



VICTORIA POLICE
POLICE CAREERS IN WANGARATTA

Victoria Police have locally-based career opportunities in the Wangaratta area for Police and Police Custody Officers.

If you are interested in a career working within the Victoria Police team, please visit our website to find out more at www.policecareer.vic.gov.au

Working for Victoria Police can be challenging and rewarding while providing good benefits and job security. Join us at an information session to learn more about the opportunities available and the recruitment process.

Tuesday 18 July, 6pm
Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre
33-37 Ford Street, Wangaratta

To pre-book your seat visit www.policing18july.eventbrite.com.au or the Victoria Police Recruitment Facebook page (events).

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WANGARATTA
Chronicle
Since 1884



WEATHER



TEMPERATURES:

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------|--|
| Wednesday | Max 14 | Min -2 | |
| | Mostly cloudy | | |
| Thursday | Max 14 | Min 0 | |
| | Frost then sunny | | |
| Friday | Max 12 | Min 5 | |
| | Showers | | |
| Saturday | Max 11 | Min 2 | |
| | Possible showers | | |

| RAINFALL: | Last 72 hours | Last 7 days |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Wangaratta | 23.6mm | 5.0mm |
| Lake Buffalo | 38.8mm | 11.0mm |
| Lake William Hovell | 86.8mm | 26.2mm |

*NB: Rainfall totals up until 3pm, Monday

NEWS TIPS

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ADVERTISING CLOSING TIMES

Monday Issue: Display Thurs. 10am. Classifieds Fri. 2.30pm
Wednesday Issue: Display Mon. 10am. Classifieds Tues. 2.30pm
Friday Issue: Display Wed. 10am. Classifieds Thurs. 2.30pm

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HIP TO BE SQUARE: Miriam Poyner (left, from Centre Against Violence) and Lorraine Wisener (right, from Carevan) welcomed blankets from Mary Luttgens (centre, from Wrap with Love). PHOTO: Emma Hillier

Warmth of love to help those less fortunate

LOCAL volunteers from Wangaratta's Wrap With Love group recently crafted together 36 blankets for Carevan, Centre Against Violence, NESAY and St Vincent's Conference.

Members made an additional 18 rugs to be sent to the Sydney head office for overseas distribution.

Mary Luttgens has been involved with Wrap With Love for many years, and helps allocate blankets to community organisations in Wangaratta and around the world.

"People feel better when they are being considered," she said.

"We average more than 200 rugs per year.



BY FREYJA POSTLETHWAITE
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"Our blankets go to the people who need them most.

"Years ago we received a thank you letter from Romania after they received rugs from us."

Miriam Poyner from Centre Against Violence was "very thankful for the blankets".

"It is very valuable to have the handmade blankets to provide comfort to those who leave relationships with nothing," she said.

Lorraine Wisener from Wangaratta Carevan said the blankets would be useful for "helping those who struggle in winter".

"Many of our clients struggle with bills and this will keep them warm and help save on electricity," she said.

Wrap With Love volunteers across Australia have created and dispatched more than 441,000 wraps to more than 75 countries.

It is a not for profit, non-denominational organisation and new members are always welcome.

Anyone interested in joining the group should call Ms Luttgens on 5721 4925 for more information.

Firefighters offer inquiry views on CFA split

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Wangaratta fire stations operations officer Trevor Logan said he supported the split for several reasons, but mainly because he believed a volunteer-only CFA would allow "greater autonomy" over its operations.

"The more accountability and responsibility we give the CFA, the more volunteers experience a sense of satisfaction, fulfilment and leadership," he told the committee.

"Right now there is little effort put into the CFA.

"Focus needs to be on service to the community and I don't believe the split would affect our service delivery."

Mr Logan said the politicisation of the CFA has "devastated" Wangaratta and he resented the spread of "misinformation" about the impact of the split on regional Victoria.

"The integrated model is cracking because of outside interference," he said.

"There are politicians in this room that have written things that are not true.

"It has become an election issue."

CFA District 24 operations officer Brett Myers, of Wodonga, said it would be "difficult to apply a metro model to country Victoria" and emphasised the need for greater flexibility in regional areas.

"It's not a 'cut and paste' job," he said.

"The CFA amendment will focus on recruitment, recognition and retention.

"I believe this reform provides a grand opportunity to move forward and enhance community safety."

However, despite the group's vocal support for the split, not all CFA members were satisfied.

District 23 planning team chairperson Lachlan Gales made a submission on behalf of other senior North East CFA volunteers from Wangaratta, Benalla,

Mansfield and Moyhu, outlining their key concerns about the Bill.

"It's a telling point that today's hearing will be the first time I and my volunteer colleagues from District 23 and District 24 have been formally asked for our views on the reform of the fire services that are planned in this Bill," he told the committee.

"The absence of a broad discussion that engaged all the stakeholders in the Emergency Services Sector means this Bill is inherently flawed and is likely to set our organisation back rather than moving it forward."

Mr Gales said he and the volunteers he represented were concerned about the "political motivations and lack of governance that cloud this attempt at reform".

He said he was apprehensive about the ability of the CFA to recruit and retain volunteers if the proposed changes went ahead and said he believed the State Government does not need to

restructure the fire service to get the improvements it wants.

"It raises some real challenges for the rural brigades in our district in terms of the nature of the staff and the culture, because in the future the career staff will come from Fire Rescue Victoria," he told the Wangaratta Chronicle yesterday.

"This means we will be drawing our paid staff from an organisation that is urbanised and industrialised, and will not necessarily provide us with people who have an understanding of volunteers and how they are best encouraged.

"Everyone in the CFA - staff and volunteers - are only interested in having the best possible system protect our communities.

"We think that we've earned a level of respect that will give us the opportunity to take part in the conversation.

"Currently this process has left us in the cold about the future of our own organisation."

Workshops to help local business grow

SMALL Business Victoria will hold two workshops in Wangaratta this month designed to assist local business in the areas of marketing strategy and profitability.

Jaclyn Symes (MLC, Northern Victoria) is encouraging small business operators to take advantage of the local workshops to improve and grow their business.

Last year more than 4600 people participated in over 450 Small Business Victoria workshops across the state with the most popular topics including starting a business, financial management, employing staff, marketing and digital business.

This month the Small Business Victoria workshops in Wangaratta will cover advanced marketing strategies and pricing for maximum profit, delivered by experienced private sector business specialists skilled in developing and managing small businesses.

Ms Symes said the workshops will provide a valuable opportunity for local business owners and operators to get reliable and affordable advice from the experts without travelling far and wide.

"Whether you're thinking of starting a business, looking for guidance with an existing business or wanting to expand, I encourage all Wangaratta locals to take advantage of this great program," she said.

"Victoria is home to more than half a million small businesses and we are leading the country in small business growth and these workshops could help Wangaratta small businesses grow more."

The "Advanced Marketing Strategies For Your Business" workshop will be held at 4pm on Wednesday, July 19 and the "Pricing for Maximum Profit" short workshop will be held at 5.30pm on Monday, July 31 at the Wangaratta council chambers in Ovens Street.

For more information visit business.vic.gov.au or call Small Business Victoria on 132 215.