Gateway upgrade key to success

WODONGA’S Gateway Island will be capable of hosting bigger and better events following a $520,000 upgrade announced last month.

Deputy Premier Peter Ryan said the Victorian Government will commit $330,000 to the project, which will provide critical infrastructure to enable Gateway Island to cater for large outdoor shows.

“The lack of bus parking or drop-off points causes significant transport issues during large events and the unsealed access road is also problematic and does not cope with buses and large trucks,” he said.

“Storage space at the arts and cultural precinct is too small and due to the growth of tenants, larger facilities are urgently needed.”

Mr Ryan said improving infrastructure would be a focus of the project, which would include:

- Improved access and parking for vehicles;
- Increased events storage space, including enhanced storage for the fortnightly Hume Murray Farmers’ Market;
- The development of a beach area for recreational use;
- Construction of visitor facilities; and
- Enhancement of precinct signage, bicycle racks and lighting.

“These upgrades will ensure the precinct can meet the current demand for new events and enable existing events to expand and meet their potential,” Mr Ryan said.

“The works will provide greater ability to attract new water-based events due to enhanced viewing areas and the increased storage space will allow the farmers’ market to expand.”

Mr Ryan said the Victorian Government funding was provided through the $1 billion Regional Growth Fund’s Putting Locals First Program, with the Wodonga Council contributing $150,000.

Generous in-kind support from both the Albury Wodonga Chrysler Club and Holcim Australia has also been committed towards the project.

Member for Benambra Bill Tilley said the project would benefit the local economy through increased tourism yield, arts and cultural retail, and major events.

“It is estimated that every domestic overnight visitor to Wodonga spends on average $259 per visit, while every domestic day visitor spends an average $115 per visit,” he said.

“This project will provide a facility capable of attracting significant overnight and domestic day visitation, and the capability to inject more expenditure into Wodonga’s businesses.”

Wodonga Cr Rodney Wangman said Gateway Island currently generates more than $8 million in economic expenditure a year.

He said it has been the setting for a number of large events in recent times such as the Cold Chisel concert, The Wiggles and the annual Chryslers On The Murray event.

“Event organisers have indicated that they would be willing to hold more events at the site, especially if access issues are addressed,” Cr Wangman said.

“Once these works are complete, the precinct will have the capacity to cater for crowds of up to 15,000 people.”
The Cube aids travellers in need

WELCOME AID: Wodonga Cr Eric Kerr celebrating the launch of Travellers Aid with Member for Benambra, Bill Tilley.

• Personal care assistance (to be pre-booked);
• Short term storage facilities with lockers and cloak room;
• Mobility equipment hire;
• Scooter recharge;
• Transport and city companions meeting place.

Travellers Aid has been in operation since 1916 and will offer the pilot service in Wodonga for the next 12 months as they look to develop a sustainable, ongoing service for residents and visitors.

Meanwhile, Travellers aid is also seeking volunteers to offer their time in delivering this initiative. Based at The Cube, Wodonga, volunteers will receive all the necessary training and support needed to complete the rewarding placement through one or two weekday shifts between 10am and 3pm.

For more information on the service, visit travellersaid.org.au, or to volunteer contact the Wodonga project co-ordinator, phone 0423 215 184.

Control of dogs in public places

Wodonga Council encourages all dog owners to ensure their dog/s are under effective control at all times while in public places.

Effective control means having control of your dog through effective voice commands or having control of the dog with the use an effective leash or collar, and harness.

Regulations also apply in the dog park at Belvoir Park, which is a designated off-lease area.

Even though it is an off-lease area, the council encourages dog owners to have effective control of their dog/s at all times.

Penalties also apply in the park if your dog attacks another person or animal while under your control.

The council may declare a dog to be menacing or dangerous if the dog rushes or attacks another person or animal.

Severe penalties apply for minor offences, and you could be prosecuted for a criminal offence for a serious attack on a person or animal.

All regulations can be found in the Domestic Animals Act 1994. Further information can be obtained from dpi.vic.gov.au/pets
Dogs’ big day out

FROM the miniature to the monstrous, dogs of all descriptions took part in the Mars Petcare Australia’s Paws In The Park on Sunday, April 7. About 2000 people and their pooches converged on Willow Park for the event which this year celebrated its 10th anniversary.

The Border Mail’s Hot Dog competition was one of the most popular attractions of the day, with owners lining up to have their canine’s photo in the hope of making the top 100.

The paws parades were also fiercely contested, with prizes going to the cutest small dog, look like your owner, best dog trick and best big dog.

Demonstrations by the Northern Victorian Sled Dog Club were well received as a new feature of the event this year. Members, who are keen to promote the sport to all large dog owners, said they will be back again next year.

Wodonga Council team leader events, Kim Strang, thanked Mars Petcare Australia for being a generous supporter and major sponsor of Paws In The Park for many years.

“We would also like to make special mention of Gordon Cole from Albury and Border Kennel Club, and Wodonga German Shepherd Dog Club, who ran the obedience demonstrations and obstacle course again,” she said.

“Gordon sets up the arena himself on the Saturday and then runs the activities with help from other members on the Sunday - all on a volunteer basis.”

