

The Wombat Post



News for Daylesford & Hepburn Springs

Week day, Month day, Year

Issue No. No.


Free



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Fuel Prices Hit the Bowser: What the Spike Means for Daylesford

The recent surge in petrol and diesel prices has had a dramatic impact locally. Overall, fuel prices have gone up by around 50 percent since February – a rate rarely seen in recent decades – leaving local motorists and businesses to grapple with a rapidly shifting economic landscape.

The Regional Toll: Daylesford on the Front Line

For a community like Daylesford, high fuel costs are not merely a domestic inconvenience. Our local economy, built on the twin pillars of tourism and agriculture, is a high-intensity fuel consumer.

It is not just the direct cost of filling up the car, ute and tractor. When diesel prices rise the cost of transporting essential goods to Daylesford increases. We will see this reflected in “shelf-price” inflation at our local

supermarket, hardware stores and farm supplies.

Unlike our metropolitan counterparts, residents in the Hepburn Shire have limited public transport alternatives. For many, driving to medical appointments in Ballarat or Melbourne is a non-discretionary expense. For lower-income residents and our local volunteer sectors, these costs are forcing difficult trade-offs between mobility and other essentials.

The National Fuel Security Plan

In response to the crisis, the Commonwealth Government convened an emergency National Cabinet on March 30, 2026. The resulting National Fuel Security Plan includes several immediate measures designed to provide a “breather” for regional communities:

Temporary Excise Cut: Effective April 1, the federal fuel excise has been halved. This reduces the cost of petrol and diesel by 26.3 cents per litre, offering a saving of roughly \$17 to \$20 on a standard family tank.

Supply chain relief: The Heavy Vehicle Road User Charge has been zeroed out for three months to help stabilise the cost of freight and prevent further spikes in the price of groceries.

Strategic Reserve Release: The government has tapped into 20% of the national fuel reserves, specifically prioritising regional hubs where supply shortages were beginning to emerge.

ACCC Oversight: The competition watchdog has been granted enhanced powers to ensure these tax cuts are passed directly to motorists

rather than absorbed by retailers.

If the situation worsens the Prime Minister has flagged that nationally consistent measures to reduce fuel demand, such as “work from home” mandates and subsidised public transport might be needed. If we begin to run out of fuel a legal prioritisation framework would be enforced to strictly allocate remaining fuel to life-supporting services, emergency responders, and critical food supply chains.

The Outlook

Despite current media reports of comments made by the US President, it is not yet clear when the conflict in the Middle East will end. Nor is it clear what actions Iran will take in opening up shipping, even if the conflict ends.

fuel prices, continued from p1

Mary-Anne Thomas MP
Member for **Macedon**



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WOMBAT POST WINS GRANT



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Council news

Community grants open

Do you have a project idea that you would like to bring to life?

Community Grants Program

The Community Grants Program offers up to \$5,000 to not-for-profit community groups and supports projects that improve wellbeing, social connection, and long-term sustainability. Closes 15 May 2026.

Environmental Group Grants

For groups focused on environmental protection and awareness in the Shire. These grants support hands-on work and advocacy for ecological health. Closes 4 May 2026.

For more information visit www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/grants



Have you got a project idea?

Integrated Transport Strategy adopted

Council is setting a clear path toward a safer, more connected, and sustainable transport future with the adoption of an Integrated Transport Strategy.

The strategy is a long-term strategy (looks ahead to 2050) and will guide Council decision making on local transport priorities while complementing day-to-day asset management planning.

The strategy positions Hepburn Shire to meet evolving transport needs while supporting safer travel, stronger communities, and a more sustainable future.



Want to save on fuel?

