

LOCAL NEWS

Residents make noise over wind

MORTLAKE
By SEAN MCCOMISH

MOYNE Shire and four families from Mortlake south have stepped up demands that wind energy giant Acciona clarify the results of noise testing carried out last year.

Mayor Jim Doukas and representatives from the families will meet with member for Polwarth Terry Mulder today hoping to pressure the company into carrying out a fresh survey of wind speed and noise levels.

Several residents surrounding the proposed 51-turbine project have accused the company of dishonesty after its weather mast failed at the same time as residents were carrying out their own survey.

The Acciona weather mast had been commissioned to take background

noise levels and wind speeds between May and August last year but failed to take wind speeds for 30 days.

A resolution was also passed at this week's monthly meeting calling on the wind energy giant to combine its own results with data from Bureau of Meteorology Mortlake tower to complete the picture from the time when the mast failed.

Acciona senior manager Lisa Francis said the company provided a comprehensive assessment of background noise. "Some data was excluded, but this had no material impact on the results of the noise monitoring program or the ability of our noise monitoring consultant to determine base noise level criteria for the Mortlake south wind farm," she said.

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The secret story behind a legend

WARRNAMBOOL
By MATTHEW O'TOOLE

A PIECE of Australian folklore with links to the south-west will be brought to life at Flagstaff Hill's Wharf Theatre this March.

The show, *The Man They Call Banjo*, is based on local resident Dennis O'Keeffe's publication *Waltzing Matilda — The Secret Story of Australia's Favourite Song* and will be performed for one night only on March 6.

The show's playwright and composer Felix Meagher is excited to bring the musical reading of the script to an area that has such strong connections to the Banjo Paterson story, especially with its controversial elements.

"Dennis and myself would particularly like the people of Warrnambool to know of the connections between them and *Waltzing Matilda*," Meagher said.

"It'll be interesting to see what the local community thinks as it potentially is a very controversial story."

Meagher is excited to cast a light on the generally unknown aspects of Australia's unofficial national anthem, with the musical showcasing the love triangle between Banjo Paterson, his fiancee Sarah Riley and Christina Macpherson.

"The song was written initially, according to Dennis' research, as a love song and the chorus 'Who'll come a Waltzing Matilda my



Cory Corbett will perform as Banjo in *The Man They Call Banjo* at Flagstaff Hill. 130124LP15 Picture: LEANNE PICKETT

darling', was a love gesture to the woman who provided the tune," Meagher said.

"The woman who provided the tune heard it at the Warrnambool May races.

"She hummed or sang the tune to Banjo Paterson and together they created *Waltzing Matilda*."

"We think it's a damn good story, a great story and we're telling the story in an informal setting but with live music."

The show will also focus on the political turmoil of the time with it having many links to the shearers' strikes that gripped the nation in 1884.

The show's producer Wolf Hiedecker hopes to attract the wider community to the reading with him hoping that it can open the audience's eyes to the back story of this quintessential Australian tale.

"The story is one of Australia's great love stories,

and it is set in a time and a place when Australia was as close as it has ever been to civil war," Hiedecker said.

"As such it encompasses the raw emotion, the drama and the historical significance to make it a tale and a musical of interest to all ages and all walks of life."

The show will also be presented at Camperdown's Cole's Woodshed on March 7 and at the Port Fairy Folk Festival on March 9 and 10.

Driver blows .143

Terang man gets suspended jail time

WARRNAMBOOL
By CLARE QUIRK

A TERANG drink-driver who blew almost three times the legal limit has been sentenced to three months' jail wholly suspended for two years.

Troy Goldsworthy, 21, of The Parade, pleaded guilty in Warrnambool Magistrates Court on Tuesday to drink-driving, driving whilst disqualified, careless driving and drunk in a public place.

In July last year Goldsworthy

had a blood-alcohol reading of .143 after he performed a U-turn in Murray Street, Colac, mounted the kerb, stalled the vehicle and then sped off.

The court heard that before the incident Goldsworthy was travelling with an acquaintance and was asleep in the passenger seat. He woke up after having a lot to drink and saw his friend down the road and drove the car to catch up to him.

Goldsworthy's licence was cancelled and disqualified for 18 months in June 2011.

The court heard Goldsworthy was aware of how quickly accidents could happen because his partner's brother was involved in a fatal crash in 2011. The man took his eyes off the road briefly and his vehicle veered on to the wrong side of the road and collided with another vehicle.

Magistrate Jonathan Klestadt said everyone knows the laws for drink-driving and everyone knows why there are tough penalties.

He said it was fortunate Goldsworthy was in court facing

a fine rather than substantial jail time. He said he could have been killed, ended up in a nursing home or facing the County Court facing culpable driving causing death.

On the charge of driving whilst disqualified Goldsworthy was convicted and sentenced to three months' jail wholly suspended for two years.

On the drink-driving and careless driving charges he was convicted and fined \$1250. His licence was cancelled and disqualified for 18 months.

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