

CONFERENCE NEWS


CNAV 2020 Conference and Awards are going virtual to keep us connected.

EVENT PLANNING OUT OF THE BOX

A look at the fundraising model boosting our emergency services.

DOWN BUT NOT OUT

How the Latrobe Valley looks to a healthier future as the dust settles at Hazelwood.



Blue sky thinking

Community papers and businesses have had to get creative with their workflows since early March. In the July edition of *Roundabout*, we focus on what has and hasn't worked in the past, to find a path which will carry us into the future.

President's address...

The night is dark and full of terrors

Community newspapers have had the luxury of attention recently, due to the heavily publicised closure of many regional newspapers.

However, the advertised demise of community news reporting has been greatly exaggerated.

In response to the regional deficit of commercial newspapers, the Victorian Government announced in April 2020 that they would provide emergency support to help regional print media survive and ensure all Victorians have the information they need to protect themselves, slow the spread of Coronavirus, and save lives.

A variety of government departments and members of Parliament have been booking print and digital advertising in more than 100 regional outlets, which is forecasted to last for the next few months.

The not for profit publications continue to benefit through the increased government funded health promotions, which is most welcome.

Many regional publishing organisations have been meeting virtually to discuss how the community publishing sector can stay operational.

On June 4, a Zoom session organised by Senator Tim Ayres in the form of a virtual town hall meeting gathered a variety of regional community publishers, peak bodies and representatives to participate in Our

Stories Matter: Emergency Meeting on the Future of Regional Media.

While the virtual meeting had broad representation listening in, there was a failure to actually hear from the sector about what can be done to increase the strength of regional community publishing.

Most meeting attendees were virtually muted from contributing solutions while the convenors dwelled on the problem and held a tight rein on who would participate or contribute to the discussion.

This is a failure of this medium when it silences all but the anointed ones.

The rows of drawn looks on the listeners' faces reflected the frustration of being reduced to an audience and sadly lacked inspiration and collaborative thinking.

This sense of disconnect was backed up by the group chat comments which scrolled in parallel to the Zoom session.

It is unfortunate that the opportunity was missed to rally the sector and discuss a variety of solutions, considering the fleeting attention span of public interest.

A petition promotion was offered by Senator Ayres as a way to increase awareness, and while it is a very traditional approach in delivering a message to government, it does not give voice to the myriad of ideas that can help lift the community publishing sector from its knees.

The success of community newspapers lies in its ability to be creative, collaborative and innovative, not dependent.

Clearly, there is a need for better networking between the many publishing peak bodies



if we are to change the outcomes for the survival of the not for profit publishing sector. CNAV will continue to advocate for our sector and capitalise on opportunities to strengthen the resilience of community based publishing by promoting funding opportunities, reaching out to other beneficial networks and developing standards to raise the profile of the community newspaper sector, especially the not for profits.

The enduring ability to publish our stories is the most powerful indicator of the value of community newspapers, especially during such challenging times.

With the second round of COVID-19 lockdowns underway in the Melbourne metro area under the dimming light of recession and the familiar aroma of the oily rag, it may be that our community newspapers are the ones to survive.

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We also take a peek into Fireball in a Box, a great fundraising model to help communities support the CFA.

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In May, the chimneys of Hazelwood Power Station finally came down, our member in Churchill has provided a local perspective. We also have an insight into lockdown life for the businesses on the Surf Coast, many of whom are reliant on tourism.

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15 Years of CNAV

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Our mission

Roundabout is a bimonthly newsletter produced under the guidance of the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria's committee.

Roundabout aims to encourage, inform, educate and celebrate member publications in the pursuit of good community journalism. To outwardly promote the intrinsic value of independent community journalism to potential new members, as well as external associations, community groups, state and national agencies, forums and public platforms.

To elevate the public profile of CNAV and its member publications.

Stay in touch



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<https://cnav.org.au>



CNAV on Facebook

facebook.com/CNAVRoundabout

Organisation

CNAV Committee report June 2020

The committee met for their second Zoom meeting this year on Saturday, June 27.

The virtual format, which has been adopted by committees across the country, from local committees to local, state and national government is proving to work effectively as a meeting medium.

Firstly, the committee acknowledged the resignation of committee member Fay Woodhouse who has had to step down due to increasing work commitments due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The committee wishes to thank Fay for her contributions to the CNAV Committee and looks forward to catching up with her in the future.

The main focus of the committee meeting was the status of the 2020 CNAV Conference and CNAV Awards.

Prior to the meeting, during the first two weeks of June, the Survey Monkey powered CNAV 2020 Conference survey was publicised on email and on social media to all members.

We had 43 responses from the survey, of those responses the trend indicated the majority of members would unlikely attend a traditional CNAV conference in 2020.

When the survey was conducted, Coronavirus infection rates within Australia were trending down and there was optimism that a COVID-Normal scenario where mass participation events, such as industry conferences, would be possible.

However, since the pandemic took hold in March, the committee has been acting conservatively and the survey results

reflect the general sense of caution felt by the committee.

Naturally, the accelerated situation which has presented itself in the opening week of July draws a line against any possibility of a traditional conference in 2020.

However, the sense of connection, community and the opportunities to learn from each other is an integral part of why, each year, we have a Conference.

The committee has established a sub-committee who are investigating the possibility of hosting a virtual CNAV Conference in 2020, which would feature a suite of live and pre-recorded webinars and workshops, as well as Zoom led round-table discussions and, of course, the annual AGM and CNAV Awards.

2020 CNAV Awards

The CNAV Committee are optimistic about the 2020 CNAV Awards going ahead.

Committee members are now in the process of contacting potential judges and establishing workflows to be able to collate and judge entries.

For 2020, submissions will be a mixture of physical and digital submissions, so start thinking about your submission for Best Photograph, Layout & Design, Best Feature, Best Sports Reporting, Best Writing by a person under the age of 18, Best Editorial Comment, Best History Article, Best Community Content, and the coveted Best Newspaper.

Conference and Awards dates and forms will be made available shortly.



An update on Government Coronavirus ads

Many publications are currently receiving Government Coronavirus ads.

At the beginning of July, Bill Penrose, CNAV Broker circulated an email to CNAV Community Newspapers about the current situation regarding Government Coronavirus ads:

"You may be aware of a significant number of adverts being placed in many of our papers.

I have been advised that this is for the purpose of distributing funds to communities through local papers.

They are trying to get a full colour page if possible in every issue and also using it to publish COVID-19 information and a few other smaller campaigns.

Sometimes the adverts are two-half-pages. The campaign could go on till September but that is not confirmed.

They have made the point that confirmation of an order and the sending in of tear sheets

is a priority and will withdraw advertising if they think things are going a bit slow.

