

RAINFALL

THIS WEEK
38.5 mm
March
50 mm
Year to date
154.25 mm



The Mercury Carisbrook

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Quarry noise concern grows

By Kathryn Duxbury

Concern is growing across Carisbrook over noises that are occurring late at night, which can be heard over the television and for some people are so loud the noises are waking them up.

Marita Elliott, who lives on Bucknall Street, Carisbrook, said the noises have been occurring for close to a month.

She believes, as do a number of other residents, that the noise is coming from Hanson Carisbrook Quarry on the Pyrenees Highway.

"We hear it over the TV, it's not even close to where we live," she said.

"It sounds like drilling."

Mrs Elliott said the noise was particularly noticeable

from 7pm-8pm and around 12am.

The noise has been occurring every night until last Thursday night, when suddenly the noises seem to have stopped.

But her husband Stuart said he heard the noise again on Monday morning at 8am.

The family have lived at their home on Bucknall Street for close to 17 years and they've never heard this sound before.

"Trucks are coming down the road as well, that's probably worse," Mrs Elliott said.

"More trucks are travelling in this small area and they don't slow down."

Graham Walker, who has a home on Annesly Street South, and his partner Jacqueline Smith, who lives

in Baringhup Road, have both been affected by the noises occurring during the night.

"It sounded so loud last week, it had to come from the quarry," Mr Walker said.

He said there had been no problem before but he now can hear the noise over the television.

He can also hear the noise during the night from his house in Annesly Street South, although not as clearly as from his partner's home.

Mr Walker said the noise appeared to stop suddenly over the weekend, but he had heard it again on Monday night.

Noela Evans, who lives in Grice Street, said her sleeping was disrupted due to the noise

that is happening at night.

"It's been annoying trying to get to sleep at night, it's keeping me awake," Mrs Evans said.

"I don't know how they can get away with it."

She has lived with her family on Grice Street since 1990 and can't remember anything as bad as this.

"I don't think it's right they can keep people awake," Mrs Evans said.

"I don't knock anyone who wants to work, but they need to consider other people."

"It's annoying."

Residents who live on Landrigan Road, but did not wish to be named, said the noise has been happening at 11pm at night and had woken them up.

The resident said it was particularly bad on Tuesday, March 16.

Her family had lived in this area for more than 30 years and they hadn't heard this noise before.

Once, close to 20 years ago, she heard a big blast and reported it to the quarry and she said it didn't happen again.

She has not heard this recent noise before; it is a vibration noise she believes is coming from the ground.

She also thinks the lights that come from the quarry have changed, they seem to have moved closer to Carisbrook.

Neighbours she has spoken to have also heard the noises.

The Environment Protec-

tion Authority (EPA) can issue a notice to a business that exceeds the levels set in the guideline *Noise from industry in regional Victoria*.

These guidelines provide the methods to set noise levels for industry in regional Victoria.

The guidelines set different levels of acceptable noise for day time (7am-6pm Monday to Friday and 7am to 1pm Saturdays), evenings (6pm-10pm Monday to Friday, 1pm to 6pm Saturday and 7am to 6pm Sundays and public holidays) and night (10pm to 7am).

The *Carisbrook Mercury* contacted Hanson Carisbrook Quarry for comment, but at the time of going to print, Hanson had not responded.



Owner-operator of Winter Creek Flowers Kate Edwards in her drying shed with fragrant bunches of lavender, grown ethically on her micro-farm in Maldon. For more information about ethical flowers and why they are becoming popular with consumers, see full story page 5.

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Maldon micro-farm offering ethical flowers

By R.I. Nagy

The first thing most people do when they receive a bunch of flowers is lift them to their nose and take a sniff.

It's unlikely that anyone would want to do this if they'd known that some – if not many – of the bouquet's blooms had been imported and fumigated before and after leaving their country of origin.

The concept of ethical flowers emerged in response to other high profile global initiatives such as Fair Trade and "slow" activism (e.g. food and fashion).

As consumers became more invested in how clothing was made and whether their favourite beauty brand was cruelty-free, they also started turning their attention to how crops such as flowers were produced.

Ethical flowers – also known as sustainable, conscious or slow flowers – are flowers grown in ways that avoid the use of toxic chemicals, exploitative labour practices, and farming, harvesting and delivery methods that impact communities and degrade the environment.

Unlike many traditionally farmed blooms, ethical flowers often retain their scent, are not a uniform size or shape, and have not been treated with chemicals.

They also pose a low bio-security risk and possess a smaller carbon footprint thanks to being grown and distributed locally.

Winter Creek Flowers, owned and operated by Kate Edwards, is one of the small ethical flower farms that have emerged in the Goldfields region in recent years.

Located just outside Maldon, Winter Creek Flowers offers fresh flowers, dried flowers, horticultural therapy, floral workshops, and lavender products.

All flowers grown onsite are produced 'intentionally,

with appreciation and care.'

The eight-acre property has been in the care of Ms Edwards' family since 2000 but flowers were not grown there until 2017.

The farm produces five types of lavender, including three chosen for scent and oil quality which form the main crop.

An enclosed garden up the hill contains seasonal flowers such as tulips, ranunculi, and dahlias.

Running Winter Creek Flowers as an ethical micro-operation has meant choosing non-invasive and drought tolerant species, growing the flowers without chemicals, using natural manures and composts for soil conditioning, accepting that a percentage of crops will be lost to pests (including bugs, birds, kangaroos), and letting go of the idea of having perfectly manicured growing spaces.

The joy of sharing beautiful, sustainably-grown flowers each season has made it worthwhile.

Maintaining realistic expectations has also helped.

"I'm tiny - I'm micro-micro," Ms Edwards said.

"I really just grow for some Melbourne florists and for a few local businesses – cafes, florists, and so on.