Compare prices with Servo Saver before you fill up at www.servo.vic.gov.au/app

Servo Saver is the only fuel price tool that servos must update by law. We know people are concerned, but the advice is that Australia's fuel is secure and continues to arrive as expected. To keep up to date with the latest on fuel supply, visit www.vic.gov.au/fuel-supply

Emergency and resilience events

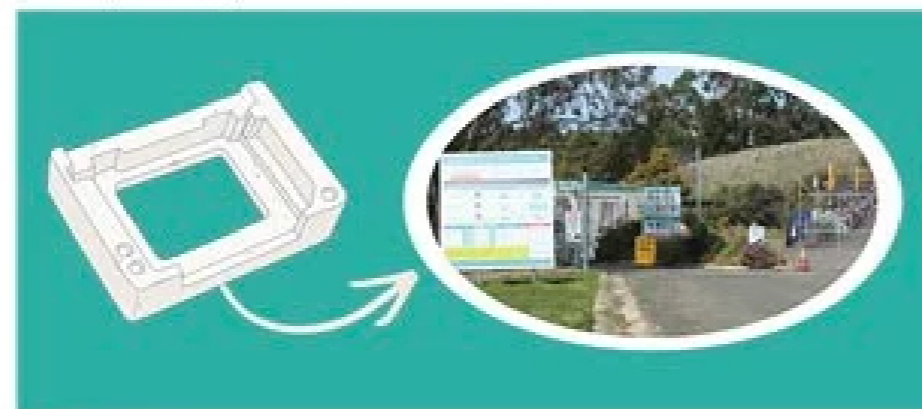
From how to use the VicEmergency app to getting coffee with a cop, this year's emergency and resilience events calendar is full of workshops, talks and networking opportunities to help you prepare for emergencies. Visit www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/em-events

Polystyrene recycling

Residents can recycle up to half a cubic metre (or two 240 L bins) of polystyrene per visit for free at each of our transfer stations as part of a trial running until June 2026.

Please ensure polystyrene is clean, free from tape and white.

Collected material is recycled into things such as mouldings, frames, decking and outdoor furniture.



2026 Reusable product voucher program

To help you make the switch to reusable nappies, period or incontinence products, Council is offering households a \$50 voucher code to use on the purchase of eligible reusable products from local business Darlings Downunder.

Vouchers can be used for cloth nappies, swim nappies, training pants, wet bags, period products, nursing pads, incontinence underwear, and more.

The discount voucher code is valid until 31 May 2026, unless allocated funds are exhausted prior.

Find out more at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/reusables

Council Plan 2025–2029



Hepburn Life

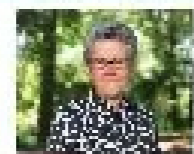


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A sustainable easter?



Funding for men's sheds

What happens in Victoria's Men's Sheds goes well beyond woodwork and a cuppa.

The Victorian State Government is investing in Men's Sheds to make sure they can grow and expand.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas has

announced that a new round of funding is open. "A shed is more than just a space. For many men, it's a place to connect, build community and access support."

Grants of up to \$100,000 will help Men's Sheds buy new or update equipment, expand their sheds and upgrade their

facilities or build a new shed to improve community access.

For many, their shed is more than a workshop – it's where they find routine, friendship and community.

More than 360 Men's Sheds now operate across Victoria, with Labor

delivering more than 600 grants to sheds across the state.

This is in addition to the Victorian Government's ongoing support for the Victorian Men's Shed Association.

Keeping men connected and part of their community

isn't just good policy – it can save lives. Applications for the 2026-27 Men's Shed Funding Program are now open.

Article based on a government media release.

Council opens environmental grants

The Hepburn Shire Council Plan 2025–2029 strives for the responsible management of the environment to support wellbeing now and for future generations.

Council has announced the opening of the 2026

Environmental Group Grants Program, supporting local community groups dedicated to protecting and enhancing the natural environment across the Shire.

Mayor, Cr Tony Clark, said that the program provides funding to community

organisations that support on-the-ground environmental projects or actively promote and advocate for ecological health within the Shire.

"Grants can also be used to improve the sustainability and effectiveness of

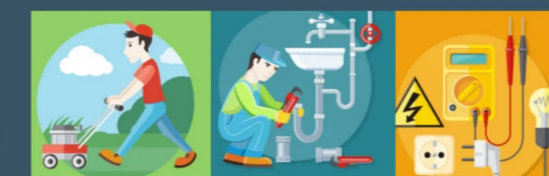
participating community groups," said Cr Clark.

