

The NORTHERN Times

24 SCORESBY STREET, KERANG - PHONE: 52 1733.

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REGIONAL WEATHER DETAILS

TEMPERATURES

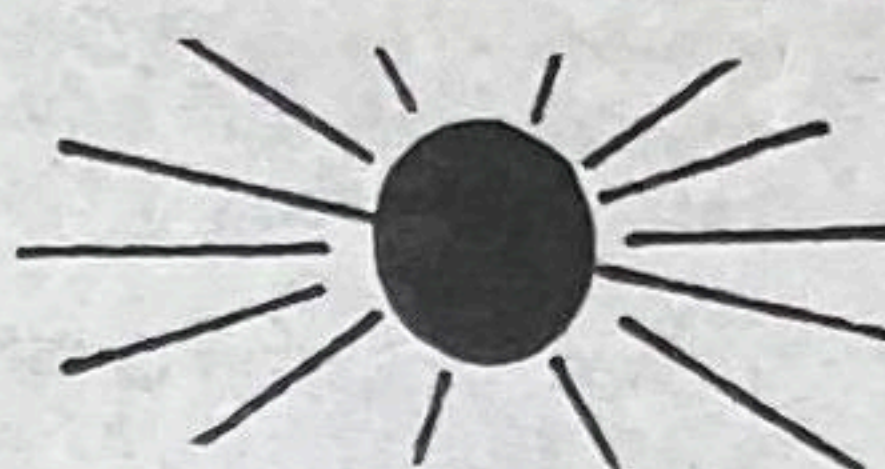
Monday minimum 15.4 degrees, maximum 17.9 degrees. Tuesday 9.4, 19.6. Wednesday 8.3, 18.4. Thursday 5.8.

RAINFALL

Monday 5.6 mm. Tuesday 5.6 mm. Month to date, 111.2 mm. Year to date, 429 mm. (1992 to October 21, 453.4 mm).

SALINITY

Loddon River at



Kerang, 790 EC. Kerang Weir daily from October 15, 1235, 1170, 1104, 1156, 1064, 1080, 1032 EC. Barr Creek at Capel's Crossing, 3795, 5232, 5376, 5559, 6049, 4141, 4000 EC.

FORECAST

Fine apart from morning fog patches. A cold night with widespread frost. Cool to mild and mainly sunny day with a light wind. A warning of moderate flooding is current for the Murray River from around Barmah to Swan Hill. Outlook Saturday: Fine day. Patchy rain at night. Sunday: Patchy rain clearing.

USER-PAYS HITS SHIRE

STATE Government increases in registration fees for municipal vehicles will cost the Shire of Kerang an extra \$7073.

Shire secretary, Mr John Law said the fees had increased from \$11.40 to \$140 per vehicle.

The total increase for the shire's 55 vehicles will be \$7037, Mr Law said.

Town plan to cope with storm floods



KERANG Borough Council will develop a strategy to cope with drainage problems associated with localised flooding from severe storms.

Some residential areas of the town have experienced severe flooding twice in 10 months. A record 75 mm to 100 mm of rain was dumped in only a few hours in December last year and an October record daily fall of 66 mm was recorded earlier this month.

The flooding around and under houses and associated sewerage blockages prompted angry residents to write to council.

A number attended council's last meeting to hear council's response.

Council has directed its engineer, Mr Colin Campbell, to develop a strategy plan to overcome drainage difficulties associated with the severe rain storms.

The borough will also hold discussions with the Rural Water Corporation about drainage problems in the south area of Kerang, where water south of Airport road from both farm land and recent urban and industrial development enters the river via the Leng street drain controlled by the RWC.

Council's actions arise in response to recent storms which saw many borough properties inundated with water.

Residents wrote about three affected areas:

- * Airport road, Tate drive industrial estate and Franke court residential area at the southern end of town.

- * Croton and Mokana streets in the south-east.

- * Shadforth and Murray streets, north-west of the shopping centre.

Two of the letters were

presented on behalf of a number of residents and called for long-term measures to alleviate drainage problems and significantly upgrade Kerang's drainage system.

Pumps claim

Some of the residents claimed pumps were not activated when required during the recent storm and, more importantly, that sections of the system did not have adequate carrying capacity.

Mr Campbell said the October 3 storm created many problems that were not fully addressed until later that week.

However, he said council and borough staff did everything possible to cope with the deluge.

"All pumps were working and council employees constantly checked them throughout the night," Mr Campbell said.

