

Angling for harbour cash

Groups pressure council over upgrade

WARRNAMBOOL
By SEAN MCCOMISH

RECREATIONAL fishing groups are vowing to step up pressure in the campaign for a multi-million-dollar harbour redevelopment. Lobbyists representing the boating industry and fishing groups gathered at a 60-strong meeting on Thursday night at the harbour pavilion to plan out the strategy to win government funding. The impassioned calls came just weeks after an ocean surge

sucked a car into the ocean at the Lady Bay boat ramp. Two groups — We Fish and the Boating Industry Association (BIA) — told the audience a state funding pot was within grasp if Warrnambool City Council applied for it. BIA grants liaison officer Ben Scullin said the state fund, which contains millions of dollars from boating fees and licences, was available for marine projects. “By the end of the year the government will have collected \$105 million off boaters,” he said.

Melbourne-based We Fish spokesman Dale McClelland urged local businesses and fishermen to lobby the council. “We can lobby in Melbourne but local businesses are the ones who are going to have clout with the council and your local government member,” Mr McClelland said. “All council needs to do is start the ball rolling.” Warrnambool City Council mayor Michael Neoh dismissed the calls as simplistic. “Council knows of the funding streams available,” Cr Neoh said.

“The state fund is available but it’s available on a dollar-for-dollar basis. “We are going to deal with the offshore fishing club, which is an official organisation.” Last year, the council voted to leave \$6 million plans off the table until more reports came back detailing the environmental effects. A delegation from the offshore fishing association will front a council meeting in the coming months. s.mccomish@fairfaxmedia.com.au

Familiar name, brand new face

WARRNAMBOOL
By MATTHEW O'TOOLE

WARRNAMBOOL has welcomed the newest addition to the Uniting Church flock with Reverend Malcolm Frazer inducted last night. Leaving behind suburban Melbourne, Mr Frazer has joined the newly formed Uniting Church Hopkins region grouping in which he and two other ministers will serve the four parishes of Allansford, Mortlake, Port Fairy and Warrnambool. Mr Frazer is known in his previous parishes for his creative and passionate outlook on life and has been largely involved in working with children and families. “I’ve really enjoyed working with families and children and I think there will be a chance here for me to get my puppets and guitar out,” he said. Mr Frazer’s wife, Anne, has taken up a teaching role at Timboon P-12 School while the couple’s grown children have stayed in Melbourne. “We’re not doing the whole empty nest thing, we did the

opposite and left the kids in the nest,” he said. Mr Frazer said he was excited to be involved in the local community. He was welcomed by Reverend Barrie Baker: “Malcolm brings new skills and enthusiasm to the region and completes our ministry team.” “His presence will be particularly positive for the Mortlake and Allansford congregations, who have been operating largely without ongoing ordained ministry in recent years.” While sharing a similar name with former prime minister Malcolm Fraser, and former member for Wannan, the similarities stop there, with Mr Frazer more interested in serving the community rather than any political aspirations. “It really used to happen all the time with people asking me if I’m Malcolm Fraser but it’s happening less and less with the younger generations. A lot of them don’t know who he is now but I still try to milk it for all that it’s worth.”



Malcolm Frazer is a new Uniting Church minister in Warrnambool. 180113VH09
Picture: VICKY HUGHSON

Property hit by fire twice within weeks

PORTLAND
By SEAN MCCOMISH

A CASHMORE property has been threatened by fire twice in less than two weeks and police are treating them as suspicious. Portland detectives are asking for witnesses to step forward to help solve the two

suspicious fires. Firefighters arrived at the scene on the intersection of Heath Road and Tonkin Road on Thursday morning and prevented the blaze from taking hold in hot temperatures. Less than a hectare was burnt by the fire. Portland’s Detective Sergeant Steve Brown said the fire was the

second at the property in less than a month, leading police to suspect foul play. “The fact that there have been two fires within a couple of weeks make it suspicious,” Detective Sergeant Brown said. He said this week’s fire was at the rear of the house, while the other fire on January 5 was at the front of the house.

“We haven’t established a cause.” Meanwhile, detectives are also investigating another blaze in Mount Richmond which began just after 7pm on Thursday. Only a small area was burnt along Telegraph Road, but firefighters and detectives are yet to find a cause. s.mccomish@fairfaxmedia.com.au

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