elaine Hewlett, the Lockington Queen. 34 teenagers boarded the trailers and their appetites were amply catered for. Singing and games were also part

ment. Jan Gray the Bamawm Queen, is finding morning coffee and record parties a good way to raise funds, and successful parties have been held by Mesdames G. McAlister, N. Tonkin (president of Bamawm Committee), as well as at the home of her parents Mr and Mrs J. Gray. The barefoot dance held at Lockington Pool proved popular with the teenagers.

of the evening's entertain-

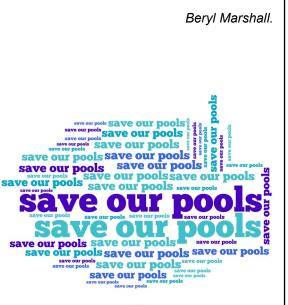


#### SAVE OUR POOL

It was great to find, recently, this Campaspe Valley Newspaper cutting of 21 January, 1970 which highlights some of the tremendous and hard work Lockington and districts went to in order to have a swimming pool built.

It felt important then, as it is now, to have a pool for teaching people to swim and ultimately save lives, not to mention the social interaction.

Dedicated people worked hard to have a pool, and now it is important for us to work hard to save our pool.



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 of the conditions that faced the farming families who lived in our district more than 130 years ago, in 1887 to be more precise. As the season progressed that year, somewhat surprisingly, rain seemed to fall as and when needed. On 14 October, the Kerang Times and Swan Hill Gazette carried a report from Pannoobamawm, that wildflowers grew "in great profusion and of many kinds and colours." The prospects for the coming harvest looked better than had been the case for several years, so it must have come as a great disappointment, just two weeks later, when the crops were attacked by red rust. Then, on 5 November, the Weekly Times reported the presence of the "farmers' dread - take-all" in the district.

Added to these, came the even greater threat, locusts. However, writing from Mologa, a correspondent to the Leader on 3 December 1887, had a useful comment to make: - "I have noticed that the garden flower called larkspur is a deadly poison to them, and wherever there is a larkspur there is sure to be seen a heap of dead grasshoppers. They do not eat the plant away at once, for I have stood and watched them at it: some of them as soon as they light on it give a kick and fall floundering on the ground and die in a few minutes, while others of, I suppose, a more hardy nature take a bite or two and meet the same fate as their comrades. This plant is likely to prove valuable for the purpose of poisoning these insects, and I am sure that if its effect was more largely known, and if it was cultivated throughout the infested districts, it would cause a visible decrease in their numbers." The Editor of the *Leader* was impressed and, at the end of the report, was a brief note: - "[Will you oblige by sending a specimen in flower of the Pannoomilloo, had "been making great improvements with the amount Larkspur. Ed. L.]"

So, it happened that the 1887-1888 harvest did not realise expectations, despite its having been, according to the Milloo correspondent whose report appeared in the Bendigo Advertiser on 7 January 1888, "a remarkably good growing season." To add to the losses caused by the pest infestations already described, "heavy winds and storms at Christmas time did a considerable amount of damage, causing huge patches of the crop to lie down, never to rise again." Hot and dry weather prevailed throughout January, made more disagreeable by the dust carried by the strong westerly winds. On 25 February, the Terricks correspondent to the Weekly Times noted that a large number of farmers were selling out and moving to other parts of the colony – a feature he felt did not speak well for the future success of the district. On 29 February, the Milloo correspondent to the Bendigo Advertiser reported that Mr Royle of Milloo, was one of three There'll be more next time. 'Bye until then, local farmers who had successful sales of horses, cattle, farming implements, machinery and household furniture at about that

#### time. Two of the properties had been sold, the other leased for a number of years.

The hot weather might not have been responsible for the extent of illness that was experienced in the district in the early months of 1888, but it would have exacerbated the situation. One death in late January, which was actually attributed to the severe heat, was that of the youngest child of the Hardiman Family of Terricks. The Gray Family, also of Terricks, lost a daughter to diphtheria in January 1888, and on 28 January, the Ovens and Murray Advertiser reported that another daughter of the Gray Family was seriously ill with diphtheria and was not expected to survive. The sad fact is that the Grays had also lost a son and a daughter due to diphtheria in December 1887. On 10 April 1888, the Bendigo Advertiser carried the report that: - "Diphtheria has unfortunately made its unwelcome appearance" in Pannoomilloo, where it had taken the life of Thomas, the son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Doyle. Thomas was the third child lost to the Doyle Family in little more than a year. Their children, Margaret and Edmund, died in 1887, due to heat-effected illness, though not diphtheria in that instance. However, diphtheria was a dangerous, and highly contagious illness, and it remained in our district until at least July 1888. It was the cause of several more local deaths, including that of a little daughter of the Windridge Family. Due to fear of the illness, school attendances were down right across the region.

Nevertheless, the schools remained functioning and on 17 February 1888, the Elmore Standard reported that Board of Advice No 317, whose area of responsibility included the State School at of money granted them, at the various schools under their charge." (When free and compulsory education was introduced in Victoria in 1873, the local management of groups of schools in specified areas was the responsibility of Boards of Advice, the forerunners of today's School Councils. Each Board consisted of 5 to 7 people, elected by ratepayers living in the school district. Boards were abolished in 1910, when they were replaced by School Committees; one Committee to represent each individual school.) The report went on to say that some of the schools within No 317's area had "been open for several years unfenced, owing to the Government only subscribing half of the cost. But the older established ones are now to have fences erected as soon as possible, and as some of the teachers have planted the grounds with trees obtained from the State Nursery, there will soon be a great improvement visible."

