

MACEDON

Jailed for fatal accident

Caroline Schelle

Cyclist's death due entirely to driver's inattention, County Court judge says

A DRIVER who ran over a cyclist in Macedon after briefly taking her eyes off the road to change the music playing in her car will spend nine months in jail.

Emma Kent, 24, sobbed throughout the November 26 sentencing hearing and looked shocked as a judge announced her punishment.

She pleaded guilty in the County Court to a charge of dangerous driving causing the death of Gareth Davies, 57, on Black Forest Drive on December 10.

Police ruled out drugs, alcohol, fatigue or speed as being factors in the crash. Judge Sue Pullen said Mr

Davies' death was due entirely to Kent's inattention. While noting Kent's expressions of guilt and remorse, she said a non-custodial sentence would be "manifestly unsuitable".

"The distress to both families — Mr Davies' and your own — is evident," she said.

"But their loss is permanent."

Mr Davies' daughters told the court of their loss at a hearing two weeks ago.

"In the first 24 hours after I found out, it felt like the world and my life was ending," Rhia Davies said.

"I cannot put into words

the amount of complete, consuming rage I feel towards the accused."

Her younger sister, Ffion, said she was haunted by the memory of having to give her grandmother the news.

She said: "After my dad was killed, my whole world fell apart."

After Kent is released from jail, she must serve a two-year Community Corrections Order, during which she must complete 100 hours of unpaid community service.

She must also submit to a mental health assessment and complete driver awareness programs.

Her driver's licence was cancelled for two years.



Sunbury Community Health's Sue Hitchen and Bernadette Hetherington and Sunbury Neighbourhood House's Hope Jenkins are ready for gift wrapping. Picture: ROB LEESEON

DONATING TO CHARITY IS ALL WRAPPED UP

SUNBURY is getting all wrapped up in the festive spirit this holiday season.

Seven community groups and organisations have come together for a special gift-

wrapping station, giving locals a chance to donate to charity.

Gift wrapping will take place in Sunbury Square from Thursday, December 13, to Wednesday, December 19.

Sunbury Community Health building healthy communities executive manager Bernadette Hetherington said the event was a good way to support local groups.

"This is the first time we've had the groups come together," Ms Hetherington said.

"These community organisations work extremely

hard in our community in general. This is a good activity where they can donate something to these causes. I'm grateful they've been able to donate extra hours."

Travel win

A Sunbury business has won big on a huge scale. Hello Travel Sunbury was recently recognised at a company-wide travel conference in Fiji, netting three awards for excellence in sales. The Sunbury office employs six staff and has been operating since 1995.

Have your say

Hume Council is looking for feedback on Sunbury's John McMahon Reserve design concept. Plans were devised after community input on play spaces, exercise areas, paths and landscaping in May. To have your say, go to hume.vic.gov.au/yoursay

Oz Day calling

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for their hard work in the Sunbury community? Hume Council is calling for nominations for its 2019 Australia Day awards. For more information or to submit, visit hume.vic.gov.au/australiaday

Get batty

Pack a picnic and get batty at Hanging Rock to get up close and personal with microbats on December 16. More info: mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events or phone 54219660.



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