

## Pine tree at Albert Street Primary has heritage links

A study of significant trees throughout the municipality to introduce a degree of protection through the planning scheme against unnecessary removal or destruction, is revealing a number of interesting stories about vegetation we pass day after day without necessarily recognising its heritage value.

Some trees have historic significance. On the western side of Albert Street School there is a stunted Aleppo Pine which gives a link with the battlefields of Gallipoli, where Australian and New Zealand troops landed on 25 April 1915.

Assistant Principal, Albert Street Primary School, Alan Bell, explained that the Aleppo Pine was planted there as a memorial to the ANZACS and Legacy in 1967. "It was planted by ANZAC and member of Legacy, Mr Victor Colvin, in the presence of Mr R Savige, president of Latrobe Valley Legacy, but it was a very special tree," Alan explained.

"A plateau in Gallipoli that was covered in low scrub had just one stunted Aleppo Pine tree on it. This plateau was considered to be of great military importance and both the invading ANZACS and the defending Turks wanted to hold it.

"The ANZACS artillery often shelled this plateau using the pine as a landmark from which they could measure the angles to their targets. The pine tree became known as the 'Lone Pine' and gradually that part of the plateau where it grew became known as 'Lone Pine'.



Cr Lisa Price, Assistant Principal Albert Street Primary School, Alan Bell and Parks Officer, John Ruyg with the Aleppo Pine

"ANZAC troops attacked the plateau and held it for more than three months until ordered to evacuate. Extremely heavy fighting occurred in the attack where more than 2000 men from the First Australian Division and nearly 7000 Turkish soldiers were killed in about five days.

"One of the soldiers took a cone from the pine tree home as a souvenir and many years later five seedlings were grown from the seeds within. One of the seedlings was planted near the Shrine of Remembrance, and seed from that tree produced the Aleppo Pine at Albert Street School," Alan said.

Latrobe City's Manager Land Use Strategy, Elaine Wood, said trees subject to the study were being assessed on their scientific, aesthetic, historical and cultural values, with the

study covering indigenous and introduced species.

"While most of the significant trees in our parks and reserves will be recognised and nominated by our own Council staff, we also welcome nominations from the public. There are a considerable number of trees in private gardens in places such as schools, and on private farm properties that individuals know about, and take pride in, that should be included on the tree heritage register. Council will welcome nominations from citizens to identify these trees," Elaine added.

Nomination forms are available from Council's Citizen Service Centres in Traralgon, Morwell and Moe, or can be downloaded from the Latrobe City website [www.latrobe.vic.gov.au](http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au), or by telephoning 1300 367 700.

## Soaring popularity for Traralgon's 'access for all' playground



The 'access for all' playground built this year in Traralgon's Newman Park is already attracting hundreds of visitors a day. The playground was built by Traralgon Lions Club with support from Latrobe City to provide children who are in wheelchairs, or are visually impaired, with a playground that they can use and enjoy.

The new area in the park has a 'Train and Station' theme and includes ramps for wheelchairs that lead to a plastic model train. The playground also includes a slide, bridges and a sound system makes train noises and announcements.

Councillor Lisa Proctor said that the playground is a great asset to Latrobe City. "The all access playground in Newman Park is the only one of its kind east of Melbourne and it is attracting people from across the state every week. It is great that there is somewhere in Latrobe City where children of all abilities can go to and have fun," Cr Proctor said.

Before the playground was built, a Devine Liberty Swing, designed for children in wheelchairs, had already been constructed. With the Devine Liberty Swing and general play equipment, Newman Park attracted almost 280 people a day. However, since the inclusion of the 'access for all' playground, the number of attendees has risen to 450 people per day.

Traralgon Lions Club member, Mr Alan Vickery, said that

on Friday lunchtimes, six to eight coach loads of children from schools around the state stop at Newman Park, and on other week days about two or three coaches stop there. "We couldn't believe how many people the park attracted," Mr Vickery said.

Schools and organisations for people with a disability are also making regular visits to the playground and the Devine Liberty Swing. Children are brought to the park to play on the equipment from areas as far away as Bairnsdale and Dandenong.