Marg O'Brien

#### 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.





#### STEVE BROOKS ENDORSED AS LIBERAL CANDIDATE FOR NICHOLLS

Cobram Secondary College teacher, and local farmer 38 year old Stephen Brooks has been endorsed as the Liberal Party candidate for Nicholls in the upcoming Federal Election.

"I recognise that this is an enormously diverse electorate, stretching from the Murray to Broadford. We are culturally and economically diverse, a great place to live, but in the last six years our issues have slipped off the radar in Canberra." Steve said.

"I will immediately contact all of the communities in Nicholls to introduce myself and to start acting on federal concerns."

"Politics should be a place that resolves the issues that and I also want people to connect with me on social confront us locally, nationally and internationally. I want media. The election could be as early as March so there to restore the electorate's faith in their local member. I is no time to lose," he said. want people to know that "Brooksy has your back on this, he will listen, and then take action," Steve Brooks said.

Sharman Stone, former Liberal member for Murray, now Nicholls, is hugely supportive of Steve's candidature. "I am so pleased and relieved to see this experienced, keen, energetic young man ready to take up the fight in Canberra," she said.

"This is a tough job and not for the faint hearted but I know Steve has got what it takes. He will never stop trying, and will listen and act", she said. "And as a Liberal Steve will be at the table where and when the decisions are made. He will be on the top team, not alone, peering through the window, or having to vote with Labor."

Steve Brooks is a fourth generation local born in Cobram and raised on the family farm and went to secondary school in Shepparton. He worked overseas as a wheat

#### LIONS CLUB AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

What a day. It was great to see you all come out for breakfast, talk to friends and relax. After breakfast we watched 2 YAGers raise the flags at the cenataph then listened to guest speaker Coucilor Tony Marwood.

On behalf of all members I would like to thank you all for attending and making the event worth while.

Marg Dowie Secretary Lions Club.



trader and business man before returning home to start his own orchard. He is also a local secondary teacher.

"Teaching gave me a deep understanding of the pressures on our young people and their families, especially during COVID", Steve said.

He lists water security, business development, the environment, employment, child care, health, aged care, education, training and pathways to jobs as some of the key areas where he will work with people to deliver change for the good.

"I now live in Cobram, but have just rented a flat in Shepparton so I can better reach all of the 25,000 square km electorate during the campaign, " Steve said. "I am determined to meet as many people as soon as possible, and I also want people to connect with me on social media. The election could be as early as March so there is no time to lose," he said.

Contacts:

Steve Brooks 0419 446 588

Sharman Stone 0427 008 768





#### ISSUE #933 – February 4, 2022

#### LOCKINGTON PLANNING GROUP

Next meeting:
Where:
Time:

**MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022** Lockington Community Hall 7.30 pm



Planning needs to commence prior to:



RURAL AID VOLUNTEERS COMING: When:Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021. Planning needs to begin on projects throughout the district. Please ensure you have a representative present at this meeting so that we can be organised and ready to go when the volunteers arrive. Some of the original projects and now been completed and we need to know that we have a united plan for future developments. Wendy Sims 0427 868 307 Meals to be provided during the week: Sunday:

Meals to be provided during the week: Sunday: Monday: Tuesday: Lions Club Wednesday: Bowls Club Thursday: Volunteers eating at the pub Friday:

#### Senior Citizens News

Hope everyone has had a very happy, healthy and safe festive season and ready to recommence our meetings for 2022.

We are very pleased to invite ALL SENIOR MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY to hear a very valuable and important discussion on "My Aged Care" with our local Ruth Wood and her team, informing us what is available to us in our senior years, and how we can manage to stay in our homes much longer.

Please join us in our club rooms in the Community Hall on Monday 21st February at 10:00am.

All members... please note the earlier time at 10:00am, for this month only

Dot Pearse (Secretary)



## **AGED CARE INFORMATION MORNING**

Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2022 Lockington Community Centre Senior Citizen's Club Rooms

10.15 am

Come along for a friendly chat with Carol Bronsgeest, Natasha Crimmins and Ruth Wood Information regarding registering for My Aged Care and Home Care Packages in our area. ALL WELCOME

FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA

Phone our Echuca office for more information 8527 5800



Living well with choice and peace of mind



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Lockington & District Bush Nursing Centre Inc.

ISSUE 185 FEBRUARY 2022

## 🌞 <u>SUMMER SPECIAL</u> 🕺

## Heat kills more Australians than any natural disaster



- Extreme heat can affect anybody.
- Heat can cause illnesses such as heat cramps and heat exhaustion which can lead to the life-threatening condition, heatstroke. Heatstroke is fatal in up to 80% of cases.
   Those most at risk are older people, young children and

people with a medical condition.

#### \*\*\*Hot Heat Tips\*\*\*

Survive the heat this summer with these five simple tips:

- Drink plenty of water- Keep a full drink bottle with you
- Never leave anyone in a car- Never leave kids, adults or pets in cars the temperature can double in minutes.
- Stay somewhere cool- Spend as much time as possible in cool or air-conditioned buildings
- **Plan ahead-** Cancel non-essential outings, check that your fan or air-conditioner works well and Stock up on food, water and medicines so you don't have to go out in the heat.
- Check in on others- Look after those most at risk in the heat your neighbour living alone, older people, young children, people with a medical condition and don't forget your pets

## Two in three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer by the age of 70



Most skin cancer can be prevented by using good sun protection. When you cover things, they last longer. Same goes for you and your skin.