SAY CHEESE: Owners queued up to have their canine’s photo taken in the hope of making the hot dog competition.

LOOKING GOOD: Carolyn Hassarati with her smart-looking pooch, Bruce.

CLOSE BOND: Julie Kerwin shares a kiss with her pampered pooch, Bella.

GENTLE GIANT: Odin, pictured with his owner Jude Tuttleby, was a big presence at Paws In The Park.

BEST FRIENDS: Tahanna Byatt and her dog Leopold.

Premier briefed on regional growth issues

REGIONAL Victoria’s crucial role in the state’s prosperity was top of the agenda when members of Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) attended a briefing with Premier Denis Napthine in Melbourne recently.

RCV chairman and Wodonga Mayor, Cr Mark Byatt, said the meeting was the group’s first opportunity to speak directly with the new Premier about how RCV can provide solutions to Victoria’s growth challenges.

“RCV is delighted that the Premier chose to retain the regional cities portfolio in addition to his role as Premier,” Cr Byatt said.

“The Premier’s commitment to RCV underlines the significance of regional Victoria as a driver of state-wide prosperity.

“Job creation is critical for sustainable and liveable regional communities and there are a lot of positive employment stories in our regional cities. We look forward to working with the Premier as we continue to plan for the continued influx of residents to regional Victoria.”

Regional Cities Victoria comprises the municipalities of Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Horsham, Latrobe, Mildura, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga – the 10 largest cities outside of metropolitan Melbourne.

The council is currently seeking expressions of interest from local businesses or community groups who are interested in hosting an activity as part of the program of events for Senior Celebrations.

You may obtain an expression of interest form:

In person: 104 Hovell St, Wodonga
Online: wodonga.vic.gov.au/snr-celebrations
Phone: Debbie Jaraie on (02) 6022 9620
Email: djaraie@wodonga.vic.gov.au

Expressions of interest close at 5pm on Friday, May 24, 2013.
Wodonga families getting more active, more often

THIS year’s Premier’s Active Families Challenge saw Wodonga get more active, more often.

The 2013 challenge, which ran from March 4 to April 14, was a great success, with the number of registered Wodonga participants rising by 277 individuals and 62 teams compared to last year.

Overall, 822 individuals and 242 teams took up the challenge, which encouraged people to participate in 30 minutes physical activity per day for 30 days.

Preschool open days for 2014

It is sometimes difficult to decide which preschool to send your child, so why not come along to the preschool open days?

This will give you an opportunity to see the preschool programs, view the facilities and have a chat to staff before making your final decision.

Dates and times:

- Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at Jamieson Crt Preschool and Stanley St Children’s Centre;
- Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at Baranduda Preschool and Southern Rise Children’s Centre;
- Thursday, June 13, 2013 at Felltimber Preschool and Belgrade Avenue Preschool; and
- Friday, June 14, 2013 at Southern Rise Children’s Centre.

Parents and children are welcome to visit the centres on the open days between 9.30am and 11.30am.

For more information, please phone early years team leader Shelli Hardwick on (02) 6022 9300.

INTERNATIONAL-recognised Australian jazz pianist, Tom Vincent, will perform live at The Cube Wodonga on Monday, May 13.

Vincent’s dynamic new quartet features the swinging reedman Danny Healy on tenor sax, baritone sax and bass clarinet. Vincent’s bands are increasingly in demand at national and international jazz and music festivals with his international and national touring, composing and recording.

Vincent has been awarded numerous Australia Council and Arts Tasmania Grants for his international and national touring, composing and recording.

Vincent’s music is solidly grounded in the jazz tradition. His major influences include Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and Sarah Vaughan.

For many years Vincent has been composing, recording and performing live for ABC TV and ABC Classic FM. He composed the theme music and incidental music for The Collectors, has been arranger for the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra and is about to release his fifth CD.

Vincent has been awarded numerous Australia Council and Arts Tasmania Grants for his international and national touring, composing and recording.

Further information and tickets are available from The Cube Wodonga on (02) 6022 9311 or online at thecubewodonga.com.au/tickets

ON TOUR: The Tom Vincent Quartet will play classic jazz standards, as well as a few surprises, at The Cube Wodonga this month.

A night with Tristan Miller

TRISTAN Miller is “that guy” who ran an astonishing 52 international marathons in 52 weeks in 2010. He sold everything, laid out an extraordinary strategy and left Australian shores to attempt the extraordinary feat in 42 countries and seven continents, raising money for the charities, UNICEF and Facing Africa.

Tristan’s crazy idea turned into an epic journey as he traipsed the world, mostly alone, to see what it was like to run around the planet.

He ran in all the major international marathons, including New York, London, Berlin and Tokyo, but also found himself in Rwanda, Mongolia and on Easter Island, in Chile, to name a few.

He even ran across the frozen fields of Antarctica. Tristan’s tales of heroism and misfortune are dynamic and engaging.

His ability to sift through the lessons of his year and give insight to the profound changes that he went through has audiences engrossed in the story.

The YMCA is proud to host Tristan and invite members of the community to come along and listen to his story on Friday, May 31 at the Birallee Tavern Wodonga.

Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start, concluding at 8.30pm. Tristan has also invited anyone interested in the opportunity to run with him on Saturday, June 1, leaving the YMCA Wodonga Sports and Leisure Centre at 7.15am, for a 60-minute circuit.

Tickets are available at $10 for leisure centre members and $20 for non-members.

To purchase your tickets and to book your place in Saturday’s training visit the Wodonga Sports and Leisure Centre.

All profits go to YMCA Open Doors providing access to YMCA programs and services for local people in need.

For further information contact Craig Hortin on (02) 6058 2531 or email craig.hortin@ymca.org.au
there are a few surprises, at The Cube Wodonga this month.

ON TOUR: The Tom Vincent Quartet will play classic jazz standards, as well as a number of regional, state and national aquatic events. “WAVES comprises a 50 metre pool with 10 lanes and permanent electronic touch pads, making it one of only a few regional Victorian facilities of this standard,” he said. Astounding attendance figures reflect this, highlighting the number of people who have already enjoyed WAVES.

Mr Mundy said that since WAVES opened its doors on February 23 this year, more than 21,500 people have visited the aquatic centre. More than 5200 people attended WAVES during its opening weekend on February 23 and 24, and people continued to visit until the season close on Sunday, April 14. The $10.6 million centre was officially opened on March 28 by Member for Benambra, Mr Bill Tilley. Mr Tilley encouraged people to enjoy the facilities, of which the Victorian Government provided $2.5 million from the Community Facility Funding Program.

“|encourage everyone to come along to WAVES and take advantage of the wide range of aquatic sport, recreation and social opportunities on offer,” he said.

Meanwhile, Wodonga Council director planning and infrastructure Leon Schultz said demolition works at the former Stanley St pool site are on track.

“Accredited contractors undertook the removal of asbestos from the change rooms and kiosk last month,” he said.

“Demolition works will take a further two to four weeks to complete, at which time rehabilitation works including the filling of the former pool will take place.

“The total project cost is $135,000.”

The site remains on the market.

## Knights in shining armour

### THE sheer sight of Beryl and Bobby Knight has the locals at Felltimber Lake in a flap.

The retired couple, aged in their 70s, has been visiting the Wodonga parkland to feed the ducks almost every day for the past six years.

As soon as their vehicle pulls into the nearby car park they can have a mob of fervent fowls in their pursuit. If the birds happen to be some distance away, Bobby only needs to whistle to have them coming running, swimming and flying to his feet. Beryl and Bobby buy a big bag of wheat from Kelly’s produce store every three weeks to keep the ducks fed and in good health.

They have watched birds come and go and of late many have gone over to Sumison Gardens, but Beryl hopes they will come back.

They are so fond of the birds that they have pet names for some of them like Hoppy, Collingwood for a black and white duck, and of course Goosey.

Beryl said she loves the ducks and the lake, and is relieved to see the lake flushed with the recent rains.

AT LEFT: Bobby and Beryl Knight have been feeding the ducks at Felltimber Lake for the past six years.

## Tobacco retailers pass the test

WODONGA Council has congratulated local businesses which refused to sell cigarettes to minors during its latest trial.

The council’s environmental health team conducts an ongoing test purchase program throughout the municipality.

The program monitors tobacco retailer’s compliance with the laws prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to minors.

This includes regular tobacco education and inspections to retailers.

The test purchase program is conducted quarterly.

To date for 2013, the council has conducted 17 test purchases resulting in no sales to minors.

People concerned about retailers selling to children are encouraged to contact the environmental health team on (02) 6022 9300.

Meanwhile, the Victorian Government is proposing to introduce state-wide bans on smoking in a number of outdoor locations, particularly those where children are present.

In February, 2013, Health Minister David Davis announced his intention to amend the Tobacco Act 1987 to ban smoking in playgrounds, skate parks, public swimming pools, sea baths and children’s sporting events.

The overall objectives of the bans are to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke by non smokers (particularly children), stop children seeing people smoke and reduce environmental damage from butt littering.

In addition, the introduction of legislative bans will ensure state-wide consistency, reinforcing a no smoking message uniformly across the state and supporting non smokers and the broader community wishing to discourage smoking in public places.

A consultation paper has been developed by the Department of Health to help people, organisations and sporting clubs understand the type of bans being proposed and explain how they will be enforced.

Interested parties are encouraged to comment on this paper.

The paper can be downloaded at health.vic.gov.au/tobaccoforms or a hard copy can be requested by ringing 1300 136 775.

You can have your say about these reforms by:

- Completing an online survey at health.vic.gov.au/tobaccoforms
- Submitting your comments directly via email to no.smoking@health.vic.gov.au
- Write to the council’s environmental health team which will collate and forward the community’s responses.

The closing date for public comment is Friday, May 17.

### Awareness on Plate Safety Day

WODONGA motorists can help protect their car’s registration plates from being stolen on Safe Plate Day on Saturday, May 11.

Neighbourhood Watch Wodonga and Wodonga Police have joined together to run the event which fights the growing number of plate thefts.

Number plates can be used to commit offences such as petrol theft, toll evasion and speeding under the disguise of a stolen identity.

Neighbourhood Watch Wodonga will supply anti-theft one-way screws on the day as a preventative measure for motorists.

