

Careful with the trees, fellers!

December 2012 — *and a Merry Christmas to you all!*



COURTESY of the Black Saturday bushfire Royal Commission and hefty legal cases against the electricity supply companies and the companies responsible for the maintenance and clearing of tree limbs away from the power lines, it appears that the line clearing teams have gone crazy.

If you happen to have power lines along your roadside verge you will be inundated by huge cherry-pickers and nuggety fellas with chainsaws of every description.

The rush to get this work done, in our area by the contractor Emco, before summer, is extraordinary – to the extent that trucks and crews are being brought in from Queensland! No wonder our electricity charges are skyrocketing – possibly part of the “goldplating” that the electricity companies have recently been accused of by doubling their workforces in the past few years without any increase in electricity demand.

The rules are that they clear 4 metres overall vertically and horizontally from the power lines. But our observation is that far greater hacking occurs.

What is worse is the destruction of grasses, shrubs and bushes that may be in the way of their mission.

Questioning the fellas leads to gruff responses about Kinglake etc etc. The real cause of the bushfires, according to the Royal Commission,

was faulty connectors due to poor power line maintenance and hot metal falling to tinder dry material below – not the branches near the lines. But you will get short shrift in making that point.

The need to keep the lines cleared is reasonable, the destruction of your verge is not – so beware the sound of chainsaws and big white trucks.



Centrepoint's gas tank has been moved after RHCA's campaign against it on safety and aesthetic grounds.

Lower speeds popular

MORNINGTON Peninsula Shire Council reports that its Safer Speeds project is popular with residents. In a phone survey, about 80% of respondents said they were in favour of the lower speed limits. They also have RHCA's support.

To judge the effectiveness of the new limits, a survey is being conducted, using speed tapes. The results of this interim appraisal will be known in early December.

A final survey will be carried out in mid-2013. When those results are known, our councillors will decide the future of the reduced speed limits.

Under the Safer Speeds scheme, which

began in March 2012, 15 local rural roads have had their limits reduced from 100kph to 90 and 80 kph. These include Stanleys, Main Creek, Shoreham and Shands Roads.

According to a brochure issued by the shire, there have been 165 casualty crashes in the past five years on the Mornington Peninsula. Research indicates that reducing speed limits by just 10kph could result in a significant decrease in that number.

Peninsula residents have, according to the shire council, identified many other local rural roads where they believe speed limits should also be reduced.

If you believe that speed limits ought to be reduced on any other local rural roads, we urge you to make your concerns known to your ward councillor, Frank Martin. Frank's email address is:

Frank.Martin@mornpen.vic.gov.au
His phone/fax is 5987 1590.

Centrepoint nearly ready

CENTREPOINT'S Epicurean Centre should be open for holiday trading, according to developer Joseph Alesci.

Recently he showed a group of RHCA committee members through the building, then took them to the Arthurs Seat Road property where treated waste water will be disposed of.

More on this soon.

DEFINITION

Semolina *n.* A method of signalling using puddings

Source: British radio comedy 'I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue'