### **SNAKES THAT BITE:**



## **Snake Bites**

There are around 3,000 snakebites in Australia each year, with recent figures showing around 550 hospitalisations and an average of two deaths per annum. Snake bite bandages can be purchased a the Centre. See the nurses for snake bite education and how to apply the bandage. Bianca Fleming (Women's Health nurse) is scheduled to visit the Centre <u>Tuesday 22nd</u> <u>February.</u> If you would like an appointment please phone the Centre.



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





#### **Shire Council News**

#### Wednesday, 16 February

Council meeting, 6pm

A limited number of people are permitted to attend. Attendance is by application, with full details and online available www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/ form at meetingscovid

www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/livestreaming

#### Now Open

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

#### **Draft General Local Law**

The draft General Local Law is now open for community comment. The range of what the local law covers is very extensive, including roads, public places and Council land, environment, animals and the administration and enforcement of these items. Comments close Friday, 18 February. To submit your feedback, refer to the 'Now Open' tab on Council's website.

#### **Chat With Us**

There is a new way to contact Council. 'Webchat' is an instant messaging service, that will send your message directly to our Customer Service team. At the bottom right hand corner of our website home page, you'll find the Webchat blue icon. Once you've clicked on this, a window will pop where you can message a Customer Service staff member directly. 'Webchat' is available 8.30am – 4.45pm Monday to Friday.

#### Rates Due Soon

This is a reminder to all ratepayers who pay their rates in full, payment is due Tuesday, 15 February. For those ratepayers who pay their rates in instalments, the third instalment is due Monday, 28 February. Any ratepayer facing genuine financial hardship in paying their rates is urged to contact Council as soon as possible to discuss The meeting can be viewed via live streaming at their individual circumstances. You can pay your rates in person at any of our Customer Service Centres, via our website, via BPay, via credit card, via the direct debit payment scheme or in person at any post office.

#### Immunisation Sessions

#### by Appointment Only

To book an appointment, please call Council on 1300 666 535. If you are feeling unwell or have any cold or flu like symptoms, you must cancel or reschedule your appointment. Refer to Council's website for more information.

#### Monday, 28 March

Lockington Bush Nursing Centre 11.30am - 12 noon



Now Open

3pm - 7pm Daily

(Closed Christmas Day)

Casual fees	
Family	\$17.50
Adult	\$5.40
Student / Child	\$4.40
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Season ticket fees			
Family	\$155		
Adult	\$88		
Student / Child	\$66		

.00 .00

50

#### LOCKY CLICKERS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Our first meet & greet for the year for our photography club, founded and run on Facebook by Ellen and Vin.

Every month we will be catching up at the amazing Ciurleo's Ice Cream & Waffle House in Lockington. We will also be looking to run weekly gatherings, which is still in the process of setting up at the moment and will let everyone know when they start at a later date. It doesn't matter what type of photographer you are!

If you are a photography enthusiast, amateur or professional photographer, we would love for you to come along and meet some locals. Please join our group on Facebook : Locky Clickers Club

From left to right - Vin, Helen, Ellen and Su - Members of the Locky Clickers Photography Club.







## 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



### BAREFOOT BOWLS

BAREFOOT BOWLS has now commenced for the New Year.

Register 6:30pm for 7:00pm start.

All ages welcome! Singles, couples, families, groups come along and have a fun night!

Of course, Covid rules will apply, as we are governed by Bowls Victoria, proof of double vax is a requirement.

ochester

Servicing Rochester and surrounding districts BOWENWORK™ provides effective treatment for:

- Sports Injuries
- Stress and tension symptoms
- Back pain and Sciatica
- RSI and Tennis Elbow
- Neck and shoulder problems
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- Migraines and headaches
- Pregnancy and childhood disorders
- Menstrual irregularities

Fee structure Adults:\$70 per treatment Children and Concession: \$60 per treatment

Session lengths will vary depending on treatment on the day and detail of treatment plans developed with the client however will typically be less than 1 hour in duration

For more information or to make an appointment, please call, text or email:





around and check out what our town has to offer... the Channel, Ciurleo's Ice Cream & Waffle Shop, Giddings Co, Helen's Takeaway, Lockington's Heritage Complex and of coarse Our Pub (our Community Owned Hotel)

Locals wanting to join in please contact Deb 0428 554 750



Locky News is pleased to announce that we have a qualified Graphic Designer / Page Layout artist as part of our typing team. We are offering all local Community Groups and Organisations **free** flyer and advertising design.

If you are interested in using our free services, contact Alison via the Locky News email address: lockynews@bigpond.com.

For more information on what services can be provided, contact Rhain via his email address: *wyvernslair@gmail.com*.



#### Are you involved in a community group? Does your group share news via The Locky News?

Please be sure to appoint a publicity officer, and get them to send us items for the paper.

We have many readers who love reading about the local families and their sporting and community achievements.

This is the best and FREE local publicity your community group will ever get!



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INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMERS

## Australian Government Mobile Service Centres

If you live in a rural area, you may need to travel greater distances to access government payments and services. To make it easier for you to access these services, we're bringing them to you and your community.