Council encourages eligible organisations with environmental initiatives to apply and take advantage of this opportunity to contribute to the Shire's environmental wellbeing.

The grants program opens today and closes on Monday 4 May 2026.

For further information and to discuss eligibility, groups are invited to contact Council at grants@hepburn.vic.gov.au

Need a local service?



See the Wombat Post Classifieds

Daylesford Cinema holds screening for volunteers and supporters

The Phoenix Cinema in Daylesford is reopening this weekend after a sustained campaign by the volunteers and supporters of the Daylesford Cinema Group.

Very appropriately, a screening of the iconic Australian movie 'The Castle' was held for a packed house of volunteers and supporters on Wednesday night. The Castle details the Kerrigan family's battle to save their suburban home from a corporate airport development. It is a story of the archetypal struggle of the underdog doggedly persisting to overcome the odds, poignantly celebrating the values and strength of the Australian working class family.

As with the Kerrigan's, the Daylesford cinema group of volunteers and supporters have fought a long battle to put in place the dream of a Daylesford Cinema persisting when it didn't seem possible. Sitting in the state of the art Phoenix Cinema, comparable

to any of the boutique cinemas in Melbourne, transported to the magic world of the movies, the volunteers and supporters must have felt vindicated and proud. It is a remarkable achievement for Daylesford.

The cinema is located on the upper floor overlooking the balcony and the Cinema plans to host more than just movies. Space is being offered to rent for private celebratory functions, parties, music events, theatre and comedy shows and community gatherings outside showtime hours.

The cinema is the showpiece of the Rex redevelopment. The Rex has been transformed into a stunning new retail and entertainment hub with the Bromley and Co. Gallery relocating their Art space on the ground floor.

The Phoenix will open to the public with a soft launch of an Easter kids' program starting on Saturday April 4th and continuing through the



school holidays until April 19th.

The community is invited to soak it in, and experience the magic of cinema as it returns to Daylesford. The new space has been carefully renovated and reimagined to benefit our entire community.

Where— 47-53 Vincent Street, Daylesford

Easter Holidays Show Program Times 7 Days – 11 am, 2pm +4.30pm

Daily from Saturday April 4

Membership – Reduced Price Tickets – Special Screenings – Priority Communications.

For more information visit the [Phoenix website](#) to check out:

Phoenix Cinema Membership
 Signing up to Volunteer
 Hosting an Event with us

Health Daylesford: Posture and good health

The prestigious Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building have once again been transformed into a floral wonderland for the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS). This year, the spotlight shines brightly on our own backyard, as Daylesford-based landscaping firm Timeless Outdoors has secured first prize in the highly competitive Boutique Garden Competition.

A 'Reverie' in the City

Their winning entry, titled Reverie, is an immersive sanctuary designed to act as a "modern watering hole." The garden was a collaborative triumph, designed and constructed by Timeless Outdoors in partnership with Coastal Elements Landscaping, with Spring Hill Nursery serving as the lead nursery.

The design team impressed judges with their sophisticated exploration of material versatility. Most notably, the garden utilises sustainable, unexpected textures—such as slate roof tiles repurposed as striking walling.

Design Highlights

Visitors to the show have been captivated by the garden's unique layout and dreamlike atmosphere:

- **Geometric Depth:** Circular forms radiate outward from a central spa, creating a sense of movement and depth within a compact boutique space.
- **Artistic Intrigue:** Floating sculptural elements are placed throughout the greenery, adding an air of mystery and imaginative escape.
- **A Sustainable Sanctuary:** The use of repurposed materials emphasises a commitment to sustainable landscaping, turning the space into a calm retreat for both humans and local wildlife.