I am well aware that all papers are created and run by volunteers and it is a bit of an ask, however I urge you to do it as soon as you can in each case.

They do not seem to take notice of your deadlines and often order when it is too late.

This usually means that the order has to be cancelled and not held over to the next issue but in some cases they give some leeway.

Apparently, there is no urgency to send your invoices and we will leave that to your treasurer but we ask that at all times you reference our order number in all your replies.

We ensure your invoice number is placed on all payments.

Please keep the CNAV.IN database up to date."

A number of CNAV newspapers have indicated that recent paid Government ads have often come late — sometimes within a few days of going to print.

These advertisements are a potential financial lifeline for small community newspapers.

To take full advantage of these government ads, please ensure you do the following:

- Keep your details as up to date as possible in the CNAV.IN database.
- Prioritise confirmation and the production of tear sheets for these adverts.
- Always include your newspaper name and reference number (where relevant) in all communications with Bill Penrose, the CNAV Broker.

Feature: COVID-Publishing

Community newspapers are riding the ‘rona-coaster

By Sandi Miller

Producing community newspapers is challenging at the best of times.

The additional challenges around the COVID-19 Pandemic have, sadly, seen many newspapers around the country fold.

However, there are many publications who have been able to ride out the initial months of the pandemic, coming through largely unscathed.

But just as we have begun to see the light at the end of the tunnel, it appears it may have been an oncoming train.

As we go into this second wave there are now different communities facing different restrictions based on their post code.

Metropolitan publishers are now entering a second lockdown, none harder hit than the *North and West Melbourne News (NWMN)* whose readership encompasses the North Melbourne public housing towers, who have been living under some of the toughest restrictions seen in Australia.

The *NWMN*, which has been in production for 42 years, has a team of four at the helm, who oversee editorial, production, advertising and distribution.

Maurice Gaul is the Editor of the *NWMN* and after a stint at the helm in 2011–2013, he returned last year to lend his extensive journalism experience to the community-run paper.

He told *Roundabout* the paper's philosophy was to “reflect the diversity of our vibrant community and to celebrate its local identities and achievements”.

They publish quarterly and have a mix of stories provided by community groups and volunteer reporters.

However, this volunteer mix is causing some difficulties during lockdown.

Many of his volunteer reporters are journalism and media students, whom Maurice has recruited and mentored to write for the paper.

“About five are North Melbourne locals, and because they are locals, they have a sense of what is going on, people who might be interesting to write about, what groups and organisations are interesting to write about.

“What we also do is advertise online through the Universities and Colleges and whatever, and we get a number of people who indicate an interest.

“Every time we advertise we get about 30, five of whom are usually journalism students... they are not locals, but they see great advantage in getting published.

“I essentially explain to them ‘we are not interested in your articles about Climate Change and Afghanistan, we are interested in your articles about people in North Melbourne’.

“And they say ‘well I don't know anyone in North Melbourne’ — well that's where I come in — I have a million local contacts, and I give

them 20 or 30 leads — but even though they don't know North Melbourne, as non-local volunteers, they would say ‘I'd be interested in writing about Virginia Trioli (who is a local), or I'd be interested in writing about that domestic violence group’.

“It is a very easy match, once you locate these talented writers who live elsewhere; I acquaint them to what is going on, and that is central to how the paper is put together — 50 per cent is community groups writing about themselves, suitably sub-edited — and the other 50 per cent is 15 of our own writers, five of them local, 10 of them not local, but all of them writing about North Melbourne.”

He says, as we all experienced in the first lockdown, that no one was allowed out anywhere, so that meant that all the stories in the June edition had to be done by email, “which I warn all of our writers against”.

“Where they would ordinarily do their interviews face-to-face, for the June edition all the stories had to be done by emails or phone and I got some of the writers, quite a few of them, to write about their own experience of lockdown, knowing full well they would be published either in a lockdown or right at the end.

“The problem for this coming edition... we now have the challenge of having to prepare our stories by that roundabout means of email and phones — and the double problem is, it is increasingly difficult to find stories for people who not only don't live in North Melbourne, and that by definition don't really know North Melbourne, but now can't *get* to North Melbourne, so the Editor is working very hard to compile this list of 30 or 40 stories that are manageable or acceptable by the locals.

“A lot of the community groups, who last time wrote about their activities and what they were up to in lockdown will now be asked to do the same thing... they may have covered what they have done in lockdown in the previous edition, only to find that the Editor is now asking them to write another.

“The short answer is I can get around it, I can get around anything, but it makes it harder going”.

Advertising has not been a problem so far for the quarterly publication. *NWMN's* Advertising Coordinator, Janet Graham told *Roundabout* a number of their regular clients took up the offer at the beginning of this year (pre-COVID) of a 20 per cent discount if they booked four repeat advertisements and paid in advance.

“So they were, in effect, locked in for our four 2020 editions.

“A few casual advertisers chose not to advertise in our winter (June) 2020 issue and there were no new enquiries,” she said.

But, Janet also said, the demise of local commercial newspapers may be a benefit for them.

“We have recently received enquiries from



the local council and a real estate agent, possibly resulting from the demise of the local *Leader* publications — these enquiries were for larger-size ads — so, I think ‘swings and roundabouts’ would categorise our experience at *NWMN*,” she said.

Production and distribution for the *NWMN* remains unaffected by the lockdown, as their “production guru” Anne Burgi has her own production facilities and can continue to layout the paper, and their team of 30 volunteer distributors should still be able to get out to deliver the 6,500 papers to each home in North and West Melbourne come September when they are next due to go to print.

But, not all papers are able to weather the storm so well, with some papers closing and some taking a break from publication.

Churchill & District News went into hiatus at the start of the first lockdown.

Editor Ruth Place told *Roundabout* there are many reasons why their team decided to go into recess:

She said most of the volunteers who produce the paper are over 70 and therefore in the vulnerable group, who were advised to stay home.

Many too were shielding other vulnerable members of their households, and one was supervising their grandchildren in home learning.

Adding to that, the office where they produce the paper is small, which makes social distancing difficult.

And, she said, they were struggling to find much to report about with many of the groups on which they report closing during lockdown.

The community does have another local publication to get their news, which helped in their decision.

“Only 12 kilometres away our regional newspaper the *Latrobe Valley Express* was continuing to operate.

“They were reporting on all the COVID-19 restrictions and safeguards, so that important issue was being taken care of.

“In the meantime, many of us have appreciated some down time, to recharge our batteries,” she said.

The *Churchill & District News* are cautiously planning to return to the presses in August, in a work-from-home capacity, depending on how the current wave progresses.