A gold coin donation will provide the screws which can be attached with an ordinary screwdriver but require a special tool to be removed.

A cheat sheet will also be supplied to help identify the correct size screw for different vehicle makes and models.

Safe Plate Day will be held from 10am to 2pm in the Bunnings car park at the Wodonga Homemaker Centre, Anzac Parade, Wodonga.

## Tara Moss in town for book tour

CELEBRATED author, journalist and television presenter, Tara Moss, will appear at The Cube Wodonga on Thursday, May 30 at 7pm.

As an author, Moss is famous for her kickass crime-fighting creations. First came model turned forensic psychologist Mak Vanderwall – and her latest is the supernaturally gifted Pandora English, a fashion assistant who moonlights to battle sinister forces.

Sexy, smart and always in control, these heroines – and their feisty feminist creator – have lured legions of readers.

Moss is touring with The Wheeler Centre, which is dedicated to the discussion and practice of writing and ideas, as part of its On The Road series.

Tickets to this free event are available online at wheelercentre.com/events/event/wodonga-tara-moss/

ON THE ROAD: Tara Moss will visit Wodonga this month. PHOTO: Peter Brew-Bevan for Foxtel

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Path connection to future development

Rock beaching and planting to drainage line

Ephemeral planting to batters to improve appearance and manage erosion

Path connection and maintenance access

Improve safety and appearance of drainage line with rock beaching and ephemeral planting

MASTER PLAN COMPONENTS

Improvements to the current lake edges
a. Amphitheatre space with focus towards lake / stage

2.

Provide welcoming and safe community gathering spaces
a. Wood fired oven including shelter, seating and paving
b. Amphitheatre space with focus towards lake / stage
c. Play space using natural play elements such as logs, boulders and soft planting
d. Community garden - ‘Kitchen Garden’
e. Fenced dog park

Extension of the existing path network concrete or gravel
Construction of new paths that connect with existing path network and form a series of circuits and access ways throughout the open space precinct

Improve appearance of pedestrian underpass with planting to batters and feature bright coloured painting with a youth inspired theme

Provide exercise fitness stations throughout precinct
(Subject to recreation planning design)

Provide consistent and high quality park furniture and facilities
Replace and continue to monitor the park furniture

Improve streetscape interfaces with additional tree planting
a. Tree avenue along Felltimber Creek Road
b. Copes of trees adjacent Melrose Drive

Provide street tree avenue along Felltimber Creek Road

Native tree planting to visually enhance space and provide open vegetated buffer to buildings

Universal access

(To future design detail)
The concept includes a boardwalk surrounding the lake, fishing platform, dog park, community garden and pizza oven, housing opportunities, landscaping and much more,” he said. “Now is the time to have your suggestions included and your feedback heard.

“There are many opportunities for you to become involved including online and in person.”

For further information, please phone manager community lifestyle Debbie MacKinlay on (02) 6022 9243 or dmackinlay@wodonga.vic.gov.au

To give your feedback:
Participate in the council’s online forum: makewodongayours.com.au/felltimber
Feedback closes at 5pm on Friday, May 10.
In person: Wodonga Council’s office, Wodonga Library, and Felltimber Community Centre.
Reminder for all dog owners

**WODONGA** has an abundance of walking paths and green areas well suited for dogs.

However, all dog owners are reminded that they are responsible for cleaning up after their dog in public places such as footpaths and parks.

The majority of dog owners in Wodonga are responsible and clean-up after their pets if nature calls while they are out walking.

There are still, however, some owners who do not remember to carry bags to help clean up.

“Only 42 per cent had been to REDFest before, and almost half stayed for the whole five hours,” she said.

“The most popular attractions were live music on the ‘yes’ OPTUS stage, which drew a healthy-sized crowd throughout the day, the horizontal bungee run and the skate park activities.

“There were also a lot of people walking around with brightly coloured hair and immaculate make-up and nails from the make-over marquee.”

**FReeZa** crew and REDFest youth committee member, James Armstrong, said the event was a great way to celebrate the contribution of Wodonga’s youth.

“We put on a successful event for the community and young people in the area,” he said.

“The highlight for me was The Delusion (heavy metal band performing live).”

Committee member Kim Cardwell said being part of REDFest was an amazing opportunity.

“IT was really satisfying to take part in such an amazing event,” she said.

The REDFest youth committee was funded by a Victorian Government National Youth Week grant.

Wodonga Council would also like to thank ‘yes’ OPTUS and Youthways for sponsoring the event.

Anyone interested in being a part of the 2014 REDfest committee can contact Kellie Miller on (02) 6022 9300 or email kmiller@wodonga.vic.gov.au

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**Be pool safe all year round**

**WODONGA** residents could face fines of up to $70,420 and body corporations could face $352,100 for failure to comply with council action in the 2012-2013 financial year.

Regulations around pool fences will become more stringent when new rules take effect this month.

They will require that all pools, including inflatable and above-ground pools, have an isolation fence with a minimum height of 1.2 metres.

Sellers will also be required to inform customers of the fencing regulations upon sale for any pool with a depth greater than 300mm.