Mobile Service Centres travel extensively throughout rural and regional Australia and also to disaster affected areas to provide help and support.

Staff from Services Australia travel with the Mobile Service Centres and can help you with Centrelink and Medicare payments and services. Our Mobile Service Centres also have disabled access.

Information about Department of Veterans' Affairs programs and support services for veterans and their families will also be available.

Wi-Fi is available for visitors to the Mobile Service Centre and staff will be able to help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services online.

Our staff will provide you with friendly face-to-face service, information and support. From time to time, representatives from other government agencies also travel with the Mobile Service Centres.

## More information

To view the latest itineraries for the Australian Government Mobile Service Centres, visit servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice

The stopping locations for Mobile Service Centres are promoted in each town and on social media before each visit.

## Information and help you can access on board the Mobile Service Centres

We provide information, help and support to rural and regional communities, including:

- families
- older Australians
- students
- job seekers
- people with disability
- carers
- farmers
- · self-employed people.

We can assist you with:

- registering and using the agency's online services
- new claims for Centrelink payments
- updating and confirming Centrelink and Medicare information
- information on how financial matters may impact on payments
- assistance with payment and service options
- rural payment entitlements for eligible farmers
- non-cash Medicare transactions
- enrolling for and issuing new Medicare cards
- updating and re-issuing Medicare cards
- social work support and referrals.





servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice

INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMERS

## Australian Government Mobile Service Centre

## **Serving Regional Australia**

Visit the Mobile Service Centre to find out about Australian Government payments and services for rural families, older Australians, students, job seekers, people with disability, carers, farmers and self-employed people.

Information about Department of Veterans' Affairs programs and support services for veterans and their families will also be available.

Staff can provide you with information and support. They can also help you create a myGov account. myGov is a simple and secure way to access government services online.

## Wednesday, 16 February 2022

9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Near the Community Centre, Shakespeare Crescent

## LOCKINGTON

For more information, go to servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice







servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice

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#### MEDIA RELEASE

A better deal for Murray Plains Peter WALSH MEMBER FOR MURRAY PLAINS | LEADER OF THE NATIONALS NATIONALS for Regional Victoria

#### WALSH PUTS THE BRAKES ON CALLS **TO LOWER REGIONAL SPEED LIMITS**

The Nationals leader and Member for Murray Plains, Peter Walsh, says it has been a deadly start to the year on Victorian regional roads and instead of commissioning urgent repairs, the Andrews Labor government's solution is to lower the speed limit.

Mr Walsh said already seven people have died on regional and rural roads in the first two weeks of the New Year.

He said that was five more than for the same period last year – and changing speed limits on open roads is not even a band-aid solution let alone a long-term answer to Victorians at risk. the problem.

"Recent calls to lower speed limits on some regional highways to as slow as 80km/h is a pathetic response which ignores the fact that roads, such as the Western Highway between Ararat and Ballarat, are crumbling.

"Stretches of the road are getting so bad the Andrews government could lower the speed limits to walking pace and they would still be a risk."

Mr Walsh said under the Andrews Labor government proposal, Victorians would be forced to factor in extra travel time on both short and long trips, while the roads would not only not remain in the same dangerous condition, but they would also continue deteriorating.

He said the poor condition of too many regional Victorian roads is putting driver safety at risk, while country Victorians dodge potholes on their way to work.

"Instead of supporting regional communities by investing in roads for Victorian drivers, the Andrews Government's solution to pay for its budget-busting major road projects in Melbourne is to suck all the money out of regional Victoria," Mr Walsh added.

"The Nationals have made regional Victoria's transport network road and rail - a priority when elected and will allocate significant dollars to get the job done right," he said.

"Road asset management was slashed by 25 per cent in year's budget, while the Andrews Labor this Government's city-focused West Gate Tunnel project blew out by a further \$1.9 billion in December alone.

"Rural roads are used for so much more than just commuters," Mr Walsh said. "Particularly at this time of year, regional roads are shared by agricultural machinery and freight and everyday users – that situation gets even more crowded when school returns.

"The government's solution to reduce speed limits, rather than simply fix the roads, rubs salt into the wound of regional Victorians.'

#### ANDREWS COWERS OUT OF SIGHT AS VICTORIA'S HEALTH CRISIS COLLAPSES TO ITS CODE BROWN

The Nationals leader and Member for Murray Plains, Peter Walsh, has condemned the Andrews Government's decision to declare a Code Brown across Victoria's health system.

Mr Walsh said the Andrews government has been in power for seven years - and has had two years of pandemic - to prepare for the numbers it knew were coming; and it has done nothing.

"Andrews' Code Brown is, pure and simple, his admission of the severity of the crisis in Victoria's health service.

"Healthcare workers face the prospect of being recalled from leave as hospitals struggle to fill shifts due to chronic staff shortages caused by the Andrews Government's lack of planning and preparation," Mr Walsh explained.

"And the man who, for the past two years, has been lecturing us on Covid every day, was nowhere to be seen when this spectacular failure had to be announced," he said.

"While the panic stations in the Health Department won't reach as far as regional hospitals such as Echuca and Swan Hill in my electorate; bigger regional services, such as Bendigo, have been dragged into the chaos."

Mr Walsh said in Melbourne; ambulances are now ramping regularly, dental, and elective surgery wait lists are blowing out and now IVF services are being suspended for months; placing an untold emotional burden on families and the health conditions of sick Victorians are deteriorating further, putting the lives of

He said the Code Brown "was code for a declaration, a confession" that indicated just how dire Victoria's health crisis is.

