

Flood warnings as wet September continues

By Cameron Whiteley

Shepparton has almost surpassed its average monthly rainfall for September just half-way through the month, while some parts of the state have been hit hard by flood.

Between 11 pm Tuesday and 9 am yesterday, 13.8 mm of rain fell in Shepparton, bringing the total rainfall for the month to 36.6 mm.

The long-term average for Shepparton in September is 37.2 mm.

The Bureau of Meteorology is predicting showers for Shepparton for the rest of the week and into the weekend.

Meanwhile, people are evacuating from homes in western Victoria for fear of flooding while others along the Great Ocean Road are being warned to watch out for landslides.



Water everywhere: A car drives through a puddle at Nagambie.

Picture: Holly Curtis

Flooding and storm damage is widespread across the state, with the State Emergency Ser-

vice receiving more than 300 calls yesterday morning. The Bureau of Meteorology

has issued flood warnings for several rivers across the state, including major warnings for the Loddon and Wimmera rivers.

The SES has urged Victorians to remain vigilant as the Bureau of Meteorology warns of more heavy rain in coming days.

VICSES chief operations officer Trevor White said it was important people continued to be aware of the risks.

"We remind people to never drive through floodwater. It only takes about 15 cm of water to lose control of your vehicle," Mr White said.

"It's important that people on the roads drive to conditions and be aware of road hazards such as mud, debris, damaged roads and bridges.

"Also, never swim, walk or play in floodwater. It's dangerous and toxic."

share your milestones...

localclassics 1300 660 886

► sell it **FASTER** with the classifieds.

localclassics 1300 660 886

Get your morning off to the best start...

Subscribe to the Shepparton News today and SAVE!

Call our friendly team today on 5820 3221.

News

Get your hair hydrated

Book in for your next cut or colour and receive:

A **FREE** customised revitalising moisture treatment with a scalp massage.

Zandra Allman is a fully qualified hairdresser servicing clients in Shepparton for the past 17 years.

"I look forward to welcoming all new and existing clients"

To book, call Zandra on **0417 012 683**

36 King St Shepparton

H AIR — by Zandra —

Crime spree charges

TWO MEN ARRESTED AFTER TARGETING BUSINESSES AND STEALING A CAR

By Jenna Bishop

Two men are expected to face a number of charges following an alleged hours-long crime spree in Cobram and across the Murray Valley early Tuesday morning.

Offenders targeted several businesses from 2.40 am, including two hotels in Cobram, a service station in Strathmerton, a supermarket in Nathalia and a hardware store in Rochester.

The offenders allegedly ram-raided the Cobram Hotel's entrance with a grey dual-cab utility, which was earlier stolen from a Kyabram property.

Cobram police Crime Investigation Unit Detective Senior Constable Matt Prestage said Echuca police yesterday arrested an Echuca man, 22, after he was found in a car stolen from Rochester.

Police believe the car was stolen after the offenders abandoned and set fire to another vehicle in Rochester, which was allegedly used in an earlier burglary.

The Echuca man has been charged with offences relating to the crime spree through

Cobram, including four charges of burglary, two charges of theft of a motor vehicle and one count of arson.

The man was expected to face an out-of-sessions court hearing at Echuca yesterday afternoon.

Police then executed a search warrant at a Tongala property and a 26-year-old Tongala man was taken into police custody, Det Sen Const Prestage said.

He was being interviewed by police yesterday afternoon, but was expected to be charged with similar offences to the Echuca man.

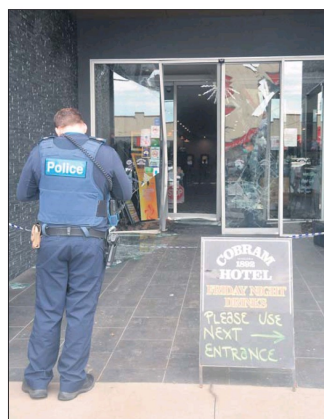
Police recovered stolen property including cash, cigarettes, alcohol and power tools at the Tongala home.

The iPads stolen from the Cobram Hotel are believed to have been ditched by the alleged offenders.

Det Sen Const Prestage said investigations were pending.

Police were expecting to make further arrests in relation to the crime spree.

Police were also investigating links to two burglaries in Echuca.



Ram-raid: Detectives investigate the break-in at the Cobram Hotel, which was rammed by a vehicle.

Simple, safe idea for new mums

By Tara Whitseed

An innovative Scandinavian baby box design has been launched in Shepparton.

Springtime expectant mothers will receive a free baby box thanks to the Caroline Chisholm Society, known as 'Preg Support'.

Society chief executive Helen Cooney said any new mother was eligible to receive the boxes which are also filled with a gift pack and double as a bed with an internal mattress.

"We believe this simple, safe and supportive idea is right for us in Shepparton," she said.

"We love its simplicity — it's a box that's recyclable and can become a toy box.

"We love its safety — it's a great way to encourage safe sleeping practices.

"We love its model of support — it's a way to engage with families to prevent social isolation, family violence, the impacts of homelessness and engagement with child protection."

The boxes were launched at a recently held open day by the society, also known as Goulburn Valley Pregnancy and Support Services, where it also launched a new 'Friends' group.

Goulburn Valley collaboration co-ordinator Belinda Guilmarin gave out the first boxes and will co-design a parenting survey with

local mums into the future.

According to the society, a total of 250 baby boxes will soon be available for new and expectant mothers.

Ms Cooney said the society would also hold a local design competition for the boxes, currently covered in owls, so that the boxes were unique to Shepparton.

"The most exciting thing for the community is that they can get involved," Ms Cooney said.

Lead practitioner Aneta Moody said other options for support within the society included parenting groups, increasing kindergarten support work and volunteer mentoring.

"But the message from our clients, volunteers and colleagues was clear — using the baby box as a tool would help us to avoid duplication, to work together and to provide information at the time families prepare for parenting," she said.

● **Pregnant women or their family members who wish to collect a baby box should call or email the Caroline Chisholm Society, Goulburn Valley Pregnancy and Family Support Service, on 5821 0826 or email gv@caroline.org.au**

Those who wish to contribute artwork for the box design competition should go to www.caroline.org.au to download the form.



Baby support: Hayley Lincoln received one of the first baby boxes launched at the recently held Goulburn Valley 'Preg Support' open day. Hayley's baby is due on November 21.

Picture: Holly Curtis

Pet Dental Month

BY POPULAR DEMAND EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 30TH

BONUS 10% discount on all dental procedures, dental food and products

CALL NOW TO BOOK YOUR FREE DENTAL CHECKS FOR YOUR PETS

SheppVets

Wanganui Rd. Clinic: **5821 3188**
Kialla Vet Clinic: **5823 1202**
Bookings Essential