Feature: Community cash for CFA

Local communities could learn from gala success



Photo: David Ng, Wyng Images

The Fireball Committee at Fireball 2018

By Sandi Miller
Warrandyte Diary

Local Emergency Services spend countless hours volunteering to keep us safe.

When fire broke out on a 40-degree day in Warrandyte in February 2014, local CFA brigades jumped into action to save lives and homes.

Just two days later, local IGA manager, Julie Quinton was surprised to see those same firefighters selling sausages in front of her store to raise money to purchase a new tanker.

Julie immediately resolved that local firefighters give enough time and should not have to be fundraising on top of that.

She established Fireball, biennial gala ball with lofty aims of raising money or big-ticket items our emergency services need.

Along with a committee of enthusiastic residents, and the support of local businesses, and local community newspaper, *Warrandyte Diary*, the Fireball surpassed even Julie's great expectations as the community embraced the concept, turning out in droves to support the event.

This community initiative has raised more than \$210,000 and purchased three vehicles for the Greater Warrandyte CFAs.

The inaugural 2014 event closed the gap for North Warrandyte CFAs grant qualification enabling the purchase of a new \$300,000 tanker.

The subsequent 2016 and 2018 events purchased two 4WD First Response and Forward Control Vehicles for Warrandyte and South Warrandyte CFAs — all essential operational vehicles with modern safety features to protect volunteers.

This Warrandyte community group is now looking to share their fundraising expertise with volunteers around Australia, in the hope they can emulate similar fundraising success stories for their local volunteer CFA brigades.

The fireball committee have put together Fireball in a Box, to assist other communities to stage their own gala events.

Fireball in a Box is a comprehensive toolkit providing step-by-step guidance for local community groups to form their very own committee, organise and deliver a Gala Ball event, with the opportunity of raising significant funds for CFA Brigades or other Emergency Services.

Fireball in a Box provides volunteer groups with 10 detailed key steps towards a success plan — from functional duties and priorities, establishing the 'right' committee to determining needs and financial targets, attracting sponsors, maximizing community involvement, as well as creating an extraordinary experience and event.

This was all done separately, but in close collaboration with the Brigades themselves, to ensure priorities were identified and met. According to Michelle Lambert, Chair, Warrandyte Fireball Committee, CFA equipment is expensive, and a weekly sausage sizzle simply does not raise sufficient funds to cover the costs of running a CFA brigade.

"Through this detailed toolkit, we have painstakingly tried to think of everything a community group needs to know and follow to create their own gala," she said.

Michelle said the committee is proud of the impact they have made in their local community and think the knowledge they have gained in the process can help other communities around the state.

"Other communities out there are also struggling to raise significant funds for their emergency services volunteers and are just not sure how to go about it.

"Fireball in a Box provides a road map, it shares the decisions we made and why we made them; it also shares our learnings that drove the direction of those decisions and also highlights any legal or commercial

obligations, the structure we developed and templates that we have created.

"This may not be the 100 per cent answer for a different community, but if they are able to take 70 per cent of it or even 50 per cent that they don't have to create from scratch, then we have done our job.

"Hopefully, it will help you avoid mistakes that we made as we worked through our journey."

"This is from our hearts to you, who are also trying to support your community volunteers. The galas are great events, filled with a suite of fundraising opportunities and lots of fun for the CFA members and guests.

"The evening boasts wonderful food, drinks, top shelf entertainment and auction items.

"It is through a gala that the community really bands together for the sole purpose in raising funds for their CFA brigade.

Captain of Warrandyte Fire Brigade, Adrian Mullens said "Fireball has raised significant funds that the brigade simply wouldn't be able to achieve.

"We were blown away that the Fireball Committee could in one-night raise so much money, that otherwise would take us 10 years to make in donations."

Michelle said the toolkit has the resources and information for the community groups to be working smarter and not harder for even better results.

"It is important to be strategic and creative when it comes to fundraising, bringing together like-minded people for a common cause," she said.

Michelle said Fireball in a Box allows communities to dive straight in and not have to reinvent the wheel.

"We didn't know what we didn't know."

The Fire Ball in a Box toolkit is available to download for free at:

www.fireball.org.au/fireball-in-a-box

Inbox

The day the chimneys came down

Photos: Allan Larkin



By Ruth Place

Churchill and District News

GREAT CROWDS of people lined the streets of Morwell at the best vantage points, and strings of cars were parked along Monash Way and Switchback road, to watch patiently for the chimneys to be blown up and crash down.

Patience was the word, as from 10am on May 25, the word was it would happen any minute.

But that was continually delayed until around 12:30pm, when, with a puff of smoke, the chimneys fell gracefully, and in order, as planned by the technicians.

There were many reactions to the well-publicised event.

Obviously curiosity — but also a touch of sadness as one of our valley's landmarks literally bit the dust.

The eight chimneys have been viewed by many as the sign that they are nearly home, which is what this area is for the people who choose to live here.

It has been a significant part of our history, producing the state's power for 50 years and contributing generously to the local community through sponsorship.

In 2017 the power generation ceased, but the icon was still there.

Demolition works began in April 2019 with

works scheduled for completion in 2022 with the site is returned to the public less the standout chimneys and other structures.

The local impact

There are many views surrounding the cessation of the coal fired power station.

Some would say we have an "amazing, easily obtained source of energy" and ask "why can't the coal be used in another up to date power station?"

There are many workers from Hazelwood Power Station, some still without employment, who would be capable of running this new power station.

Others focus on power generation and need, whereas for some renewables are the way to go, coal burning creates too much CO2 and our planet is at risk with Climate Change.

Whilst others ask whether we can generate enough power, without coal, to meet our needs.

There is also concern about the amount of asbestos on site and people wonder whether a plan to bury it in a tank will eventuate.

There are also the health issues which have been identified — respiratory and neurological issues, and reportedly an increase in the number of deaths in 2014, because of the Hazelwood mine fire.

The array of arguments for and against a

coal fired power station at Hazelwood are diverse, complex and often at odds with each other.

An adaptive community

The end of electricity production at Hazelwood Power Station has meant a real downturn for the Latrobe Valley, with jobs lost in the industry and the flow on effect resulting in the down-sizing, loss of jobs or complete closure of many other businesses reliant on income from work with the Hazelwood Power Station.

However, Jane Anderson is the state appointed Latrobe Health Advocate (LHA) for Latrobe Valley, a role created in the wake of the Hazelwood Mine fires incident and lead of the Latrobe Health Advocate team.

Jane believes that the Latrobe community is now more resilient as they have had to endure several life-changing events.

She believes the community has, mostly, managed to adapt to change and consider other perspectives, leading to being able to have more balanced conversations.