For more information on pool safety regulations, including fact sheets or information booklets, contact the council on (02) 6022 9300 or visit wodonga.vic.gov.au

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**INDIE ROCKERS**: Melbourne band, Kingswood, lived up to expectations as the headline act at REDfest.
Freefall performance to defy gravity

THE Cube Wodonga will welcome award-winning contemporary circus group Gravity and Other Myths this month as they present their national tour, Freefall.

On May 17 the group will present their beautifully crafted circus and physical theatre experience to the city of Wodonga and surrounds.

Winner of the Melbourne Fringe Best Circus Award and Best Emerging Circus/Physical Theatre Performer Award in 2011, the show is like any other in Australia. Freefall is an exciting exploration of everyday fears, human quirks and truths combining traditional circus disciplines with contemporary movement and physical theatre. Presented through spoken word and the unique physicality of each of the six characters, Gravity and Other Myths use their extensive circus and physical skills as they learn to engage with their fears.

Having already charmed audiences in Western Australia, the group hold a palpable energy on stage as the risk-taking, high-level aerobatics they perform captivates the crowd.

Don’t miss the one-hour show on Friday, May 17 at 11am or 6pm.

Tickets cost $22 for adults, $18 for members or $15 for students and can be purchased online from thecubewodonga.com.au/tickets

CIRCUS ACT: Gravity and Other Myths will perform live at The Cube Wodonga this month.

Registration changes for new dog owners

NEW requirements for animal registration fees have been introduced due to changes to the Domestic Animals Act (1994).

The new requirements do not affect cat registrations, both new and existing, or existing dog registrations in Wodonga. The changes are effective immediately and only affect the eligibility for reduced dog registration fees for all new registrations.

New dogs being registered that are microchipped, but are not de-sexed, will no longer be entitled to a reduced registration fee and must pay the full registration fee of $132.

All animals over three months of age in Wodonga must be registered.

For owners registering a puppy for the first time, they will only be charged the reduced registration fee of $44 for the first year provided they de-sex the animal and provide evidence prior to the next registration cycle (April 10 each year).

If no evidence is provided, their registration renewal fee will automatically revert to the full registration fee.

Exemptions to the changes include dogs that are:

- More than 10 years old;
- Part of a domestic animal business or applicable organisation;
- Dogs that have undergone specific training;
- A working dog; and
- Dogs owned by registered breeders.

For more information, please visit dpl.vic.gov.au/pets and wodonga.vic.gov.au/news
Residents urged to have a say on library future

WOODONGA residents have until May 16 to have their say on the future of public libraries in Victoria.

In its stage one report, the Ministerial Advisory Council on Public Libraries (MAC) proposed the concept of the Victorian Library, where every Victorian will have access to high-quality public library services, regardless of where they live.

The Victorian Library concept is a seamless network of public library services, with:

- One library card to use at any public library in Victoria;
- Access to all public library books in Victoria, and have the books you want to borrow delivered to your library of choice;
- Access to borrow a book from any public library in Victoria and return it to the library of your choice;
- Easy access to ebooks and other electronic resources; and
- An improved, modern public library website and mobile apps to easily find what you want.

Residents can complete a five-minute online survey about the proposed changes and go in the running to win a 32GB iPad valued at $649.

The survey is open at dpcd.vic.gov.au/tomorrowlibrary.

For more information, please email publiclibrary@wodonga.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 493 792.

Wodonga Building Services

Becoming an owner builder

An owner builder is someone who carries out building work on his or her own land. Owner builders take on many of the responsibilities of a registered builder including:

- obtaining permits;
- scheduling, supervising and/or carrying out building work themselves;
- ensuring the work meets all relevant building regulations, standards and other laws; and
- arranging the appropriate building inspections and the final occupancy certificate at completion of the works.

As an owner builder, you are required to obtain a certificate of consent from the Building Commission where the value of works is more than $12,000 in order to obtain a building permit.

Obtaining a certificate of consent does not guarantee that you will be issued with a building permit.

A building permit will need to be obtained from a registered building surveyor.

Note: An owner builder report and associated insurance will be required if you sell your owner built property within six and a half years of completion.

For more information on becoming an owner builder, please contact the Building Commission.

Phone: 1300 815 127
Website: buildingcommission.com.au
Email: ownerbuilder@buildingcommission.com.au

LNG in Victoria with the necessary refuelling infrastructure, means there is now certainty for future users of this emerging alternative transport fuel.”

Member for Benambra Bill Tilley said the LNG refuelling station initiative complemented the Victorian Government’s Energy for the Regions program, which was looking to provide natural gas to a number of regional and rural communities across Victoria.

“As part of this program, the Coalition Government is examining conventional and alternative options for the delivery of natural gas to priority towns across the state,” Mr Tilley said.

“This may include the provision of gas to towns via LNG, and such initiatives assist in providing a diverse and thriving market for LNG in Victoria.”

Mr Ryan said the Coalition Government’s $2.5 million contribution towards the LNG refuelling station rollout was provided through Regional Development Victoria, with Evol LNG providing the balance of funding for the $8.3 million project.

City wins praise for local projects

DEPUTY Premier and Minister for State Development Peter Ryan praised the Wodonga community for establishing vital local infrastructure projects during a business lunch on Thursday, April 11.

