

Storm floods plan

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system should be able to cope with 25 or 50 mm of rain, which it could not.

The system had not been significantly upgraded in years and council needed to look at all its options and commit itself to doing something about the situation, he said.

Cr Prendergast said council needed to use Mr Campbell's ideas to develop a drainage plan for the borough, as well as developing a plan

with the RWC for drainage in the Tate drive industrial estate.

"The onus is on us as council and officers to develop a better system for the ratepayers", he said.

Cr Alan Wilson said Kerang was located in a hollow and over the years the borough staff had done a great job coping with storm situations, however the system needed to be addressed.

Cr Wilson said council

needed to develop a master plan and inform ratepayers about what it intended to do.

Council needed to start with the worst areas and then update the entire town, he said.

Cr John Campbell suggested that council leave the matter with Mr Campbell to come up with a development plan.

"The system must be upgraded but we can't do it at the snap of our fingers," he said.

MAILBOX

Coalition forced to make tough decisions

SINCE its election in October 1992 the Victorian Coalition Government has been forced to make some tough decisions, a number of which have presented real challenges to the people of North Western Province.

To those people, particularly in the more isolated areas, there is a perception that rural Victoria is absorbing all of the pressure, which is not correct when we address the whole picture.

May I take the liberty of highlighting some positive points for rural Victoria which often get lost in the negative presentation portrayed in our media?

SOME POSITIVE POINTS

(1) Whilst not covered

The mode may change, but the service is enhanced.

(4) The retirement of close to \$400m from the Rural Water Corporation debt to allow a fresh start to the new Regions.

(5) Major breakthrough in Government funding to Bush Nursing Hospitals.

(6) Exempt stamp duty on the transfer of family farms between family members.

(7) Rural municipalities received 100% of their allocation of road funding whereas metropolitan municipalities received 92%.

(8) Rural politicians have researched and produced a discussion document of petrol prices

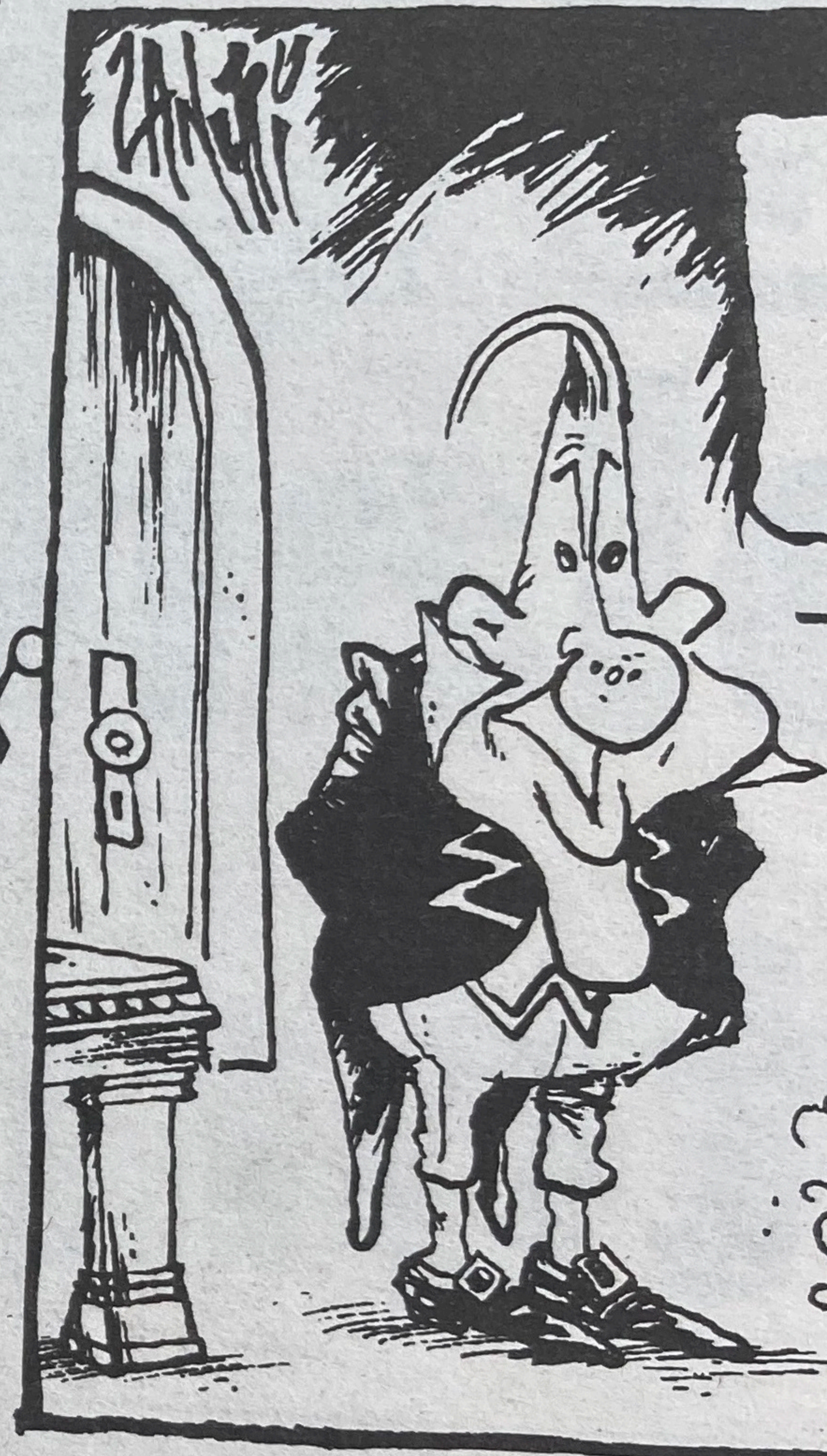
to V/Line operations, whereas Commonwealth off-road rebates do not apply, which is a clear anomaly.

(10) The Government commitment to Salinity Plans such as the launch of the Kerang Lakes and Nyah to the SA border programs, will benefit rural Victoria.

(11) The Corporatisation of our Ports of Melbourne, Geelong and Portland, will increase our international competitiveness.

(12) The launch of Food Victoria that is headed up by my colleague Barry Steggall, is at last a clear recognition of the value of rural products to Victoria.

WRITE CAPTION



Win the
original signed
Zanetti cartoon
and dinner for
Kerang's