

DROUGHT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Newly appointed Drought Community Development Officer, Faye Smith's role includes planning and developing strategies and actions to ease impact of drought in an effort to strengthen the communities which have suffered almost a decade of below-average rain.

Mrs Smith, the daughter of Warracknabeal Landt Hostel resident Nell Lang, has extensive community involvement and in 2002 received a State Government bursary for community involvement. She is also a graduate of Wimmera Leadership's community program, Marcus Oldham rural leadership program and received a State Award from the Rural Press Club of Victoria for her innovative weekly column, in the Mail Times – In My Paddock.

Yarriambiack Shire

Chief Executive Officer Ray Campling said yesterday the position was a pro-active one and well justified. He praised the shire's drought committee and council for introducing the role.

"I believe this will prove advantageous for the community," Mr Campling said. "I am particularly impressed that there is a network of community officers established in the region and excited with Faye's appointment because of her background and qualifications.

"These attributes complement the council's commitment towards its community." Mr Campling is keen for the State Government to further recognise the role by providing ongoing funding for the position.

"The present drought has impacted on farmers severely, on business and the general community and will do so for some time to come," he said. "I hope the government recognises these facts." Mr Campling said people could contact Mrs Smith through the Warracknabeal office on 5398 0100.

TAI CHI

Tai Chi is now being held in Patchewollock on Tuesdays between 2-3pm and will cost \$2. Contact Olinda Poulton, 5398 0107.

PORTSEA CAMP

The Portsea Camp will be on again this year. Further details will be provided in later editions of Up the Creek. Information will be sent to schools. Contact Olinda Poulton, 5398 0107.

HOPETOUN SHOW

This year the Farm Art Competition will include Clothing & Sculpture sections. In each section first prize \$50, second prize \$20 and third prize \$10 plus a viewers choice prize. Further information can be contacted Winston Gould phone: 5083 8245.

WHAT'S ON FOR THE MAYOR

Monday 8 August

RNWH Public Meeting,
Warracknabeal, 7pm

Tuesday 9 August

Council Meeting, 9.30pm
RNWH Public Meeting,
Beulah, 7pm

Wednesday 10 August

RNWH Public Meeting,
Hopetoun, 7pm

Thursday 11 August

Yarriambiack Drought Recovery
Committee, Warracknabeal, 8pm

SHIRE APPOINTS NEW PLANNING/ BUILDING OFFICERS

Yarriambiack Shire Council has appointed two people to new part time positions in a revamp of its planning and building department.

Chief Executive Officer Ray Campling said the Shire was fortunate to attract people with appropriate planning and building skills to carry out those roles for Council. From Monday David Young, of Donald, will become part-time planning officer.

Frank Keane, of St Arnaud, will be building surveyor, working one day a week and Shire employee Barry Jackson will continue his role of building inspector.

Mr Campling said professionals of this calibre were difficult to find in rural Victoria which was short of appropriately qualified planning officers and building surveyors.

He said the shire was lucky to have Barry Jackson available to do on-site building inspections on Mondays and Fridays.

Mr Campling said any shire residents with planning or building issues should ring their nearest shire office which would put them in touch with the relevant officer. Mr Andrews has taken a position with Pyrenees Shire.

CEO Trivia – Did You Know ?

A two year old gazelle can outrun a full grown horse. Written on August 1 (horses birthday)