Jane also reports that she feels that Latrobe Valley residents are now becoming a community with greater community pride.

LHA provides independent advice to the State Government, on behalf of Latrobe Valley communities, on policies issues affecting community health and wellbeing.

The Latrobe Valley awaits the promised rehabilitation of Hazelwood's (cooling) pondage, as an inland sailing and tourist mecca.

The chimneys coming down was a spectacle and brought the world to Morwell for a few precious hours on a wintery Monday morning.

But, it may also signal a new community interest in caring for our environment and one another.



Photo: Simpsons fan 66 at English Wikipedia / CC BY-SA
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>



Then and now. The familiar skyline near Morwell forever changed.

The hazardous history of Hazelwood

By Barbara Cheetham
Churchill and District News

In October 1959 the Victorian Parliament approved the construction of the Hazelwood Power Station in the Latrobe Valley.

For more than 50 years it operated as a leading energy generator.

Built between 1964 and 1971, the 1,600-megawatt capacity power station was made up of eight 200MW units.

Its eight chimneys were each 137 metres tall. The first power generator unit began operation in February, 1964 while the other seven came into operation over the next seven years.

In March, 1971 the power station was officially opened by Sir Henry Bolte.

It was originally scheduled to be retired in 2005.

The power station was fed by the adjacent open cut brown coal mine.

Operating at full capacity the power station consumed 55,000 tonnes of coal each 24 hours, or 18 million tonnes a year, to produce up to one quarter of Victoria's electricity supply.

International Power (which was later taken over by ENGIE) purchased Hazelwood Power Station and the adjoining mine from the Victorian Government in 1996 with an expected 40-year life span.

The power station was not without difficulties during its lifetime.

Members of Greenpeace and other environmental groups protested at the site numerous times from 2005, wanting the power station closed because of greenhouse gas emissions.

Unfortunately, asbestos had been used in areas of construction and became a health hazard.

A bushfire engulfed the mine and burned for 45 days in 2014 (pictured) covering surrounding towns in smoke and ash.

Major repairs at the top of the chimneys were carried out in 2015.

Then, in December 2016, it was revealed that Hazelwood was the subject of numerous Worksafe notices requiring extensive work to make the site safe.

ENGIE estimated the cost of complying with these would be \$400million.

Heritage Victoria found the power station did not meet the criteria for cultural Heritage recognition in 2018.

Hazelwood produced more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity than any other power station in Australia and was the biggest source of toxic fine particulate matter.

It used 27 billion litres of water a year — as much as Melbourne uses.

The perimeter of the mine site is 18kms with 110kms of roads formed within.

The mine has an 11,000 hectares site, much of which has been leased to farmers for grazing of cattle.

While the power station was state-of-the-art when opened in 1964 it had reached the end of its productive life.

It lasted far longer than anyone anticipated

Images by Keith Pakenham — CFA
Courtesy CFA Digital Library



when its life began.

Employees past and present, contractors, local suppliers and businesses and the broader Latrobe Valley community have all played a part in ensuring that Hazelwood has been a key player in the nation's electricity system during that time.

Hazelwood was jointly owned by ENGIE with a 72 per cent share and Mitsui & Co with a 28 per cent share.

ENGIE widely helped many local sports, festivals, social and other district organisations with donations and grants.

In 2014, Hazelwood employed 495 staff directly and on average 300 contractors.

On November 3, 2016 ENGIE announced that the entire Hazelwood plant would be closed at the end of March, 2017, giving only five months' notice of the closure.

The power station closed in March, 2017 and it took another twelve months for the plant to be decommissioned.

The eight chimneys at the power station were demolished on May 25, 2020 each chimney falling within 4.2 seconds of each other from timed depth charges.

They fell on top of each other to minimize the dust cloud that drifted as they hit the ground. The chimney demolition is one of the major milestones in the removal and rehabilitation of the former power station and mine.

The historic demolition was felt at least 200 kms away at Geelong and Bacchus Marsh.

The falling of the eight tall chimneys has changed our landscape forever.

It leaves only photos and memories of a power station that had provided so many apprentices and workers a lifetime of knowledge and employment.

The area now known as Churchill was originally named Hazelwood after a pastoral run established in 1844, but was renamed after Sir Winston Churchill's death in 1965.

The change of name has not been without its critics, and residents who pushed hard



Nick carson / CC BY-SA
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Environment protest at Hazelwood, October 2010

to restore the Hazelwood name were finally heard in 1989, when the town was asked to vote on whether the town would be renamed to Hazelwood or stay as Churchill.

The name Churchill won by a narrow vote. Construction of Churchill township began in 1965 as a service centre for the new Hazelwood Power Station.

Churchill is only five kms distant from Hazelwood Power Station.

Churchill & District Community News began in 1966 and has been in print ever since, apart from two short breaks.

Their "Looking Back" series of local history has included three very interesting stories of early history and worker memories of Hazelwood Power Station.

See these stories at www.cdnews.com.au in issue numbers 134A, 135 and 136.

Life under COVID-19 on the Surf Coast

By Helen Grant,
The Otway Light

Life under COVID-19 for *The Otway Light* itself has meant that we are printing fewer copies, as Weekenders haven't been visiting the area.

Because we have our room at the college, we are isolated anyway, so have been able to continue with limited staff.

So it has been business as usual for us.

Below are comments and observations from our readers — which includes tourism operators, teachers and parents.

I am sure you will see some similarities to how your communities have coped across the state.

Learning lots of new things; how to use computer apps like Zoom for yoga and meetings, guitar, and how to navigate Centrelink.

Feel blessed to live where we do and that family and friends are all well.

Like many people living along the Great Ocean Road and depending on tourism for their livelihoods, the immediate negative impact on me has been complete loss of income, and worry about paying the mortgage.

Financial woes aside though, I feel a sense of peace.

The roads are quiet, the streets are uncrowded.

There's time to catch up with oneself.

A major plus has to be the way we've been compelled to return to the local, physically at least, rather than frantically motoring to and fro around the globe.

I do miss proper sit-down coffee chats with friends though, and proper hugs.

Thank God I can pat my dog at least.

Even though our business has stopped our life feels so much freer and we can concentrate on the good things.

It's been relaxing — the first Easter I've had off work for 22 years — the road is nice and quiet.

I've been enjoying taking the time to watch nature, how wonderful it is to see them all just going about their business in blissful obliviousness to what's going on in the world.

I find it quite comforting and reassuring.

Many people I know talk about having a lot of spare time at the moment, but this is not the case for us!

One of us continues to work in Colac, while the other now home schools two kids while also working online.

For now, we're lucky that our employment hasn't changed too much, in part thanks to the internet.

The connection is good but could always be further improved for the now ubiquitous video conferencing.

