

IN RETROSPECT

25 years ago

LIBERAL Party Upper House Leader Alan Hunt is poised to move against the opposition party leader Jeff Kennett.

50 years ago

WORK was scheduled to complete the new dental clinic at the Ballarat Base Hospital.

75 years ago

A BEAUFORT man was killed and two other men seriously injured in the premature explosion of a charge of gelignite at a privately owned quarry in Alfredton.

100 years ago

CONSTRUCTION of a new hospital at Creswick commenced, which was set to cost 5000 pounds to complete. It was the first large building in the state to be built with concrete blocks.

Hard road for

By **BRENDAN GULLIFER**

IN JULY last year Federal Member for Bendigo Steve Gibbons issued a press release in praise of a Castlemaine entrepreneur, Ross Blade.

Mr Gibbons said if re-elected, a Labor government would include the Blade electric vehicle in a trial by federal government departments.

Mr Gibbons called it part of the federal Labor government's "strong support for central Victoria's manufacturing industry".

From a small factory in a small town, Blade Electric Vehicles is one of this country's technological success stories.

It should be at the forefront of government assistance and support, and in the front row at motor shows across the country. But it isn't.

Despite Mr Gibbons' release, Blade has never been included in any federal government trial.

In fact, in 2009 VicRoads tried to get Blade vehicles off the road, stating they would no longer be authorised for registration, Mr Blade said.

The Federal Department of Transport subsequently issued the company with a second stage licence authorising it to manufacture and sell cars nationally.

Earlier this year, the board of the International Motor Show apparently voted to exclude Blade from its 2011 event, he said.

Show organisers responded publicly saying it was simply a matter of finite space for exhibitors, with Blade offered a position in the foyer area.

Mr Blade said that came during the latter half of the show, giving him two days (out of 10) to exhibit his product.

And negotiations continue for the 2012 Sydney International Motor Show.

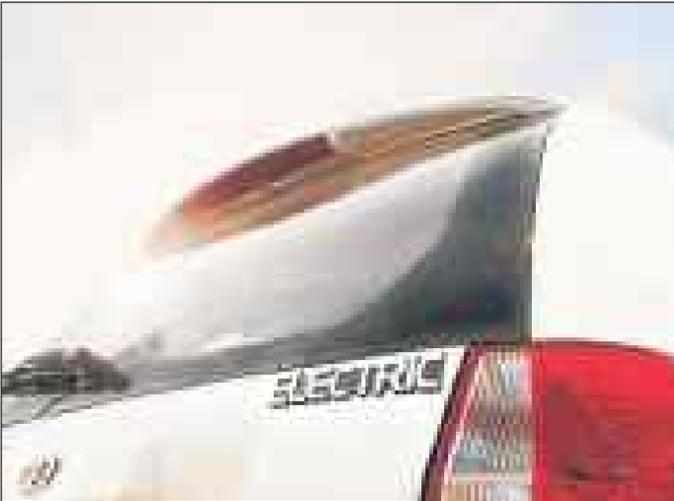
Mr Blade said requests for space in other key motor industry exhibitions, where clients comprise the big motor vehicle companies with deep pockets and strong political links, continued to be difficult.

"Yes, we are a niche player and some of these companies appear to have an attitude of if you can get rid of your competition by any means, then yes, they'll do it."

"We want to be able to do our



SNUBBED: Castlemaine electric car developer Ross Blade in his workshop.



business and not be stopped from doing our business.

"We want to be able to trade freely in the marketplace like everyone else."

"I want to introduce our new product but am having great difficulty getting into an exhibition to do it."

In 2008, from a factory a little

more than an hour's drive from Ballarat, Blade was the first company to put an all-electric production vehicle on the road in Australia.

Since then, customers have included the City of Melbourne, the City of Brisbane and Mt Alexander Shire plus dozens of private

individuals.

Greens MLA for the ACT Amanda Bresnan bought a Blade Electron earlier this year because she wanted to "lead by example".

She told *The Courier*: "I'm very happy with the car".

Mr Blade said every vehicle he had sold in the last three years was still on the road.

Blade vehicles, retailing at \$47,000, are insured by a range of companies, are crash tested and have a national service contract offered by UltraTune.

The next generation of Blade cars included "world class" electric vehicle technology that would rival the biggest players, Mr Blade said.

Blade operates by remanufacturing Hyundai Getz light cars into full electric vehicles.

Its new two seat Electron Deep Green "L" model will have a claimed city range of 300 kilometres, making it the longest-range affordable electric car in Australia, according to motor industry journalists.

POWERCOR NETWORK SERVICES PTY LTD



Invitation To Tender Number 50002686

SUPPLY OF POLE TO PIT SERVICES IN NOMINATED LOCATIONS WITHIN THE POWERCOR AUSTRALIA LTD GEOGRAPHIC AREA

This ITT is issued by **Powercor Network Services Pty Ltd** (ACN 123 230 240).

Powercor Network Services Pty Ltd is a major service provider to Powercor Australia Limited (Powercor) and CitiPower Pty (CitiPower). Powercor and CitiPower own and operate an integrated electricity distribution business servicing central and western Victoria and Melbourne's central business district respectively. Geographical areas can be obtained from the following websites:

www.powercor.com.au
www.citipower.com.au

Powercor Network Services Pty Ltd is seeking service providers to provide **POLE TO PIT SERVICES IN NOMINATED LOCATIONS WITHIN THE POWERCOR AUSTRALIA LTD GEOGRAPHIC AREA**

The Tender closes on Monday 14th November 2011.

The documents are available via www.tenderlink.com/powercor

Vince Taylor
Tender Control Officer
CitiPower Pty and Powercor Australia Ltd
Enquiries: Telephone (03) 9683 4576

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water resource UPDATE

Ballarat & District

Ballarat & District Water Supply System as at 18 October 2011

Category	Value (ML)	Percentage
Total Water Available	90,059	-
Ballarat Reservoirs	58,204	95.2%
Northern Victorian Allocations	30,155	-
Groundwater Allocations	1,700	-

Current Average Weekly Usage

184 ML

Projected Annual Usage

10,500 ML

Total Supply Available (Years) 8.6

Total supply available is calculated on current average weekly usage and assuming no further rainfall events or inflows are received in the region.

Ballarat Reservoirs
This is a total of all local Reservoirs and the percentage full.

Northern Victorian Allocations
Includes allocations and water carried over for CHW water shares.

Groundwater Allocations
Includes Ballarat West Groundwater.

dial13water

WATER & SEWERAGE FAULTS

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2013-2018 **water plan**

planning a sustainable water future

www.chw.net.au

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