As host of the Wodonga Business Community Lunch, Mr Ryan outlined the Coalition Government’s $1 billion Regional Growth Fund, which allows local communities to play a greater role in determining projects that can be funded to support their own community and region.

“If we look at what’s currently underway or planned for the Wodonga area from the Regional Growth Fund, we see an exciting array of projects,” Mr Ryan said.

“This includes the Wodonga Gateway Events and Cultural Precinct Development Project, as well as the new liquefied natural gas refuelling station for heavy vehicles.

“Other projects to receive support from the Regional Growth Fund include the Wodonga Logic Transport 24-hour Fatigue Management Centre, received $1.6 million, and the Urban Renewal Project at Junction Place, which received $3 million.”

“We have also put $1 million into the Wodonga Abattoirs Tri-Generation Plant investment Project and a further $100,000 for the Wodonga Central Business Area Revitalisation Planning and Urban Design Framework.”

Mr Ryan also spoke of the new state development portfolio and the role of the new Department of State Development, Business and Innovation, which will provide a whole-of-government approach to facilitating significant investment.

Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) refuelling stations for heavy vehicles was opened in Wodonga on Thursday, April 11 by Deputy Premier Peter Ryan.

Speaking at the Calitex Truck Stop in Wodonga, Mr Ryan said the $8.5 million project will include construction of five LNG refuelling sites across Victoria, and the purchase of two LNG fuelled heavy-duty vehicles and tankers for distribution to refuelling sites.

Mr Ryan said Wodonga was chosen as the first site for an LNG refuelling station based on its proximity to the north-south transport corridor along the Hume Highway and the high number of back-to-base transport operators in the region.

“LNG represents an indigenous, locally produced fuel source which has lower and less volatile price movements than diesel,” Mr Ryan said.

“Further expansion and the increased availability of LNG for the heavy-duty vehicle industry requires a large investment and the Victorian Coalition Government is meeting this challenge by providing $2.5 million towards this important initiative.

“Increasing the availability of LNG in Victoria with the necessary refuelling infrastructure, means there is now certainty for future users of this emerging alternative transport fuel.”

Member for Benambra Bill Tilley said the LNG refuelling station initiative complemented the Victorian Government’s Energy for the Regions program, which was looking to provide natural gas to a number of regional and rural communities across Victoria.

“As part of this program, the Coalition Government is examining conventional and alternative options for the delivery of natural gas to priority towns across the state,” Mr Tilley said.

“This may include the provision of gas to towns via LNG, and such initiatives assist in providing a diverse and thriving market for LNG in Victoria.”

Mr Ryan said the Coalition Government’s $2.5 million contribution towards the LNG refuelling station rollout was provided through Regional Development Victoria, with Evol LNG providing the balance of funding for the $8.3 million project.

City wins praise for local projects

DEPUTY Premier and Minister for State Development Peter Ryan praised the Wodonga community for establishing vital local infrastructure projects during a business lunch on Thursday, April 11.

As host of the Wodonga Business Community Lunch, Mr Ryan outlined the Coalition Government’s $1 billion Regional Growth Fund, which allows local communities to play a greater role in determining projects that can be funded to support their own community and region.

“If we look at what’s currently underway or planned for the Wodonga area from the Regional Growth Fund, we see an exciting array of projects,” Mr Ryan said.

“This includes the Wodonga Gateway Events and Cultural Precinct Development Project, as well as the new liquefied natural gas refuelling station for heavy vehicles.

“Other projects to receive support from the Regional Growth Fund include the Wodonga Logic Transport 24-hour Fatigue Management Centre, received $1.6 million, and the Urban Renewal Project at Junction Place, which received $3 million.”

“We have also put $1 million into the Wodonga Abattoirs Tri-Generation Plant investment Project and a further $100,000 for the Wodonga Central Business Area Revitalisation Planning and Urban Design Framework.”

Mr Ryan also spoke of the new state development portfolio and the role of the new Department of State Development, Business and Innovation, which will provide a whole-of-government approach to facilitating significant investment.
Another win for Hounds Homebound

THE accolades continue to roll in for border band, The Hounds Homebound, with three members winning Wodonga Council’s Young Achiever Support Scheme (YASS) award for April.

Lead singer Vinny Russell, keyboard player and singer Brianna Cox, and drummer Josh Holt, were announced as the winners by Wodonga Mayor Cr Mark Byatt at a council meeting on April 15.

Since coming together in late 2011, The Hounds Homebound have wasted no time sowing their musical seed.

The six-member teenage band has received national airplay on triple J, unearthed and performed live in Albany-Wodonga, Melbourne and far and wide in between.

Their most recent achievement has been taking out the 2012-2013 FReeZA Push Start Battle of the Bands.

The Hounds Homebound were among 275 bands competing in this year’s event, comprising of 56 local heats, nine regional finals and then the grand final held in front of thousands of concert goers at the Sidney Myer Music Bowl last month.

Prior to their win, the band launched their first album, Diamond People, at The Cube Wodonga, on February 23.

Vinny, Brianna and Josh are residents of Wodonga, while the remaining three members hail from Yackandandah making them ineligible for the award. All band members are aged just 17 and 18.