About the Show
 Now in its 27th year, the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show is the largest horticultural event in the Southern Hemisphere. It attracts over 100,000 visitors annually, showcasing the pinnacle of Australian landscape design, floral artistry, and retail horticulture. The Boutique Garden Competition, in which Timeless Outdoors

triumphed, is specifically designed to showcase how high-end design can be achieved in smaller, urban-sized plots.

Coming Soon

The team at The Wombat Post congratulates Timeless Outdoors on this significant achievement. We are currently coordinating an in-depth interview with the designers to discuss the inspiration behind Reverie and the logistics of building a prize-winning garden in the heart of Melbourne. Stay tuned for that feature in a future edition.

Planning a visit? The Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show continues through this Sunday at the Carlton Gardens. If you're heading down from the Highlands, be sure to check our Live Weather History page to see if you'll need to pack an umbrella before you jump on the Calder!



Andrew Gallagher

In the previous article in this series I discussed the basic physiology of good posture, outlining both its physical and psychological benefits. In this instalment I would like to focus on the effect of posture on our physical health and in particular the fact that corrective postural therapy can not only be used to treat pain and disability arising from common musculoskeletal conditions but indeed can help prevent many of these conditions occurring in the first place.

The role of posture and its connection to health has been long recognised since ancient times. The earliest literature, particularly within Hindu and Greek traditions, that suggest that an upright posture is beneficial for achieving a balanced mind, mental focus and spiritual alignment.

One could argue that because of the nature of our modern lifestyle with its reliance on screen based technology for both work and pleasure, the need for postural awareness has never been greater. Whether when using a mobile phone, iPad or time spent in front of a computer, most people will

adopt a stereotypical posture, resulting in head forwards, rounded shoulders, flat lumbar spine and flexed hip joints.

When considering musculoskeletal health, it is important to appreciate that this sustained dysfunctional posture can both cause and also be a result of musculoskeletal dysfunction. That is why postural correction is so important in the treatment of common musculoskeletal conditions. This is particularly important in the management of many chronic conditions such as back pain and headaches. I believe it can be argued that any intervention to improve musculoskeletal wellbeing must eventually address underlying postural issues. If left these unattended these issues can lead to a condition becoming chronic in nature. In addition by engaging in postural re-education it encourages individual patients to be actively engaged in the treatment process laying the foundation for ongoing self management. This is particularly important as postural re-education takes time to take effect and the resultant observable benefits are similarly achieved over

time.

Good posture in the prevention and treatment of headaches: Whilst the causes of headaches are varied, for the purpose of this discussion I will focus on tension and cervicogenic headaches (headaches arising from the cervical spine). As mentioned above poor sitting posture results in the typical head forwards posture sometimes referred to as "tech neck". This posture sustained over time places mechanical stress on the neck muscle's. Accordingly the muscles at base of the skull and each side of the neck shorten making it difficult to correct head posture as well as limiting overall neck mobility. Further to this, these tight muscle's may go on to develop trigger points (hypersensitive areas of muscle tension) which will often refer pain to the head and face region, which the individual experiences as a headache.

Based on the above it is possible to re-educate posture? Yes it is but it takes time and involves not only exercises to rectify muscle imbalances, but requires retraining of an individual's awareness of the body in space as well. In addition the retraining

Clinically this can be seen in the development bursitis and rotator cuff tendonosis.

Once poor sitting posture has been established it can be difficult to correct, simple instruction's such as "sit up straight", "drop your shoulders", or "tuck your chin" in often ineffective. This is because there is a neurological effect of sustained poor posture. In simple terms over time muscle imbalances develop that lock in poor posture. Bad posture then becomes habitual and the individual experiences this posture as the new "normal." Attempts to correct this are frustratingly ineffective as the adaptive changes that the muscles have undergone result in a fundamental change in their physiology. Often these attempts paradoxically reinforce the muscular dysfunction that maintains bad posture.

Based on the above it is possible to re-educate posture? Yes it is but it takes time and involves not only exercises to rectify muscle imbalances, but requires retraining of an individual's awareness of the body in space as well. In addition the retraining

movement patterns that restore body alignment must be incorporated into the individuals daily routine particularly when engaging in screen based technology's. In the third article in this series I will explore these concepts in greater detail.

