

The Spectator

GREATER HAMILTON

59 Gray St, Hamilton
www.spec.com.au

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 29, 2020



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INSIDE HAMILTON REGIONAL LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE SHEEP PRICE RECORD BROKEN THREE TIMES



The right move

THE Bacon family (from left) Elijah, 12, Caleb, 7, Alister, Amy, Ashton, 5, and Bentley, 9, made the move from Geelong to Hamilton last October, and couldn't be happier with the lifestyle change. See story Page 3. Photo: CHRIS DOHENY

SEASON SHORTENED

Changes to duck hunting season outrages anti-shooting activists



ALLANAH SCIBERRAS

THE Victorian Government has announced a shortened and stricter duck hunting season and neither hunters nor activists are pleased. Although the season has been given the green light, hunters are unhappy with the tighter restrictions, while anti-shooting activists say the season should be banned altogether.

The modified season will run from Saturday,

May 2 to mid-June due to seasonal conditions and current duck populations.

Hamilton Field Naturalists Club secretary, Rod Bird said it is disappointing the season is going ahead.

"Duck hunting is just disgraceful, and it needs to be completely eliminated, duck numbers are down everywhere," he said.

"Most of the wetlands are dried up, duck numbers are generally down in western Victoria.

"The tighter restrictions are a small step for to those who protest, we will be back again next year."

Hunters will be restricted to three game ducks per day throughout

the season, with the hunting of blue-winged shoveler prohibited for the entirety.

Although these restrictions are in place, Mr Bird said they will fail to act as a deterrent for hunters.

"There's lots of permitted shooters, not that I am suggesting they all don't follow the rules, but some don't and unfortunately it's poorly regulated, the ones that don't follow the rules aren't followed up on," he said.

"There are species shot that are not meant to be shot ... it's disgusting."

Mr Bird said the economical debate didn't make much sense.

"The whole argument now seems to be on economical basis, what I see is that the argument is garbage and anyone that looks into it can see through it," he said.

"Very few duck hunters inject money in the region, all they might do is buy a tank of petrol but that's it."

However, Victorian Nationals leader and agriculture spokesman, Peter Walsh said the economic benefits of duck hunting are staggering.

"Green ideology has trumped logic with a severely shortened

season that will take money out of country communities at a time when we desperately need the tourism boost," he said.

"Hunting injects more than \$430 million into the state's economy every year, providing a healthy boost for country communities, including those picking up the pieces after this summer's catastrophic bushfires."

The Game Management Authority said the restricted season was a necessary response to dry conditions that have affected duck numbers and habitat.

The decision to modify the season left hunting and conservation organisation, Field and Game Australia (FGA) outraged.

FGA originally advocated for a limit of six birds per day in hope to entice hunters to travel and spend money in regional communities.

"The short, heavily restricted season will have a negative economic impact on communities that can least afford it," a FGA statement read.

"This is a slap in the face for regional and rural Victorians and we ask all hunters to support these communities."

Continued: PAGE 6

INSIDE WESTERN DISTRICT FARMER MARCH EDITION INCLUDED TODAY

Important Message from the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen Of Peace

Message of February 25th, 2020

"Dear children! In this time of grace, I desire to see your faces transformed in prayer. You are so flooded by earthly concerns, you do not even feel that spring is at the threshold. You are called, little children, to penance and prayer. As nature fights in silence for new life, also you are called to open yourselves in prayer to God, in Whom you will find peace and warmth of the spring sun in your hearts. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Where to learn more: www.medjugorje.hr
Chris Jansen

Weather



For latest Warnings www.bom.gov.au/vic/warnings
ph 1300 659 210 (Cost of a local call)

Southwestern Victoria:

Today. Partly cloudy. Patchy fog in the early morning. Light winds.

Sunday. Partly cloudy. Patchy morning fog in the west. Medium (40%) chance of showers in the evening. Light winds becoming northwest to southwesterly 15 to 20 km/h during the day then tending south to southwesterly 15 to 25 km/h during the afternoon.