With all six musicians possessing completely different musical backgrounds and experiences, they have cultivated a unique sound; a rich blend of surf rock and European gypsy folk, with subtle hints of carnival tunes and fairground atmosphere.

The YASS provides financial assistance to young people to participate, develop skills, compete, perform or represent Wodonga in their chosen endeavour at a state, national or international level.

For more information, please visit wodonga.vic.gov.au/yass, email youth@wodonga.vic.gov.au or phone the youth services team on (02) 6022 9300.

New material on the big screen

MATERIAL supplied by local community groups and individuals will begin showing on The Cube Wodonga Big Screen from this month.

Following a call for expressions of interest in March, The Cube Wodonga is growing a collection of product from various sources to be screened throughout the year.

A Smarter Country, a film about creative approaches to renewable energy, will be screened weekly until October.

A photographic and video journal about local bands has been submitted by a local business, and interest has been shown by a number of local musicians making the big time in the metro areas and overseas.

A number of films that have been previously screened are now available at the Wodonga Library for hire, including Australia’s Multicultural Film Festival, Colourfest.

Anyone interested in submitting material to be played on big screen can submit an expression of interest form available at thecubewodonga.com.au/venue_hire/

Further information is available by phoning The Cube Wodonga on (02) 6022 9223.

Reminder on local laws

❖ Parking on nature strips
Under the Victorian road rules, it is an offence to park on a nature strip, dividing strip, or reservation. The reason is to ensure the safety of the public and motorists, to ensure their vision is not impaired by objects in certain areas. There is no requirement to post signs in these areas. This is monitored by council officers and local police and the penalty is $85.

❖ Unregistered/abandoned motor vehicles
Under the council’s local laws, it is an offence to park an unregistered or abandoned vehicle on a road, municipal place or parking area vested under the control of the council. The penalty is $100 and can fall under many different categories.

❖ Goods for sale
Under the council’s local laws, you are not permitted to park a motor vehicle for sale, in a public place. An infringement for $100 can be issued for this offence. These offences are primarily to ensure public safety and to protect the amenity of public places. Council officers may issue a warning in the first instance. Further information can be obtained by phoning the council’s community focus team on (02) 6022 9300 or visiting wodonga.vic.gov.au/local-laws

National recognition for red gum

A TREE more than 300-years-old that stands proudly in Castle Creek Road, Wodonga has been granted a National Trust Classification.

The Blakely’s Red Gum, more commonly referred to as ‘Rat’s Castle Tree’, has been on the Morrison farm for six generations. Ken Morrison, one of the few remaining of the fourth generation Morrison’s, is thrilled by the National Trust’s decision.

“The tree is 35m tall with a 4.4m circumference, making it much larger than the usual 13-25m Blakely’s Red Gum’s,” he said.

Mr Morrison will also move to erect a plaque at the tree site to highlight its significance.

The National Trust believes that trees like Rat’s Castle are an essential part of Australia’s heritage and must be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

The property is currently owned by Peter and Robyn Morrison.

TALL ORDER: Standing at 35m, Rat’s Castle tree dwarfs Ken Morrison.
Films screenings at The Cube Wodonga - The Perks Of Being A Wallflower
Date: Tuesday, May 7
Time: 7pm
Venue: The Cube Wodonga (auditorium)
Cost: Free
Enquiries: The Cube Wodonga box office on (02) 6022 9311
Rated: M - Not recommended for children under 15; may include moderate levels of violence, language or themes, 2012, 102 mins

Scrabble Club
Date: Thursday, May 9
Time: 6pm to 8pm
Venue: Wodonga Library
Cost: Non-members $2, members free
Enquiries: Wodonga Library on (02) 6022 9330
Come along and join fellow Scrabble lovers for the inaugural meeting at Wodonga Library. Tournament rules apply.

Farawayistan - Inga Hanover
Date: Friday, May 10 to Saturday, June 8, Official opening Friday, May 10 at 5.30pm
Venue: The Cube Wodonga
Cost: Free
Enquiries: Arts Space Wodonga on (02) 6022 9600
Farawayistan is an exhibition of works by artist Inga Hanover. Since 2003, Hanover has embarked on a daily drawing project reflecting on, or recording an element of each of the 365 days of each year.

Slip and fabric painting and dying
Dates: Friday, May 10 and Friday, May 17
Time: 5.30pm to 7.30pm
Venue: Baranduda Community Centre
Cost: $30 covers both sessions (includes materials)
Enquiries: Baranduda Community Centre on (02) 6020 8643
Discover both the beauty and simplicity of silk painting and dying. The tutor has vast experience in all areas of fabric art, and can show you how to transform different materials into beautiful works of art.

Hume Murray Farmers Market
Date: Saturday, May 11 and Saturday, May 25
Time: 8am to noon
Venue: Gateway Village, Lincoln Causeway, Wodonga
Enquiries: Hume Murray Food Bowl on (02) 6058 2996, email info@hmfb.org or visit hmfb.org
Come along for fresh produce, and prepared foods grown and made on the region's doorsteps.

