

Clothes forced down throat

A BALLARAT woman allegedly went to another woman's house, believing she was having an affair with her husband, and forced clothes down her throat during an assault early yesterday morning.

Police allege Contessa Claudette Wandin, 36, broke into the Rowe St house at midnight with two co-accused and slapped the victim's face several times.

She is then accused of grabbing her hair and pulling her into the lounge room where she was kicked.

Wandin allegedly forced clothes down the victim's throat to stop her from breathing and screaming for help and asked a co-accused to get a knife from the kitchen, which they could not find.

Police attended and Wandin was arrested and charged with eight offences, including aggravated burglary, intentionally and recklessly causing injury, assault, false imprisonment and conduct endangering persons.

She made a successful bail application in the Ballarat Magistrates Court yesterday which was not opposed.

Wandin was ordered to reappear on June 3.

South Street goes online for the first time

By Emma Brown

THE ROYAL South Street Society competition might turn 119 years old this year but a new online entry system is set to revolutionise the historic event.

Royal South Street Society marketing manager Emma Sbardella said all of this year's entries would be submitted online for the first time.

A link on the RSSS website takes entrants to the new entry system, which was developed by Bendigo IT.

"This is a really exciting step and something we've wanted to offer for many years," Ms Sbardella said.

She said the new system would offer a range of benefits and information not previously available.

The concept allows competitors

to self-manage entries, pay and access invoices online, and check schedules and timetables.

"The last five months we have spent working with Bendigo IT refining the system for our own needs and it will contain all of our sections, data, prize money and fees," Ms Sbardella said.

"This system eliminates a lot of the data entry and should cut down on the number of mistakes as people are entering their own details," Ms Sbardella said.

RSSS believes the time is right to move to an online entry system as the organisation's website has experienced a 120 per cent rise in traffic over the past year.

Entries for this year's competition are now open and close on May 28.

For more information, visit www.royalsouthstreet.com.au



NEW SYSTEM: Royal South Street Society office manager Gayle Borde will be able to take entries for the competition online. Picture: Andrew Kelly

Man blames murderer

A MAN has denied allegations he devised a story that convicted murderer Paul Aaron Haseloff stole a ute and stored it at his partner's Sebastopol house to protect himself from going to prison.

Justin Beaumont yesterday told the Ballarat Magistrates Court during a contested hearing that Haseloff left a white Ford ute at his partner's home last November and he did not hear from him again.

The court was told Beaumont, who was on parole, was a suspect

in the ute theft. He was interviewed but not charged.

Haseloff's lawyer, Mike Wardell, put it to Beaumont that he stole the ute and concocted a story because he did not want his parole recalled.

"It's likely that your parole would be cancelled and you would go in for 15 months. That's why you had to make up that story that you found it in your backyard," Mr Wardell said.

Mr Beaumont's partner, Melissa Harris, said she saw Haseloff drop

the ute off on November 18 and it sat in her yard for three days until police towed it away.

She denied allegations put to her by Mr Wardell that she was prepared to lie for Mr Beaumont.

The court also heard from other witnesses who gave evidence in relation to allegations Haseloff stole a VN Commodore sedan in Humffray St Nth between October 29 and 30.

The car was found burnt-out on blocks in the Nerrina area with its

wheels, headlights and indicators missing.

Haseloff, of Ballarat, is accused of committing the crimes while on parole, which was cancelled last November.

In April 1997 he was convicted and sentenced to 17 years' jail with a non-parole period of 12 years after a jury found him guilty of murdering his girlfriend Margaret Smith.

He has pleaded not guilty to 29 offences, which include eight counts of dishonestly receiving stolen goods.

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