

Weather Forecast

Warnings For latest see www.bom.gov.au/weather

VICTORIA

Friday. Partly cloudy with isolated showers and possible thunderstorms over central and eastern districts, mainly during the afternoon and on the ranges. Fine in the west. Isolated morning fog patches. Warm with light to moderate east to northeast wind and afternoon coastal seabreezes.
Saturday. Isolated showers developing over western areas at night. Isolated showers possible near the eastern ranges during the afternoon. Mild to warm with a freshening north to northwesterly wind.
Sunday. Isolated showers tending to rain areas over the northeast ranges. A mild and mostly cloudy day with moderate to fresh northerly wind tending westerly from the west.

ARARAT

Friday. Partly cloudy.
 Min: 10 Max: 25
Saturday. Shower or two developing.
 Min: 10 Max: 25
Sunday. Shower or two.
 Min: 11 Max: 21
Monday. Shower or two.
 Min: 7 Max: 17
Tuesday.
 Min: 4 Max: 16
Wednesday.
 Min: 3 Max: 16

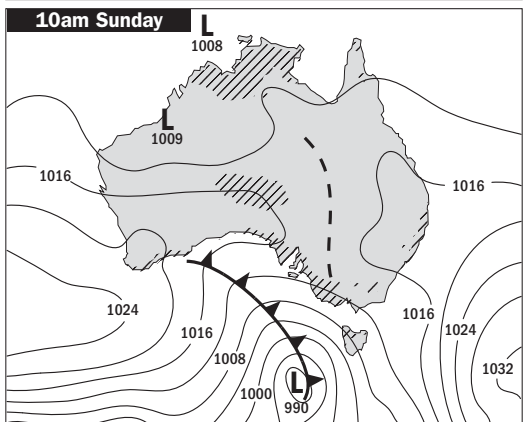
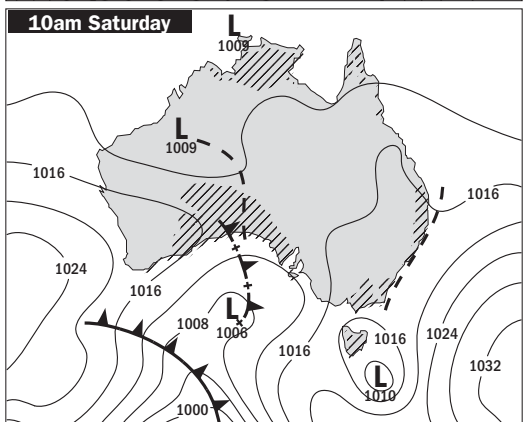
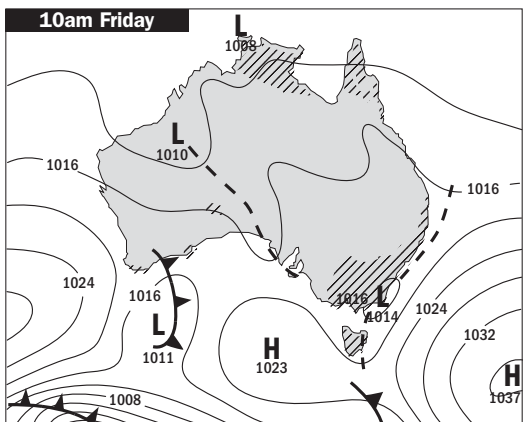
Thu 19th	Wed 18th	Tue 17th
10°	6°	7°
22°	26°	24°
0mm	0mm	0mm

STAWELL

Friday. Partly cloudy.
 Min: 12 Max: 26
Saturday. Late shower or two.
 Min: 12 Max: 25
Sunday. Morning shower or two.
 Min: 13 Max: 22
Monday. Partly cloudy.
 Min: 9 Max: 17
Tuesday.
 Min: 6 Max: 17
Wednesday.
 Min: 5 Max: 17

Thu 19th	Wed 18th	Tue 17th
12°	8°	8°
22°	25°	24°
0mm	0mm	0mm

SUNSMART UV ALERT 10:20am-2:40pm
 Max UV Index 5 (moderate)



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 Weather by Phone: 1900 926 113* Directory *77 cents per minute. Higher from public and mobile phones.
 April 20, 2012

Services must be improved - Not sold



Editorial Comment

The State Opposition has sent shockwaves through regional communities with claims the Baillieu government has not ruled out the possible sale of V/Line.

Commuters here in Stawell know only too well how difficult it already is to access V/Line services in the country areas. If the service was to be sold, it would be a disaster!

While the claims are yet to be confirmed or denied, it is alarming enough to hear that there could be a possibility of the sale proceeding.

The claim by the Opposition is that when questioned in Parliament, Public

Transport Minister Terry Mulder did not categorically rule out the sale of V/Line.

Instead he apparently left open the option of selling the country train operator to the highest bidder.

Most in Stawell would remember the disaster created in the 1990s when the Kennett Government privatised V/Line.