Meanwhile outside, the farm work never stops and there is always something that

needs to be done.

Our city friends are envious of the open space and fresh air we have, but to be honest we were already self-isolating to some degree.

I have found this extraordinary time quite useful.

Lots of time to do some well needed garden maintenance, ragwort control, fence fixing and with a grocery top up once a week, all in all, we have no need to complain.

The huge "jobs to do list" is slowly looking manageable!

COVID-19? Well almost no traffic every morning when I walk Roy to Lavers Hill and back and being naturally shy and introverted means I actually enjoy social isolation.

There are very few ambulance callouts as there are no tourists.

It's a great time to enjoy the garden and listen to prog rock on Spotify, do a jigsaw puzzle or cryptic crossword.

I feel so thankful being in the Otways, can't imagine how stressful it could be being cooped up in a city high rise apartment on the 21st floor!

It's kind of nice.

Everything has slowed down.

An interesting and reflective time. Spending time catching up with my son.

Best thing for me personally (and selfishly) as a retiree living alongside the Great Ocean Road is the peace and quiet which has entered my life in an otherwise normally frenetic part of the Otways.

Very sad though for all those who rely on tourism and passing traffic for their livelihood.

As we are a tourism accommodation business, our business has been "hibernating" since mid-March. No guests, no income!

The future is unknown in regards to when domestic tourism will start again but we're predicting it's still a few months away.

A significant part of our business is the international trade and this will most likely be closed until 2021 or when a vaccine is discovered.

The word "pivot" has become a hot topic for various businesses but it's a little tricky in our game when you're selling "bricks and mortar" accommodation.

The only pivot we've done is set up Room 1 as a Uni study space and Room 2 as a secondary school classroom for our daughters — the 12A's coastline is a great backdrop to Zoom from!

We'll continue to stay safe, stay well and stay happy and one day we'll welcome back our guests and deflate our hibernation bubble.

We have been shut down since March 30, this has caused us to cancel the Blues and Blueberry Festival which was rescheduled to May 3 after postponement due to the fire

threat in February.

We really feel for all the musos who are now out of work, seeing most rely on the Melbourne pub scene.

Meanwhile we have commenced our winter maintenance program, we have retained our key staff on the Job Keeper program and are getting used to being isolated from family and friends.

Not seeing family and especially our grandchildren is the unpleasant part of this situation, other than that, we are coping quite well.

All of us in the accommodation sector, would have been financially disadvantaged by having to be closed over Easter, for most of us the Easter period and corresponding school holidays would have set us up for the winter.

In this very strange world we live in — at the moment — has made me realise how much freedom we have on a day to day basis.

Having said this, I have been forced to take the time out and have really started to enjoy where I live, appreciate those I live with and place a higher value on the good friends that I have.

I miss my parents (never thought I would say that), I feel bad for my dad who would not be able to understand why he hasn't seen us (his family), I also realise how much my mother is deteriorating.

I know the things that I placed value in have taken a step back, as when it comes down to it they are not really an essential part of life.

I feel terrible for those affected by COVID-19 and for countries that are struggling to take control of the virus.

We are lucky and staying at home really isn't that bad.

I just hope we don't go back to the way things have been in the past and we revalue how we do things in the future.

I didn't realise my children are such gannets, they don't stop eating.

A reminder of just how lucky we are to live where we do... rural, open skies, rolling hills, lovely forest walks, beach access (if no out of towners!), own gardens and being able to wander and be outside for any length of time, great community pulling together.

What do you say when you're four-year-old keeps asking why she can't go and visit Gran or Pa or Aunty or their cousins, and is quite upset?

The difficult part is trying to avoid over-eating as everyone is pretty much too well stocked up.

For someone who is a workaholic, with workplace shutdown, surprisingly I have really enjoyed spending time with my children, realise I and they have been missing out (although, ask me again in another couple of weeks!).

Meet your committee members



Mary Farrow
President



Jens Kristen Toft Hansen
Vice-President



Caroline Roff
Treasurer



Sandra Miller
Web / Marketing



Helen Smith
Membership



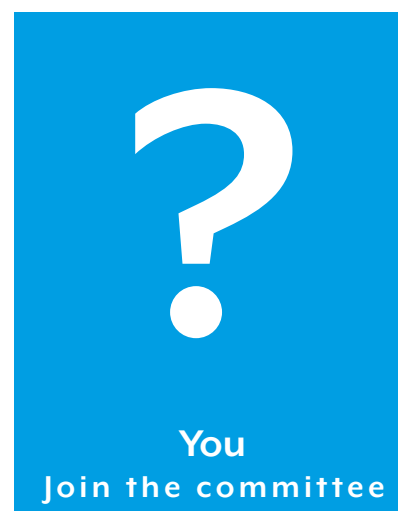
Anne Brackley
Secretary



James Poyner
Roundabout Editor



Meredith Cole
Member



You
Join the committee

Innovation helps the war on COVID-19

By James Poyner and Sandi Miller
Warrandyte Diary

As in wartime, when manufacturers changed their production lines to produce goods for the war effort, now businesses have switched to making protective equipment for our frontline medical heroes.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is an integral part of the fight against COVID-19, frontline workers around the world are in desperate need of this equipment to further reduce their risk of infection.

But demand is outstripping supply.

But fear not, there are a host of cottage industry and repurposed factory production lines that have pivoted to lend a hand.

From seamstresses producing facemasks and surgical scrubs, boatbuilders pivoting their business to produce Perspex shields, the gaps in supply are being plugged by creative thinkers.

And it's a global effort.

For instance, innovators, designers and engineers from around the world are collaborating via the Viral Response digital platform.

Viral Response part of an open source product development platform called Wikifactory, has makers around the world producing protective masks, UV Sterilisation boxes, ventilators, and more.

One contributor is Matt Plumber, from Warrandyte in Melbourne's outer East.

Matt, who usually teaches Digital Design and Technologies at a Melbourne high school has been using a 3D Printer to print face shields for frontline medical staff.

We asked Matt, what compelled him to become involved in the project.

"I had read about the maker community being involved in 3D printing much-needed PPE overseas and here in Australia.

"The media was full of stories of medical staff not have the correct PPE.

"I just felt that here was something that I could do to help with the fight against COVID-19.

"It really struck home for me seeing what has tragically transpired in Italy and Spain.

