

MINISTERIAL VISITS

We were privileged to receive two (2) State Ministerial visits during the week with firstly the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs: James Merlino announcing a grant of \$90,000 from the Youth Participations & Access Program.

The intention of the Youth Participation and Access program is to increase youth participation in the Yarriambiack Shire Communities, through facilitating and supporting opportunities with organisations, clubs and events.

The funding will provide young people to have a voice in planning and participating in alternative fun activities in the northern, southern and central locations within the Shire, particularly those young people not involved in mainstream sports. The Neighbourhood Houses in Murtoa, Warracknabeal and Hopetoun are excited by the prospect of being involved by assisting with facilitation of programs and providing space for youth.



This funding means youth will also have access to transport to attend youth events in the region. A regular bus will be available for youth to attend Friday Night Live at the Nexus youth centre in Horsham.

The purpose of the Youth Participation and Access program is to increase young people's connection with peers and the local community and provide opportunities for young people to develop skills in areas such as confidence, communication, leadership and problem solving skills. Through their involvement young people will strengthen their connections with peers, family and community.

The benefits of the Youth Participation and Access program are many and include youth being more connected and having a greater sense of belonging through broadening their social networks and increasing their resilience. While the program will build on and strengthen what is already available in our local communities it also provides an opportunity to create some new activities for young people. I am sure that the younger members of the community are extremely grateful and appreciative of the time and effort our Youth Worker: Christine Solly put in to secure this much appreciated funding, I know that council is.

The second Ministerial visit was from the Minister for Regional Development: Jacinta Allan who announced a grant of \$121,000 towards the



redemption of the Warracknabeal Town Hall which was constructed in 1939-40 and is the only building within the Shire capable

of seating an audience of up to 500 patrons. Presently, due to the existing condition, this seating capacity is dramatically reduced and this project will assist in allowing the Town Hall to be utilised to its full capacity, to the benefit of all of the Community. Council is particularly appreciative of the work undertaken by Dennis Smith and also of the assistance provided by the Town Hall Committee in securing this much appreciated State Government Grant. These two grants are a positive example of the State Government understanding and appreciating the needs and present conditions that Rural Victoria is experiencing.



CEO'S THOUGHTS !?!

There is definitely a considerable difference in being a fool than acting the fool ??? !!!!