One of the residents' letters stated, "The borough seems to have not upgraded the drainage system to cope with the increase in the many homes and buildings being constructed in our town. This adds an enormous quantity of extra water in our drainage system."

"We appreciate the high cost involved in the upgrading, but we consider it should be given first priority over other works programs, including the beautification programs."

The borough is currently undertaking an investigation of Kerang's drainage system and recommendations will be made in line with budget allocations of \$30,000 for drainage maintenance and \$20,000 for drainage construction.

Mr Campbell said with the extra \$20,000 allocation, a number of proposals would be investigated, including:

- * using the old railway

dam adjacent to Canonsgate avenue as a retarding basin;

- * pumping in the Mitchell/Leng street area directly to the Loddon;

- * installing a pump near Patchell bridges;

- * increasing the size of the pump in Riverwood drive;

- * installing a small pump in Wyndham street pump complex to handle the day-to-day drainage needs and have the system as empty as possible; and

- * placing a tractor power take-off pump at Wyndham street for easy connection.

Mr Campbell has also asked council to reconsider a proposal to create a 100 m by 100 m retarding basin in the reserve on the north side of Wyndham street.

Town clerk, Mr Brian O'Dwyer said the \$20,000 council set aside in its budget would not "scratch the surface" of Kerang's drainage problems.

He said if council used the money on a retarding basin, it would be spending its budget allocation in one hit just to fence the area, without really achieving anything.

Upgrading

Mr O'Dwyer said any major upgrading was going to have to go back to the people to pay for it.

Council may have to concentrate all its capital works funding during one council year on drainage works, he said.

Cr Ian Prendergast agreed that council and the staff had done everything possible to cope with the recent storm, however called for the drainage system to be upgraded.

Cr Prendergast said he realised the difficulties involved in coping with exceptionally large storms, however the

Continued Page 2

Out of the ashes

St Vincent de Paul volunteers have been working furiously this week preparing for yesterday's re-opening of their store in temporary premises in Kerang.

The store has opened in Fitzroy street in the wake of a \$100,000 fire that gutted the Victoria street store.

Police believe the fire was deliberately lit and investigations are continuing.

Local people responded generously to an appeal for clothing to stock the temporary premises and extra supplies were transferred from other St Vincent de Paul stores.

Supermarket liquor permit approved

KERANG'S Safeway supermarket has been granted a conditional licence to sell packaged liquor from its Nolan street site.

The Liquor Licensing Commission has granted the licence after a full commission review of a previous decision to reject Safeway's application.

The original application was opposed by the town's five hotels, the Riteway supermarket and Kerang Borough Council.

In its ruling released this week, the commission stated that it did not accept that a well stocked liquor outlet in the Safeway store would have some adverse impact in terms of the overall community interest in Kerang.

Among the arguments

presented in Safeway's application for a review of the previous refusal were:

- * The greater hours of operation of the Safeway store will offer its customers and the people of Kerang a greater opportunity to purchase liquor from a supermarket - particularly on Saturday afternoons and Friday evenings.

- * The proposal was to sell liquor from the Kerang store at prices applicable to the Swan Hill Safeway store, where Safeway customers from Kerang frequently shopped to obtain their liquor supplies.

- * The range of liquor proposed to be carried by the store is significantly greater than that presently carried by

those purporting to satisfy the means of Safeway customers.

- * Safeway advertising - which causes Kerang residents to seek liquor at the Kerang store only to be told the nearest outlet is Swan Hill.

- * A subsequent leakage of liquor sales from the Kerang area.

Responding against the review application were the Borough of Kerang, Riteway Supermarket, and the Commercial, Exchange, Royal, Gilbert Club and Kerang Hotels.

The objectors argued that the granting of a licence would have an adverse effect on the commercial area of Kerang, both in a trading and customer-oriented sense.

Kerang Borough

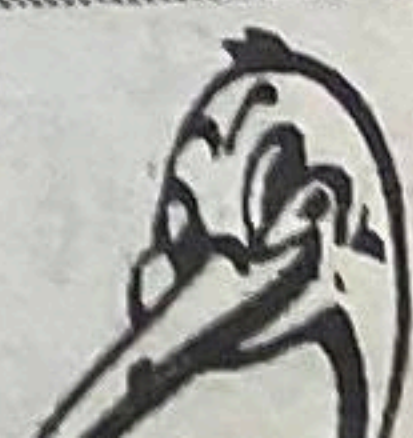
Continued Page 22

CELEBRATIONS

Centenary

CHILDREN'S FUN

Iggy Ibis



WIN WITH YOUR LOCAL PAPER

cartoon