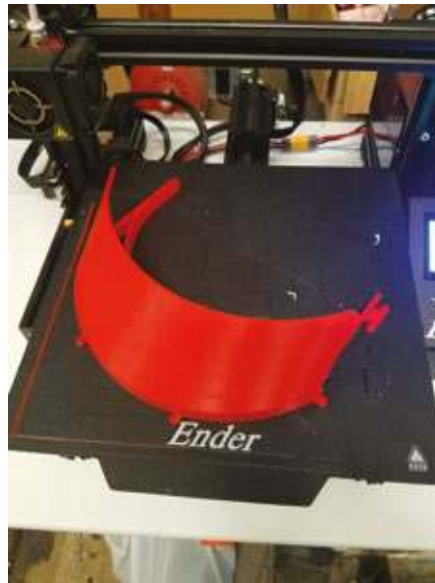
"Medical personnel were really in the firing line and, to me, doing all the 'heavy lifting' for the rest of us.

"All I have to do is self-isolate and wait it out, so here was an opportunity for me to contribute," he said.

The printing process is not a quick one, depending on the printer, it can take between four to six hours to print the shield component for one mask.

A 3D Printer can cost anywhere between \$300 and \$3,000, plus the cost of filament, which seems to cost as much as printer ink, and the files needed to print 3D objects readily available online, this technology has brought micromanufacturing into the home. This makes for an incredibly agile manufacturing industry, which is incredibly beneficial in a situation like what we now find ourselves in.

"A need is identified, designs can be modelled



in CAD in a matter of hours, prototypes produced within days and can then distributed very quickly indeed.

"So, before mass production can even be ready to roll, thousands of products can be made available using 3D printing."

As an educator, Matt sees incredible potential in a project like this to educate our future workers about using a technology like 3D Printing to creatively solve real-world problems.

"To empower our kids with the thinking skills and technical capacity to solve the problems that their generation will face moving forwards is vital.

"3D printing is one tool that could make a difference, this is one topic that I can talk about for hours!"

Matt's masks are currently being sent to The Royal Melbourne and Western Health hospitals.

Matt and the rest of the 3D printing community are always looking for more printers or even donations to fund the cost of purchasing additional printers and filament.

"If anyone has a 3D printer, then get printing, to donate money contact <https://protectourfrontline.org/>

"A 1kg spool of 3D printing filament casts about \$25 and can be bought on Amazon or from local suppliers, I could always do with more filament!"

"I just bought a \$500 printer for this project, but if there anyone, businesses or individuals, that would like to support by donating a printer than that would be awesome," he said. Matt has also said, once the pandemic is over, he would be happy to "hand over" any donated printers and materials to a local school or Men's Shed.

Marine business changing tack

Scott and Brigitte Easton, have taken their Bayswater business, Cover Craft, from manufacturing boat accessories to making medical supplies.

Cover Craft have been supplying boat covers to the marine industry for over 25 years both locally and to Europe, New Zealand and China.

The company started the year with a surge of insurance work from boats damaged in both the Malacoota fires and the Melbourne

hailstorm.

However, with the slowdown brought on by the Coronavirus, they have turned their business on its heels to tool up for a new product — face shields.

Brigitte says that they had a bit of a heads up from colleagues overseas who had begun making surgical masks and face shields in anticipation of a world-wide shortage.

“At first we thought, oh they are going a bit over the top aren't they?”

“Just your regular marine fabricators making medical equipment, that seems really odd,” Brigitte said.

She said they suggested she and Scott should look into what raw materials they can access in Australia “because no one can get these things, they are not coming out of China anymore”.

Brigitte said they were able to use their existing equipment, used for making boat covers into face shields, for use by frontline medical staff.

“The pivot from boat covers to medical devices doesn't seem too far-fetched when you consider the materials and equipment involved are very similar for both products,” she said.

Brigitte said they obtained a face shield to use as an example and created a prototype from there.

“Our factory in Bayswater has a large cutting table, which is what we would normally cut our canvas on for the boat covers, and with a

boom linked to a digital CAD machine.

“The boom moves across the table and cuts out what is in the file, so instead of one big long piece of canvas we are looking at hundreds of these face shields.

“It is kind of like a rigid plastic, but it is flexible, it forms around your face.

She said they cut out all of those pieces on their existing table and then add a foam headband and elastic strap.

“It is all materials we would use normally and can be easily sourced, and you can use them for other things, but it is a completely different product.

Where they used to make five boat covers per day, they can make hundreds of shields a day, so there is a different dynamic.

“Our average boat cover might be \$1,000 but these face shields are \$6, so the quantities are higher but the prices are lower.

She said she went to the Therapeutic Goods Association to get TGA approval, which has assisted in getting their product sold to health professionals.

She says they have so far made thousands of the face shields.

“We have supplied Yarra Ranges Council for their immunisation and child health nurses, I have sold some to dental clinics and allied health professionals,” she said.

“We are now supplying health care providers Australia wide and are working on expanding our product range to include surgical gowns,” she said.



The medical devices are not as lucrative as their marine business, but she says that combined with the Government stimulus they are able to keep the business afloat.

She said she is grateful for the Government support, not just for the financial boost, but also as a morale booster.

“It makes everyone think, yes we are all in this together, we are trying to keep society still functioning with people attached to their workplaces — and there is not this massive sense of doom,” she said.

You are our community

Community forum on Facebook

Annual conference

Bi-monthly newsletter

Government advertising

cnav.org.au

CNAV is a network of over 60 newspapers and newsletters run by and for communities all over Victoria.

Collectively, it is a network of grassroots writers, photographers, editors, layout artists, relationship builders, community representatives and all-round nice people.

The publications produced are all very different, but what they all have in common is they tell stories, and whether it is 8 pages or 48 page, A4 or tabloid, weekly, monthly or quarterly, or printed 10 times, 100 times or 10,000 times, the challenges faced are pretty similar.

The CNAV network is here to help!

Celebrating 15 years of CNAV

Looking back at what we have achieved and embracing the path forward

Roundtable discussions at the inaugural conference in 2006, Ballarat



Photos CNAV Flickr account:
www.flickr.com/people/141751343@N08/

July 15 is the 15th birthday of CNAV. 2020 marks global shift in the way people behave, businesses operate and — for print and broadcast media — the way in which the general public assimilate its news. We have seen commercial community newspapers across Australia have disappeared overnight, with large swathes of rural and metropolitan areas suddenly without a trusted “local news” outlet.

A golden age for community journalism

With the fall of the larger, commercial, community mastheads there has been a push to set up independent newspapers and newsletters to maintain that local focus and keep local authorities accountable.

However, the costs of running a commercial newspaper are daunting, where as a volunteer or not-for-profit operation has a much smaller operating margin, often communities lack the persons of experience who can help make a community newspaper a reality.

This is where CNAV comes in, CNAV is here to help create a layer of community news in Victoria which is not bound by its profit margin or syndicated over such a vast area that there is not a lot of “local” in the local newspaper.

But where did it start?