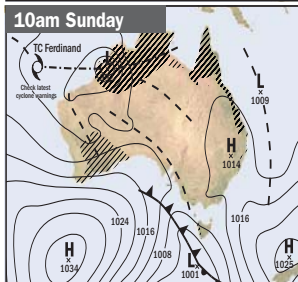
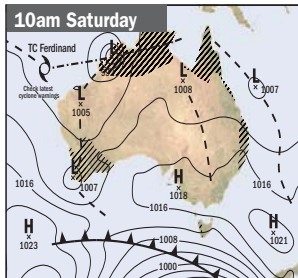
Hamilton:

Today. Partly cloudy. The chance of fog in the early morning. Light winds. Min 8 Max 23

Sunday. Possible late shower. Min 11 Max 27

Monday. Cloudy. Min 12 Max 21

SUNSMART HAMILTON Sun protection recommended between 10:10am to 5:10pm



The Spectator

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Forbes banned from roads for 12 months

A CASTERTON P-plater who tried to evade police by driving at almost 100 kilometres per hour through residential streets in Hamilton has been banned from driving for a year.

Jacob Forbes, 24, of Tuckett Street, appeared in the Hamilton Magistrates Court on Wednesday and pleaded guilty to several charges, including dangerous driving, failing to stop for police, failing a roadside drug test and drug possession. He was banned from driving for 12 months and fined \$3000.

The court heard Forbes's vehicle was seen speeding on King Street by a police patrol about 12.20am on May 9.

Police followed the vehicle along Victoria, Tyers, Clarendon and Dinwoodie streets, where officers estimated the vehicle was travelling around 100km/h in 50km/h zones.

Police prosecutor, leading senior constable Mick Aitken said Forbes failed to stop at several stop signs throughout the chase.

The officers then tried to intercept the vehicle

on Chaucer and College streets, before it finally pulled over on Horner Street.

Ldg Sen Const Aitken said police noticed Forbes was acting suspicious when they spoke to him and searched his car, finding a bag containing 0.4 grams of crystal methamphetamine hidden behind an ashtray in the car's console.

Although Forbes admitted to police he had drunk alcohol that day, he passed a roadside alcohol breath test, but failed an oral fluid drug swipe.

Ldg Sen Const Aitken said further analysis of Forbes' blood sample revealed it contained a small amount of methamphetamine and amphetamine, which would have caused "minor impairment".

He said Forbes admitted to police he was "probably speeding" and he was speeding to get away from them.

The court heard there was a female passenger in the vehicle at the time.

Forbes' legal aid lawyer, Morgan Adams said

the incident happened at a stressful time in Forbes' life.

He said the relationship with his child's mother had broken down and he had lost his job, which had influenced his drug use.

"It seems that at times where there is great stress in his life, he reverts to drug use," Mr Adams said.

Mr Adams said while the driving charges were serious, Forbes' offending was at the lower end of the scale.

He said there were no pedestrians and minimal traffic around, the weather conditions were good, and he had "no near misses" during the chase.

Magistrate, Ann McGarvie said Forbes' actions put the community at risk.

"Your driving not only put you and everyone else at risk, but it also put your passenger at great risk ... because she had no control over the vehicle," she said.

Wakefield fined and sent stern warning

A DUNKELD man has received a hefty fine in court this week after he was caught behind the wheel without a driver's licence by a police officer having lunch at a local café.

Khan Wakefield, 29, of Wills Street, pleaded guilty to driving with a disqualified licence in the Hamilton Magistrates Court on Wednesday and was fined \$1000 by magistrate, Ann McGarvie. He also had his driving ban, which was due to end in April, extended for another nine months.

The court heard the police officer was eating lunch at the Bridge Café in Cavendish about 12.45pm on November 22 when Wakefield

entered with another man and bought lunch. The officer then saw Wakefield get into the driver's side of a white Holden Commodore and leave.

Police prosecutor, leading senior constable Mick Aitken said the officer had previous dealings with Wakefield and knew his driver's licence had been disqualified for refusing a roadside drug test in July 2018.

Police went to Wakefield's home address the next day and found the vehicle parked out the front.

Ldg Sen Const Aitken said Wakefield denied

he drove the car and said he had not been to the Bridge Café the day before.

On Wednesday, legal aid lawyer, Morgan Adams, conceded Wakefield had driven the vehicle that day.

He said after losing his licence, Wakefield had organised for a colleague to drive him to and from work but the colleague had been drinking at the work Christmas party that day and couldn't drive. "His friend was too intoxicated to safely drive home after the work party, so Mr Wakefield drove them home and stopped at the café so they could get some lunch," Mr Adams said.

