

Guilty of bashing

Man fined for 'stupid thing'

WARRNAMBOOL
By CLARE QUIRK

A PORT FAIRY man who was one of three young males who bashed another man said it was the single most stupid thing he had ever done, a court has heard.

Daniel Heaton, 21, of Bank Street, Port Fairy pleaded guilty in Warrnambool Magistrates Court on Tuesday to recklessly causing injury and two charges of failing to appear in court.

On August 8, 2010, Heaton and two co-accused were at the Box Hill Central Mall when they were approached by a drunk young male who began a verbal argument.

A fight began and a co-accused and the victim fell through a window.

While the victim was on the ground Heaton and a co-accused punched and

kicked him. The victim then rushed at Heaton and the two co-accused punched and kicked the victim when he fell to the ground.

The victim suffered a head wound and bruising to various parts of his body.

Defence counsel Matt Senia said Heaton was 19 at the time of the incident and was supported in court by his family from Melbourne.

Mr Senia told the court that his client had left school at year 10 and began working in carpentry.

He said he fell in with the wrong crowd and moved out of home to live with the co-accused.

Mr Senia said Heaton didn't know the victim and it was clearly a cowardly act. He said Heaton had said it was the most stupid thing he had ever done.

Mr Senia said that in August last year Heaton moved to Port Fairy and has worked as a bartender at the Royal Oak Hotel.

A reference from Heaton's employer was also submitted to the court.

Magistrate Jonathan Klestadt said Heaton's behaviour on this day and attempts to avoid taking responsibility, by failing to appear in court, had done him no favours.

Mr Klestadt said if Heaton was ever back before the court again charged with a violent offence it would be extremely unlikely he would be granted bail.

On the charge of recklessly causing injury he was convicted and fined \$1000 and on the two charges of failing to appear he was convicted and fined \$500.



New TV program *The Hook and The Cook* with Scotty Lyons (left) and Paul Breheny features an episode filmed in the south-west region and will hit screens in March.

Hook into some good cooking

REGION
By MATTHEW O'TOOLE

A SEAFOOD-BASED cooking show will launch later this week with Warrnambool and surrounding areas to star in an episode.

The Hook and The Cook show promises to showcase how two of Australia's greatest passions, cooking and fishing, can be combined.

The show is hosted by professional charter fisherman Scotty Lyons (*The Hook*) and Sydney-

based chef Paul Breheny (*The Cook*) with the pair touring Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland to search out unique regional produce and local seafood.

The episode featuring Warrnambool is set to air March 31 on 7TWO and will feature pieces on Warrnambool Cheese and Butter Factory, recreational fishing in the area, commercial crayfishing and a cook-up of local produce at the Allansford pub.

The show's producer Alastair

Yorke is excited to show areas of Australia that normally are not covered by any one single show.

"It was great down in Warrnambool where we found that dairy farming and the ocean are combined as a way of life," Mr Yorke said.

"With these two primary industries combining dairy and seafood, it made the area into a real life surf 'n' turf. It was just amazing."

The first episode airs this Sunday, January 27 at 11:30am.

Warning on bushfire shelters

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS
By EVERARD HIMMELREICH

SOUTHERN Grampians Shire Council has warned people to only install private bushfire shelters with designs that have been approved by the relevant authorities.

The council gave the warning following reports that some companies in Victoria might be installing non-approved private bushfire shelters.

The council said the products were, in some instances, being sold or referred to as 'wine cellars' or 'storage bunkers' in the hope of avoiding regulatory requirements.

There was no evidence this had occurred in the Southern Grampians Shire but residents should be aware of the regulations for private bushfire bunkers, the council said.

It said a building permit was

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needed before private bushfire shelters could be installed.

The council warned it could prosecute anyone who had installed a shelter without a permit, including instances where the product was supplied by a manufacturer. Private bushfire shelters should only be used as a place of last resort, the council said.

It also said that regardless of the quality of a shelter, the best way to ensure safety was to have a bushfire plan and to leave the danger zone early.

Private bushfire safety shelters are only approved if the design has been:

- accredited by the Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC) as meeting the performance

standard for use in a bushfire in Victoria; or

- determined by the Building Appeals Board as meeting the performance requirements of the regulations (usually in the case of one-off, or do-it-yourself, designs); or

- prepared by a registered fire safety engineer and certified as compliant by another, independent registered fire safety engineer who was not involved in the design process (usually in the case of one-off or do-it-yourself designs).

The council said Wildfire Safety Bunkers was the only company producing bushfire safety shelters that BRAC had approved for use in situations up to and including the highest bushfire attack level.

BRAC gave its approval to the shelters manufactured by Wildfire Safety Bunkers after assessments by it and an independent expert panel of the shelters.

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Seniors' program to help save energy

GLENELG
By MATTHEW O'TOOLE

SENIOR Glenelg residents can possibly save up to \$500 or more each year on energy bills by enrolling in the Glenelg Shire's 'Energy Efficiency Master' program.

The program for Glenelg Shire residents aged 55 or older hopes to teach residents how they can make their homes 10 to 30 per cent more energy efficient.

Glenelg Shire Council's

community and culture group manager Adele Kenneally believes that the course will benefit the entire community with participants being able to help others lower their energy costs.

"The Glenelg Energy Efficiency Masters program supports council's goal of ensuring a more age-friendly community that values its older residents," Ms Kenneally said.

"This program also demonstrates Glenelg Shire Council's commitment to implementing

environmental education and awareness programs."

The Energy Efficiency Masters program is funded by Regional Development Victoria and will be run in conjunction with Glenelg Shire, South West TAFE and Sustainability Victoria.

Participants must be 55 or older and be living in the Glenelg Shire. Enrolments start in February 2013. Places are limited to 20 participants. To enrol, contact Peter Reefman, on 5522 2212.

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