Mr Vickery said the Traralgon Lions have had some fantastic feedback about the park, especially from the children in wheelchairs. "It is the only place that many of them can access and use a playground, and they think it's great that they can take their chairs on the equipment," Mr Vickery said.

The Traralgon Lions Club has already made plans to further develop the accessibility of Newman Park to all children with the support of Latrobe City.

The organisation is currently working on a barbeque area with tables and chairs for people in wheelchairs. More all-access equipment will be built on the site, including a maze and a 'Teamrager', an object which only requires upper body strength to use. Bridges will also be installed so that people in wheelchairs have an easy route from the 'access for all' playground to the new equipment and the Devine Liberty Swing.

## Brown coal will meet the challenge of global warming

Before the realisation that rising atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases were contributing to global warming, the future of the Latrobe Valley was seen as a continuation of the past; supplying low cost energy from the vast brown coal resources.

However, meeting the challenge of global warming now requires new thinking and new technology, and as this is already well advanced, there is every reason to continue to believe in a secure future for Latrobe's brown coal deposits.

An examination of some key big picture issues will reinforce the achievability of this goal. The first big picture issue is to focus most effort on the areas of greatest

gain. About 90% of Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions come from three sources: stationary energy (72%), transport (18%) and fugitive emissions from fuels (3%).

The second big picture issue is to understand how greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced. There are really only three main approaches: use less energy (energy efficiency), use more energy from renewable sources, and generate energy from existing sources with much less greenhouse gas emission intensity.

The third big picture issue is to understand that we all have a part to play and we will all pay the price of not getting it right. Often you hear comments along the lines that it is industry's fault or

the government's, and 'they' should pay. The reality is that we live in an economic sphere that is, arguably, every bit as interdependent and complex as the biosphere. Since privatisation of the State Electricity Commission, the Victorian electricity industry has operated as part of the 'market economy'. A market economy means that prices must reflect costs if industry is to continue to invest, without significant government subsidies diverted from spending on service provision.

There must be a cost if we are to buy goods and services while expecting them to be produced in more environmentally acceptable ways. We have already accepted this in respect of, for example, motor vehicles. Today's family car is vastly superior in comfort, safety and emissions than the FJ Holden of some 50 years ago. Provided the changes occur at an appropriate pace and we have the flexibility to adjust within our own means then the adaptation process should not be painful. However, we will all pay if we get the strategy wrong. We will pay in higher than necessary costs, higher taxes or, in the worst case outcome, losing our jobs.

The fourth big picture issue is to work with evolution not against it. Each aspect of our lives has its own expiry date, for milk it is measured in days, motor vehicles are measured in years and power stations in decades. If you decide to artificially restrict the 'shelf life' of any product your cost of living will go up dramatically, with adverse effects on your living standards. How do we apply this principle to our greenhouse strategy? By the year 2050 we will have



replaced most of our total stock of motor vehicles at least twice, we may have replaced 50% of our housing stock and we are likely to have replaced all of the existing Latrobe Valley power stations.

The key is to ensure that the large, long-life items are replaced by the right technologies that make very significant improvements in greenhouse gas emission intensities. The challenge is to have these technologies available when we need them.

In the USA, government and industry has committed US\$800 million to the 'Future Gen' project; a demonstration plant aimed at commercialising the latest technologies for producing very low emissions power and hydrogen from coal. The technologies proposed include; coal gasification and geosequestration. These technologies along with emerging advanced brown coal drying techniques can be used to

turn Latrobe Valley brown coal into very low emission power and hydrogen.

In June 2003 Australian and Victorian politicians, bureaucrats and industry representatives met in Washington to discuss international cooperation in developing some of these technologies. In Australia a number of companies are actively investing in feasibility studies aimed at applying such advanced technologies to the Latrobe Valley brown coal.

While the timing for such developments cannot be predicted with great certainty, two things are clear;

Ultimately the vast resources of Latrobe Valley brown coal can underpin a secure, competitive, very low emission hydrogen economy in Victoria; and there are people with vision and drive who want to see Victoria at the leading edge of such developments and are actively planning for it now.