"Two years ago; Daniel Andrews labelled our health system 'world class' and claimed it was 'well-prepared' to deal with an outbreak," Mr Walsh said.

"The Premier told Victorians at the time that his government was putting in measures that would support our health system to manage the pandemic," he said.

"A surge capacity of staff and 4000 ICU beds were promised. Neither were delivered. Not even close.

"For two years Victorians have had the harshest of lockdowns to enable our health system to be prepared to cope with demands from Covid cases.

"As we enter our third year of the virus, it is now beyond denial the Andrews government's escalation of incompetence ensures it has failed in managing even the most basic elements of the pandemic response.

situation Mr Walsh blamed on neglect and A mismanagement from the Premier down.

"It is important our health services are adequately staffed and resourced to deal with the omicron surge - however this week's Code Brown declaration sadly demonstrates the Andrews Labor government has not just failed to ensure our health system is prepared – it has failed, pure and simple."

#### **BLANKET SURGERY BAN IS ANDREWS TAKING ANOTHER** SLEDGEHAMMER TO STATE'S WELLBEING SAYS WALSH

The Nationals leader and Member for Murray Plains, Peter Walsh, says the Daniel Andrews Code Brown is achieving nothing in major private hospitals across regional Victoria - apart from creating genuine pain and distress.

Mr Walsh said specialists using private hospitals in key regional hubs such as Bendigo, Ballarat and Geelong have protested the suspension of elective surgery.

And now been told by Premier Andrews there was more to consider than the request of a few, he said.

"As soon as we can come out from the Code Brown (emergency declaration), as soon as we feel that it is safe and that we have significant capacity to resume services, that is exactly what we will do," Mr Andrews told media yesterday.

"With the greatest respect to the surgical community, they do one part of the work, they have got to be supported by teams of people," Andrews said.

"It is very rare that there would be a surgeon providing care to a patient. Even a day procedure, there are other

members of the team and those other members are very high need at the moment.

"We are employing all sorts of people in different ways. Leader of The Nationals and Member for Murray Plains, But we have significant pressure in the system." Peter Walsh, is calling on Victorian Agriculture Minister

But Mr Walsh said hospitals have been telling cancelled patients none of their staff have been called on to do anything.

"I have been receiving calls from constituents confused and concerned about yet another Daniel Andrews kneejerk reaction.

"I have people calling me and asking if I can do something to help, but as always this government refuses to listen to anyone."

Swan Hill parent Debbie White said when her daughter's elective surgery was cancelled she rang her specialist's rooms and was told they still have empty theatres and 50 per cent of their staff have been forced onto annual leave as they have nothing to do.

#### WALSH SAYS BLANKET HEALTHCARE BANS ARE A PRESCRIPTION OF PURE PANIC

The Nationals leader and Member for Murray Plains, Peter Walsh, says regional Victorians are among the hardest hit by the Andrews Labor government's blanket bans across the healthcare system.

He said in typical Melbourne-first style, the Premier's selfconfessed panic approach of "you kind of start with the worst-case position and then try and reinstate whatever you can" has exposed to everyone in the state that our "worst-case position is having Labor in government".

"This government's close first, ask questions later approach is causing a lot of stress and confusion for regional patients," Mr Walsh said.

"Daniel Andrews' decision to impose a blanket ban on elective surgery at public hospitals, private hospitals, and day-surgery centres is unnecessarily leaving thousands of Victorians in pain and their health deteriorating while awaiting vital surgery," he added.

"What this government still does not get is that for many regional patients; a trip to the specialist or hospital can be a two- or three-day commitment because of the travel involved.

"And then, after calls from the Victorian Liberal Nationals and public outcry, the Andrews Government yesterday reversed its decision to cancel IVF treatments – admitting these highly-specialised clinicians and facilities used for IVF weren't required as part of the COVID-19 response."

Mr Walsh said instead of blanket bans and backflips, we need a proportionate response that shuts down only what is necessary, so more Victorians can continue to access the healthcare they need.

He said this latest botched management of a struggling health system was simply another example of the inability of the Andrews Labor government to successfully manage anything.

"This has all been backwards. Instead of closing everything first and then reopening later, the Government should only close what is necessary in the first place," Mr Walsh explained.

"Thousands of Victorians who could safely receive the treatment they need are being denied due to sloppy and unnecessary blanket bans.

"Just like IVF treatments, all elective surgeries and healthcare services that can be resumed safely must be done so immediately."

#### FULL VICTORIAN DUCK SEASON MUST BE ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATELY SAYS WALSH

Leader of The Nationals and Member for Murray Plains, Peter Walsh, is calling on Victorian Agriculture Minister Mary-Anne Thomas to stop delaying the announcement of a full duck season for 2022.

Mr Walsh said it is an announcement that should be based on the research and science; not as a political tool to lure inner-city votes.

He said they understood the Game Management Authority has delivered its recommendations to the government; so there are no excuses for further obfuscation.

"The pandemic, the shorter seasons and the reduced bag limits have all been disappointing for hunters, they deserve a full season." Mr Walsh said.

"Most recent data estimates duck populations have remained strong across Victoria, with estimates of between 2.9 and 3.6 million game ducks, numbers buoyed by our consecutive wet years combined with La Niña conditions over summer, have only sustained populations," he said.

