

Bairnsdale Advertiser

145th Year of Publication

OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER | Wednesday, May 4, 2022

\$1.50 NO. 17495 | 65 Macleod Street, Bairnsdale, VIC 3875 (03) 5150 2300

THE PRIMARY PRODUCER

Advertiser TOP TIPSTERS

There is hope

There was hope aplenty at the official opening of the Hope Restart Centre at Lucknow last Wednesday.

The drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre has been operating for two years but was forced to postpone formal proceedings because of the pandemic.

Last Wednesday's opening was an opportunity for the founders of the centre, Margaret and Peter Down, to thank those who had contributed to its success, which included politicians, patrons, Michelle and Ross Brooker of Brooker Builders, Odyssey House management and staff, patrons and residents of the centre.

Chair of Odyssey House and former deputy leader of the Federal Labor Party, Jenny Macklin, officiated proceedings.

The centre presently has 58 beds up and running as part of stage one of its current program, but has a planning permit for 116 beds.

It's hoped planning for stage two will begin in 2024 with the project to be finalised by 2025/26.

Mr Rijs gave the project a kick along with a \$128,600 cheque that Patties Food staff had contributed to with monthly donations.

The Hope Centre also handed a \$15,000 cheque to Odyssey House to assist them with the good work they do in running the rehabilitation programs.

Continued page 6



Chief executive officer of Odyssey House, Stefan Gruenert; Hope Restart Centre patron and board member, Richard Rijs; centre founders, Margaret and Peter Down; Gippsland Federal MP, Darren Chester; Odyssey House chair, Jenny Macklin; and former residents of the centre, Jess and Chris, at the ribbon cutting opening ceremony. K139-6985

Gippsland Lakes a putrid mess

Ross Scott lives on an enviable part of the Gippsland Lakes.

The retired mechanical, civil and municipal engineer has had a holiday home on the Banksia Peninsula, which juts into Lake Victoria, since the 1960s.

From his back verandah he has views over Duck Arm, which opens onto Lake Victoria.

After working on overseas aid projects, Mr

Scott would look forward to returning home and his special spot on the Banksia Peninsula, near Paynesville.

However, since a succession of algal blooms have begun appearing in the Gippsland Lakes in recent years, Mr Scott now feels very differently about it.

"I've been watching this stretch of water go down the gurgler," he said.

After assignments in Cambodia and other less developed parts of the world, the jetty is where Mr Scott would feel most at peace as he walked down to the water's edge, and sat on the jetty, to take in the tranquil surroundings of Duck Arm.

However, the 85-year-old no longer sits on the jetty. He rarely ventures out the back door of his home these days because of the

stench of rotten algae lapping at the water's edge.

Duck Arm is covered in thick layers of blue-green algae. Moldy crusts have formed on top of the rotting algae, which accumulates on the banks of the waterway. The smell is reminiscent of a dairy farm, a familiar rotten egg odour.

Continued page 4-5

TerryWhite Chemmart

Your friendly team at TerryWhite Chemmart

9/30 Howitt Avenue, Eastwood Shopping Centre, Bairnsdale
P: 5152 6945 F: 5152 6974

HANDBALL YOUR SHED TO THE RIGHT TEAM

OFFICE HOURS: 9AM - 4PM

✓ Sheds ✓ Barns ✓ Carports ✓ Commercial
Customised to suit your needs. Come in and see your local crew for a quote.

Riviera
BARN & GARAGES
48 Forge Creek Road, Bairnsdale
Phone: 5153 1455

Click & Collect

Mazda & Hyundai

BAIRNSDALE LMCT 8100

554 Princes Hwy, Bairnsdale | 5152 6644

GET YOUR WINTER TREAD READY

SEE US FOR

>> QUALITY TYRES
>> EXPERT WHEEL ALIGNMENT

All Tyre & Wheel Service

CAR • 4X4 • TRUCK AGRICULTURAL • EARTHMOVING

5 Peart Street, Bairnsdale, 3875 (Adj. to Donalds Motors)
Ph 5153 1977, 5152 2845



EAST SOLAR GIPPSLAND

- OFF GRID SOLAR
- SOLAR HOT WATER
- SOLAR POWER
- BATTERY STORAGE OPTIONS

619 PRINCES HIGHWAY, BAIRNSDALE

egsolar.com.au - 5153 0722