A brief history of CNAV

Rewind to 2003, to Omeo in East Gippsland and the Victorian Small Rural Communities Conference.

At this conference, there was a panel on community newspapers.

Those on the panel decided that it was important for community newspapers to have an association to help bring them together.

A small group of people from Gippsland then started to plan the formation of CNAV.

The first step was a successful conference on Community Newspapers held at Monash University’s Gippsland campus in November, 2004, where it was resolved by participants that an association for community-owned newspapers was warranted.

At the 2004 conference, three members of the *Upper Beaconsfield Village Bell* were in attendance, including long standing committee member Helen Smith.

“It was exciting to realise there were many other people doing the same thing as us.

“We were previously unaware how many other community publications were being produced,” she said.

At the end of the 2004 conference, the organisers asked people to put their names down to show they were interested in furthering the aim to establish a community newspaper association.

The following July the first meeting was called in Hawthorn, Melbourne, and a small founding committee was formed.

The first CNAV Committee comprised of President Mick Bourke (*Traf News—Trafalgar*), Vice-President Bob Holschier (*About Town—Stanhope*), Secretary Mary Jo Fortuna (*Waranga News—Rushworth*) and Treasurer Helen Smith (*Village Bell—Upper Beaconsfield*).

Staying connected

The first official CNAV Conference was held in Ballarat in October, 2006.

The State Government awarded CNAV a grant to assist running the conference and

the keynote speaker was MP John Thwaites, Deputy Premier and Minister for Victorian Communities.

The workshops at CNAV 06’ were:

- Legal structures of community newspapers.
- The *Fair Trading Act* with Consumer Affairs Victoria.
- Production, activities and equipment involved in the publication process.
- Governance — structure, volunteers, policy development.

As well as the annual conference, the CNAV Committee also publish an internal newsletter, *Roundabout*.

The first edition to appear on the digital archive on the CNAV website is March, 2011. Stories appearing in this edition include a story about a new communication method — social media.

The story’s opening par reads:

“At least one of our members makes use of Facebook.

“Do you know of any others? We would be most grateful for correspondence!

The social network has become quite valuable as a communications tool during a time of disaster...”

Both the conferences and *Roundabout* fall under CNAV’s objectives to foster the development and continuation of community newspapers as well as building better networks through the CNAV members and seeking to raise the profile of CNAV’s member publications.

Continues over...

Looking forward

The aims outlined at CNAV's inception are just as important now as they were then.

Every year, an annual conference and awards presentation has been held and many community newspaper delegates have attended and enjoyed the sharing of ideas, learning new things and catching up with people from all over the state.

The thing that has been most heartening to see has been the big improvement in the standard of the publications entered in the awards over the years.

The annual conference will not take place in its usual form this year, but CNAV connects newspapers across Victoria and the newspaper and newsletters within the association are diverse in both the composition of their teams and the style of

their publication. History has shown that CNAV can adapt and respond to changing climates.

The Coronavirus Pandemic marks a significant shift in the way our society works, lives, plays and communicates.

The last 15 years have seen CNAV grow in numbers, the standard of its member publications improve and editorial teams across the state have helped and encouraged their fellow community newspapers, out of the goodness of their hearts.

The current CNAV Committee is a mix of long term committee members and new members, with a diverse range of skillsets, experience and energy.

The current CNAV President, Mary Farrow, has thrown down the gauntlet to reinvigorate the committee's drive to give CNAV better optics nationally and to, in turn, elevate the profile of its member publications.

In 2003, a small group of community newspapers thought if they worked together, they could find strength in numbers.

In 2020 this idea is more important than ever — fire, flood and pestilence regularly impact Victorian lives and demonstrate the value of a close-knit community.

The voice of these communities is the local newspaper and the community that helps make that voice louder is CNAV.

The volunteer base and the size of Victoria mean getting everyone together, in the same place, is difficult but perhaps the Pandemic may hasten the use of technology to overcome this disadvantage

Here's to another 15 years and remember to wish CNAV a happy birthday on July 15.

This feature was composed with the assistance of long standing CNAV Committee member, Helen Smith.



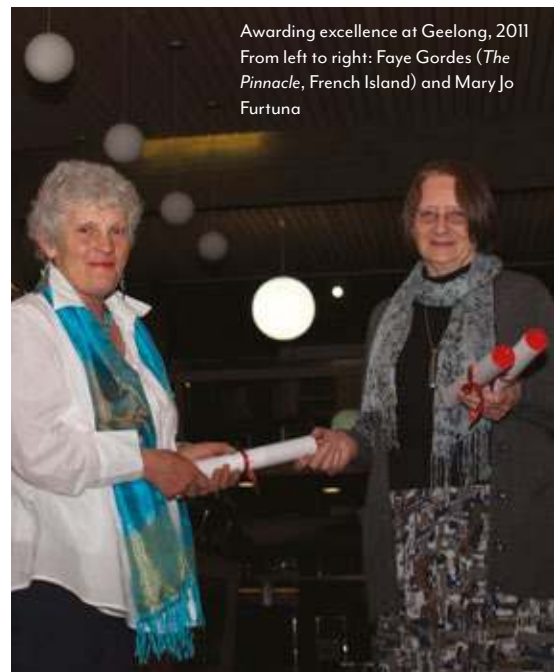
Workshop at CNAV Conference 2008, Old Castlemaine Gaol



Anne Boyd, Ferntree Gully News, Traralgon 2017



John Ellis presented with a Life Member Lilydale, 2019



Awarding excellence at Geelong, 2011
From left to right: Faye Gordes (*The Pinnacle*, French Island) and Mary Jo Furtuna

Paper people

The Romsey Rag

Keeping the community of Romsey, a town 65 kilometres north of Melbourne in the municipality of Macedon Ranges, informed since 1984, *The Romsey Rag* is a monthly, printing 1,500 copies per edition, 11 editions a year.

The Romsey Rag team now have a “home base” in the Committee Room of the Romsey Mechanics’ Institute.

In 2018, *The Romsey Rag* received a grant from the Lancefield Romsey Community Bank Branch, Bendigo Bank to secure a new laptop and software to help produce their monthly newspaper.

The town of Romsey has a beautiful main street with old claret ash trees on both sides. The Main Street has a series of attractive buildings which has survived since they were built in the late 19th Century.

These include the Mechanics’ Institute (1874), the old Council Chambers (1864) and a block of 1860s era shops.

There is one local primary school and secondary students travel to colleges in Sunbury, Gisborne and Kyneton.