I would like to finish this article by discussing the preventive measures that can be utilised to ensure good posture is maintained specifically when engaging with screen based technology's.

To prevent poor posture from developing one needs to focus on both the development of optimal sitting posture as well as giving consideration to standing when working at a screen, the latter of which I will discuss in the third article in this series.

Optimal Seating Posture: 1) Back and spine: Sit back fully so your sine is supported by the chairs back rest maintaining the spines natural S curve. The back rest should be adjustable so it can be positioned in the curve of your lower back.

2) Head and Neck: Keep your head level and centred directly over your shoulders. posture from p 5

Ensure the height of the



Easter reflection: Finding renewal in a season of shadows

As Easter arrives in Daylesford, the landscape undergoes its annual, atmospheric shift. The vibrant, gold-drenched afternoons of late summer surrender to a softer, more somber palette. In Botanical Gardens, the early morning mists cling to the ancient elms and conifers, blurring the edges of the world. Down at the Lake, the water sits still and opaque, mirrored by a low-hanging grey sky. It is a scene that naturally invites reflection, but this year, the solace of the Victorian

highlands feels less like peace and more like a heavy, collective in-drawing of breath.

For many, this Easter is shadowed by a profound sense of global vertigo. The escalating conflict in the Middle East has moved beyond the realm of distant “news” to become a visceral weight on the local consciousness. We are witnessing the shattering of millions of lives in a region steeped in millennia of culture and history. The sheer scale of the displacement, the

violence, and the clinical destruction of human potential is staggering. It is a crisis that feels both ancient and terrifyingly modern, a dispute where complex religious and historical threads are being cut by the blunt instrument of modern warfare.

The ripples of this instability are no longer confined to distant shores; they are surfacing in the mundane realities of daily life in our own lives. At the local petrol stations and around kitchen tables, the

conversation has shifted toward the rising cost of fuel and the looming threat of global shortages. There is a palpable, nagging anxiety regarding mobility. As the holiday period begins, the simple act of planning a road trip is tinged with a new kind of hesitation—a “what if” that echoes the traumatic disruptions of the COVID-19 era.

The memory of the pandemic remains a fresh wound. The suddenness with which the world contracted, the border closures, and the

enforced stillness of the lockdowns have left a residual fear of being “stranded” or having life once again “put on hold.” We find ourselves waiting for the next shoe to drop, watching the horizon for a widening disaster that feels increasingly out of our hands. This sense of powerlessness is perhaps the most corrosive element of the current moment. It breeds a peculiar kind of fatigue, where the anticipation of crisis becomes as exhausting as the crisis itself.

Underneath this anxiety many feel a simmering anger. It is difficult to witness the lack of humanity displayed by those who view war and destruction as the primary—or only—solution to complex disputes. There is a deep-seated frustration at the sight of leaders, often comfortably insulated from the physical and economic costs of their decisions, capriciously committing to paths that result in such immense human suffering. To look at the state of the world this

Easter is to confront dispirited uncertainty.

However, if Easter is to mean anything—whether viewed through a secular lens of seasonal change or a spiritual lens of resurrection—it cannot be defined by anger, depression, or anxiety. To allow these emotions to become our permanent state is to concede defeat to darkness. Easter is, at its core, a moment in time designated for renewal. It represents the persistent, stubborn return of the light after the longest of nights.

Our response to global uncertainty must be a radical reaffirmation of our commitment to one another. When the world economy feels volatile and international diplomacy seems bankrupt, the importance of local community and cooperation becomes paramount. If we cannot control the geopolitical tides of the Middle East, we can control how we treat our neighbors, how we support local systems of sustainability, and how we foster a culture of dialogue

over division within our own townships.

