

The Courier

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ON THE MOVE

Today is the first day of term two, but not as we know it, for thousands of Ballarat students and teachers who are likely to complete classes online for much of the term to help stop the spread of COVID-19. On Tuesday, Lumen Christi Primary School in Delacombe set up a drive through for about 200 parents to pick up learning packs for their children to complete at home. **Full Story Page 5**

SERVICE: Lumen Christi principal Murray McDonald greets school mum Lauren Smith who took advantage of the drive through to pick up a learning pack for her son Cohen. Picture: Michelle Smith

TERRIFYING

Man awaits sentencing for carjacking and aggravated burglary

A MAN who pleaded guilty to wrenching a woman out of her car and a string of burglaries across Buninyong last year will be sentenced at the end of the month.

In July last year, Paul Coghlan was stopped by a passer-by after he attempted to "violently" pull a woman

out of her car in the Wendouree Harvey Norman car park.

The Ballarat Magistrates' Court was told Coghlan was acting "strangely" at a Howitt Street bus stop before the incident.

The victim was eating in her car, sitting in the driver's seat with the door open and

keys in the ignition when Coghlan approached her.

The passer-by, who had just parked his car and had seen Coghlan attacking the woman, ran over to pull him off the victim and restrain him until police arrived.

Four days before the incident in Wendouree, CCTV

cameras captured Coghlan attempting to break into a coin machine at a Buninyong car wash, and carrying stolen goods across the car park.

About 2am on July 3, the court was told Coghlan had broken into a Buninyong clinic and stolen two laptops, vitamins, and \$60 cash.

He had also taken a wheelbarrow and tool box from a work vehicle - the wheelbarrow was later found at his address.

A person was at home when he entered a garage and stole the garage door opener and two bottles of wine, with the door opener

found when he was arrested following the Wendouree incident.

After he was taken to hospital, following the attempted carjacking, Coghlan was remained in custody, where he has served 281 days of pre-sentence detention.

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NEWS: PLANS REVEALED OF NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL: P3

Schools' new online world

BY MICHELLE SMITH

SCHOOL'S back for thousands of Ballarat students but it's a far different learning environment from the one they stepped out from almost three weeks ago.

The new reality is learning packs, laptops and lessons completed at home with teachers working remotely to support their students.

At Lumen Christi Primary School in Delacombe on Tuesday, principal Murray McDonald greeted families (from a social distance) as they pulled in to the drive-through lane while classroom teachers handed over learning packs and Easter eggs to students in the cars.

"We've prepared some learning support material for families so parents were allocated time to come, they drive through, stay in the car, we deliver the packs and off they go," he said.

The packs, similar to those made at most primary schools across Ballarat and beyond, contain information about suggested learning activities and resources for families that they can engage



PACKAGE: Lumen Christi teacher Liv Elder hands over a learning pack and Easter egg to grade five student Makayla in their drive-through pick-up lane. **Pictures:** Michelle Smith

in at home, while teachers will also be available online for help with work.

"There's no set times that children have to be online," Mr McDonald said. "We just suggest to parents that

it might be helpful if they develop a timetable for home so children get a good balance of learning time, exercise and other activities but it's up to what works best for each particular family,"

he said. Across the state, schools have asked parents to apply or notify them of their intentions to send students to school under exemptions, such as children of essential

workers, vulnerable and at-risk students and those who are unable to support learning from home and have no other option.

Mr McDonald said about 35 children would be supervised at Lumen Christi each day, while Miners Rest Primary School principal Dale Power said about 20 students would attend in the first two weeks of term.

Mr Power said teachers saw the online learning model as an opportunity to advance the individual learning styles of their students and improve understanding of technology and proficiency.

"It will help build up the school and make greater and stronger connections with students out of necessity," he said.

During the first two weeks of term students will all work from hard copies as the entire school migrates to the online system.

Teachers will conduct 'learning conversations' online about three times a week explicitly teaching and developing new concepts with the class, then have face to face online chats with stu-

dents several times a week to help support those lessons.

Ballarat Clarendon College began their online learning for all year levels on Tuesday, though year 12 students did two days online at the end of last term.

"It's not going to be the same but I think students will continue to learn and be engaged," said senior school co-head Laura Brady.

But she said the biggest challenge would be maintaining social cohesion and social connectedness among students, and keeping them fit and healthy.

"Schools are a learning environment but they are also a social environment. The learning side is easier to replicate but we need to make sure we are offering that sense of connection."

Junior primary students will work through pre-recorded lessons and allocated tasks with teachers available for support, while those in years five to 10 will have similar pre-recorded lessons with a 15 minute live session with teachers during each period. Year 11 and 12 classes will be taught live.

New centre opens as test criteria widen

BY BEN HOPKINS

AFTER the Chief Health Officer expanded the criteria to be tested for COVID-19 on Tuesday, coronavirus testing facilities around Ballarat have begun to ramp up operations.

The State Government is hoping the expanded criteria, including anyone who has had a fever or breathing symptoms, will give them a better indication of the real rate of infection in the community, particularly those who may have picked up the virus through community

transmission rather than through overseas travel, a key criteria up until now.

Victoria's Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton said he hoped the broader testing criteria will capture any undetected cases in the community and "drive cases down to zero".

"There is the potential to walk back the most significant restrictions if we can drive numbers right down," he said.

So far the confirmed cases have looked good for Ballarat with no new cases reported in almost two weeks, in

which time hundreds of people have been tested.

But Health Minister Jenny Mikakos has warned against complacency or easing restrictions too soon.

"If we have 200 people walking around the community that could be 80,000 people in one month," Ms Mikakos said. "We are of course planning about what the timing and what the lifting of restrictions might look like, but now's not the time to be doing that."

Staff at the new testing facility located at the Lucas Community Hub, operating

for the first time on Tuesday said phones were ringing constantly from 10am as residents called attempting to book tests and seeing if they qualified to be tested.

On day one only 12 applicants were deemed necessary to be tested for COVID-19

Operations manager at Primary Care with UFS Danielle Trezise told *The Courier* she was pleased with how the first day went in Lucas and is confident the facility will be able to accommodate its maximum of 128 tests per day in the near future.

"Everything went really well," she said. "Having the small number of tests take place was good for our doctors and nurses. I'm very confident in this facility's ability to test more people efficiently going forward."

Ms Trezise reiterated the fact the clinic is appointment only, urging those who believe they need to be tested to call 43111571 and not to simply turn up at the facility.

These numbers add to the already huge number of tests that have taken place at Ballarat Health Services' clinics.

A BHS spokesperson told

The Courier well over 1,000 individuals had been triaged in the past month and a large proportion of those patients had also been tested for COVID-19.

"Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our COVID screening and assessment staff, we have triaged over 1500 people and tested close to a thousand since we first opened almost a month ago," a BHS spokesperson said in a statement. "There was a decline in the number of calls over the Easter break, with only a dozen or so people tested every day."