

Drivers urged to observe school rules

By Zorana Dodos

WITH the new school year under way, Moorabool Shire Council is urging residents to pay attention to road safety rules, particularly when dropping off and picking up their children.

The council says parents must follow parking regulations by not stopping anywhere they are not supposed to.

Road regulations that apply around all schools enforce a "no stopping" policy unless there is a clear parking area.

There is no stopping in bus zones, no stopping at children's crossing, and no stopping or parking in a disabled parking area unless you hold a permit.

The rules apply even when briefly pulling over to let someone out of the car.

Mayor Pat Toohey said regular parking patrols are now being conducted around school precinct zones and road rules are being strictly enforced around all schools.

"Parents are the most important road safety adviser that their child will ever have," he said. "If they demonstrate safety practices when crossing a road, then generally so will their children."



MUSICAL TREAT: Melbourne Highland Pipe Band member Matthew Bouwmeester competed in the Royal South Street Society's Highland Pipe Band competition on the weekend. Picture: Lachlan Bence

Lake Wendouree comes alive with the sounds of 700 Highland pipers

By Marcus Power

WHAT Lake Wendouree lacked in water it more than made up for in pipes at the weekend.

About 700 people from across the state took part in the Royal South Street Society's Highland Pipe Band Competition.

They were part of 15 bands

competing in 26 competitions on Sunday.

Many others took up deck chairs and picnic rugs under the shade of lake foreshore trees to take in the performances. Jonah Town, 13, was one of five drummers in the WADPADI band from Warrnambool.

He said he had played drums for four years and loved being able to perform.

And while the timing involved in his discipline took a bit of effort, he took it all in his stride.

"It's not that hard. It all comes with practice," Jonah said.

The competition was first held as part of South Street in 1907, and ran until 1950.

After an absence of more than four decades, it returned in 1996.

The contest is run in conjunction with the Victorian Highland Pipe Band Association.

Competition chairman Brian McInnis said the venue had been superb, but the competition is likely to shift across Wendouree Pde to the North Gardens next year.

After competitions, the day finished with a march including all bands.

Longest Lunch tickets on sale

TICKETS are on sale for the Bacchus Marsh Longest Lunch next month.

The event, to be held on Friday March 12 between 12pm and 4pm, is part of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival.

It will be held in the Avenue of Honour, showcasing the food, wine and chefs of the region.

Tickets are \$100 per person, with fundraising events to be held on the day to support the hospital.

For more information, call 5367 8176 or visit www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au.

Hepburn to borrow funds

THE Hepburn Shire Council agreed at a meeting last Tuesday night to borrow \$300,000 to go towards the \$3 million redevelopment of the Doug Lindsay Recreation Reserve project.

The money will be divided between the Doug Lindsay Recreation Reserve project (\$201,000) and the new Corporate IT Finance System (\$99,000).

The project has already received \$2.2 million in Federal Government funding.

Call to cut curtain cords

MOORABOOL Shire Council Mayor Pat Toohey has urged residents to get rid of unsafe loose curtain and blind cords.

"Children, particularly infants, can die from strangulation after becoming entangled in loose curtain and blind cords," Cr Toohey said.

BUSINESS

New hardware chain in Ballarat

By Meg Rayner

RETAIL giant Woolworths is branching out from the supermarket business to open a chain of large-format hardware stores.

Wendouree has been named one of 12 locations where the new mega-stores will be built, with thousands of jobs expected to be created during the construction phase.

The expansion has gained the support of the State Government with a planning assessment given the go ahead for the project, which will also include five new Aldi stores across the state.

While the exact location of the new hardware store in Wendouree is yet to be confirmed, a spokeswoman for the state government said it would be somewhere on Learmonth Rd.

The former Bunnings site has been ruled out by Colliers International director Andrew Lewis, with speculation it could be built at the Walsh Estate.

The Woolworths/Lowes new

Aldi and Woolworths predict the new developments will bring 1030 construction jobs and 1740 new retail jobs to Victoria.

Home Improvement chain, which is yet to be named, will commence operation in the latter half of 2011 with approximately 30 stores planned for Victoria within the next five years.

There is no word yet on what the stores will stock, but Woolworths/Lowes Home Improvement joint venture chief executive officer Don Stallings hinted it would rival Bunnings.

"Building a new destination Home Improvement offer from scratch is a challenging business venture, especially in a retail

sector with just one existing dominant player," he said.

"Our plans require our business to get up to speed as quickly as possible to ensure we can deliver a new and competitive offer to the consumer."

Planning Minister Justin Madden said the government would "speed up" the planning process to fast-track jobs.

"Aldi and Woolworths predict the new developments will bring 1030 construction jobs and 1740 new retail jobs to Victoria," he said.

"In addition to delivering new short and long-term jobs these projects have the potential to provide further significant economic benefits and increase retail choice — which is good news for Victorian families."

Mr Madden has appointed two advisory committees to provide advice about proposals for each site.

Win Tickets



The Courier in conjunction with Slow Food Ballarat is pleased to offer readers the chance to WIN tickets to the Buninyong Garden Harvest Lunch on Sunday, March 14 at the Buninyong Botanical Gardens

Featuring some of the finest local produce and wine from Buninyong and the surrounding Ballarat district, live entertainment and the opportunity to shop from local growers this is a fabulous feast not to be missed.

The Courier has the following to Giveaway:

- One of three FAMILY PASSES (2 Adults, 2 Children) or
- One of three DOUBLE PASSES (2 Adults)

To enter simply fill in your details below and send to

Buninyong Garden Harvest Lunch Competition, C/- The Courier, PO Box 639, Ballarat VIC. 3350

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (daytime): _____

For more information visit www.slowfoodballarat.org.au

Competition closes at 12 noon Wednesday 3rd March.

Winners will be announced in The Courier public notices on Thursday 4th March.

The Courier

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