A commitment to community is the alternative to the “put on hold” mentality. By engaging in collective efforts—whether through local commerce, environmental stewardship of our parks and lakes, or simply the act of coming together to share these anxieties—we move from passive observers of disaster to active participants in our own future. Cooperation is not a naive ideal; it is necessity for navigating a

world in flux. And we are fortunate that there are plenty of community opportunities locally.

This Easter, as the mists settle over the Wombat Gardens, let us acknowledge the shadows without being consumed by them. Let the reflection of the season lead us away from the paralysis of anger and anxiety toward the clarity of purpose. The future remains unwritten, and its quality will be determined by our ability to uphold the values of humanity and community, ensuring that

Pleasant cooler weather rolls in

Victor Szwed

Autumn usually provides some of the nicest and stable weather conditions. March this year has continued this pattern with quite a few pleasant days as well as some cooler temperatures.

The Autumn equinox in Australia occurred on March 21st, marking the official start of autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. On this day the Sun sat directly over the equator with equal day and night lengths.

You would have noticed that gradually it has been getting darker in the morning, unless you sleep in late. Also,

the sun rises further north of east. In my picture, you can see that the sun was about to rise to the left of Wombat Hill, a few weeks ago it rose over Wombat Hill and earlier during Summer to the right.

Daylight Savings ends Sunday morning 4th April so remember to reset your clocks back one hour. There will be more light in the morning and it will get darker earlier in the evening.

Several good rainfall events from late February into March provided much needed totals after a very dry start to the year and a drier than normal 2025. So far

169mm of rain has been recorded for the first three months by the Weather Bureau nicely above the 135mm long-term average.

Unfortunately, the Bureau continues to forecast drier than normal conditions for most of Australia during April to June. The serious fuel supply issues are likely to push up prices for food and vegetables. If you have a vegetable garden it is a good time to increase the range of vegetables you grow that suit our local Autumn and Winter conditions. It is also a good time to review how you water and mulch your vegetables.

Most people gave up watering lawns years ago.

Our local reservoirs are currently 78% full and Central Highlands Water continues to monitor these in case drier conditions have a significant impact.

Victor Szwed is a Daylesford resident who has been involved in various community roles in our Shire for more than 26 years.

Editor's note: check out the local weather at <https://thewombatpost.com.au/live-weather-history/>

**Daylesford
Conversations
for 2026**

Join the Conversation. Inspiring speakers, lively discussions, and connect with fellow attendees over drinks and nibbles

Click for more information

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More great schools near every family

The Victorian State Government is delivering more school options close to home, making life easier for families.

Member for Eureka, Michaela Settle today announced school zoning information for Daylesford Secondary College in 2027. “We’re making Daylesford Secondary College more accessible for local families, ensuring every student gets

access to a world-class education close to home.”

Enrolling children in a great local school is easier.

The updated Find My School website gives families the certainty they need to enrol in a great local public school.

It includes the updated school zone for Daylesford Secondary College, which now includes Ballan.

This change makes great education at a local public school even more accessible for local families.

As enrolment begins in early Term 2, the updated website will give families the most up to date information.

The 2026 school zones are still online and can be used for any further enrolment decisions for the 2026 school year.

Victoria has the largest school building program in the country, with 121 new schools and 2,300 school upgrades.

More information can be found on the Find My School website www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au

This information is based on a media release from Mary-Anne Thomas.

If restrictions are fully lifted, the expert advice is that there will be an immediate drop in international oil prices that will flow through to the bowser in Australia over a period of a month or so,

but fuel prices will remain substantially higher than before the conflict began for some time. Shipping is backlogged, and it will take 6 months or more to repair liquid fuel infrastructure that has been damaged.

Not surprisingly demand for electric vehicles has jumped. Online searches for affordable EVs had increased by more than 100 per cent in the last month. Long haul drive holidays and on the go caravanning are giving way to short haul and stay in the caravan park travel. Farmers are adjusting their machinery use to and considering their fertiliser options and cropping cycles to reduce costs. Motorists looking for the best deal on fuel are using apps like servo saver.

The Wombat Post and Daylesford Rotary have

monitor is adjusted so the top of the screen should be at or slightly below eye level so your gaze is directed slightly downwards.

