

# Service to expand to tackle homophobia

**BRETT WORTHINGTON**

A CENTRAL Victorian project that tackles homophobia will receive almost \$1.5 million as it expands into Bendigo.

Mental Health Minister Mary Wooldridge said that Kyneton-based WayOut would receive \$1.48 million in state government funds.

Cobaw Community Health runs the project that seeks to prevent gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex

youths from feeling isolated in rural communities.

The government hopes the funding will strengthen the support offered to GLBTI youths.

The money will also pay for the re-establishment of youth support groups within the Macedon Ranges and the establishment of new sites in Bendigo and Wodonga.

WayOut is among seven initiatives to share \$4 million over four years in an effort to prevent youth suicide.

The central Victorian project received the most money of the seven initiatives.

“Research suggests that GLBTI young people can be at higher risk of anxiety, depression, self harm and drug and alcohol misuse, as a result of discrimination and abuse,” Ms Wooldridge said.

“As a result, suicide attempt and self-harm rates among GLBTI communities are significantly higher than among

non-GLBTI populations.”

The government hopes the programs will eliminate the stigma and discrimination GLBTI youths confront.

WayOut started in 2005 and receives ongoing Department of Human Services funding.

The project evolved from a three-year central Victorian pilot to develop a new model to work with youths and raise awareness within rural communities.

Ms Wooldridge said the government had allocated a

further \$762,000 for grassroot community initiatives to support the GLBTI community.

She said the government would call for applications for the funding at a future date.

“The GLBTI sector has been an active partner in the development of this framework and I look forward to working with them to improve mental health outcomes for GLBTI young people,” Ms Wooldridge said.

## Cyclists head for Echuca

THOUSANDS of cyclists will roll into Echuca today as part of the RACV Great Victorian Bike Ride.

About 3500 riders, plus a 500-strong team of support crew, will converge for two days on the riverside town, with riders enjoying a rest day tomorrow.

The 590-kilometre ride, over nine days, started with a loop around the Swan Hill region on Saturday, followed by the first leg to Kerang on Sunday.

From Kerang, the cyclists travelled 63 kilometres to Barham yesterday.

Campaspe Shire mayor Neil Pankhurst said the ride would cycle through Gunbower about midday today, arriving in Echuca later in the afternoon.

“There’s been quite a bit of preparation to host the ride, and finding a suitable site for them to camp,” he said.

The campsite is a cycling city, comprising hundreds of tents, an on-site licensed cafe, toilets and showers, music and entertainment, as well as a medical team.

The ride will head to Boort on Thursday, Wedderburn on Friday, Maryborough on Saturday and finish at Castlemaine on Sunday.

— LAUREN HENRY



## Businesses rally to replace damaged equipment

MARONG Junior Cricket Club’s flood-damaged equipment will be replaced thanks to the support of UFS Pharmacies and IGA Maiden Gully.

The club’s under-11 team had all of its equipment damaged in floods earlier this year, which was not discovered until the team’s first game this season.

Most of the young cricketers were reliant on the club’s equipment because it is their first season of cricket.

Team manager Brad Stewart applied for assistance through UFS Pharmacies’ Community Participation Program.

UFS Pharmacies chief executive officer Michael Fleming said his

organisation was only too happy to help out, along with Maiden Gully IGA, with each contributing half of the required \$673.

“As a not-for-profit community enterprise we see it as a core value to play our part in assisting the local community with health-related initiatives,” he said.

IGA Maiden Gully store manager

Jason Johnson said the supermarket prided itself on supporting community groups.

“This is a really worthwhile cause to get behind and I’m really glad that these kids will be able to enjoy the cricket season and, hopefully, many more to come, with the purchase of this equipment,” Mr Johnson said.

## Swimming pool opening delayed

ROCHESTER Swimming Pool is now scheduled to open on December 9, six days after the anticipated opening.

Contractors have been experiencing difficulties with works undertaken to fix deteriorated tiling caused by last year’s floods. Urgent works were required after tiles had come loose and were falling off in many places.

The Shire of Campaspe was hoping to have the pool opened by Saturday.

But mayor Neil Pankhurst said a delay had occurred because warm weather and difficulties with the pool shell surface had prevented the epoxy

### IN BRIEF

glue adhering to the foam product.

Cr Pankhurst said it was unfortunate that the pool would not be available for this weekend’s community festival.

He said council was trying to organise a bus to Elmore on Saturday.

### Fire ban enforced

TODAY has been declared a day of total fire ban in the Mallee and Wimmera districts.

No fire can be lit in the open air or be allowed to remain alight in the open air, the CFA said.

**STAY FIRE SAFE THIS SUMMER**

**Wednesday's meeting**

**SUTTON GRANGE/MYRTLE CREEK:**

7.30pm at the Sutton Grange Community Hall.

**Saturday's meeting**

**LANCEFIELD/WOODVALE:** 7.15pm at the Lancefield fire station.

**Sunday's meeting**

**HESKET/KERRIE:** 11.30am at the Kerrie Hall.

The Bendigo Advertiser has published this list as free community service.

## BENDIGOCINEMAS

**COMING SOON**

- JACK AND JILL (PG)**
- 3D PUSS IN BOOTS (PG)**
- 3D DOLPHIN TALE (PG)**
- 3D THE ADVENTURE OF TINTIN (CTC)3D**
- HAPPY FEET 2 (CTC)**

**3D THE IMMORTALS** ■  
**NO FREE TICKETS**  
 TODAY AND WEDNESDAY 4.00, 8.50 pm

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**3D ARTHUR CHRISTMAS** ■  
**NO FREE TICKETS**  
 TODAY TILL WEDNESDAY 4.40, 9.00 pm

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**THE INBETWEENERS** ■  
 TODAY AND WEDNESDAY 10.45 am, 12.50, 3.00, 5.10, 7.20, 9.30 pm

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**ARTHUR CHRISTMAS** ■  
 TODAY AND WEDNESDAY 10.15 am, 12.20, 2.30, 6.50 pm

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**THE IMMORTALS** ■  
 TODAY AND WEDNESDAY 11.15 am, 1.40, 6.30 pm

**IN TIME** ■  
 TODAY AND WEDNESDAY 10.20 am, 4.50, 9.15 pm

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**THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN - PART 1** ■  
**NO FREE TICKETS**  
 TODAY AND WEDNESDAY 10.30, 11.30 am, 1.00, 2.00, 3.30, 4.30, 6.00, 7.00, 8.30, 9.30 pm

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**MONEYBALL** ■  
 TODAY AND WEDNESDAY 1.00, 3.50, 6.30, 9.10 pm

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**MIDNIGHT IN PARIS** ■  
 TODAY AND WEDNESDAY 12.45 pm

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**I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE DOES IT** ■  
 TODAY AND WEDNESDAY 10.45 am, 2.50, 7.10 pm

**Group and corporate bookings Phone Cinema on 5442-9706 or 5441-5932**

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