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WANGARATTA Chronicle

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More victims report crimes
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AWFA hopeful on future
Sport



A SPECIAL PREP FEATURE INSIDE TODAY

ALMOST 350 prep students have started their schooling life throughout the Rural City of Wangaratta this year. And as they begin their earlier than expected end of term one to commence school holidays, we are delighted to feature them in a 12 page pictorial lift-out in today's edition of the Wangaratta Chronicle. Our Lady's Primary School students (from left) Charlotte Gedtre, Kristopher Lovel and Kara Milligan are among the hundreds of foundation year students who have loved their first two months of school.
PHOTO: Kieren Tilly

CITY STILL CLEAR

VISITATIONS to patients at Wangaratta District Base Hospital have all but been completely shut off in a bid to stop the spread of COVID-19 into the health facility. There are still zero cases of COVID-19 in Wangaratta, but health staff and patients at Northeast Health Wangaratta (NHW) are a top priority, as the workforce braces for a five to 10 fold increase in the

...but hospital in near lock down to stop the virus from entering

BY STEVE KELLY
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need for care late next month. The number of COVID-19 cases is - at worst case scenario - forecast to peak in late April/early May, easing off into July.

As of yesterday, NHW imposed access restrictions to all visitors with exceptions to be made for people caring for those with a disability, and families visiting gravely ill loved ones, or children. "The biggest threat to Wangaratta residents is if health care workers become ill and are not able

to attend work or they're restricted because they have to look after children at home," NHW director of partnerships and well-being, David Kidd, said. "Our biggest challenge is that if we do have a spike that might occur in the coming months that we have a workforce who can look after people."

The Victorian Department of Health has predicted the late April peak in cases which Mr Kidd said could translate to a five to 10 fold increase in patient load. To protect patients and staff a range of measures are being put in place to restrict access with an outside tent set up yesterday

that people presenting to the Emergency Department (ED) can present to for screening. People will also be screened at all other entry points to the health facility. "If you've got symptoms of potentially COVID-19 then we will then move you on to a separate screening space," Mr Kidd said.

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Artist's ode to the maker's hand

A SYDNEY artist who is concerned about the lost art of hand crafts to the age of manufacturing is now sharing her ideas in the current exhibition at Wangaratta Art Gallery.

The exhibition titled *Maker's Hand* by Tricia Flanagan is a detailed and complex collection of artworks delivered through the medium of contemporary textile practice and multi-media forms, including projection, sound and installation based works.

Ms Flanagan is an established Australian artist who asks her audience to pause for reflection and consider the risks of what might be lost to future generations who are in danger of losing touch with the essential core of humanity of making by hand.

She deeply explores the advancement of technology and its unlimited opportunity for interaction and innovation yet questions the basic threat this advancement presents towards the loss of hand skills, loss of identity and a loss of shared cultural heritage in many communities.

This exclusive showing of *Maker's Hand* is being exhibited for the first time to an Australian audience.

Currently showing in Gallery 2, visitors are guaranteed an intriguing selection of beautiful works that stimulate a number of senses throughout the experience.



HAND MADE: See Tricia Flanagan, *Cricket Song series, Late Autumn Songs of Dominion No2*, detail, in Gallery 2 at the Wangaratta Art Gallery.

PHOTO: Peter Yao

In line with the Wangaratta Art Gallery's response to the COVID-19 pandemic public programming and events that were planned to accompany this exhibition have been cancelled.

The gallery's exhibition spaces

currently remain open to the public for visitors to enjoy and this exhibition continues until April 5, but with the situation changing daily, visitors should check for updates at www.wangarattaartgallery.com.au or call 5722 0865.

Photographic portrait exhibition

AN exhibition by photographer Nat Ord which surveys 10 inspirational women from the local region through portrait and story is showing in the foyer of the Wangaratta Performing Arts and Convention Centre.

Called "Rise!" the exhibition includes women standing tall in vast and varied fields from community service and environment to sport and entertainment. It will be on display until March 25.

Dark side of fun exhibition

AN exhibition called *The Fun Room* which looks at the dark side of fun is showing at the Wangaratta Art Gallery.

The *Fun Room* includes works in a variety of media by contemporary Australian artists including Tony Albert, Glenn Barkley, Barbara Cleveland, Christina Darras, Ben Frost, Hannah Gartside, Louise Meuwissen and Ariel Ruby.

It will run until April 9.

Friends of Timor Leste exhibition

A PHOTOGRAPHIC exhibition which documents the remarkable relationship between people from three friendship groups in North East Victoria and communities in Timor Leste is showing in the Bainz Gallery at the Wangaratta Library.

See some beautiful photographs and learn about what has been achieved in remote communities in the country, supported by dedicated volunteers from the Wangaratta, Indigo and Alpine shires over the last 20 years.

The exhibition will head to Mansfield in June, Myrtleford in July and Beechworth in August.