"I also use my flowers in my workshops – that's mainly where my supply goes."

Ms Edwards has always loved flowers, but became interested in ethical flowers after research into the cut flower industry uncovered some disturbing truths about the way they were grown, harvested, and distributed.

"Sustainability is really important to me - I care about nature," she said.

"As a society we don't often understand that we are a part of nature.

"Across the Western world we have been poisoning nature, land, and waterways that impact fauna, humans and the environment – and



The lavender crops, grown alongside the winter creek that the company gets its name from.

obviously climate change feeds into that. I just feel like enough is enough – I don't want to eat food that's been sprayed with questionable chemicals. I don't want flowers in my house that are toxic.

"I don't want the florists to be working with toxic chemicals that can impact their health over the years."

Ms Edwards said that two easy ways Australians can support the ethical flower movement are by buying local, and buying chemical-free.

"Once you are aware, your choices are conscious."

Choosing ethical flowers provides a number of benefits.

Growers can grow whatever they like, and what best suits their land.

Chemical-free flowers are a welcome alternative in a world where allergies and sensitivities are on the rise.

Chemical-free farming provides ideal habitats for bees and other pollinating insects. Sustainable flower farms also create closer connection with nature's cycles and highlight the importance of protecting the environment for the benefit of future generations.

Establishing connections with the local community around Maldon has been important to Ms Edwards, who is also a part-time communications professional.

In addition to providing flowers to local businesses, she has also provided dried lavender to a candle maker for use in his products and has had her home-made bath soaks included in hampers using local produce.

These connections – and social media, especially Instagram – became even more vital during last year's pandemic-related lockdowns.

Winter Creek Flowers also runs floral workshops where participants create decorative items such as bouquets and wreaths using flowers grown on the farm (or sourced from other local ethical growers) and mosses, straw, or chicken wire in place of plastics and florist foam.

Despite the challenges associated with running an operation of this kind, Ms Edwards looks forward to continuing to provide quality, locally-grown ethical flowers, strengthening connections with growers and businesses in the region, and rolling out more workshops as life returns to normal after COVID-19.

If you're interested in participating in upcoming floral workshops or would like to learn more about ethical flowers, visit the following sites:

Instagram: @wintercreekflowers
Website: www.wintercreekflowers.com/



Owner-operator of Winter Creek Flowers, Kate Edwards.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FREE FREE FREE

CALL 5464 1409

All advertisements will run for four weeks unless otherwise requested, or unless specifically dated. All classifieds **MUST** be received by 9am Tuesday for inclusion in that week's edition.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Carisbrook levee community consultation meeting, 6.30pm, Tuesday, April 13, Maryborough Harness Racing Club.

Lions Youth of the Year district final, Trotting Track, Sunday, March 28, 12.30pm for 1.00pm start. \$20 (includes lunch). Booking required – contact Jean 0418 556 951.

Royal Children's Good Friday Appeal: this year donations can be made online at <https://www.virtualltinshake.com.au/> or in person on Good Friday at the Carisbrook fire station between 10am and midday.

Carisbrook Bowling Club, Thursday morning bowls at 9.30am. The club would like to see as many people as possible come and have a terrific morning of bowls, followed by a lunch of pies, hot dogs or hamburgers. Beginners welcome - there are plenty of people to teach new players. Phone 0419 514 086 or 0412 105 011.

The Carisbrook Folk and Music Group will be holding their next **Open Mic** at Carisbrook Senior Citizens Hall on Monday, April 5, from 7pm. All are welcome to this friendly evening of entertainment. Please bring a plate of supper to share. Enquiries to Edith on 5464 7286 or Sue 5464 2693.

Remember all classified advertisements are free so contact The Mercury

Phone: 5464 1409

Email: thecarisbrookmercury@yahoo.com.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheCarisbrookMercury>

In person: Carisbrook Town Hall, 19 Bucknall St, Carisbrook

NOTE: For sale and wanted classifieds run for four weeks unless advised otherwise. Event classifieds run until event.



Dahlias in the seasonal garden.



Bees love the chemical-free flowers.

\$1.2 million funding for Central Goldfields Art Gallery upgrade

Central Goldfields Shire Council (CGSC) has secured \$1.2 million in additional funding from the state government for phases 2 and 3 of the Central Goldfields Art Gallery's revitalisation project.

The funding, announced on Wednesday, March 17, is part of the Victorian Government's Regional Tourism Investment Fund – Stimulus Round.

The investment complements the \$500,000 that CGSC announced in May last year for Stage 2 of the project as part of the Victorian Government's

Regional Infrastructure Fund and CGSC's contribution of \$273,000 in the 20/21 budget.

The redevelopment will see the gallery – located in the 1861 historic fire station – refurbished and extended, including opening the original fire doors at the front of the gallery, increasing gallery exhibition spaces and the installation of improved environmental and climate controls.

Also included will be remodelling to internal gallery spaces, improved storage facilities for the shire's art collection, creation of an

open contemporary reception area and improved accessibility and visitor amenities.

External landscaping including the installation of an Indigenous Interpretive Garden will round out the project.

Central Goldfields Shire Mayor Cr Chris Meddows-Taylor said council was thrilled to see further investment in one of the Shire's most significant tourism assets.

"Identified as a priority project in the Central Goldfields Shire Tourism and Events Strategy 2020-2025, and as one of Council's Pri-

ority Projects, we are thrilled we can now deliver this project in its entirety," he said

"This funding will allow the redevelopment project to get underway as soon as possible and it will also open up many new opportunities to present a greater variety of art and exhibitions for the community and wider region.

"We are excited at the increased exhibition space and associated increase to the variety of exhibitions we will be able to present and the way in which visitors will be encouraged and welcomed to visit their very own local art gallery."