"There is simply no reason for this Minister or this Government to further reduce bag limits or the length of the season – particularly when other states have just announced full seasons."

Mr Walsh said the economic impact of shortened season is also something the government has been happy to sweep under the carpet.

He said recreational shooters are a critical part of the regional economy; supporting local shops and businesses when they travel and "this needs to be encouraged, not destroyed".

"This is not just about shooting; our recreational hunters will inject a massive \$356 million into the regional economy – that's the sort of numbers we need to be talking to boost our local businesses as they try to recover and rebuild." Mr Walsh added.

"The Minister must announce a full season. Anything short of that – apart from the obvious vote hunting in Melbourne – will be yet another slap in the face of regional small business by a government which has already proved regional communities are not on its agenda," he said.

"Rather than harvesting city votes in an election year, Daniel Andrews and his government must look beyond the outskirts of Melbourne and support regional businesses and recreators."





#### LOCKINGTON BOWLS CLUB

#### Report - 24/1/2022

It was a huge week-end of bowls at Lockington with the Campaspe Area Pennant on Saturday followed by the Annual Waterwheel Classic Fours on Sunday.

To start the week on Monday, the final of the women's Club Championship was held between Leanne McInnes and Phylis MacFarlane. Mild weather and overhead cloud cover, the conditions were ideal for bowls. The final began with both bowlers trading ends with scores at a close footing. McInnes managed to break the shackles and picked up a couple of maximum four shots to lead 14-5. MacFarlane was trying desperately to bridge the gap, but McInnes was in demolition mode as she grabbed two more maximum shots to break away and record a 25-12 victory and record a third Club Championship title. MacFarlane was far from disgraced and could take something out of the game and the domination by her opponent. Congratulations to both bowlers.

On Sunday the club held the Annual Waterwheel Classic Fours attracting a quality field of 112 bowlers from Bendigo, Calivil, Dingee, Echuca, Elmore, Ky Valley View, Lockington, Marong, Mathoura, Moama, Pyramid Hill, Rich River, Rochester, Serpentine, Stanhope, Tongala and White Hills. At the completion of the four games of ten ends, there were only three undefeated teams to contest the five end play-offs. In the first play-off the Moama rink comprising Tony Hawley, Arch Bailey, Russell Kelly and The Friday evening barbecue and practice session was George Thornley (s) played the Echuca four in Ian Page, Ashley French, John Dinsdale and Steve Cunnington (s). The Echuca team picked up a four on the third end to win 5-3 and win a berth in the final against another Echuca rink of June Clifford, Max Clifford, Gael Kerr and Ivan Hicks (s). The final produced some quality bowls as both teams battled to gain the edge. However, in the final stanza it was the Ivan Hicks skipped rink to gain the victory and have their names etched on the coveted Honour Board. In fact it was a rather historic moment as it is the very first time in the 52 year history of the Waterwheel Classic Fours that the names of two women have been added to the board. The team of June Clifford, Max Clifford, Gael Kerr, Ivan Hicks (s) were successful in defeating the Cunnington skipped rink 5-3 in the play-off.

At the presentations, Club President Ray Hanson congratulated the winners and Runners Up on their fina display of bowling. Hanson thanked the sponsors Northern Livestock & Property Services for their ongoing support. Further acknowledgement was extended to the green staff - Kevin Humbert and Les Brereton for the immaculate presentation of the greens. The ladies committee were thanked for the magnificent presentation of meals during the day and the efficient method in the split-lunch time to observe the COVID 19 Protocol and Density limit. Tournament Secretary Chris Stewart thanked all bowlers for their support and also acknowledged the input from Russell Shawcross in gaining so many visitors and Lorraine Appleby was thanked for her many hours in organising the tournament schedule.

Four local members were thanked for standing out when an unannounced team arrived.

A very successful tournament overall.

On Sunday the final of the BCG Regional Novice Singles was held at the Golden Square Bowling Club. Our Lockington member Sue Harris was pitted against Susan Flint in the final. The game played out to be an almost included Ian Angove - John Whiteside (s) +15 shots, Ian unbelievable contest, as Flint produced some telling bowls Scurrah - Warren Jones (s) +8, Jeff Carnie - Pat Parsons from the very first bowl to have Harris on the defensive as (s) +7 and Ray Hanson - Denise Gilmore (s) +7 shots.

the lead ballooned out to an astonishing 20-2 advantage. However, Harris suddenly found the green and proceeded to win several ends to reduce the deficit to trail 16-20. Holding a close bowl for shot, Harris was close to winning the end before Flint had the ability to trail the kitty and gain that elusive shot to take final 21-16. Both bowlers were congratulated on their display and sporting spirit.

Last Tuesday the women held their Social bowls and played Pairs. The winning team was Sue Harris and Leanne McInnes (s) with one and a half wins.

Tuesday evening Sports-Barefoot bowls attracted twenty players. The winners were Milli DAngri, Andy Harris and Russell Shawcross (s) 2 wins plus 22 shots ahead of Jack Morris - Lloyd Buchanan (s) +9 and Peter Staindl - Jeff Carnie (s) + 5 shots. Thanks to Denise Gilmore and Mary Thomas for organising the teams and also to Brian Kinnane and Steve Peter for the barbecue.

