

# Winter chill strikes

LISA CAMERON

WINTER appears to have arrived in the south-west with more than 20mm of rain already recorded for the month of July.

People have started feeling the winter chill through June with colder temperatures and rainfall towards the month's end.

Bureau of Metrology senior forecaster, Richard Carlyon said the south-west had so far experienced an average winter with similar rainfall and temperatures as normally expected at this time of year.

The weekend brought on some of the coldest and wettest days of winter so far.

A total of 26.4mm of rain was recorded in Hamilton on Sunday and 29.8mm was recorded in Casterton.

Casterton experienced some weird weather on Saturday with hail striking at one end of the town.

Resident Barney McArlein took some pictures of the hail while he was out playing a round of golf and said it started

suddenly and lasted between five to 10 minutes.

The collection of hail for a short time made it look like it had been snowing.

Mr Carlyon said he did not know why the hail had only struck a specific area but the area and conditions were conducive to the development of small hail.

Despite a wet start to July, Mr Carlyon said a dry period was expected in the next few days, which should lead to a dry weekend.

The Hamilton Department of Primary Industry's June weather report confirmed that winter weather has arrived in the south-west with a mostly cold and wet month.

Hamilton's rainfall was well above average in June, with the recorded 95.4 mm well above the 67.8mm average.

The wettest day was June 22 with 20.8mm; Hamilton's yearly total is now 287.8 which is close to the long term average of 284.9.

Daily maximum temperatures were slightly below average, 11.9 to 12.6, as were minimum temperatures, 5.1 to 4.5.



CASTERTON resident, Barney McArlein, took a photo of the sudden hail at the golf club on Sunday. SUPPLIED

## Taxi fear

From: PAGE 1

"I have family in England and they won't use the minicabs as they don't feel safe.

"They will use the Black Cabs, which are licensed and often licences are passed down through generations of the same family."

The taxi inquiry has made over 150 recommendations about how to change Victoria's taxi industry.

The first recommendation is 'more taxis', a course action which has been suggested before and raised similar concerns in the taxi industry at the time.

Lowan MP Hugh Delahunty said it was up to the Victorian Transport Minister, Terry Mulder, to consider the recommendations.

"The recommendations in the report are draft recommendations from taxi inquiry chairman Prof Fels; they are not government policy," he said.

"I have spoken with taxi operators from Hamilton and Horsham and I told them they should make submission for the final report.

"I understand that local taxi operators are upset by some recommendations and pleased by others."

Mrs Uebergang said reforms were needed, but some changes would



TAXIS of Hamilton director, Jan Uebergang, who fears country taxi operators will go out of business if the State Government adopts the Taxi Inquiry's recommendations. 120703ah11

undermine the report's goal of improving customer service.

"There are definitely problems in the industry, but I don't agree with the approach the Taxi Commission has taken," she said.

"I think the customers in Hamilton deserve a safe, reliable taxi service.

"In the country we are far different from Melbourne - all areas have unique issues that need to be addressed and one size doesn't fit all."

Mrs Uebergang said there was a great deal of fear and uncertainty across the whole taxi industry.

"The last 12-14 months

has been very stressful, there's been a lot of misinformation put out concerning industry changes," she said. "Quite frankly, I've seen grown men in tears in Melbourne over that

fact they could lose their investment.

"They could lose \$500,000 at the stroke of a pen; it's really surprising that a Liberal National party would even consider this recommendation."

## Wood stolen

BRAZEN thieves have cut through a fence at Carapook before cutting up a fallen tree and removing the wood.

Leading Senior Constable Shane Kelly, of Casterton said the incident happened on the Saw Pit Gully Rd.

"They (thieves) cut through an external fence and helped themselves to a fallen tree," he said.

"The wood was stolen between June 27 and July 1."

Any person with information regarding the theft is urged to contact Casterton police on 5581 1024.

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2012 Powercor /ACE Radio - Southern Grampians

## Business Awards

THE Powercor/ACE Radio Southern Grampians' Business Awards are on again, to recognise excellence in business performance and customer service in the Southern Grampians Shire.

This is your opportunity to demonstrate what sets your business apart from the rest.

The categories are Retail Business, Service Business, Manufacturing, Technology Innovation, Regional Business, Tourism and Hospitality, Special Events, Community Enterprise, Small or Micro Business, Employee of the Year and Business of the Year.

Entry forms are available on-line at [www.sgbawards.com](http://www.sgbawards.com), from the

Shire's Economic Development and Tourism Unit or 3HA.

Entries close Friday July 13, and the awards will be celebrated at a presentation dinner on Friday September 7, at the Hamilton Exhibition and Conference Centre.

This is a marvellous evening for businesses to mix socially, and professionally, while acknowledging the finalists and winners.

The 2012 Powercor ACE Radio Southern Grampians Business Awards, supported by the Southern Grampians Shire Council, Aus Industry and the Hamilton Spectator.

Entries close: Friday, July 13