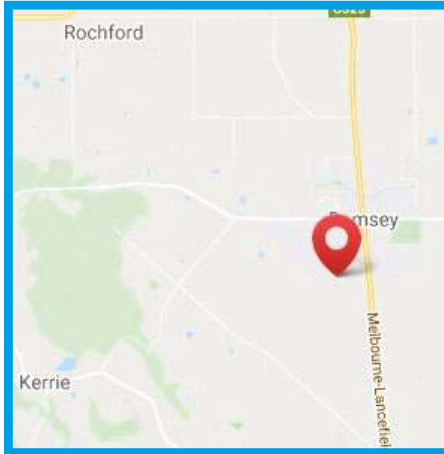
Whilst there is some local employment, the majority of the community commutes to either Tullamarine Airport or to the city.

The Romsey Rag is overseen by a committee of management, its members, and their roles are: Anthony Lakey (President), Di Irvine (Treasurer), Karen Read (Assistant Treasurer), Shauna Martin (Editor), Allan Irvine and Jane Nixon (Editorial), Roy Goodall (Distribution) and committee member Pam Neil.

Sonia Martin, along with Anthony Lakey, Allan Irvine and Jane Dixon perform proof reading duties.

The Romsey Rag was established in 1984 with a grant from the Victorian Education Department through its School’s Improvement Program.

But, over the following decades, staff retired



and time and space became a premium for both the school and the skeleton crew of volunteers who were running the newspaper. In 2017, *The Romsey Rag* found a new direction and a new committee and has since grown to what it is today.

A comprehensive account of this journey from 1984 to now is available on *The Romsey Rag* website.

This transition, and financial burden that comes from running a newspaper as its own entity has been *The Romsey Rags* greatest challenge and greatest achievement.

Effectively starting from scratch, meant they ran for almost two years without finances.

For quite a while all contributing groups had had their content published for free, but the paper was no longer in a position to continue doing this.

The committee devised a “For Profit” and “Not For Profit” membership scheme that was attractive and that would assist the committee to cover costs reducing the financial burden on the tradies and business who advertised in our paper.



In the two years following its move out of the primary school, the Committee of Management established a website for *The Rag* and had begun scanning old copies and added them to the archive page.

It had also got its print run up to 1,500 and managed to save some money too.

Out in the wilds of community journalism, the Committee of Management went looking for support, hoping to find other community based newspapers whose experience they could benefit from.

A quick search and the committee found the CNAV website.

The Rag look to further benefit from the collective experience of CNAV publications, to help them make the best paper they can, and hope that in the future, they too will be able to impart their experience to someone who finds themselves where they did, back in 2017.

The Romsey Rag teams “Home Base” at the Romsey Mechanics’ Institute



Romsey Mechanics’ Institute exterior

Photo: Martinbgn / CC BY-SA (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>)

The Otway Light

Producing one paper per week since 1979, *The Otway Light* was originally started as a school and community project with a \$400 grant from Otway Shire Council.

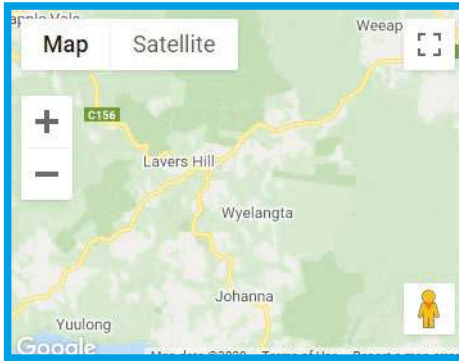
Produced out of Lavers Hill K-12 College in Lavers Hill, the paper continues its tradition of a school/community co-production, although Editor Helen admits the student contribution is not as enthusiastic as it was at the beginning.

With a modest annual subscription of \$10 for electronic and \$45 for a posted copy, *The Otway Light* editorial team, on a weekly basis, email 160 copies and print and distribute around 300 copies via postie, post office and school bus.

Averaging between 14 and 20 pages per edition, the A4 format weekly is produced using Microsoft Publisher and printed on-site, the production process has come a long way since 1979, when manual printing machines and typewriter were the editorial toolkit and the transition to more modern production workflows has not only made the production process more efficient but has also allowed the volunteer operation to continue.

A team of four produce each edition on a bi-weekly basis, with each edition comprising two Editors, one Typist and one Printer.

The Editorial Board is a sub-committee of the Lavers Hill College Council and is comprised of representatives from both the college and the wider community.



Originally a dairy and potato farm area, the current community is a diverse mixture of tourist accommodation, small farms (berries, alpacas, beef), artists, surfers, and Melbournians with holiday houses, who all enjoy the isolation and the scenery.

The official population of Lavers Hill was 78 at the last census, but the outlying regions of Gellibrand River, Carlisle River, Johanna and Yuulong add another approximately 400 people.

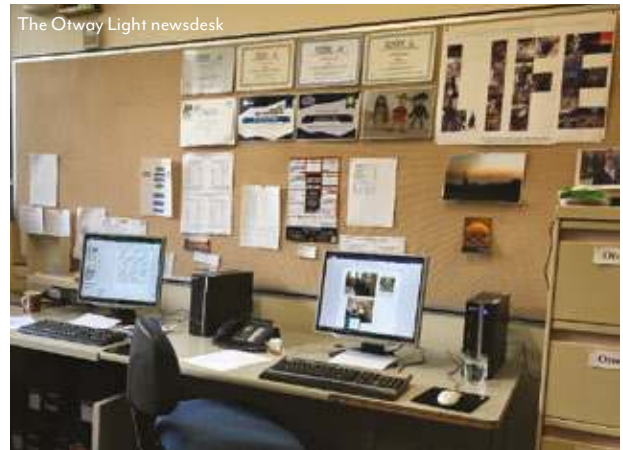
The Otway Light has been a member of CNAV for around 10 years and the team enjoy attending the annual conferences, as well as knowing there is a space where they can discuss issues and find solutions, conversing with Editors from other CNAV publications.

Their biggest challenges will ring true with



many other publications; power failures, computer glitches and engaging the local community to contribute are amongst their biggest challenges, as well as recruiting replacements when the current editorial team decide to call it a day.

Like many publications, their proudest achievement is the last edition they made, and their next greatest will be the next edition, *The Otway Light* team are also proud of their successes at the CNAV Awards.



Every paper has a story to tell

You are part of a network of community newspapers that stretches the width and breadth of Victoria and although we share the same issues, our approach, our history and our communities are all different, and we want to know what makes you unique.

- History
- Challenges
- Achievements

roundabout@cnav.org.au



Community Newspaper Association of Victoria (CNAV) supports member publications across the State. Small, independent, community-focused newspapers and newsletters bind a community and create a space for residents and businesses to share their stories and keep up-to-date with issues important to local communities. CNAV exists to support and celebrate community publications and to build a sustainable network of grassroots journalism in Victoria.

