

Waiting game for Symes

THE topsy turvy of the Upper House vote continued on Monday with the top five order for Northern Victoria changing yet again.

With almost 60 per cent of votes counted Wendy Lovell (Liberal) is in first place followed by Mark Gepp (ALP), Tim Quilty (Liberal Democrats), Tania Maxwell (Derryn Hinch Justice Party) and Luke O'Sullivan (Nationals).

Labor incumbent in limbo as the vote count continues



BY SHANE DOUTHIE
sdouthie@nedia.com.au

The final order may not be known until next week.

For incumbent MLC for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes (Labor), who slipped

out of the top five yesterday, it's a case of wait and see.

"It's not dissimilar to four years ago, although Labor's primary vote looks a lot better than back then," Ms Symes said.

"Because of the below the line voting system we won't know the result until mid next week.

"I feel like I'm a little bit in

limbo but because I've been through it before I'm fairly relaxed."

Ms Symes said the overwhelming win by her party in the Legislative Assembly and the likely increase of Labor numbers in the Legislative Council was confirmation of the government's performance over the last four years.

"I'm so proud of what we have achieved, and I look forward to continuing that good work," she said.

Despite a number of Lower House seats still being up in the air, Ms Symes said the government was already back to work.

"Daniel (Premier Andrews) is keen to get cracking as soon as possible and my office was

open today, despite all of my staff being exhausted.

"The good thing about a returning government is you can just pick up where you left off."

Ms Symes said if the numbers didn't go her way in the count she would be happy to make a contribution to public life in other ways.

"I've never described politics as a career," she said. "It's an opportunity."

Shoppers donate up to \$5000 worth of food items

By LEAH ANDERSON-BYRNE

WANGARATTA Loaves and Fishes - Christians Caring (LFCC), under the auspices of Anglicare, have collected 1665 individual food items with the Grab a Grocery drive.

The large collection comes to \$5447 worth of food, all donated by the Wangaratta community at the drive on Saturday.

All the donations will go to local families who are in need of a helping hand and anything Anglicare can't use is distributed to the Wangaratta Carevan or primary schools with the breakfast program for students.

LFCC chairperson Ron Webb thanked the whole Wangaratta community for their generosity, Coles and Woolworths for their cooperation, and all volunteers from member churches and Anglicare.

"It's so wonderful to get so much support," he said.

"We get about 12-15 clients a day who talk to a volunteer and get assessed on what they need, then have access to



GIFT OF CARING: Anglicare volunteers (clockwise from left) Lyn Leister, Kelly Robinson, Trish Nolan and Pam Lewis with the mountain of food item donations from the Grab a Grocery drive. PHOTO: Leah Anderson-Byrne

necessary food items.

"We help people get over a hump they've found themselves in and get them back on track to being able to support themselves."

Stores coordinator Terry Ingleton also thanked everyone who participated in the drive.

"I want to say thank you to our wonderful, thoughtful and compassionate community who have once again given generously to our bi-annual Grab a Grocery," he said.

"Further, I want to thank the wonderful volunteers who hand out leaflets and collect your generous gifts of food, along

with those who collect and sort them back to Anglicare.

"Without them we would not be able to do what we do and so the financially disadvantaged families and individuals would be the poorer for it, so thank you wangaratta."

Loaves and Fishes -

Christians Caring assisted more than 1100 people during the last financial year according to the group's annual report which included 571 individual clients and their dependants with 40 per cent of those new clients.

The value of the assistance was a staggering \$134,584.

Final week to turn fines into food gifts

WANGARATTA Library's Food for Fines charity drive has a week left to run.

The initiative, which is in its fourth year, allows library members with outstanding overdue charges (excluding charges for lost or damaged items) to bring in a non-perishable food or pantry item in return for a \$2 reduction in their library fines.

Goods can be left at the library's front desk at any time during the month of November, with all donations going to Anglicare.

Long-lasting items such as canned fruits, vegetables or soups, and other pantry staples, are highly desirable, as are Christmas items such as canned puddings and sauces.

The library is unable to accept fresh, frozen, handmade or expired items, or items left in the after-hours book chute.

For more information, contact library staff on 5721 2366.



RURAL CITY OF WANGARATTA



Australia Day

Who's your hero?

Nominate them now for Wangaratta's Australia Day awards.

Forms at www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au and at Wangaratta Library and Wangaratta Government Centre.

Nominations close 10 December

FortyWinks

4

HOUR

Sale

UP TO 40% OFF STOREWIDE

Leading brand mattresses, bedroom furniture, kids' beds and more.

MUST END SUNDAY







UP TO 40 MONTHS INTEREST FREE






J373HB-1

Wangaratta

21-23 Rowan Street

fortywinks.com.au

Conditions apply. Products and discounts may vary from store to store. While stocks last. Valid to 2/12/18. *Approved customers only. Conditions, fees and charges apply. Visit retailer website or see in-store for details. Credit provided by Latitude Finance Australia (ABN 42 008 583 588), Australian Credit Licence 392145.

Forty Winks