

Making news: Cottage demolition plan sparks debate...Page 2



WIRES stretched to limit

Wildlife Rescue (WIRES) Southern Tablelands is desperately appealing for more members, saying its volunteers are nearing breaking point and struggling to keep up with demand.

The local branch only has 50 active members and serves a sprawling area, which encompasses Goulburn, Crookwell, Marulan, Braidwood, Tallong and Tuena. It is not unusual for volunteers to travel 100km to a rescue.

With urban expansion more and more native animals are relocating into the town and WIRES is having trouble keeping up.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: WIRES
Southern Tablelands possum coordinator Kristen Lowe, chair Joanne Rooker, reptile coordinator Rick Anable secretary Michelle Ryan-Gales with Priscilla, an in-care python that was rescued in Wollongong.

Hail batters villages

By LOUISE THROWER

TARAGO and Lake Bathurst residents were sent scurrying for cover on Friday as a massive hailstorm hit the area.

Hailstones the size of cricket and golf balls wreaked damage on cars and houses and cut power in the 20-minute deluge, residents said.

A low pressure trough dumped the storm over the two villages at 5.15pm.

Earlier, it had whipped up a tornado at Bredbo.

While Goulburn only received upwards of 8mm in the short, sharp storm, Tarago bore the brunt of the wet weather.

Bernard and Sue Maas returned home after the storm to find their three acre vineyard at 'Wongaburra,' Tarago, totally destroyed.

Mrs Maas said while the vines would recover, the chardonnay and Shiraz variety grapes were gone.

"It's total destruction," she told the *Post*

yesterday.

"It looked like snow when we arrived home. It must have been horrific."

She estimated an \$80,000 loss in wine sales but said they would re-plant. The vineyard is a property sideline and not a main income source.

The Maas family and others at Lake Bathurst were worse hit.

Family matriarch Gladys Maas said she'd never seen a hailstorm like it in the 47 years she'd lived there.



DESTRUCTIVE: Hailstones the size of cricket balls hit Tarago and Lake Bathurst on Friday. Photo: Harry Maas.

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