On the local Pennant scene the women lost the clash with Rich River with all rinks down in the 54-89 defeat. (Annette Brereton lost to N King 13-24; Pauline Humbert I.t. P Sehestedt 19-36; Leanne McInnes I.t. P Hayes 22-29).

In the Week-end pennant both our division three and division 4B won their respective clashes against the top sides Moama and Deniliquin RSL. Division Three had two rinks up in the 64-38 victory. (Ian Johnson d. R Jackson 22-12; Graheme Turner lost to B Cuttriss 11-17; Leanne McInnes d. S Sutton 31-9). Division Four-B shared the rinks with Deniliquin RSL to win 41-36. (Bill Musgrove I.t. J Jennings 15-20; Frank Chugg d. J Wilson 26-16).

well attened with the missing member Lorraine Appleby featuring in the lucky members draw.

The next tournament on the agenda is the popular Mixed Pairs on Sunday 6th February starting at 1.00pm. Work on the big green is underway and the field for the Mixed pairs will be a maximum of 32 teams. Contact Chris Stewart 0439 834207 (text only) or Annie Haines 5486 8220 for details.

On Tuesday evening the15th February the annual Mixed Fours tournament will be held commencing at 5.00pm. Contact Lorraine Appleby 0427 502 569 or Annie Haines 5486 8220 for entries.

The finals of the Bendigo Campaspe Goldfields Regional State Fours were held at the Golden Square Bowling Club on Sunday. Congratulations to the Moama rink comprising Colleen Maslen, Merrilyn Rehe, Mariltyn Stephenson and Mary Spizer (s) on winning the title. The rink defeated another Moama team of Cheryl Doherty, Mia Young, Kath Wastell and Sandra Connolly (s) 19-12 in the final. Both teams won their semi-final in convincing fashion.

#### <u>Report - 31/1/2022</u>

After the hectic pace set last week, action slowed a little with the normal returning.

On Tuesday the women played rinks at their weekly Social bowls attracting a quality field. The winning team comprised Sue Harris, Anne Lowrie, Annie Haines, Annette Brereton (s) in a polished performance all round.

The Tuesday evening Sports/Barefoot bowls had 24 players on the green. On this occasion the cream most definitely rose to the top as John Downey and Peter Eade (s) collected the spoils scoring 2 wins plus 17 shots in a thrilling finish to edge out Steve Pavone and Lloyd Buchanan (s) 2 wins +16 shots. Other two game winners



#### LOCKINGTON BOWLS CLUB (CONTINUED)

Thanks to Gilmore and Mary Thomas for the card draw and Andrew Harris and

Russell Shawcross for attending the barbeque. Another successful night of bowls.

In the local Campaspe Area Pennant competition, the club fared well with both Weekend teams winning while the women lost to Rochester in the Midweek pennant. Midweek: Lockington lost to Rochester 44-60. (Annette Brereton I.t. L Moon 10-16; Phylis MacFarlane d. S Scholl 21-20; Pauline Humbert I.t. C Cakebread 13-24).

The Week-end pennant provided two wins by both Division Three and Division Four B. In Division Three the teams scored a 67-57 victory over Echuca. (Leanne McInnes d. N Hodge 30-20; Ian Johnson I.t. M Bennett 13 -18; Graeme Turner d. G Clymo 24-19). Division Four B defeated Echuca 46-34 with one rink win each. (Bill Musgrove d. T Deenan 30-17; Frank Chugg I.t. K Robertson 16-17). Both Division Three and Division Four B retain second spot on the premiership ladder.

During the past week members have attended local District tournaments with some success. The trio of Russell Shawcross, Andrew Harris and Leanne McInnes (s) won the Calivil Triples in a blistering performance.

On Australia Day teams visited Tongala and Dingee. All bowlers performed to an exceptional standard, but failed to enter the winners circle, however they enjoyed the fine hospitality.

The club will hold the Annual Mixed Pairs tournament on Sunday starting at 1.00pm. With the large green out of action, the field will be reduced to 28 teams and a second fill will be organised. Contact Chris Stewart 0439 834207 (text only) or Annie Haines 5486 8220 for details. There are two vacancies left.

The Friday evening barbeque was well attended with the missing member unable to win the prize.

The popular Twilight Mixed Fours will be held on Tuesday 15th February starting at 5.00pm. Entries to Annie Haines 5486 8220 or Lorraine Appleby 0427 502 569 .

The Bendigo Campaspe Goldfields Regional State Singles were held at the Bendigo East Bowling Club (Men) and the South Bendigo Bowling Club for the women. Local bowlers from the Campaspe Area were successful in reaching the Quarter-finals to be played on Sunday 13th February 2022. Quarter finalists are (Men) -Glen Dorward v. Barry Brennan; Kevin Anderson v. D Rowley; I Aitken v. B Holland; G Woodward v. A Cullen. In the women's section the quarter finalists are Sandra Connolly v. S Koch; Joan Moss v. Lee Harris; J Ross v. C Jansen; G Jones v. S Howes. Details: Barry Brennan d. Michael Ovens 25-7, w/o A Brown, d. J Matthews 25-22. Glen Dorward d. M Anderson 25-16, d. John Worledge 25 -22. Kevin Anderson d. Brad Tinning 25-16, d. G Ryan 25-7. Other results: Kevin Connolly I.t G Jackson 13-25; Paul Newcombe I.t. T Berry 16-25; Kevin Brennan d. N Belt 25-23, I.t. I Aitken 13-25; Peter Nesbitt d. Barry Tinning 25-21, I.t. Brad Holland 24-25; Brad Tinning d. J Jackman 25-24, I.t. K Anderson 16-25; Rob Wastell I.t. B Traill 12-25. Stuart Whyte I.t. C Keenan 11-25. John Worledge d. R Siesmaa 25-21, I.t. G Dorward 22-25. Roy Jackson I.t. A Spence 17-25.