Tom Vincent Quartet
Date: Monday, May 13
Time: 8pm
Venue: The Cube Wodonga
Cost: The Cube Wodonga member/concession $14.50, adult $21.50, student $12.50
Tickets and enquiries: The Cube Wodonga box office on (02) 6022 9311
Online: thecubewodonga.com.au/tickets
The internationally-recognised Australian jazz pianist, Tom Vincent, is coming to town! The Tom Vincent Quartet plays classic jazz standards plus a few surprises. All members of the group are great communicators with the audience and a wonderful night is expected at this very special concert.

Fluff and Stuff mini-workshop
Date: Thursday, May 16
Time: 5.30pm to 7.30pm
Venue: Arts Space Wodonga
Cost: $12 per session includes materials. Bookings essential.
Enquiries and bookings: Arts Space Wodonga public programs officer Stacey Harrison on (02) 6022 9600
Part of a series of mini-workshops facilitated by local textile artists. The May workshop is rock felting.

Freefall
Date: Friday, May 17
Time: 11am plus a 15-minute question and answer session and 6pm
Venue: The Cube Wodonga
Cost: The Cube Wodonga members $18, adults $22, students/concession $15
Tickets and enquiries: The Cube Wodonga box office on (02) 6022 9311
Online: thecubewodonga.com.au/tickets
Freefall is circus theatre like no other in Australia. Beautifully constructed with fizzing skill and honest performances, it's a completely captivating audience experience.

Gluten free cooking
Dates: Saturday, May 18 and Saturday, May 25
Time: 1pm to 3pm
Venue: Baranduda Community Centre
Cost: $60
Enquiries: Baranduda Community Centre on (02) 6020 8643
Do you or one of your family members have coeliac disease or intolerance to wheat, gluten, dairy, soy, eggs or nuts? Or are you interested in how to prepare tasty and nutritious meals, snacks and desserts at home? If the answer is yes, then come along for two afternoons of fun, stress-free cooking and sampling.

Little Me Market
Date: Sunday, May 19
Time: 10am to 2pm
Venue: The Cube Wodonga
Enquiries: Jade Tauber on 0421 082 388, email info@littlememarket.com or visit littlememarket.com
Cost: Free entry for public. Site fee for market stallholders.
Little Me Market is a boutique market specialising in handmade and babies' and children's items. With unique products, food, entertainment, live music and a kids' zone, the Little Me Market is a great family day out.

Permaculture workshop
Date: Sunday, May 19
Time: 1pm to 3.30pm
Venue: Baranduda Community Centre
Cost: $15
Enquiries: Baranduda Community Centre on (02) 6020 9311
Are you interested in learning more about permaculture and how to use it in your garden or local community? Come along to this workshop presented by a permaculture expert who will show you how to work with nature and the environment's natural ecology for amazing results.

Cliffy
Date: Tuesday, May 21
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: The Cube Wodonga
Cost: $15 all tickets. All proceeds going to Latijso
Bookings and enquiries: The Cube Wodonga box office on (02) 6022 9311 or thecubewodonga.com.au/tickets
Cliffy, the ABC telemovie starring Kevin Harrington (Monster High, Sea Change), will be previewed at The Cube Wodonga. Some of the shots from the movie were filmed in Wodonga in 2012 with many locals playing extras. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Cliffy's victory in the 1983 Westfield Sydney to Melbourne Ultra-marathon. Cliffy, with his laconic country style and shuffling gait, captured the hearts of the Australian public like few before or since. There will be a brief Q and A with the filmmakers after the screening.

National Simultaneous Storytime
Date: Wednesday, May 22
Time: 11am
Venue: Wodonga Library
Cost: Free
Enquiries: Wodonga Library on (02) 6022 9330.
Join Wodonga Cr Anna Speedie and libraries all over Australia in reading The Wrong Book by Nick Bland, followed by a craft activity.

Film night at Arts Space Wodonga - My Week With Marilyn
Date: Sunday, May 26
Time: Doors open at 5.45pm, movie starts at 6pm
Venue: Arts Space Wodonga
Cost: $8.50 includes movie, cinema entry and popcorn and drink
Tickets and enquiries: The Cube Wodonga box office on (02) 6022 9311
Online: thecubewodonga.com.au/tickets
Come and enjoy a movie in the gallery. Bring your picnic and picnic rugs, cushions and nibbles or, if preferred, take advantage of house seating.

Tara Moss - The Wheeler Centre - On The Road series
Date: Thursday, May 30
Time: 7pm
Venue: The Cube Wodonga
Tickets and enquiries: The Cube Wodonga box office on (02) 6022 9311
Online: wheelercentre.com/events/event/wodonga-tara-moss Melbourne has a new kind of cultural institution, The Wheeler Centre - a centre dedicated to the discussion and practice of writing and ideas. The centre's first venture to Wodonga will feature celebrated author, journalist and television presenter Tara Moss.

Films screenings at The Cube Wodonga - The Hunger Games
Date: Tuesday, June 4
Time: 7pm
Venue: The Cube Wodonga (auditorium)
Cost: No tickets required.
General public admission with no allocated seating.
Enquiries: The Cube Wodonga box office on (02) 6022 9311 Rated: M - Not recommended for children under 15; may include moderate levels of violence, language or themes, 2012, 142 mins.