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Flood submissions handed over

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Colin Pendlebury, one of the driving forces behind the Numurkah Flood Action Group, said that he had been motivated to remain active on the issue over the past five years by the memory of the devastation he had witnessed at the time of the flood.

"The effect at the time was really traumatic and I didn't want to see people go through that again," he said.

"Even though there are still people trying to recover now, as time goes on people forget what

it was like.

"There have been floods here for the last 150 years but nothing was ever done about preventing them.

"I just thought 'never again', we need something permanent.

"The committee has been amazing, and I really want to thank them for all of the time and energy they have put in over the past five years to make sure this happened."

Mr Close said that, now that the final round of submissions is complete, council is keen to get

the rest of the process moving quickly, and hopes to have submissions published by around April 19 and, hopefully, a report and proposal ready for vote at council's May meeting.

"Obviously there is still a lot of work to do," Mr Close said.

"Once an option is formally chosen there will be a lot of survey work and other work to be done even before a functional design can be created.

"But the money is sitting there and we are keen to get this job done for the community."

Consortium launch guarantees home care

IN what is believed to be an Australian first, 18 health services from across the region have united for the sustainability of locally governed home care for senior members of their communities.

Numurkah District Health Service CEO, Jacque Phillips said that more and more older Australians are wanting to remain living in their own homes for as long as possible, and that home care packages enable them to do just that.

A home care package is an Australian Government funding subsidy awarded to seniors for the purchase of services to enable them to remain in their own home.

"The consortium alliance provides the assurance that the local community will always have access to home care from a local provider,"

Ms Phillips said.

To date, 18 health services from northern and central Victoria and southern New South Wales have joined the consortium, collectively branded 'Community Interlink'.

Community Interlink members include: Nathalia Health, Numurkah District Health Service, North-east Health Wangaratta, Gateway Health, GV Health, Beechworth Health Service, Euroa Health, Benalla Health, Seymour Health, Yarrawonga Health, Mansfield District Hospital, Indigo North Health, Yea & District Memorial Hospital, Albury Wodonga Health, Tallangatta Health Service, Nexus Primary Health, Alexandra District Hospital and Kilmore & District Hospital.

Following 2015 Commonwealth home care funding reforms, which

resulted in a new open marketplace for home care providers, many smaller health services found it challenging to continue providing home care.

A consortium arrangement between the health services, would guarantee each member's ability to continue providing home care to their communities.

Community Interlink Governance Group member Gordon Ross said that the consortium wanted to ensure that senior members of our communities would always have access to home care services from a locally governed provider.

"Local providers are those that can offer the highest level of support, having local staff, with local knowledge and networks," he said.

Community Interlink Govern-

ance Group Chair, Suzanne Miller said that when the home care reforms were announced, regional health services were concerned about the potential level of detachment with the local public health services that could result in the open marketplace.

"After the competitive marketplace was launched, in some small regional areas there were suddenly dozens of new home care providers, mostly outsider national, even foreign companies, who had little or no connection to the community concerned or the current health sector," she said.

"The primary goal of the consortium is to build on a shared philosophy and commitment to supporting local communities via local health services."



Could have been worse ... Police are investigating a small fire adjacent to the Broken Creek walking track.

Suspicious blaze fails to spread

A SMALL bushfire beside the Broken Creek in Numurkah on Monday was deemed as suspicious by local firefighters.

The fire started at around 11am, under trees adjacent to the Numurkah Broken Creek walking track just beyond the corner of Madigan and Quinn streets.

Numurkah CFA captain Jason Cox spotted the fire as he was leaving his nearby home to drive his son to work and called it in to the station.

A truck from the Numurkah brigade attended and quickly brought the blaze under control, restricting the burn area to around four square metres.

Mr Cox, who went directly to the scene,

said that a number of factors prevented the incident from being much worse.

"The fact that the fire was spotted quickly, and that it was in the shade and there was virtually no breeze was very fortunate," he said.

"In this kind of heat, even with a slight breeze, it could have spread quite quickly."

As the fire was deemed suspicious, Numurkah police also attended the scene.

Though no source of ignition was evident, Mr Cox was prepared to rule out one possibility.

"We know it wasn't a lightning strike," he said.

ATV stolen from council depot

AN all terrain vehicle worth around \$24,000 was stolen from the Moira shire depot at Brenion Street Numurkah, last weekend.

Unknown offenders gained entry by cutting a chain on a rear side gate in the early hours of Saturday morning.

They then entered a vehicle shed where the ATV, a Kubota 1100 model, licence plate ZJZ502, was parked.

After stealing the vehicle, the offenders fled via a walking track at the rear of the depot.

Police are appealing for information regarding the theft.

• A sum of money was stolen from a Numurkah business last Wednesday.

Police believe that the thief accessed Georgia Ryan Massage on Melville Street, through a rear door at around 6.30pm, before taking the money from the cash register.

Investigations are continuing.



Stolen ATV ... An ATV the same make and model as was stolen from the Moira shire depot.

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