The women's results: Jade Campbell I.t. S Koch 12-25; Terry Thomson w/o, I.t. S Koch 16-25; Kelli Norris I.t. J McCurry 14-25; Pam Limbrick I.t. J Ross 20-25; Cassandra Millerick d. Vera Curnow 25-12, I.t. J Ross 23-25; Kath Wastell I.t. R Punton 14-25; Mia Young I.t. G Jones 18-25; Joan Moss d. Marilyn Stephenson 25-24, d. J McCurry 25-14; Sandra Connolly d. Beverley Button 25-20. Good bowling to all bowlers participating in the finals.



#### Ladies Championships

L to R: Winner Ladies Open Championship (Leanne McInnes) Marker President (Anne Lowrie) Runner-up (Phyllis Macfarlane)



<u>Waterwheel Open Classic Fours</u> L to R: Winners Ivan Hicks (s), Gail Kerr, Max Clifford, June Clifford.



#### **FEBRUARY**

<u>Wednesday 2</u> Action Club Dinner 7:30pm at Club Rooms

<u>Thursday 3</u> Landcare Meeting 7:00pm at Lockington Hotel

Sunday 6 20 PLUS GARAGE SALES IN LOCKY 8:00am - 1:00pm

Pine Grove Gun Club Simulated Field & Game

Heritage Complex Open 1:00pm - 4:00pm On Duty: Beryl and Garry

<u>Monday 7</u> Heritage Complex Meeting 7:30pm at the Complex

<u>Wednesday 9</u> Bamawm Golf Club AGM 7:00pm at the Club House

Lions Club Dinner Meeting 7:30pm Heritage Centre

<u>Thursday 10</u> Milloo CWA 10:00am at Milloo Hall

<u>Friday 11</u> Social Indoor Bowls 7:30pm at Bamawm Extension Hall

<u>Saturday 12</u> Lockington Pony Club Rally 10:00am at Scurrah Reserve (Contact Christine Buckley 0400 576 767)

Sunday 13 Heritage Complex Open 1:00pm - 4:00pm On Duty: Joe & Julie



#### ST. MARY'S OP SHOP

Mon, Wed, 10am to 2pm Thurs Fri, 10am to 2:30pm

CLOSED December 17 to February 22

#### 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

#### Monday 14

LOCKY NEWS TYPING DAY Closing time for articles/adverts 10:00am (earlier if possible)

<u>Wednesday 16</u> Services Australia Mobile Service 9:30am - 4:00pm at Shakespeare Cres (Near the Community Hall)

Action Club Activity Night at Club Rooms Phone 0428 844 489 or 0409 259 723 For details

Sunday 20 Heritage Complex Open 1:00pm - 4:00pm On Duty: Gordon M & Peter B

Monday 21 Aged Care Information morning 10:15am at Senior Citizens Club Rooms

Lockington Planning Group 7:30pm at Community Hall

Tuesday 22 Well Women's Clinic At Bush Nursing Centre

<u>Wednesday 23</u> Lockington Lions Club Business Meeting 7:30pm Heritage Centre

<u>Sunday 27</u> Locky Clickers 1pm at Ciurleo's

Heritage Complex Open 1:00pm - 4:00pm On Duty: Giles & Phillipa

Monday 28 Bamawm CWA 10:30am Locky Business Centre

Heritage Complex Meeting 7:30pm at the Complex





Tuesday 10.00 am – 2.00 pm

Wednesday 10.00 am – 5 pm

Thursday 10.00 am - 2.00 pm

## Weekly Activities

MONDAYS

- Strength & Balance Class
   9.00 am Bush Nursing Centre
   Nicela Hacking Redistriat
- Nicole Hocking Podiatrist 9.30 - 4.30. - Bush Nursing Centre. Phone: 5486 2544.

#### TUESDAYS

- Men's Shed
   10:00 am 12:00 pm
   Phone 0499 170 329
- Dr. Patrick Nzegwu 9.30 am - 5.00 pm Bush Nursing Centre Phone: 5486 2544.
- Ladies Social Bowls Names to be in by 9.45am for 10:15 am start
- Barefoot Bowls
   Names by 6:30pm Start 7:00pm

#### WEDNESDAYS

- Strength & Balance Class 9.00 am - Bush Nursing Centre.
  Tai Chi
- 4:30– 5:30 pm Bush Nursing Centre \$8 per session, with Fay Sizeland
- Lockington Playgroup 10:00am - 1:00pm (not during school holidays) St. James Church Hall. Enquiries: Bethany: 0429 636 578
- Social Scrounge Men's & Ladies Names in by 12:45pm

#### THURSDAYS

- Social Activity Day
   10am Bush Nursing Centre
   Phone: 1300 488 226
- Men's Shed By appointment Phone: 0499 170 329
- Ladies Social Badminton
   9:30am Bamawm Sports Centre.
   Enquiries: 0458 548 622

#### SATURDAYS

• Bingo 7:15 pm - St. Joseph's Hall Campaspe St, Rochester.