We were left without trains and ticketing issues continued to cause headaches for commuters. Many still believe this was a key behind the government losing the election.

One can only imagine the public outcry that would follow once again should this latest claim be proven.

This, along with memories of what happened during the 1990s, should send a strong enough message to the government that people in Stawell - and all other regional centres across Victoria - would not tolerate such a sale!

Ballarat cancer survivor features on cover of new phone books

REGION - Colleen Thompson, an Alfredton breast cancer survivor who established a support group to help others battling cancer, has been selected to appear on the cover of this year's Ballarat White Pages and Yellow Pages book.

The new phone book has now been distributed to residents in Stawell and surrounding areas.

This year's Covers Program theme, A Helping Hand, The Aussie Way, recognises Colleen for establishing support group Breast Cancer in the City and Country (BICC) and drop-in centre Support4Cancer.

Diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 33, Colleen underwent six months of gruelling treatment, including a mastectomy, full hysterectomy and reconstructive surgery to beat the hereditary disease that has plagued her family for more than three generations.

Colleen's experience inspired her to help other women in the region at high risk of, or fighting breast cancer. In 2004, she launched the support group Breast Cancer in the City and Country (BICC). Initially established to provide support to women under 45, the group has expanded to provide valuable one-on-one support for women of all ages with breast cancer.

As the success of BICC continued to grow, Colleen wanted to expand the network further and decided to establish a support group for all cancer patients. In 2009, she established Support4Cancer, a drop-in centre dedicated to supporting all cancer patients, their families and carers and which is accessible to anyone touched

by cancer and looking for support.

"Being able to help people with cancer through BICC and Support4Cancer is extremely rewarding, and I hope the support we provide makes locals' cancer journeys a little easier," said Colleen.

"I'm extremely honoured to be selected by Sensis for doing something that I am so passionate about. I hope this recognition encourages women to be proactive with their health and get regular check-ups."

Each year, Sensis, the publisher of the White Pages and Yellow Pages, recognises the efforts of local people in their communities by celebrating their achievements on the cover of its books.

The theme for this year's covers, A Helping Hand, The Aussie Way, was inspired by the thousands of Australians who go above and beyond to help someone in need, or their local community when times are tough.

White Pages Product Manager Sarah Simpson said, "Australians have always banded together in times of need - it's the Aussie way. No matter what the circumstances are, there's never any questions asked - we just get in and get the job done."

"In this year's Covers Program, we're delighted to recognise and celebrate Aussies who have leant a helping hand when someone has needed it most."

"Colleen has set a fantastic example and it is fitting that she has been recognised on the cover of the Ballarat White Pages and Yellow Pages."

This year's Ballarat White Pages and Yellow Pages book will be distributed over

the next six weeks in a new compact-size format. The height and width of the book has been reduced by 15 per cent to make it more compact and easier to handle. There is also a number of new design and layout improvements that make it easier to search for local people, business and government information and local businesses. The same comprehensive content is included in the book.

As part of White Pages and Yellow Pages accessibility services, magnifying aids are available free of charge for anyone who requires assistance searching the book for White Pages or Yellow Pages content. Orders can be placed by ringing 1800 625 944 or by emailing magnifier@sensis.com.au.

Residents and businesses can choose not to receive a copy of the White Pages and Yellow Pages by calling Sensis on 1800 008 292 or visiting www.directoryselect.com.au.

Did you know? The previous local people to appear on the cover of the Ballarat White Pages and Yellow Pages were:

2011/12: Ballarat resident Nick Lanyon featured on the cover under the theme Australians Creating a Better Future. Nick's selection recognised his dedication to establishing Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions (BREAZE).

2010/11: The Courageous Australians cover featured Stawell SES volunteers Lisa Blight, Leigh Craig, Bill Rouse and Lauren Tickner. The four members saved the lives of two firemen trapped down separate mine shafts during the Mt Lubra bushfires in 2006.

Movie rentals show increase

STAWELL - Network Video Stawell has enjoyed the Easter period with a spike in both sales and rentals over the long weekend.

Good Friday is often the busiest day of the year for the video rental industry and the blustery forecast saw more locals flock to Network Video to pick up a new release or a video game to keep entertained during the public holiday.

Network Video Stawell manager, Phil Hutton said the trend continued the following three days.

"It did definitely feel like it was busier," he said.

"It may have been a combination of both the weather and the fact that it was Easter."

Mr Hutton said after comparing last year's Easter figures to this year he discovered movie and game rentals increased by 34 percent.

Over the four-day period 720 movies and games were hired out.

Sales of DVDs and games also increased by 26 percent, while the use of in-store specials rose by 30 percent.

The most popular special was the 'one release and two weekly's', which 63 customers took advantage of.

Mr Hutton said the closure of Stawell's second video rental store last year has meant that his store's hire and sale figures had increased by 15-20 percent overall.

Things didn't slow down following the Easter rush, with the second week of school holidays still attracting plenty of business.

"School holidays is probably the busiest time for us, but mostly it varies with the weather," Mr Hutton said.

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