3) Shoulders: These should be relaxed and held slightly down and back.

4) Elbows and Wrists: Elbows should be close to your side at an angle b/n 90 and 120 degrees, forearms should be parallel to the floor and wrist in neutral or slightly flexed.

5) Lower Body Positioning: Your thighs should be parallel to the floor, plant your feet flat on the floor and if required use aft rest if your feet don't reach the floor.

It is important to take regular rest breaks from your screen as fatigue will facilitate poor posture, therefore you should get up and move regularly, around every thirty minutes.

Andrew Gallagher is an experienced physiotherapist who works locally at Springs Medical.



Picture of the week: Julie Higgs

The history files: The Daylesford Express

Not ten years after the first gold-seekers arrived in Daylesford, a bustling community of hundreds of people – miners, their families and those who provided them with food, drink, animals, services – had settled here. To service their needs for information and entertainment locally and in the wider world, The Daylesford Express newspaper had established a wide readership. Here are some of the early news items that were reported.

June 7 1861

Letter to Editor – Street Organ Nuisance

Before you had the spirit to establish a paper, which no one will deny reflects the greatest credit on its originators, the public had but little hope of ever being able to make known or obtain redress for their grievances; but the columns of The Express being open to all, I would draw your attention to a nuisance existing at present in our little town.

Sir, I am naturally a lover of music, and have sometimes even, in company with my wife and family derived enjoyment from hearing Barlow's performance on the kitchen bellows, but, Sir, harassed as I am by the cares and anxieties of business it becomes a matter of importance that the few hours I am able to devote to my family should not be ruthlessly broken in upon and disturbed by my neighbours, but this I regret to say is the case.

I am living in Vincent Street and am frequently

almost driven to distraction by a sorry performance on a crazy harmonium which is kept up night and day with a perseverance which would be commendable in a better cause.

May 22 1862:

Daylesford General Cemetery – Notice to the Public

The Trustees of the above cemetery, being about to form and gravel the footpaths of the cemetery, invite parties who have friends or relations underneath such footpaths to remove the same to any part of the cemetery they may select. Such permission will be granted free of ground charge. W.G. Hart. Sec.

December 27 1862:

The coach from Creswick broke down on Monday when a short distance from town. A trace snapped and the horses in turning sharply aside strained a wheel and it fell apart. The coach settled on its side and though it was full of passengers, none were hurt. On Wednesday the Malmsbury coach tipped over when one of the wheels fell apart. Among the passengers were Mrs Royal and the Misses Royal and other ladies. No one was hurt.

December 31 1862:

Destructive bush fires are raging around Daylesford and many other towns in Victoria. Wheelers Sawmill at Musk Creek, about five miles from Daylesford, was threatened and Mr. Tredinick's store was burned down with uninsured losses of 500 to 600 pounds.

March 5 1863:

Several of the residents near Wombat Hill had an agreeable surprise on Sunday. For some time their wells have been without water, and our informant going to a neighbour's found to his surprise that the well was tolerably supplied. Out of curiosity he went back to his own well and found it contained about 5 feet of water. His neighbours also discovered to their agreeable surprise that their empty wells had been miraculously supplied. In two or three days without a drop of rain, the water had risen about 13 feet. The fact is accounted for, we believe, by one of the mining companies having tapped the rock and let out the contents of those remarkable reservoirs.

January 26 1864:

An accident occurred at Clarke's Sawmill at Bullarook Forest yesterday. A man trying to get from one side of the mill to the other tried to crawl through a hole where a circular saw was operating. From some unexplained cause his head came in contact with the saw and in a moment it crashed through his skull from one side to the other. The severity of the wound may be judged when it is stated it was fully seven inches in length, and exposed the brain. On receiving the blow, the poor fellow fell like a log to the ground. Dr Vernon said there was a great danger of the casualty resulting fatally.

January 30 1864:

It is said that the unfortunate man whose skull was cut open by the circular

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