"He is old enough that he should have known better."

Ms McGarvie said Wakefield had a history of driving with a disqualified licence and warned him he was "looking at a term of imprisonment" if he continued to drive.

Season shortened

From: PAGE 1
FGA chief executive, Dean O'Hara said the harsh restrictions were a result of a political compromise.

"The season setting process remains flawed, and the Victorian Government needs to deliver on its commitment to implement an Adaptive Harvest model which will take the politics out of season setting and instead rely on scientific facts and data," Mr O'Hara said.

The season arrangements have continued to change each year, previously hunters had a four-game duck limit on the opening weekend, with five ducks per day for the remainder of the nine-week season.

Animal rights group, PETA special projects coordinator, Desmond Bellamy said this year's season must be cancelled.

"Let's not pretend this is sport or done for food - it is sheer sadistic amusement," he said.

"Surveys have shown that the wetlands are in long-term decline. So, it's baffling why the government would approve a duck shooting season this year, even with a reduced season and smaller killing limit, which the Game Management Authority has admitted is impossible for them to police."

"Every year, hundreds of thousands of birds are blasted out of the sky."

"For each bird killed, another is wounded and will die slowly in terror and agony."

The 2020 season will start from 8am on Saturday, May 2 and will last five weeks, closing 30 minutes after sunset on Monday, June 8.

For more information on the arrangements and wetland closures, head to the Game Management Authority website.

If you suspect someone is acting illegally, report suspected offences by calling Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

YOUR SAY

Our community opinions matter

If you have a view or wish to comment on any community issues we would like to hear from you.

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Readers share view

Scott "scandal" Morrison, when will he resign?
Lol

Parklands Golf. After a long time, best I have ever seen. Hope you keep it going.
LHW

Re: Climate protest in front of Dan Tehan's office

Rosters

Meals on wheels

Monday: Mulleraterong, J Gerdtz, G Hutchins, Lions Club, J & H Dorman, J & R Oliver.

Tuesday: Mulleraterong x 2, N Mibus/P Bowman, C and D Dent, G Hutchins, C Kavanagh.

Wednesday: Mulleraterong x 2, Hamilton Parklands, H and D Garfoot, C Kavanagh, N Mibus/P Bowman.

Thursday: M Donehue, L Jacobson, G Hutchins, J and R Oliver, R Malseed, D Taylor.

Friday: R Tonissen, R Lehmann, J Taggart, Mulleraterong x 2, E Hill.

Coleraine -

Monday: M Feguson/E Millard

Tuesday: M Templeton

Wednesday: J & A Foley

Thursday: G Cunneen

Friday: M O'Connell

Drivers unable to deliver please contact Southern Grampians Shire on 5551 8480

Stock draw

Hamilton Stock agents Association: Lambs Wednesday 4 & Sheep Thursday, March 5: Landmark, Elders, JM Ellis & Co, Southern Grampians L/S, Lanyon's Stock & Station Agents, LMB Livestock, Kerr & Co.

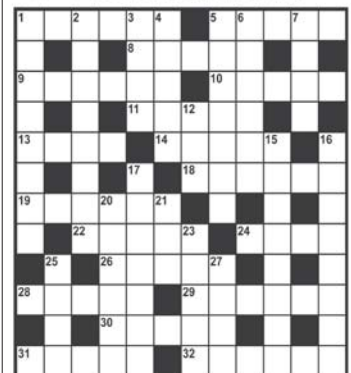
No cattle Sale Friday, March 6 2020, due to long weekend.

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| 8 Artifices | 3 Animals |
| 9 Muddle | 4 Unclean |
| 10 Map | 5 Harangue |
| 11 Fashion | 6 Attendants |
| 13 Lounge | 7 Carry |
| 14 Periods of time | 12 Affirmative |
| 18 Relation | 15 Sauntered |
| 19 Swells | 16 Rovingly |
| 22 Rescues | 17 Worshipped |
| 24 Stupor | 20 In abundance |
| 26 Jumps | 21 Great wave |
| 28 Junior | 23 Swiftness |
| 29 Small eagle | 25 Capital city |
| 30 Repulse | 27 Auction |
| 31 Blunted | |
| 32 Fatal | |
- Solution: SPORTS PAGES